

GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Senate Chamber Robertson Hall - 6:00 pm - Friday, February 17, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday, February 17, 2017

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.

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Attendance

- Adam Christianson (Soc/Anthro)
- Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies)
- Charles Ozzoude (HTSP)
- Chloe Pedneault (Psychology)
- Codie Fortin-Lalonde (ALDS)
- Damiano Torre (SCE)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)
- Emily Sandham (NPSIA)
- Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
- Jay Ramasubramanyam (Legal Studies)
- Jenna Amirault (VP External)
- Jessie Gamarra (Art History)
- Jenna Herdman (English)
- Justine De Jaegher (Membership Coordinator)
- Kirk Kitzul (Indg. and Canadian Studies)
- Kristen Zintel (Health STP)
- Martin Martinov (Physics)
- Miles Krauter (CUPE 4600)

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- Rachel Aquilina (English)
- Ryan Barlow (NPSIA)
- Sadie Harrison (MPPA)
- Sarah Beaulands (Health STP)
- Simon Vodrey (Communications)
- Stacey Cook (Soc/Anthro)
- Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
- Tricia Bazinet (Indg. and Canadian Studies)
- Vincent St-Martin (Office & Communications Coordinator)
- Warren Trottier (SPPA)
- Wesley Petite (CUPE 4600)
- William Felepchuk (VP Academic)
- Yenn Ko (History)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

Danielle Taylor (English) to Jenna Herdman – 1 vote

Melissa Pulara (English) to Rachel Aquilina – 1 vote

Jenna Smith (Sociology/Anthropology) to Adam Christianson – 1 vote

Michael Bueckart (Sociology/Anthropology) to Stacey Cook – 1 vote

Matt Dunford (Physics) and Victor Molkov (Physics) to Martin Martinov – 2 votes

Anna Hoque (Communication) to Simon Vodrey – 2 votes

Bonnie Bates (History) to Yenn Ko – 2 votes

b. Overview of Roberts Rules of Order

Minutes: Justine De Jaegher and Loriann Garden

Chair: Rick Telfer

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Martin Martinov (Physics)

Seconded: Simon Vodrey (Communications)

Motion carries.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. E-minutes from Jan. 27, 2017

Moved Codie Fortin-Lalonde (ALDS)

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Seconded: Jay Ramasubramanyam (Legal Studies)
Motion carries

- b. Minutes from Jan. 27, 2017
Moved: Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
Seconded: Warren Trottier (PAPM)
Motion carries

Announcements

5. ORDER OF THE DAY

- a. Presentation of the GSA Health, Dental and Accident Plan

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
No report
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
- e. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)
No report
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

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No report

h. Other

None

i. Questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 17.02.2017 – 01: Motion to Investigate GSA actions around the “Muslim Ban”

Moved: Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

Seconded: Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)

Whereas on January 27 the U.S. government placed a travel ban on the citizens of seven Muslim majority countries: Iran, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Syria, and Sudan; and

Whereas this racist Muslim ban has had a devastating effect on post-secondary education; affecting students and academics from the seven aforementioned countries studying at US institutions, especially those who were outside the USA at the time the ban was implemented and have not been able to re-enter; and

Whereas GSA members are also affected in myriad ways, including those with family in the US, those with planned conference presentations and other academic opportunities at US institutions, and those who are justifiably fearful of crossing the border while Muslim in the present Islamophobic climate; and

Whereas the Trudeau government has not taken substantive action to alleviate the suffering caused by the ban, including withdrawing Canada from the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States, which would open the doors to refugee applicants from the affected countries unjustly rejected by the US; and

Whereas Carleton University and President Runte have not taken substantive action to alleviate the suffering caused by the ban on students and scholars, unlike institutions like the University of Ottawa, the University of British Columbia, Memorial University, Queen’s, the University of Toronto, and others who have taken actions including accelerating the

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admissions process for students affected by the ban, and implementing a tuition fee exemption program to enable affected students to study at the domestic tuition fee rate, among others.

Be it resolved that the GSA work with organizations such as Amnesty International and the National Council of Canadian Muslims to advocate for the withdrawal of Canada from the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States;

Be it further resolved that the GSA continue to pressure Carleton University and President Runte to take more substantive actions on the issue of the ban as well as Islamophobia on campus more generally;

Be it further resolved that the GSA investigate ways to support members affected by this ban as well as increased public sentiments of xenophobia and Islamophobia, including investigating supporting an academic ban or other relevant measures.

Motion carries

b. Motion 17.02.2017 – 02: Motion to Hold a Health Plan Referendum

Moved: Martin Martinov (Physics)

Seconded: Warren Trottier (SPPA)

Whereas the GSA health, dental, and accident plan is not-for-profit, and;

Whereas graduate student health, dental, and accident claims continue to increase, and are higher than health plan premiums in the current year, and;

Whereas the GSA insurance provider has asked for a 5% increase to the fee for the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan renewal for 2017-18;

BIRT the GSA Council approve the following referendum question to be presented to graduate students during the 2017 General Elections:

“Do you support increasing the annual levy for the graduate student health, dental, and accident plan by up to \$20 to maintain current coverage effective September 1, 2017, and the indexation of the levy to the Consumer Price Index in subsequent years? Yes or No”

Motion carries

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10. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Emergency Motion 17.02.2017 - 01: Motion to oppose threats to the Not Our Policy campaign

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Debbie Owusu Akyeeah Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Whereas the "Not Our Policy: Sexual Violence Policy Reform Committee" group has been advocating for the reform of the Carleton Sexual Violence Policy to ensure it is survivor-centric and addresses the needs of those who have experienced sexual violence; and

Whereas alongside petition collection and other tactics, this group has been hanging a banner reading "Not Our Sexual Violence Policy" over the Carleton University sign at Bronson and Sunnyside; and

Whereas during their attempt to hang the banner yesterday, three student activists were stopped by Campus Safety Special Constables, separated, questioned about other group members, and threatened with future arrest and charges of vandalism and mischief; and

Whereas this action is part of a pattern of criminalizing dissent on campus and prioritizing Carleton's image over the demands of survivors of sexual violence; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA issue a statement in opposition to the threats made against the students involved in the Not Our Policy campaign.

Be it further resolved that members be encouraged to attend the "Rally Against Carleton Threats to the Not Our Policy Campaign" on Thursday, March 2 at 4pm at the Carleton sign at Bronson and Sunnyside.

Motion carries

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Martin Martinov (Physics)

Seconded: Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

Motion carries