

## **GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES**

*Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario  
Robertson Hall, Senate Chambers, 5:00 pm, Friday, 13 April 2012*

### **CALL TO ORDER – 5:00pm, Friday, 13 April 2012**

**Chair: Jessica Squires**

**Recording Secretary: Sam Heaton**

#### **Council Members Present**

- Holly Gilroy (VP Academic)
- Kelly Black (VP Operations)
- Nick Falvo (VP Finance)
- Elizabeth Whyte (President)
- Vincent St. Martin (GSA)
- Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)
- Colin Cordner (Political Science)
- M Zahirul Alam (Electronics)
- Nick Bourgeois (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- Peter Holdsworth (History)
- Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Jean-Daniel Medjo (Systems and Computer Engineering)
- Heather McBride (Communications)
- Vladlena Mitskaniouk (Communications)
- Andrew Connolly (English)
- Emma Hazan (Social Work)
- Danielle Lorenz (Canadian Studies)
- Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)
- Jan Nitoslawski (NPSIA)
- Daniel Baker (NPSIA)
- Ariel Norman (CUSA)
- Brynne Sinclair-Waters (Political Economy)
- Christina Muehlberger (Political Economy)
- Ian Pulsifer (Biology, proxy for Danielle Fraser)
- Mary Compton (Biology)
- Amir Rafinazari (Civil Engineering)
- Lisa Neville (Earth Science)
- Stephen Crane (Earth Science)
- Graeme Turner (Math and Statistics)
- Daniel Preece (Carleton University Post-doctoral Association)
- Thalie Shalmon (Industrial Design)
- Darren Pacione (Legal Studies)
- Anna Goldfinch (MAPA)
- Alanna Cates (Legal Studies)
- Danijela Maras (Psychology)
- Nezifa Hussen (Sociology and Anthropology)
- James Meades (CUPE 4600)

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### **INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

- a. Announcement of Proxies  
Ian Pulsifer (Biology, proxy for Danielle Fraser)

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved: Danielle Lorenz**

**Seconded: Elizabeth Whyte (President)**

### **3. ORDER OF THE DAY: 5:10pm - Presentation of the 2012 Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Report**

**John Scheiding (CEO)**

### **4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a. E-minutes from 16 March 2012  
**Moved: Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**  
**Seconded: Kelly Black (VP Operations)**  
**Carried**
- b. Minutes from 16 March 2012  
**Moved: Andrew Connolly (English)**  
**Seconded: Emma Hazan (Social Work)**  
**Carried**

### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mike's Place is open all summer - 11:30am to close! Also, Mike's Place is currently seeking art submissions for display on its walls. If you've got art, please contact [mikesplace@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:mikesplace@gsacarleton.ca)
- Please remember that councillor terms are for one year and end August 2012. If you are not planning on being present in Ottawa this summer or you are graduating please find a proxy for the summer meetings.
- Start or join a GSA softball team! The season starts in May with games taking place on weekday evenings on-campus. Each team generally plays once a week. The season culminates in an annual tournament in August. Submission of team rosters are required by April 30. A minimum of 25 players is required per team. If you are interested but don't have a team please submit your name and department and you will be put on an interdisciplinary team. Team/Player submissions should be emailed to [gsasoftball@gmail.com](mailto:gsasoftball@gmail.com). Questions should be directed to [ec@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:ec@gsacarleton.ca).
- Immediately following the adjournment of this meeting will be a meeting of GSA INC

### **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- a. President (Elizabeth Whyte)

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- b. VP Operations (Kelly Black)
- c. VP Finance (Nick Falvo)
- d. VP Academic (Holly Gilroy)
- e. Questions

### **7. OTHER REPORTS**

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- c. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- d. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)
- e. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- f. Carleton Post-doctoral Association (CUPA)
- g. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
- h. Questions

### **8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. Andrew Connolly (English)
- b. Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)
- c. Thalie Shalmon (Industrial Design)
- d. James Meades (CUPE 4600)

### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a) Motion 13.04.2012- 01: Motion to Adopt GSA Election Results**

**Moved: Zahirul Alam (Electronics)**

**Seconded: Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**

Whereas the nominations for GSA Executive, Graduate Faculty Board, and Senate closed on Friday, Friday, 9 March 2012 at 4:30pm; and

Whereas GSA Elections were held on 21 and 22 March 2012; therefore

BIRT Council adopt the Elections 2012 report of the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Kelly Black to the position of President; and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Anna Goldfinch to the position of Vice-President (External); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Chloë Fogarty-Bourget to the position of Vice-President (Operations); and

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BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Elizabeth Whyte to the position of Vice-President (Finance); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Holly Gilroy to the position of Vice-President (Academic); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamations, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Graeme Turner, Glen Barber, Jason Green, and Francis Kiromer to the positions of Graduate Student Representatives to the Graduate Faculty Board; and

BIFRT Council recognize the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Graeme Turner, Guy Massie, and Colin Cordner as the Graduate Students' Association representatives to the Carleton University Senate; and

BIFRT Council recognize the results, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of the referendum question; and

BIFRT Council recognize the results, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of the two plebiscite questions; and

BIFRT the GSA destroy all election ballots.

### **CARRIED**

#### **b) Nomination and Selection of a GSA Member to the Carleton University Board of Governors**

**Motion to destroy the ballots**

**Moved: Zahirul Alam (Electronics)**

**Seconded: Holly Gilroy (VP Academic)**

### **CARRIED**

#### **c) Motion 13.04.2012 - 02: Motion to Elect the Graduate Students' Association Representative to the Carleton University Board of Governors**

**Moved: Vladlena Mitskaniouk (Communications)**

**Seconded: Danielle Lorenz (Canadian Studies)**

Whereas a policy was adopted by GSA Council in March 2010 (Motion 2010.03.19-03) giving Council the authority to elect a graduate student representative to the Board of Governors; therefore

BIRT GSA Council approve the election of Nick Falvo as representative to the Carleton University Board of Governors.

### **CARRIED**

#### **d) Nomination and Selection of GSA Member to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board**

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Peter Holdsworth (History) **ACCLAIMED**

**e) Motion 13.04.2012 - 03: Motion to Elect a GSA Member to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board**

**Moved: Elizabeth Whyte (President)**

**Seconded: Danielle Lorenz (Canadian Studies)**

Whereas there is one vacant seat for a Masters level GSA member on the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board; therefore

BIRT GSA Council approve the election of Peter Holdsworth as representative to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board.

**CARRIED**

Abstention noted for Peter Holdsworth (History)

**f) Motion 13.04.2012 - 4: Motion to strike GSA Ad-Hoc Safe Space Policy Committee:**

**Moved: Elizabeth Whyte (President)**

**Seconded: Emma Hazan (Social Work)**

Whereas, the province of Ontario has recently (2009) amended its Occupational Health and Safety Act with Bill 168 thereby expanding the responsibilities of employers regarding workplace health and safety, and;

Whereas, GSA Carleton Inc. is responsible for several workplaces, including Mike's Place and the GSA offices on the 6th floor of the University Centre, and;

Whereas existing policies of GSA Carleton Inc., such as the Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy, and the Collective Agreement between GSA Carleton Inc. and CUPE 1281 address harassment, discrimination and other forms of abuse involving employees of GSA Carleton Inc., and;

Whereas, the GSA is also responsible for various events, meetings, and gatherings that occur on and off campus, such as Welcome Weeks, and;

Whereas, the values laid out in section 2.2 of the GSA Constitution commit the organization to working for a space free from prejudice, discrimination, exploitation or abuse on the basis of but not limited to sex, race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, nationality, socio-economic status, political affiliation or belief, disability, or marital status, and;

Whereas, there are other systemic forms of discrimination, such as gender, that are not included in this list, and;

Whereas the GSA and GSA Carleton Inc. are independent bodies whose members are subject to harassment and violence policies of Carleton University, and;

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Whereas the GSA does not have a formal policy addressing conduct of elected executives and Councillors as well as members and volunteers, and;

Whereas, many of us have witnessed disturbing acts of prejudice and abuse, for example in the use of social media for bullying, amongst members of the Carleton community, and;

Whereas, dealing with the diverse manifestations of forms discrimination, prejudice, exploitation or abuse is a complex process, and;

Whereas, ensuring that consequences for violations of the legislations or values balance the responsibilities of our members with their rights requires a significant amount of research and may require consultation with lawyers and other experts in the field, and;

Whereas the Board of Directors of GSA Carleton Inc. has expressed its intention to review the relationship between the GSA and GSA Carleton Inc. and consider changes to governing documents with the assistance of legal counsel, therefore;

Be it resolved that, the GSA Council strike an Ad-Hoc Safe Space Committee to evaluate a possible policy to address this range of rights and responsibilities regarding safe space in all aspects of the GSA's work, and;

Be it further resolved that an Ad-Hoc Safe Space Committee be chaired by a GSA Executive member, and to include representation from a minimum of two Councillors, two GSA Executives, and one GSA full-time staff member, and;

Be it further resolved the Ad-Hoc Safe Space Committee seek input from CUPE 1281 and the Board of Directors of GSA Carleton Inc., if appropriate, and;

Be it further resolved that a draft policy be presented to Council for broader debate before September 2012.

### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **g) Motion 13.04.2012 - 5: Motion to Support Efforts to Organize Postdoctoral Scholars at Carleton University**

**Moved: Kelly Black (VP Operations)**

**Seconded: Danielle Lorenz (Canadian Studies)**

Whereas Postdoctoral Scholars have completed their graduate studies, are often repaying student loans and have families to support, and;

Whereas Postdoctoral Scholars on average earn a low wage, receive few or no benefits, and generally are not protected from arbitrary discipline and dismissal, and;

Whereas most Postdoctoral Scholars seek faculty positions, and;

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Whereas many graduate students will pursue faculty positions and it is in graduate students' interest to ensure faculty positions are available in the future and that Carleton University continues to expand its research capacity, and;

Whereas it would be against graduate students' interest if Postdoctoral Scholars become the research equivalent of Contract Instructors, and;

Whereas members of the Carleton University Postdoctoral Association (CUPA) have initiated a drive to organize into a union to collectively bargain for better working conditions, and;

Whereas Postdoctoral Scholars who have organized at other Canadian universities have successfully negotiated for health benefits, protection from arbitrary discipline and dismissal, maternity leave, wage increases, and other improvements to working conditions, therefore;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Graduate Students' Association endorse Postdoctoral Scholars' efforts to unionize, and;

BIFRT the Council of the Graduate Students' Association encourage other campus organizations and their membership to support the organizing efforts of Postdoctoral Scholars at Carleton University.

### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **h) Motion 13.04.2012 – 6: (First Reading): Motion Against Rape Culture/Gender Based Violence**

**Moved: Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Seconded: Zahirul Alam (Electronics)**

Whereas, section 2.2 of the current GSA constitution currently states:

The GSA shall promote and assist in maintaining an academic and social environment free from prejudice, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse on the basis of, but not limited to sex, race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, nationality, socio-economic status, political affiliation or belief, disability, or marital status.

Whereas, there is often a needed to mention specifically, various forms of discrimination to give them systemic and institutional recognition, so that working to end them can come from an institutional level, and;

Whereas gender based violence and rape culture at Carleton has been recognized through the GSA through support for the Carleton Coalition for a Sexual Assault Support Center and other initiatives and statements, and;

Whereas, rape jokes serve as a means of exclusion and discrimination based on the experiences of gender based violence survivors on campus, and;

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Whereas, 25% of university aged women will experiences sexual assault during their 4 years at school (U of A statistics). Men and women and gender-queer folks experience violence. In addition, members of LGBTQ communities, First Nations communities, people living with a disability, particularly women with a cognitive disability, experiences gender based violence at a higher rate then the category “woman,” and;

Whereas, the perpetuation of rape culture though marginalizing experiences, rape jokes, or humour is triggering to those who experience violence, and;

Whereas, discrimination based on gender identity places students at risk and hinders student’s abilities to complete their studies, and;

Whereas; recent current events at the undergraduate level illustrate the dangers of not taking proactive action to support those facing discrimination and violence, therefore;

Be it resolved; GSA amend section 2.2 to include specific mention of gender based violence and rape culture such that it reads:

The GSA shall promote and assist in maintaining an academic and social environment free from prejudice, rape culture, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse on the basis of, but not limited to, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, nationality, socio-economic status, political affiliation or belief, disability, or marital status.

BIFRT Jokes depicting any of these forms of abuse or discrimination will be considered discrimination, and;

BIFRT any GSA council or executive member found to breach this policy will remove themselves or be excused from their position, in order to enforce safe( r ) space policy.

**Motion to delete the last two clauses and change “gender” in BIR to “gender identity”**

**Moved by Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Seconded by Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)**

**CARRIED**

The motion now reads:

Be it resolved; GSA amend section 2.2 to include specific mention of gender based violence and rape culture such that it reads:

The GSA shall promote and assist in maintaining an academic and social environment free from prejudice, rape culture, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse on the basis of, but not limited to, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, nationality, socio-economic status, political affiliation or belief, disability, or marital status.

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First vote, will be voted on again next meeting

### **CARRIED**

**i) Motion 13.04.2012 - 7: (First Reading): Motion to Integrate Fighting Oppression as part of “Regular Business”**

**Moved: Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Seconded: M Zahirul Alam**

Whereas section 5.1.5 of the constitution currently reads: The Executive shall be empowered by the council of the GSA (hereinafter to be referred to as Council) to act in the place of Council in dealing with routine business, and;

Whereas prejudice, rape culture, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse on the basis of but not limited to sex, gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, nationality, socio-economic status, political affiliation or belief, disability, or marital status are systemic and regularly occurring issues in society, including on Carleton’s Campus, and;

Whereas reacting swiftly to oppose instances of oppression is important in illustrating to students, faculty, and staff that they have support from the Graduate Student Association and are not alone when facing issues of violence (whether physical or psychological), and;

Whereas; Regular business should be understood to include statements of support or any other forms of support for organizations or individuals who work to end or prevent gender based violence at Carleton. This should include but is not limited to sexist, racist, ablest comments etc, as well as speak out on behalf of the GSA against comments supporting rape culture, therefore;

Be it resolved; section 5.1.5 of the GSA constitution be amended to read:

The Executive shall be empowered by the council of the GSA (hereinafter to be referred to as Council) to act in the place of Council in dealing with routine business, including statements of support or other support for organizations or individuals who work to end violence and oppression as described in 2.2 of the constitution.

**16 yes / 7 no / 5 abstain**

**Receives two thirds required, will return to next council**

**k) Motion 13.04.2012 - 08: Motion to Amend the Graduate Recreational Softball League Policy**

**Moved: Kelly Black (VP Operations)**

**Seconded: Ron Couchman (Sociology and Anthropology)**

Whereas the policies of the GSA require periodic update to reflect operational and other changes, and;

Whereas the option of having two Co-Commissioners can facilitate league play and the existing

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honorarium should be increased to better reflect the tasks involved, and;

Whereas the GSA has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Carleton University that provides for the free use of Riverfield, and;

Whereas specifying requirements for reporting injuries is required, and;

Whereas GSA members have identified the 'Co-Ed Rules' as potentially exclusionary, therefore;

BIRT the GSA Council adopt the amended Graduate Recreational Softball League Policy as presented in Appendix A to this Agenda.

### **CARRIED**

Andrew Connolly (English) abstention noted

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Kelly Black (VP Operations):** announcement councillor credits from 2010-2011 will expire at the end of the month

**Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies):** CU General Assembly social April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Mike's Place

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by: Graeme Turner (Math and Statistics)**

**Seconded by: Emma Hazan (Social Work)**

### **CARRIED**