

GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Canal Building 2202 - 6:00 pm - Friday, October 14, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday, October 14, 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:

- Alexandra Skutonich (Psych)
- Anna Hogue (Communications)
- Bonnie Bates (History)
- Brittany Andrew (Political Management)
- Charles Ozzoula (HSTP and GFB)
- Chloe Pedneault (Psychology)
- Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
- Damiano Torre (SCE)
- Danielle Taylor (English)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)
- Emily Sandham (NPSIA)
- Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
- Erin Felepchuk (Music and Culture)
- Fahd Alhattab (CUSA)
- Jay Ramasubramanyan (Legal Studies)
- Jenna Smith (Sociology/Anthropology)
- Jessie Gamarra (Art History)
- Jing Han (Economics)

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- Jordan Boswell (Political Management)
- Justine De Jaegher (Membership Coordinator)
- Kerry Naismith (EURAS)
- Kirk Kitzel (Ind. And Canadian Studies)
- Kristen Zintel (HSTP)
- Matt Dunford (Physics)
- Melissa Pullara (English)
- Michael Bueckert (Soc/Anth)
- Miles Krauter (CUPE 4600)
- Ryan Barlow (NPSIA)
- Sarah Beanlands (HSTP)
- Simon Vodrey (Communications)
- Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
- Tyrcia Bazinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
- Vincent St-Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
- Warren Trottier (PAPM)
- William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

- a. Announcement of Proxies

Jay Ramasubramanyam for Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies – 2 votes)

- b. Overview Robert's Rules of Order

Minutes: Loriann Garden

Chair: Jessica Squires

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Bonnie Bates (History)

Seconded: Warren Trottier (PAPM)

Agenda adopted unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. E-minutes from Sept 30, 2016

Moved: Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)

Seconded: Jessie Gamarra (Art History)

Motion passes

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- b. Minutes from Sept 30, 2016
 - Moved:** Bonnie Bates (History)
 - Seconded:** Damiano Torre (SCE)
 - Motion passes**

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justine De Jaegher: We're part of CFS, released report for free education in Canada, one common push back of education is how can we pay for it? This tells us how. Encourage everyone to get a copy, really well-researched, take it because it includes employer contract between Carleton and President. Lead up to November 2nd, national day of action to demand free education in Canada for domestic and international students. Going to hit the streets, hope you can come out. If want to get involved tell me, can also fill out pledge.

5. ORDER OF THE DAY

- a. Welcome Week Report

Jay Ramasubramnyam: Welcome Week coordinator, fantastic, two weeks of very exciting events. We had to postpone a few because of the weather. Response was great, think that GSA pulled together and it all worked out. Want to thank those who worked with me. I mean the report is self-explanatory, basically what we did.

We did have quite a few events that really helped new students integrate into Carleton. That was the purpose of the week. Also gave returning students an opportunity to interact with them and know more about what the GSA does and what goes on in Carleton. Case and point, been here a year and discovered new things, good opportunity. We did events on campus and some organized outside of Carleton. Tour of parliament and an Ottawa bus tour, tour to Mackenzie King, etc. those were well-attended, good response and I still get hello's from people that I met.

Grad orientation was one of the major events, we interacted with a lot of students, students go to learn about GSA, new campaigns/developments for campaigns. Other thing was the grad party about a month ago. It was co-organized the University of Ottawa grad association, very well attended, good response, we had a few issues at the start but overcame them and pulled together and made the night successful. Not sure if anything else is expected but if someone wants to say something feel free.

Motion to accept the report of the Welcome Week Coordinator.

Moved: Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)

Seconded: Michael Bueckhart

Motion carries unanimously

Questions?

Anna Hoque: wondering, for city folk what the rationale to not have free tickets?

Phil Robinson: the rationale is that we got those tickets through an agreement that Carleton had with city folk and we would've preferred to get those free tickets but that agreement no longer exists so it was out of our control. Best we could arrange was the half price tickets, didn't sell a ton of them. Obviously free is better.

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Anna: not in our budget?

Phil: no

Charles Ozzoula: wanted to know, how typically receive feedback from students? Survey?

Jay: we don't make it formal, usually informal, most students tend to be pretty open about feedback right after. That's the feedback mechanism but we also feel that response to events speak a lot about the quality of events which was quite important over a couple of weeks.

Charles: suppose, always helpful to have a system in place for students that may not be willing to approach you after an event in person to say how they feel.

Eric: just add that it's a good suggestion, for those with Grad Bulletin may be able to ask for these things in the future. I'd say that the one thing many of us on the executive did was during the event we talked to people to get feedback.

Jay: like to give people at the GSA a round of applause.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a. President (Debbie Owusu Akyeeah)

Sexual Violence Policy

For those unaware, every student has received an email from Carleton administration regarding the latest draft of the sexual violence policy.

The purpose of this email is to continue the consultation process with the entire Carleton population. As you know, prior to this the consultation process involved selected students' groups like service centres, the GSA, labour unions, etc.

We strongly encourage that all of you provide your feedback and relay this encouragement to your departments as well.

You can provide feedback through the online form or by email before October 28th.

The GSA is waiting to meet with our campus and labour union allies before we release a public statement.

Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG)

This past Wednesday, I represented the GSA at the first CASG meeting of the school year. The Carleton Academic Student Government, CASG, is the official body representing undergraduate students at Carleton on academic issues. The councillors represent the student voice on important issues such as changes to courses (including adding, modifying, or deleting the courses), changing requirements for a certain degree, and even have the power to discuss and vote on creating or ending an entire degree program.

At this meeting there was a motion to vote Chloe Miller, the interim CASG president, to the official president role after the previously elected president stepped down in the summer. The motion was successful.

The meeting proved to be useful to help promote the November 2nd- National Day of Action to a group of active undergraduate students.

Athletics Board

The first athletics board meeting was this week. All four student representatives were present: GSA, CUSA, RRRRA, and the Varsity Council Rep.

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Athletics was previously under "Finance and Administration" and is now under "Students and Enrolment". Not sure what this will mean for the future of athletics, but we will keep you posted.

It was identified at this meeting that the High Performance Centre (varsity gym) does have free timeslots during the week. This is important to keep in mind for the women's/non-binary gym hour

Sitting on the Athletics Board allows for the GSA to engage with stakeholders that we hope will eventually vote to approve women's/non-binary gym hour.

The Director of Athletics mentioned that the GSA has been influential in bringing change to athletics (specifically with the gender-neutral change room campaign). Let's hope we can continue to be influential.

Consent Culture Week

Next week from October 16th-21st is Consent Culture Week. This is a week to promote and encourage a consensual approach to university culture.

Consent Culture is a group of societal norms built on a consent based framework.

Events for the week include:

Tuesday, October 18- 5:30 pm- Keynote Address- Fenn Lounge

Linda Christina Redgrave- Linda Christina will be speaking about her experience dealing with the judicial system as the first complainant in the sexual assault trial of Jian Ghomeshi in early 2016. Yamikani Msosa from the Ottawa Sexual Assault Support Centre and Carrolyn Johnston from Carleton's Equity Services will also be speaking.

*Peer Supports and ASL interpretation available

Wednesday, October 19- 10:00 am-12:00 pm- Survivors' Meet and Greet- Womyn's Centre

Survivors of sexual violence are invited to this meet and greet to connect with other survivors. We will be serving breakfasts foods and drinks. Survivors are invited to bring along a support. *Peer Support will be provided. *

Wednesday, October 19- 8:00 pm- Film Screening- Rooster's Coffee House

We will be screening the 2015 documentary "The Hunting Ground". This film discusses sexual assault on campuses and institutional attempts to cover up these crimes. The film contains some graphic content and is rated PG-13. This event is put on in association with OPIRG Cinema Politica,

Peer Support will be provided

Thursday, October 20- 2:00 pm- Healthy Relationships Workshops- Womyn's Centre

This will be an interactive workshop discussing violence in dating relationships. Debbie from the GSA will facilitate it.

b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)

Operations

Last week we received our audited financial statements for our annual audit with chartered accounting firm Collins Barrow LLP. The accountants conducted the audit throughout the summer and have reported no qualifications and that our staff was very cooperative with their team.

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Mike's Place Pub now has a new beer on tap! We are pleased to welcome a locally brewed beer, Ashton Brewing Company, owned and operated by the proprietors of Quinn's and Patty's Pub on Bank street in old Ottawa South.

Health Plan

The opt in/out period has ended as of the 7th of October therefore we are no longer able to refund the health care premium to students with external insurance coverage, nor are we able to add dependents to a students' existing plan.

c. VP Operations (Eric Hitsman)

Mike's Place Pub Events

Trivia continues to be successful at Mike's Place. There is a list of upcoming themes for the year, the following one to be this Wednesday. To advertise for the upcoming National Day of Action, Jenna and Justine will be hosting a social Justice Trivia themed night. However, this trivia will take place an hour earlier than it normally does to accommodate the presidential debate screening.

Considering the success of the previous presidential debate screening, we will be screening the third presidential debate this Wednesday in Mike's Place at 9pm.

Council

There are a number of councillors whose formal councillor registration form I have not received. Please ensure that you get those forms into the GSA office as quickly as possible, these forms are vital in regards to being able to keep in contact with you.

d. VP Academic (William Felepchuk)

Graduate Academic Caucus (GAC)

The next GAC meetings will be on Friday November 4th at 10 AM, and on Wednesday December 7th at 1 PM. Location to be announced.

The November 4th meeting will be very interesting as, among other things, we are meeting with the FGPA deans before then to discuss academic advocacy issues, and with the head librarian Wayne Jones to discuss library issues. I will have reports on both of these meetings on November 4th.

The official meeting announcement will be going out on Tuesday Oct. 18th. Please let me know before then, if you haven't already done so, who your GAC reps are, at vpa@gsacarleton.ca. They are the grad students who sit on your department's board/council/assembly with administrators and professors.

Justice for Abdirahman Community Conference

The GSA, along with numerous labour and community organizations, hosted an amazing conference on Anti-Black racism, xenophobia, colonialism, mental health, and state violence in Canada on Sunday, October 2nd, 2016, in response to the Ottawa police killing of Abirahman Abdi in July, 2016.

As mentioned at the last exec meeting, the GSA was a key organizer in the JFA Community Conference. It was a resounding success, with 150+ participants and a variety of amazing speakers. Participants have given us feedback that it was healing, life-affirming, and very inspiring gathering. There will be a consensus document being published with the results of each session.

More to come soon!

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Multimedia, reflections on the conference, and the consensus document will be posted at <http://www.justiceforabdirahman.ca/CommunityConference/> in the coming weeks.

Meeting with Faculty of Postdoctoral Affairs (FGPA) Deans

We have an upcoming meeting with the FGPA deans in which we plan to focus the conversation on the challenging new funding distribution scheme. We will also bring up several other issues, including inconsistent policies on completion times, the treatment of International students, and the issue faced by part-time students brought forward by our History department representatives.

Student Parents and Guardians

There will be an important motion coming forward at this council meeting regarding this campaign. It will be followed by a November event focusing on student parents and guardians and their families that will amplify this campaign. Please email me at vpa@gsacarleton.ca if you want to help out!

Truth and Reconciliation Subcommittee of the Aboriginal Education Council

I continue to represent the GSA on this subcommittee of student association reps, faculty, administrators, and Indigenous students. After much discussion, we have crafted seven priority areas for the implementation of the TRC report at Carleton, and building on the many valuable initiatives already in place on campus. These seven areas have been presented to the AEC and will be detailed with concrete recommendations at coming meetings:

Creating a Respectful and Inclusive Learning Environment: Articulating a Vision for Carleton University based on the TRC's Calls to Action

1. Increase awareness of Indigenous cultures, knowledges and history
2. Prioritize teaching and revitalization of Indigenous languages with a preliminary focus on Anishinaabemowin, Mohawk, Michif and Inuktitut
3. Include Indigenous worldviews, ways of knowing and teaching methods in the classroom
4. Enhance community partnerships and establish relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations
5. Focus on Indigenous learner success
6. Remove systemic barriers and improve access to Indigenous education
7. Increase support for Indigenous research

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Day of Action

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.

The GSA and CFS hosted a panel discussion on October 12 to discuss free education. The event was well attended and a research document, "Time to Think Big: The Case for Free Tuition," was circulated and discussed.

On **November 2** students are meeting in the UC Atrium at 11am and busing to the University of Ottawa at 11:30am. From the University of Ottawa we will be marching to Parliament.

You can pledge to go **#AllOutNov2** and learn more about our demands at <http://www.cfs-fcee.ca/>

Motions for CFS-National

The GSA drafted three motions for the upcoming CFS-National meeting in November:

1. Motion to Reaffirm the CFS-National's commitment to a national, socialized, public system of post-secondary education.
2. Motion calling on the CFS-National to work in solidarity with Québec students.
3. Motion to amend the CFS's policy on taxation.

a. Questions

Bonnie Bates: question for president about sexual violence, any key messages that we're promoting to relay in feedback? When encouraging people to respond, know we talked about it a lot, I know we aren't making a statement but key messages and things that we want to promote
Debbie: for sure, will be meeting with allies soon, going to check in with them first before we encourage this. For a fact once we have that meeting the next grad bulletin on the Thursday will say what the key messaging is and you can relay that. You know what we stand for
Bonnie: want to do it quick, deadline soon

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

No report

a. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

No report

b. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

No report

c. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)

Miles Krauter: we had our first info picket, might have seen us in front of UC, about 25 of us with flags and a megaphone, passing out information, letting people know what we're doing. Did training the past two days and as far as bargaining, still meeting resistance with financial asks. Getting ready to mobilize.

d. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)

No report

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e. Board of Governors (BOG)

Michael Bueckhart: briefly hasn't been an open meeting since last GSA meeting. Only thing is that at next meeting on December 1st, will be the day we approve the sexual violence policy so definitely send in feedback sooner rather than later especially about oversight. Whose overseeing the policy, review committee and appeals, all of this may need to be worked through. Also want to mention, my understanding that this policy will go to the Senate for discussion at some point which may be the only community/public forum for discussion. Might be coming this month before feedback period closes so Wednesday October 26, during reading week. If interested and interested to discuss this, recommend come to that.

f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

Fahd Alhattab: quick update, CUSA has stuff might affect you, grad students in our clubs, largest amount of money right now thanks to referendum last year, more money to clubs and societies, lots that can be done. Best way to check it out is through our CUSA portal, new thing that we have been working on, central area for different campus activates. Go to our website and the hub, register clubs there, events calendar, been working well, going to keep building. Good way to keep being engaged. GSA provides money for service centers, seen gradual improvements, hired a full-time staff which is a big step to assist VP of student services. If ever have feedback please let us know. Food center has a kitchen, small microwave soon to serve more students. 60-70 students a month right now through foodbank, may be able to increase that. Oliver's got patio open in the summer, first time in a long time so it's cold now but here in the summer/spring, check that out. We've had pop the stigma, mental health awareness, sexual assault awareness week, engaging with students on the 19th before the debate, Colonel By Classic, always beat Ottawa at things, hockey event, they're team is back so us versus them, tickets available through CUSA and Athletics, can have in GSA office. Aside from that, also had a great homecoming, brought back tailgating, pre-party at the Locks, University against having a pre-party so did it off campus. Next big thing coming up student union building, will be hearing a lot more about that, expansion of university center, 80,000ft expansion, almost completely student space, rooms for students to do things, meeting space, exciting project.

g. Other

No report

h. Questions

Miles: forgot to mention, couple meetings coming up, one to point out is general membership meeting, last one was really long, didn't get to everything that we wanted to, hosting one on November 9th about bargaining, encourage everyone to come, that's the focus, nothing else. Also question to CUSA, will be reaching out to CUPE 4600 about plans for new building?

Fahd: yes, long answer, putting together a list of all stakeholders that can be engaged. At concept level right now, space will be student owned and student paid. Before need to know our financing, referendums, all of that. Did an initial talk but will right that down.

Simon Vodrey: question to CUPE, is there a way to get a teaser in terms of when it will come to a head about a strike for either unit?

Miles: won't know, won't talk about at GM, will depend what goes on at bargaining table, we haven't put everything out there and they haven't either, once that happens we can talk about it. Doesn't look good.

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8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Danielle Taylor: English, raise an issue, that's with the process of obtaining external funding, number of our students go through difficult process of getting that fund and getting information about obtaining it. Including misinformation when phoning, told one thing and another thing next. We just had a couple of students who wanted that to be raised, still an issue. One student who has been out of university and this isn't a typical process, more streamlined usually. This is an issue for students, trouble and stress in trying to gain this funding. Finances don't want to be stressed out about.

Michael Bueckhart: mention briefly from Soc/Anthro, will be discussed later, concerns for students going into 6th year with school trying to force them to finish degree faster, difficulty to even register, forced to pay extra high fees which wasn't a thing before even trying to intervene and go around supervisor and dictate deadlines for completing a chapter, that kind of thing. The administration to supersede the academic supervisor to determine terms of research. Not sure if other departments are seeing this but it's something we're investigating and talk about more.

William Felepchuk: one of the main things bringing up with FGPA, issue of completion dates, inconsistent, based on how much money they get per domestic student, runs about after a certain amount of years with international students they don't have this because they don't get money from the government, just collect the cash which is much higher than our tuition and in some programs encourage them to stay longer. So one part of student body treated one way and the other another way.

Phil Robinson: respond to Danielle, Will and/or I will email you to get more information particularly about who was giving wrong information to the students and who was doing that. Meeting with dean of grad studies on Tuesday, issue of this scholarships is at the top of our agenda, will be helpful to get that feedback.

Danielle: will keep look out

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 14.10.2016 - Motion for a childcare fund to facilitate student parent's participation in extracurricular academic activities

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Whereas many GSA members are student parents and guardians caring for children while pursuing their studies; and

Whereas student parent and guardian members face numerous financial and time barriers to successfully completing their degrees; and

Whereas these barriers include the often overwhelming costs of childcare; and

Whereas access to childcare is difficult to obtain and expensive outside of regular daycare and school hours;

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Whereas many extracurricular academic activities such conferences and speaking events, important to a successful career in academia, take place on evenings and weekends;

Be it resolved that the GSA adopt the following policy:

Childcare Grant (Student-Parent or Guardian Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities)

Preamble

The purpose of the Childcare Grant (Student-Parent or Guardian Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities) is to help graduate student parents and guardians pursue academic related events outside of regular childcare hours. The grant defrays the costs of childcare for parents attending academic events.

The Grant

1. The GSA shall award a maximum of \$250 per applicant per GSA fiscal year (01 May to 30 April) to offset the costs of childcare.
2. Applicants are entitled to apply for more than one grant per fiscal year (01 May to 30 April), where the total of all grants awarded to any one candidate will not exceed the maximum award per applicant in one fiscal year (\$250.00).
3. The grant shall not be awarded to provide childcare during regular childcare hours or the child's regular school hours.
4. The grant shall not be used to provide childcare for ongoing seminars, classes, or courses that are part of the student parent's or guardian's degree (occasional activities only).
5. No childcare covered by a GSA Travel Grant may be used in an application for this grant.
6. The grant shall not be awarded for childcare that may be covered in the collective agreement between CUPE 4600 and Carleton University.
7. The GSA reserves the right to refuse any application, and retains sole discretion to determine approved funding amounts.
8. Grants will cease to be awarded when the budgeted maximum for these grants has been dispersed.
9. Grants shall operate on a reimbursement basis after the childcare has been provided.

Applications for Reimbursements

1. Applications may occur in advance in order to obtain approval for the grant.
2. Applications must be approved by the Vice-President Finance or designate, and will normally be processed within five (5) working days of application date providing that all the criteria have been met.
3. Grant application forms will include a brief description of the event and a brief justification for the event's relevance to the applicant's academic life, a copy of the applicant's ID, and a copy of the ID for each child like a provincial health card or birth certificate.
4. Receipts for the childcare must be submitted for the reimbursement to occur.

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5. The deadline for applications is April 15 of the GSA fiscal year in which the childcare has occurred.

Appeals

1. Applicants may appeal a decision regarding their grant to the GSA Carleton Inc. Board of Directors.
2. By a majority vote, the GSA Board of Directors will decide any appeal of a grant decision.
3. All appellant decisions of the GSA Carleton Inc. Board of Directors are final.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSA create a new budget line, entitled “Childcare Grant: Student-Parent Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities,” and that it be funded by \$4,000.00 annually.

Motion passes unanimously

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Bueckhart: in meeting next, talking about financial audit, not sure that some of our friends from CUSA and CUPE can participate but extend invitation to be part of the discussion. Can't make a motion, needs to be at corporate meeting, want people to know that I'm going to put forth a motion.

Jessica Squires: do people know what we're talking about?

Phil Robinson: wanted to clarify, for the corporation, the language states that graduate student voting members are part of the corporation, Michael is suggesting we could extend attendance to grad faculty board and CUPE, CUSA, if anyone else who isn't a graduate student body that can be included that could be the first item on the corporate meeting. This council can't dictate this, would need to start meeting and then make the change.

Miles Krauter: as many of you know, I was fired from job a couple of years ago as a result of organizing something, been fighting this, have to go back at the end of the month. I'm hosting a fundraiser, DJ will be there on the 21st. can search labour of love on Facebook.

Loriann Garden: NPSIA party tonight

11. ADJOURNMENT TO GSA CARLETON INC MEETING

Moved: Anna Hoque (Communications)

Seconded: Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Carried