

GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association, Ottawa, Ontario Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Monday, August 14th, 2017

CALL TO ORDER - 6:05pm, Monday August 14, 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.

Attendance

Bonnie Bates – History
Danielle Taylor (Melissa proxy – 2 votes)– English
Kirsten Paula – ALDS
Martin Martinov (proxy) – Physics
Fawn Leslie – Political Science
Karan Goyal – Electrical Engineering
Jessica Chapman – Communication
Emily Sandham (Ryan proxy – 2 votes)– NPSIA
Sophia Royle (proxy)– SPPA
James Kappel (proxy) – SPPA
Stacey Cook – Sociology/Anthropology
Jessie Gamarra – Art History
Antonella Pucci – Communications
Codie Fortin Lalonde - ALDS
Eric Hitsman - President
Taylor Howarth – VP Finance
Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah – VP Operations
Jenna Amirault – VP External
Phil Robinson – Executive Coordinator
Zidane Mohammed – Membership Coordinator
Vince St-Martin – Office and Communications Coordinator

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1) INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

Melissa Pullara has appointed Daniel Taylor (2 votes)
Victor Malcov has appointed Martin Martinov (2 votes)
Ryan Barlow appoint Emily Sandham (NPSIA) (2 votes)
Sophia Royle (proxy)– SPPA (2 votes)
James Kappel (proxy) – SPPA (2 votes)

2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by: Bonnie Bates (History)
Seconded by: Daniel Taylor (English)
Adopted

3) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MUNUTES

a. E-Minutes from June 26, 2017
Moved: Fawn Leslie (Poli Sci)
Seconded: Jenna Amirault (VP External)
Adopted

b. Minutes from June 26, 2017
Moved: Bonnie Bates (History)
Seconded: Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
Adopted

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS

5) ORDER OF THE DAY

Discussion on ways to improve outreach to GSA members. A short powerpoint presentation provided an overview of the ways in which the GSA conducts outreach and some of the obstacles. Councilors broke into break-out groups to discuss ways to improve GSA outreach.

Some suggestions made include: initiate sections from departments for GSA to acquire emails from departmental list serve; utilize more clickbait titles to incite readers to read GSA emails; implement Christmas movies during the festive season to incite traffic in the GSA; provide meals for students during exam season to increase socialization among grad students; ETC

6) EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a. Eric Hitsman (President)

The majority of my time this summer is continuing our tradition of holding the longest Graduate Student Welcome Weeks in Canada. This year, we are holding a social after the

Grad Orientation Day in collaboration with the FGPA and CUPE 4600. There will be mini games and live music. This year, our nature hike will be at the marshes at Mer Bleue. We have booked the May Fair to screen a movie – But we aren't sure which one yet, if you have some suggestions of awesome movies, please let me know.

In consideration of the focus on mental health, we will be holding two sessions on mental health and will have a space for students to talk about the graduate specific issues that we deal with. We are also planning to bring back the free City Folk tickets for students. There will be a limited number so it is first come, first serve. Lastly, there will be a graduate student party held at LAGO in conjunction with the Graduate Student Association at the University of Ottawa.

Hiring

We have been and continue to be in a big process of hiring many students for various roles in the GSA.

Office Administrator

While the job application deadline is closed, we will be interviewing candidates to fill the many Office Administrator positions to be filled. The high number is related to the fact that we plan to keep the office open from 5pm – 9pm as a space on campus for students to use.

SAOC

Additionally, the deadline for Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator has passed, we will be hiring these positions shortly.

Mike's Place Staff

Mike's Place is also hiring. The application deadline has also passed – so we can expect to see some new faces at the Pub shortly

Trivia

The summer trivia league has continued successfully throughout the summer with specialized theme nights. There are three of these left – Apocalypse theme, Vampires theme, and the final week – Trivial Pursuit, which is a general knowledge trivia with some curve balls. Starting in September, we will hire a new host. The application deadline is next Friday. As host, you are responsible for making weekly, or bi-weekly questions, and then simply hosting the event. So if you know someone that would like to do this job, please encourage them to apply, it is very fun.

b. Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

Audit

During the last few weeks of July, we had auditors in our office to conduct our annual audit as per Ontario legislation regarding non-profit organizations. I am happy to report that our end-of-year financials are in good standing and we are looking forward to receiving the financial statements from the auditors in September. These statements will be presented to the incoming Council during our October Council meeting.

Outreach Coordinator

We are excited to have Helyeh on board for the upcoming year providing outreach support. Helyeh will be an asset for us during Welcome Weeks and assisting us with communicating to our members throughout the year.

c. Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP Operations)

Council

Another reminder that a new Council year starts in September – the 2016-2017 year. Please ensure a new person from your department is replacing you for the new school year. If you would like to continue, you will need to complete a new Council nomination form or get re-elected by your departmental society. If there is not a new representative for your department selected before the September meeting of Council, you are entitled to continue as the departmental representative for the September meeting.

Also, please do not forget to claim your council credits. A great way to find a successor for your role is through departmental social gatherings or elections for departmental society executive members!

Pride

The Canadian Federation of Students is inviting all locals, including Local 78, to join them on August 27th in the Capital Pride parade on the CFS National float. If you are interesting in joining the GSA on this float, please email me or Zidane at mc@gsacarleton.ca.

d. Jenna Amirault (VP External)

Academic Amnesty

Carleton University has granted students academic amnesty for a Day of Action on February 1, 2018.

Volunteer for Welcome Weeks

The GSA is looking for volunteers to help out with various Welcome Weeks events. If you are interested you can contact mc@gsacarleton.ca. Your help is greatly appreciated!

e. Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

Absent.

7) OTHER REPORTS

a. Rideau River Residence Association

Jacob (Vice-President) presented the following announcement: Event coming up on Friday at 7pm, and proceeds go to Shinarama; additionally, convenience store is open again, and the res quad is being revamped and should be done in a week or two.

8) DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

None.

9) NEW BUSINESS

a – Motion 08.14.2017 – 01: Motion to support the Somali Education Fund (SEF)

Moved by Eric Hitsman (President)

Seconded by Bonnie Bates (History)

Whereas: The Somali Education Fund (SEF) is a group of Ottawa based students dedicated to making education easily accessible for the aspiring young students of Somalia.

Whereas: The SEF has connected with a school in Mogadishu which has found 10 children who are especially disadvantaged. Each of these children have lost either one or both of their parents and are being cared for by relatives who struggle to secure basic necessities.

Whereas: SEF aims to support these children until they graduate so that they will be able support their families in the future and pass on the skills they acquire to the next generation

Whereas: SEF aims to significantly increase the number of supported students.

Be it Resolved that: The GSA donate \$250 to the Somali Education Fund.

ADOPTED

b – Motion 08.14.2017 – 02: Motion to support Justice for Deepan Campaign

Moved by Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP Operations)

Seconded by Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

Whereas: Deepan Budlakoti was born in Canada. He was issued a Canadian birth certificate and passport, and grew up believing he was a citizen.

Whereas: In 2010, following a conviction on a break and entry charge, the Canadian government suddenly informed Deepan that he is not a citizen. The government has contested Deepan Budlakoti's citizenship because of his parents' alleged status at his birth as employees of a foreign diplomat.

Whereas: Under Canadian immigration law, non-citizens who are convicted of criminal offences are punished twice: first when they are sentenced for the crime, and a second time by being declared 'inadmissible,' facing deportation from Canada.

Whereas: Deepan is now facing deportation to India, where he has never lived and has no family. Moreover, India does not recognize him as a citizen and has refused to issue a travel document for him.

Whereas: Canada has international obligations under 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness. The convention states, “A Contracting State shall grant its nationality to a person born in its territory who would otherwise be stateless.”

Whereas: Double punishment is often the direct result of racial profiling. The targeting of racialized and immigrant communities puts a disproportionate number of people of colour in the criminal justice system. This can lead to deportation when people don't have citizenship.

Whereas: Deepan remains indefinitely under strict conditions, including a curfew and the requirement to live with his parents. He has no status and needs to apply for a work permit in order to work, and is denied access to basic social services.

Whereas: Deepan is a Canadian and a member of our Ottawa community.

Be it further resolved that the GSA donate \$250 to the Justice for Deepan campaign's legal defence fund.

ADOPTED

c – Motion to support Reoccupation Organizers Defending the Land in Stolen Miqmag Territory (Galt, Gaspesie, QC)

Moved by Jenna Amirault (VP External)

Seconded by Bonnie Bates (History)

Whereas Reoccupation has successfully set up a sovereign, ceremonial space on Parliament Hill during the 150th celebrations and received international coverage for doing so,

Whereas some of the Reoccupation organizers are working all summer to build coalitions across communities that have for aim the restoration of Indigenous jurisdiction on Turtle Island as well as the fulfillment of the responsibilities to protect their lands and their waters,

Whereas some of the Reoccupation organizers have now joined a land defense camp in response to a call to action to reoccupy the lands a light a sacred fire in Galt, in opposition the oil company JUNEX,

Whereas many blockades are already up, cellphone signal is weak and land defenders on the ground are worried that the provincial police (SQ) will raid their encampments at any moment,

Be it resolved that the GSA will donate 300\$ in support of the land defense camps. The funds will directly serve to bring in more land defenders on site from nearby Miqmag reserves.

Be it resolved that the GSA will continue to support urgent land defense action that Reoccupation collective might engage in.

ADOPTED

10) OTHER BUSINESS

11) ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Martin Martinov (Senate)

Seconded by Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)

ADOPTED