

## **GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario  
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Friday, September 30, 2016**

### **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday, September 30, 2016**

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

*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.*

### **Members present:**

- Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies)
- Alexandra Skutonich (Psych)
- Anna Hogue (Communications)
- Bonnie Bates (History)
- Brittany Andrew (Political Management)
- Chloe Pedneault (Psychology)
- Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
- Danielle Taylor (English)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)
- Eileen Yauy (SPPA)
- Emily Sandham (NPSIA)
- Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
- Erin Felepchuk (Music and Culture)
- Grace Daly (Chemistry)
- Jay Ramasubramanyan (Legal Studies)
- Jenna Amirault (VP External)
- Jenna Ko (History)
- Jenna Smith (Sociology)
- Jessie Gamarra (Art History)
- Jordan Boswell (Political Management)
- Kirk Kitzel (Ind. And Canadian Studies)
- Martin Martinov (Physics/Senate)
- Matt Dunford (Physics)
- Michael Bueckert (Soc/Anth)
- Miles Krauter (CUPE 4600)

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- Ryan Barlow (NPSIA)
- S. Clay Steell (Biology)
- Simon Vodrey (Communications)
- Soan Mo Kuron (CGES/Economics)
- Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
- Warren Trottier (PAPM)
- William Felepchuk (VP Academic)
- Zihan Xu (Economics)
- Trycia Bazinet (Canadian Studies)

### **1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

- a. Announcement of Proxies  
Soon Mo Kwon for Jing Han (Economics – 2 votes)
  
- b. Overview Robert's Rules of Order

Minutes: Loriann Garden

Chair: Jessica Squires

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

Moved: Bonnie Bates  
Seconded: Warren Trottier  
Motion approved

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a. E-minutes from July 23, 2016  
Moved: Codie Fortin Lalonde  
Seconded: Danielle Taylor  
Motion approved
  
- b. Minutes from July 23, 2016  
Moved: Bonnie Bates  
Seconded: Codie Fortin Lalonde  
**Motion approved**

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eric Hitsman: If you didn't find a name tag for yourself let me know.

### **5. ORDER OF THE DAY**

- a. Councillor Orientation Presentation  
The Executive provided an overview of the GSA and GSA Council.

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**6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- a. President (Debbie Owusu Akyeeah)

**Homecoming**

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the GSA and our new Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator, Sydney, tabled at the Homecoming game.

We set-up our table to hand out Consent is Mandatory campaign materials as well as safer sex material including internal/external condoms, dental dams, and lubricant. We recognize large events like this, especially when involving alcohol, increase sexual assault.

Unfortunately, we weren’t prepared for the rain so in order to protect our tabling materials we left the game a bit earlier. The goal now is to purchase a canopy for the GSA.

**Welcome Weeks – How to Survive Grad School Workshop**

During Welcome Weeks the GSA and the Student Alliance for Mental Health (SAMH) presented a workshop entitled “How to Survive Grad School.” We framed the workshop to provide tips to students to create their own personalized wellness plan.

It was a great way to show new students, early in the semester, the GSA’s dedication to addressing grad specific mental health issues.

We’re hoping to increase our collaboration with SAMH by including a grad representative on their executive team.

**Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators (SAOCs)**

Last month we hired two new SAOCs: Sydney and Fa’Ttima. These folks will be the point people for our Consent Culture committee.

**CUSA**

The Carleton University Student Association (CUSA) is our undergraduate counter-part. CUSA is Local 1 of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). At their last council meeting I questioned their decision to sign onto a letter condemning the CFS on issues of transparency and handling finances.

I specifically questioned why they actively prevent their undergraduate members from using the CFS materials they pay for (i.e. campaigns on Consent Culture, Blood Ban, and addressing transphobia). I also questioned where they get their critiques from since they haven’t been to a CFS national meeting in 5 years. Look out for updates on this in the upcoming weeks.

**New Student Building**

As some of you may have read in the Charlatan, there has been some discussion on the construction of a new student building or an extension of the current University Centre building. The GSA was consulted on the possibility of a new student building early in 2016, as was reported to Council by the former GSA President.

Since that time, the GSA has contacted University and undergraduate representatives involved in the initial discussions to seek updates on how the proposal would be moving forward. Unfortunately, the GSA did not receive any updates, so it was with great surprise that we discovered the undergraduate student association (CUSA) is considering holding a fall term referendum to create a new student levy to pay for a new building. While better

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student space is clearly needed at Carleton, there are many details that need to be worked out, especially if students are expected to pay additional fees.

The GSA Executive will not make a commitment on a new student building or support a referendum to create a new student levy without seeking input from and the approval of GSA Council.

**Women's/Non-binary Gym Hour**

One of the campaigns the GSA is working on with CUSA, the Muslim Students Association (MSA), and the Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA) is the women's/non-binary gym hour.

We've been working on word-smithing the survey to include questions specifically for grad students.

The poster campaign is set to be released in November. We are currently looking for grad students that identify as women, two-spirit, or non-binary to be featured in it. If you or anyone in your department would be interested, please contact me at [pres@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:pres@gsacarleton.ca)

**Grad Residence Caucus**

We recently had elections for the Graduate Residence Caucus. This group will be overseeing the activities of grad students on residence and sitting on the RRRA council.

We'd like to welcome:

*Co-Chairperson - Lauren Menzie*

*Co-Chairperson - Stephanie White*

*Communications Coordinator - Jordan Steinhauer*

*Social Coordinator - Marie-Catherine Allard*

*Advocacy Coordinator - David Thibodeau*

**b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)**

**Operations**

Mike's Place has had a great September. The new specials, trivia regulars, Welcome Weeks programming, and our Open Mic's all contributed to a great month of sales and happy customers. Open Mic is scheduled to take place on a biweekly schedule on Fridays at Mike's Place and will be taking place next week! We are still on the lookout for local beers to fill our empty tap at the bar as well. I am also happy to announce that all of our CUPE 1281 staff are now receiving payroll through direct deposit! No small feat, I assure you. We have also hired two new Office Administrators and four new Mike's Place bar staff.

**Health Plan**

Just a reminder that the opt-out/in deadline for the health plan is October 7<sup>th</sup>. If you or your partner or family have private insurance you may opt out of the health insurance plan. You may also add dependents by opting in to our Greenshield plan. If you have any questions about the health plan or this process please contact our front office: [gsa@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:gsa@gsacarleton.ca).

**Student Parents**

Following our Kids & Coffee event in August we are looking into how we can support grad student parents on campus. We are hoping to have an event in which we can bring together kids, parents, and fellow students to increase the visibility and plight of student parents on campus.

**Annual Audit**

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The annual audit of the GSA's finances for the May 2015-April 2016 fiscal year is almost complete. I plan on presenting the audited financial statements at the GSA Carleton Inc. meeting that will immediately follow our next meeting of GSA Council.

c. VP Operations (Eric Hitsman)

**Welcome Weeks**

The two weeks of welcome week planning went very well – We had a lot of participation from our members – The welcome weeks report will be available for review in the coming weeks.

**Garden Screening/BBQ**

Last night we had the garden welcome event that was postponed during Welcome Weeks scheduling because of rain. Despite the chilly weather, the event was well attended – we screened the original Jurassic Park film and provided members with bags of popcorn.

Some people raised the point that the garden was difficult to find – suggesting perhaps more signage as to how to reach the garden might be useful in the future. We also used the event as an opportunity to promote our sustainability campaign.

**Trump/Clinton Debate**

Last Monday we hosted an event at Mike's Place to screen the Hillary vs. Trump debate. The event was enormously successful and brought the bar to capacity.

On Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will host a screening for the second US presidential debate – Since Wednesday is normally our trivia night, trivia will be moved to an earlier time – 7pm – for this night only, to accommodate the debate event.

d. VP Academic (William Felepchuk)

**Funding Distribution Issues**

Myself and other GSA exec and staff will be meeting with admin, as well as releasing a statement shortly, regarding the new system for distributing funds to grad students. It appears that a number of glitches and problems on the admin side have been causing our members undue difficulties.

The way that the University has implemented these changes does not appear to entirely line up with what the administration presented to this Council last year. We are investigating and will provide a full report as soon as possible.

**Justice for Abdirahman Abdi Community Conference – Oct. 2**

The GSA, along with numerous labour and community organizations, is hosting an amazing conference on Anti-Black racism, xenophobia, colonialism, mental health, and state violence in Canada this **Sunday, October 2nd, 2016**, in response to the Ottawa police killing of Abirahman Abdi in July, 2016. The amazing Kim Katrin Milan, the well known Indigenous Canadian writer Leanne Simpson, Ottawa's beloved poet Jamaal Jackson Rogers, and the notable writer/activist Hawa Mire will be present amongst so many other amazing poets, labour activists, community leaders and academics!

I'm very proud that four GSA members will be speaking at the conference: Monique Manatch, Algonquin Anishinabe MA student in Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Chi-Chi Ayalogu, MA student in English and GA staffer, Sheila Grantham, PhD Student in Indigenous Canadian Studies, and our very own President Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah! Also featuring former GSA President Kimalee Philip!

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Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided. Childcare and support workers on site. Feel free to bring your family. Your attendance is significant. It is imperative that we never forget the name Abdirahman Abdi, especially in the wake of global anti-black racism.

Event is free, but registration is required. Follow this link for registration: [justiceforabdirahman.ca/CommunityConference/](http://justiceforabdirahman.ca/CommunityConference/)

**Senate Committees**

If you'd like a great opportunity to understand how the University functions, gain experience, contribute to advocating for grad students, and add to your CV, please consider representing the GSA on one of the following committees of the University senate.

There is currently one seat available on each of the following committees:

Senate Academic Program Committee  
Senate Committee on Curriculum, Admissions, and Studies Policy (alternate)  
Senate Honourary Degrees Committee  
Senate Educational Equity Committee  
Senate Graduate Student Appeals Committee

Please email me at [vpa@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpa@gsacarleton.ca) if interested.

**Graduate Academic Caucus First Meeting - Date will be announced shortly - mid-October**

GAC is a place for grad students to meet and discuss their shared concerns, including access to research materials; funding and financial matters; academic integrity, and issues related to graduate student supervision.

The admin board of your department should have one or two grad reps on it. If you'd like to help in strengthening GAC, please email me the names of those grad reps, as they are also voting members of GAC. [vpa@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpa@gsacarleton.ca)

**Grad Student Advocacy**

My office hours are Tuesday from 1-3 PM or by appointment to discuss any concerns you may have about advocacy on behalf of yourselves or students in your departments. Developing effective strategies for academic advocacy is one of my central priorities this year.

**Stop Windmill: Student and Labour Allies for Akikodjiwan. Panel -October 4th, 2016, 2:30 PM, in Dunton 1216**

This GSA campaign is in conjunction with CUPE4600 and a number of other unions and associations working in solidarity with the Algonquin nation as it opposes the development of a condominium project by Windmill Developments at Akikodjiwan (Chaudiere Islands), a sacred site on the Ottawa River near Parliament. Our current campaign involves putting pressure on local Liberal MPs to stop the transfer of crown lands at the site to the condo developer.

Monique Manatch, Professor Brian Macdougall, and myself, will be speaking at a campus meeting/panel on this campaign on Tuesday, October 4th.

d. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

**Day of Action**

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Students' unions and solidarity partners across the country will be going ALL OUT on November 2 to demand public, universal, tuition-free post-secondary education for all students. If you would like to get involved in organizing for the day of action, please contact our VP External, Jenna Amirault, at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)

Stay tuned for a series of lead-up events and actions in the month of October:

- **Oct. 4** - Day of Action Training (UC600) 2:30 – 4pm
- **Oct. 11** - Free BBQ for Free Education 12pm – 2pm
- **Oct. 13** - Day of Action Townhall (Location TBA) 12 – 2pm
- **Oct. 18** - Day of Action Trivia Night (Mike's Place) 8pm

You can pledge to go #AllOutNov2 and learn more about our demands at [www.cfs-fcee.ca](http://www.cfs-fcee.ca).

**International Student Panel Event**

Moving to a new country is exciting, but also overwhelming. Everything is new – people, culture, work, transportation, banking practices, language and housing.

Join us in the Senate Chambers for a free lunch and a friendly talk that will help you adjust to Ottawa. A panel of current and former students will be sharing stories, advice, and information on advocacy work around international student issues.

Oct. 4 @ noon  
Senate Chambers (608 Robertson Hall)

**Migrant Dreams Screening and Panel Discussion**

On October 6, there will be a film screening of Migrant Dreams followed by a panel discussion on Women as Indentured Labourers in Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program with Director Min Sook Lee and Emily Encalada from Justice for Migrant Workers.

Free Admission.  
Oct. 6 @ 6 – 9pm  
St. Patrick's Building, Room 100

**Sustainability Committee**

The Sustainability Committee is a subgroup of the GSA Political Action Committee. It is where graduate students work on environmental campaigns.

We are currently working on a **Ban the Bottle** campaign that advocates that Carleton reduce waste by giving up bottled water and improving free access to clean, safe drinking water. We are also working on a **Fossil Fuel Divestment** campaign advocating that Carleton divest from fossil fuels.

If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about our campaigns please contact:  
[jenna.smith@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:jenna.smith@gsacarleton.ca)

**7. OTHER REPORTS**

- a. Senate & Senate Committees

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- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
- e. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- h. Other
- i. Questions

### **8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Motion 30.09.2016 – 01: Motion to Support CUPE 4600 in Bargaining**

**Moved:** Jenna Amirault (VP External)

**Seconded:** Anna Hogue (Communications)

Whereas CUPE 4600, the union representing teaching assistants and contract instructors, is currently in bargaining with Carleton University; and

Whereas many GSA members work for Carleton University as teaching assistants and contract instructors; and

Whereas the GSA supports the negotiation of better working conditions for its members and all workers; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA support CUPE 4600 in bargaining; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA be in continued communication with CUPE 4600 about bargaining and ways that it can help raise student awareness and support mobilization; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA inform its membership of the motion once it is passed.

**Motion carried unanimously**

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### **b. Motion 30.09.2016 – 02: Motion for Solidarity in the Canadian Federation of Students National Day of action on November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Moved:** Jenna Amirault (VP External)

**Seconded:** Bonnie Bates (History)

Whereas Ontario students pay the highest tuition fees in Canada; and

Whereas high tuition and educational cost threaten students' access to and quality of post-secondary education; and

Whereas direct action taken by students across Canada has drawn attention to the national crisis in post-secondary education; and

Whereas tuition fees continue to rise in most provinces across Canada, shutting many people out of our post-secondary institutions and saddling others with massive student debt; and

Whereas chronic underfunding of our post-secondary institutions has resulted in sub-standard infrastructure on campuses across the country; and

Whereas both federal and provincial governments have a responsibility to fund post-secondary education, and tuition fees are the symptom, not the cure, of chronic underfunding of Canada's universities and colleges; and

Whereas mass membership mobilization can be an effective tool for engaging members and influencing public policy; therefore

Be it resolved that the Council of the Graduate Students' Association encourage all of its members to participate in the National Day of Action on November 2.

### **Motion passes unanimously**

### **c. Motion 30.09.2016 – 03: Motion to encourage the Federal Government to amend the Canadian climate change strategy**

**Moved:** Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

**Seconded:** Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Whereas the Trudeau government promised 'sunny ways' and high hopes with the introduction of his cabinet, particularly with the newly titled *Minister of the Environment and Climate Change*.

And whereas by making his ministerial mandate letters public, Prime Minister Trudeau made clear his intentions to repair relations with Indigenous Peoples by placing a focus on consultation and partnership.

And whereas the tone of the federal government going into the COP21 Paris Climate talks was one of sweeping change, hope, and the recognized need to invest in green infrastructure, projects, and industries.

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And whereas the newly released national climate change strategy keeps Canada's climate change target at 1.5° of warming above pre-industrial levels, an unambitious target set by the Harper government.

And whereas the Trudeau government recently approved Malaysian company Protonas' Pacific NorthWest Liquid Natural Gas project, which comes with 10 legally binding conditions, and threatens our global climate, the second largest salmon run in the country (the Skeena River), and the way of life for the Indigenous Peoples that inhabit the area.

Be it resolved that the Graduate Students' Association write a letter to Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, encouraging her department and the Trudeau government to honour their promises of consultation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples across the country, particularly those inhabiting lands on or nearby proposed resource extraction and delivery sites. This letter will also highlight the urgent action required on behalf of this government to invest in sustainable, green energy infrastructure projects to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat global climate change.

### **Motion carries**

#### **d. Motion 30.09.2016 – 04: Motion to Receive the Annual Graduate Recreational Softball League Report**

**Moved:** Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)

**Seconded:** Simon Vodrey (Communications)

Whereas the Commissioner for the Graduate Recreational Softball League has tabled a report on the 2016 season, therefore;

BIRT the report of the GSRL Commissioner be received by Council.

### **Motion carries**

#### **f. Motion 30.09.2016 – 05: Motion to Elect One Graduate Masters student to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board**

**Moved:** Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)

**Seconded:** Warren Trottier (PAPM)

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

BIRT GSA Council approve the election of Erin Felepchuk as a graduate representative to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board.

### **Motion carries.**

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### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **a) Emergency Motion to Condemn Ottawa Police Service Actions in Wake of Death of Annie Pootoogook**

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Trycia Bazinet (Canadian Studies)

**Trigger warning: Quotes very violent and offensive language about Indigenous people, survivors of violence, and women.**

Whereas renowned Inuit artist and community figure Annie Pootoogook was found dead in the Ottawa River on Friday, September 23rd; and

Whereas her death was at first declared not to be suspicious by Ottawa police, and only declared suspicious several days after Ms. Pootoogook was found; and

Whereas this sequence of events betrays an utter lack of concern for Ms. Pootoogook's life and the lives of Indigenous people and a total ignorance to the tragic reality of missing and murdered Indigenous women in this country; and

Whereas after Ms. Pootoogook's death Ottawa Police sergeant Chris Hrnchiar made vile and racist comments, claiming that the case "has nothing to do with missing or murdered Aboriginal women", and further that "It's not a murder case...it's could be a suicide, accidental, she got drunk and fell in the river and drowned who knows....typically many Aboriginals have very short lifespans, talent or not [sic]". He further claimed that "because much of the aboriginal population in Canada is just satisfied being alcohol or drug abusers, living in poor conditions etc....they have to have the will to change, it's not society's fault [sic]"; and

Whereas Mayor Jim Watson claimed that these "some" of these comments were offensive, and they were "bordering on racism", rather than condemning them outright; and

Whereas Police Chief Charles Bordeleau claimed in an interview about Mr. Hrnchiar's comments that he has "no evidence" any of his officers are racist; and

Whereas people of colour in this city are still reeling from the police killing of Abdirahman Abdi at the end of July 2016; and

Whereas the GSA has been an ally in the fight for justice for Mr. Abdi and his family; and

Whereas we have previously recognized and condemned the epidemic racism and endemic violence against Black and Indigenous people present in the Ottawa Police Service;

Be it resolved that the GSA executive write a public statement sending our condolences to the family of Annie Pootoogook, expressing our solidarity with the Inuit and broader Indigenous communities in Ottawa, and condemning the Ottawa Police mishandling of Ms. Pootoogook's death. The statement will

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also include a condemnation of Mr. Hrnchiar's despicable comments, as well as the denial and equivocation shown by the city's leadership, particularly Mayor Watson and Chief Bordeleau;

Be it further resolved that the GSA offer, where needed and appropriate, our tangible support and solidarity to Ms. Pootoogook's family, as well as Inuit or other Indigenous community organizations who may be organizing a response to the Ottawa Police Service's mishandling of this case.

**Motion carries**

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved:** Martin Martinov (Physics/Senate)

**Seconded:** Simon Vodrey (Communications)

Carried.