

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

***Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016***

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Tuesday, August 23, 2016

We would like to recognize that this GSA council meeting is taking place on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin Territory.

Members present:

- Bonnie Bates (History)
- Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
- Dawn Severnuck (ALDS)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)
- Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Senate) (Electronics)
- Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
- Julia Riddick (Geography)
- Lauren Montgomery (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Martin Martinov (Physics and Senate)
- Myles Smith (CUPE 4600)
- Nicole Halseth (NPSIA)
- Rupesh Subedi (Geography)
- Russell Burgess (Political Economy, BoG)
- Sarah Rodimon (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Shreena Thapa (Psychology)
- Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
- Vincent St. Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
- Victor Malkov (Physics)
- William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

Nicole Halseth for Jasmine Dann (2 votes – NPSIA); Ehsan Ghias-Begloo for Fares Elzoheiry (2 votes – Electronics); Shreena Thapa for Andrew Woodward (2 votes – Psychology); Martin Maritnov for Matt Dunford (3 votes – Physics)

Minutes: Loriann Garden

Chair: Jessica Squires

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Bonnie Bates (History)

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

***Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016***

Seconded: Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)

Adopted

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. E-minutes from June 23, 2016

Moved: Sarah Rodimon (Sociology and Anthropology)

Seconded: Nicole Halseth (NPSIA)

Corrections: ALDS – Dawn Severenuk (previously spelt incorrectly)

Motion Carries

- b. Minutes from June 23, 2016

Moved: Bonnies Bates (History)

Seconded: Russell Burgress (Political Economy)

Corrections: Same thing as above

Motion Carries

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Taylor Howarth - \$5 pints on Monday's and Tuesday's at Mike's Place including today

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Debbie Owusu Akyeeah)
- b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)
- c. VP Operations (Eric Hitsman)
- d. VP Academic (William Felepchuk)
- e. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

William Felepchuk speaking for Jenna as she was not in attendance

- f. Questions

6. OTHER REPORTS

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

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

***Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016***

h. Questions

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Motion 23.08.2016 - 01: Motion to Condemn the New Limitations on Turkish Academics and Demand Reinstating Academic Freedom in Turkey

Moved: Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics)

Seconded: Martin Martinov (Physics)

Whereas an undemocratic failed coup d'état attempt by a group of Turkish military personnel against the democratically elected government of Turkey took place on 15 July 2016.

Whereas in response to this coup, the Turkish government arrested tens of thousands of military personnel and citizens, including students and academics, they allege to be in association with an Islamic transnational religious and social movement led by Turkish preacher and former imam, Fethullah Gülen. Gülen is a former ally of the current Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and his movement has been accused by the Turkish government to have orchestrated the coup.

Whereas over 15,200 Turkish Education Ministry's education staff have been suspended and the teaching licenses of over 21,000 staff at private educational institutions have been revoked.

Whereas Turkey's Higher Education Council has ordered the resignation of deans from both Turkey's Public and foundation universities, 1176 from state universities and 401 from Foundation universities.

And whereas, an overseas travel ban has been placed on all academics, and academics on leave abroad have been asked to return to Turkey, or they are assumed resigned from their positions.

BIR that the GSA condemns strongly and unconditionally these actions against universities and university students and staff, and expresses its heartfelt support for the higher education community in Turkey at this time.

BIFR that the GSA writes a statement of condemnation in solidarity with the request of the European University Association (EUA) to speak out against these developments and to support democracy in Turkey, including institutional autonomy and academic freedom for scholars and students.

Motion as amended:

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016

BIR that the GSA condemns strongly and unconditionally the actions of the Turkish government against universities and university students and staff, and expresses its heartfelt support for the higher education community in Turkey at this time.

BIFR that the GSA writes a statement of condemnation in solidarity with the request of the European University Association (EUA) to speak out against these developments and to support democracy in Turkey, including institutional autonomy and academic freedom for scholars and students.

BIFR that the GSA invites Carleton University and the Canadian Federation of Students to join the statement condemning the actions of the Turkish government and demand the reinstatement of academics.

Motion carries as amended.

b) Motion 23.08.2016 – 02: Motion to Condemn Removal of Saudi Arabia from List of Armies Charged with War Crimes and Appointment of Saudi Arabia in United Nations Human Rights Council, and Demand a Stop on any Canadian Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia

Moved: Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics)

Seconded: Bonnie Bates (History)

Whereas there has been a civil war in Yemen between a Revolutionary Committee government loyal to the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Saudi-backed government of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, and ISIS and Al-Qaida fighters. This civil war has divided the country since 2015 and left several thousand casualties. In March 2015, a Saudi Arabian-led coalition began carrying out airstrikes across Yemen in support of President Hadi against the Revolutionary government, and imposed aerial and naval blockade over Yemen. The coalition has been having the intelligence, weapon, and blockade supports of their Western allies, including Canada.

Whereas not only have the airstrikes targeted essential civilian infrastructures, but also residential areas, civilian gatherings (including weddings), hospitals, places of worship, schools, factories, and above all water supplies and several food storages warehouses. The blockade has also left 80% of the Yemeni population, over 21 million, in urgent need of food, water, and medical aid.

Whereas the UN experts and investigators have not been allowed by the Saudi-led coalition on the ground in Yemen. The UN investigations on the Saudi-led bombing campaign has uncovered “widespread and systematic” attacks on civilian targets in violation of international humanitarian

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016

laws. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon has raised strong concerns over continued Saudi-led airstrikes, stating "coalition air strikes in particular continue to strike hospitals, schools, mosques and civilian infrastructures" in Yemen.

Whereas the Saudi-led coalition have acknowledged repeated usages of US-supplied cluster munitions in the airstrikes, which is a war crime. Due to the opposition from Saudi Arabia, its allies, and United States, the UN has not condemned the coalition for this war crime.

Whereas on 3 June 2016 the UN added the Saudi-led coalition to the UN List of Armies Charged with Child Rights Violations after concluding that the coalition was responsible for 60% of the 1,953 children casualties (785 killed and 1,168 wounded) in the Yemen Civil War in 2015 alone.

Whereas in response to inclusion of the Saudi-led coalition from the blacklist, Saudi Arabia threatened to withdraw their funding to UN humanitarian programmes in order to pressure the UN to reverse its decision.

Whereas on 6 June 2016, the UN Secretary General confirmed that the coalition was removed from the list pending a joint review in the alliance, stating "This was one of the most painful and difficult decisions I have had to make," and "It is unacceptable for member-states to exert undue pressure... had to consider the very real prospect that millions of other children would suffer grievously if, as was suggested to me, countries would de-fund many UN programmes," though concluding "I stand by the report".

Whereas Saudi Arabia has been a continuous member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) since its formation in 2006, and since September 2015. Faisal bin Hassan Trad, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, has been Chair of the UNHRC panel that appoints independent experts, despite Saudi Arabia's dark human rights record especially religious freedom and women's rights.

Whereas Saudi Arabia has imported \$1.5 billion worth of Canadian munitions between 2003 and 2013, and Winnipeg based PGW Defence has exported modern LRT-3 and Timberwolf sniper rifles to Saudi Arabia, which have been used in the Yemen civil war.

Whereas Saudi Arabia currently owns 19 Canadian made Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV) and General Dynamics Land Systems has made a deal worth \$15 billion to sell another 900 Canadian made LAVs to Saudi Arabia. The LAVs are suspected to be used in Saudi Arabia against the country's own citizens, and in Yemen, both of which are violations of Canada's arms export rules.

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016

BIR the GSA condemns strongly and unconditionally targeting the Yemeni civilians, especially children, and any attacks on civilian infrastructures, and demands the stop to the blockade and allow humanitarian aids in all regions of Yemen.

BIFR the GSA condemns strongly the political manipulation which led to removal of the Saudi Arabian-led coalition in Yemen from the blacklist of armies charged with children right violations through threatening to discontinue financial support to the United Nations humanitarian programmes by Saudi Arabia and its allies, and demands that the coalition be re-added to the blacklist.

BIFR the GSA writes a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, and demands removal of Saudi Arabia from the United Nations Human Rights Council and Mr. Faisal bin Hassan Trad from any UNHRC panels until Saudi Arabia has improved its human rights track record.

BIFR the GSA writes a letter to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Stephane Dion, and Minister of National Defence, Hon. Harjit Sajjan, and demands a stop to Canada's support of the Saudi Arabian-led coalition in Yemen, and stop any exports of Canadian arms to Saudi Arabia.

Motion carried.

c) Motion 23.08.2016 – 03: Motion to Amend the Graduate Students' Association Council Land Acknowledgment

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Sarah Rodimon (Sociology and Anthropology)

Whereas the GSA affirms and acknowledges the unceded and unsundered status of these lands on which we live, work, and study, and actively and fully positions itself in solidarity with struggles for Algonquin nationhood; and

Whereas the GSA recognizes that we as students living and studying on unceded and unsundered Algonquin territory continue to benefit from the ongoing colonization of the Algonquin nation and its lands; and

Whereas the GSA opposes further colonization of the Algonquin nation and its lands, and has previously pledged to support all efforts to engage in the long process of decolonization; and

Whereas the GSA supports substantive and active steps towards decolonization of these

***GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES
Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016***

lands, especially locally; and

Whereas decolonization and solidarity with the Algonquin nation is an ongoing and unending process that touches every aspect of how an organization like the GSA operates in the lands of the Algonquin nation; and

Whereas a strong statement acknowledging the unceded and unsurrendered status of the lands on which we work and study is an important first step and an ongoing reminder of the aforementioned commitments; and

Whereas such a statement is not an end in and of itself but rather represents a continuous and ongoing commitment to take substantive action;

Be it resolved that the GSA adopt the following policy to be attached to the beginning of the existing policy manual:

“Land Acknowledgement Policy

The GSA recognizes and acknowledges the unceded and unsurrendered status of these lands on which we live, work, and study, and actively and fully positions itself in solidarity with struggles for Algonquin nationhood. We recognize that we as students living and studying on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory continue to benefit from the ongoing colonization of the Algonquin nation and its lands.

The GSA opposes further colonization of Algonquin communities and lands, and commits to engage in the long process of decolonization. The GSA supports substantive and active steps towards decolonization of these lands, especially locally.

We assert that decolonization and solidarity with the Algonquin nation is an ongoing and unending process that touches every aspect of how an organization like the GSA operates in the lands of the Algonquin nation. This work will never be complete, but is central to our operations as an organization that centres solidarity and social justice in its work.

It is the policy of the GSA that the following statement be read before all Council and Committee meetings. Such a statement is not an end in and of itself but rather represents a continuous and ongoing commitment to take substantive action;

The GSA recognizes and acknowledges that the lands on which we live, work, and study belong to the Algonquin nation.

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016**

The Algonquin nation, whose territories comprise the entire Kichi Sibi (Ottawa River) watershed and include the city of Ottawa, never ceded or surrendered its territories to Canada. The Canadian state laid claim to these territories through violent systems of colonization that resulted and continue to result in the dispossession, marginalization, and impoverishment of Algonquin people and the overexploitation of land and waters within their territory.

The GSA commits to fully supporting Algonquin struggles and Algonquin assertions of self-determination and nationhood. We are not innocent in the ongoing colonization of these lands and we resolve to challenge the presence of colonialism in our words, actions, and communities. We extend our ongoing solidarity to the Algonquin nation with our words, actions, time, skills, and resources.”

Motion carried.

d) Motion 23.08.2016 – 04: Motion that the Graduate Students' Association endorse support recommendations of the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Sarah Rodimon (Sociology and Anthropology)

Whereas the GSA executive released a joint statement with the Muslim Students' Association executive on July 26th, 2016 to express our outrage at the killing of of Abdirahman Abdi, an unarmed Somali-Canadian man with an intellectual disability, outside 55 Hilda Street in Ottawa on Sunday, July 24, 2016; and

Whereas the GSA stands in wholehearted solidarity with our student members from the Somali and other Black communities of Ottawa, for whom this tragedy is both terrifying and all-too-familiar; and

Whereas the GSA acknowledges and affirms that this violence by Ottawa police is another example of the racism, anti-blackness, and ableism embedded in the ranks of our city's law enforcement and in wider Canadian society; and

Whereas the GSA stands in solidarity with Black communities in Ottawa who do not feel safe when they are the targets of carding, illegal searches, sexual assault, and other forms of police abuses of power; and

Whereas the GSA recognizes that the targeting of marginalized communities by the Ottawa police is a legacy of the violent colonial foundations of our city, built on the stolen un-ceded

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016

territories of the Algonquin nation, and that violence against Black communities and Indigenous nations emanate from the same structures and must come to an end; and

Whereas the GSA recognizes that the Somali diaspora in Canada faces unique and multidimensional forms of oppression and marginalization as a Black, Muslim, often non-English or French speaking, and economically marginalized community, many of whose members are newcomers or refugees, and that all these characteristics make the Somali diaspora community in Canada targets of intensified police surveillance and violence; and

Whereas the GSA is gravely concerned for the safety of Somali and other Black members of our student community living and studying in this city in the aftermath of the police killing of Abdirahman Abdi; and

Whereas the GSA wishes to send a strong message of support, love, and solidarity to Somali and other Black members of our student community to know that we support them in this time of sadness, fear, and heartbreak; and

Whereas the GSA affirms that racist police violence is not a problem endemic to the USA, and mourns and remembers Vincent Gardener, Wayne Johnson, Andrew Loku, Marcellus Francois, Leslie Presley, Alex Wettlaufer, Clarence Clemons, Buddy Evans, Eric Osawe, Reyal Jardine-Douglas, Junior Alexander Manon, Kwasi Skene-Peters, Jean-Pierre Bony, Ian Pryce, Fitzgerald Forbes, Frank Anthony Berry, Michael Eligon, Jermaine Carby, Trevor Kelly, Rohan Wilson, Quilem Régistre, Alain Magoire, Andrew Bramwell, Albert Moses, and many other Black people who died as a result of police violence in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and other cities in Canada; and

Whereas our July 26th joint statement with the MSA included a demand “that Mayor Jim Watson, Kitchissippi Ward Councillor Jeff Leiper, the Ottawa city council, MPP Yasir Naqvi, and MP Catherine McKenna take substantive action against racism, anti-blackness, and ableism embedded within the Ottawa Police Service, with direction from the Somali and other Black communities in our city”; and

Whereas a coalition of Somali and other Black community groups and their allies called Justice for Abdirahman has formed since the release of the GSA/MSA joint statement, and this group has issued a list of 10 recommendations;

Be it resolved that the GSA endorses and supports the following 10 recommendations of the Justice for Abdirahman coalition:

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016

“We collectively call on all three levels of governments, the Ottawa Police Service, the Ottawa Police Services Board, and responsible police oversight agencies to:

1- Acknowledge that there is a crisis within the Ottawa Police Services when it comes to how authorities interact with members of racialized communities, and specifically, with those with mental health issues;

2- Strike a task force to examine this crisis, and the disproportionate number of Black men and people with mental health differences that have been killed by police, and to commit to funding relevant programs and legislating policies that address systemic problems in relation to vulnerable and racialized communities; analyze all best practices in community policing, consult with communities, and provide a comprehensive review of police services and an action plan for change, including specific timelines;

3- Respond to the Ontario Human Rights Commission's assertion that there is “no effective mechanism to hold police accountable for systemic discrimination” and to provide a remedy for this gap;

4- Amend legislation to ensure that the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) provides its reports to the public, until such time that the system has been fully reviewed and overhauled to provide a transparent, effective, and independent civilian oversight and accountability of police;

5- Commit to reassigning police officers who are under investigation for causing death or serious injury to administrative duty, and prohibiting any form of interfacing with community members until the investigation is complete;

6- Fully implement the recommendations made by Ontario's Ombudsman in the recent report titled “A Matter of Life and Death” and provide regular updates to communities;

7- Create consistent standards across all police services in every province with regards to training in dealing with and responding to individuals with mental health issues, as referenced in the 2013 Mental Health and Criminal Justice Policy Framework by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health;

8- Require the Special Investigation Unit, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD), Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Statistics

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Tuesday, August 23, 2016**

Canada to collect and publicly report race-based data on police encounters with civilians, including but not limited to, police use of force;

9- Create a special task force to review all Coroner's Inquest recommendations made since 2001, and identify key recommendations, which require immediate response and implementation.

10- Require all police services in every province to place body cameras, as well as cameras in police vehicles."

Be it further resolved that the GSA join the Justice for Abdirahman coalition and lend substantive support in time and resources to its activities.

Motion carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Ehsan

Seconded: Lauren Montgomery

Motion carried.