

**GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario**  
**Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Thursday, January 25, 2018**

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**CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Thursday, January 25, 2018**

*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**

- Jacqueline Lalor (NPSIA)
- Natalie Prowse (Board of Governors)
- Lexi Zamoiski (NPSIA)
- Aula Mustafa (Public Policy and Administration)
- Dat Tran (ALDS)
- Annika Mazzarella (Art History)
- Jacky Tran (Public Policy and Administration)
- Melissa Pullara (English)
- Carmen Warner (Communications)
- Kirk Kitkul (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
- Jason Beaver (GRC)
- Taryn Hepbrun (Legal Studies)
- Meral Hussein (ALDS)
- Trycia Bazinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
- Helyeh Doughty (Legal Studies)
- Chelsea Nash (Communication)
- Lalean Sinclair (Social Work)
- Abigail Curlew (Sociology)
- Lucas Jerusalemiec (Political Science)
- Amin Ghaziaskan (Mech & Aero)
- Kristen Bussiere (English)
- Rosita Sherifahmadi (Electronic)
- Timothy Whalen (Psychology)
- Rob Currie-Wood (Political Science)
- Omer Kaya (EURMS)

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- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (VP-Operations)
- Zidan Mohamed (Membership Coordinator)
- Eric Hitsman (President)
- Taylor Howarth (VP-Finance)
- Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP-Academic)
- Vincent St-Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
- Jenna Amirault (VP-External)

**Guests:**

- Matthias Neufang (Dean of FGPA)
- Greg Aulenback (Manager, Strategic Initiatives)
- Maureen Murdock (Director, Health and Counseling)
- Bonnie Stephanson (Asst. Director, Health & Counseling)
- Michelle Baulch (Asst. Manager, Student Success)

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

**1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

- a. Announcement of Proxies  
There were no proxies at the meeting.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Mover:** Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)  
**Seconded:** Trycia Bazinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)  
Carried

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a. E-minutes from December 5, 2017  
**Moved by:** Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP-Academic)  
**Seconded by:** Chelsea Nash (Communications)  
Carried
- b. Minutes from December 5, 2017  
**Moved by:** Carmen Warner (Communications)  
**Seconded by:** Taylor Howarth (VP Fianance)  
Carried

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Nothing to report.

**5. ORDER OF THE DAY: Presentation and Discussion on Graduate Student Mental Health**

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### **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- a. President (Eric Hitsman)

#### **Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario**

Last weekend, I went to Toronto to attend the Provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students. This was a relatively un-contentious meeting, but gave me an opportunity to discuss with other graduate locals around the province. Of note at this meeting, there was an emergency motion for CFS-O to support locals in holding an annual day of remembrance for those killed in the attack on a Mosque in Quebec last year. It encouraged grad locals to participate in anti-Islamophobia activities on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Federation will be working on campaign materials to be ready in January 2019.

#### **Graduate Faculty Board**

##### *International Students*

The Graduate Faculty Board meeting was dominated by discussion of issues faced by international students at Carleton University. The Dean of the FGPA indicated that the model used at UofT is also going to be used at Carleton, but that our funding is significantly lower, and therefore fewer international students will be paying domestic fees than at UofT.

Further, there was discussion about what the GFB can do to help alleviate the high cost of living/tuition for international students on our campus. Currently, departments are able to give “top” international students up to a maximum of \$12,000 of funding, \$10,000 of which is a TAship.

There are a number of other opportunities that were mentioned, such as RAships, international government sponsors, outside bursaries, and doctoral excellence awards – but the number of recipients of these financial awards is limited to a small population of Carleton’s international students.

Moving forward, the GFB has decided to strike a working group to discuss ways we can further assist Carleton’s international students. This group will meet to discuss possible solutions that can help a larger population of graduate students and then report back to the monthly GFB meetings. They hope to have some GSA members in this group, so if you are interested please contact me at [pres@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:pres@gsacarleton.ca).

#### **Embedded Graduate Mental Health Counsellor**

We met with the FGPA a few weeks ago to ask about a grad specific mental health counsellor. While we were under the impression this was something going into the budget asks, it turns out that this is not the case. They say this is because there is not enough research on what the specific needs of graduate students are. So instead, they want to create a working group that will develop a questionnaire which can go out to graduate students – that way we have data on the specifics of what role an embedded counsellor could play.

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b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)

### **Open Access Awards**

The Graduate Student Open Access Award is sponsored by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), MacOdrum Library and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (FGPA). This award is designed to offset these publishing fees for graduate students. Up to five monetary awards of \$1000.00 will be distributed.

Any GSA member who has had a paper published or accepted (pending minor revisions) in an open access journal since January 1, 2016, can apply. The deadline is February 15th, 2018.

### **GSA Student-Parent Awards – Deadline Extension**

The deadline for the Student-Parent Award has been extended to 5:00 PM on February 28. Information about the Award can be found on the GSA website. Please encourage your colleagues who are parents to apply!

### **Mike's Place Pub**

Sales at Mike's Place were strong in December, which is encouraging. We have had some problems with the infrastructure in the University Centre, particularly with regards to plumbing, which has resulted in several floods in the kitchen. Staff of the GSA are working with Facilities Management and Planning to rectify the problem. It is the position of the GSA that the problem is the responsibility of the landlord (Carleton University) and not the tenant.

### **Day of Action**

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the GSA will be joining with other students' unions across Ontario to focus the provincial government's attention on post-secondary education and the needs of students. A provincial election will take place in June of 2018, and it is important that our elected representatives are committed to building a well-funded and accessible education system.

The GSA will be setting up information tables in the University Centre Galleria and giving away free food to students on February 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 11:00 am. There will be a focus on the need for mental health resources for students, as well as an opportunity for students to speak with other students and representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the GSA will be helping the Canadian Federation of Students organize an activist assembly to raise awareness of issues faced by students and encourage Carleton students to get involved in ongoing campaigns of the Federation. It will take place in the Grad Lounge, 6<sup>th</sup> floor University Centre, between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. Free pizza will be served!

c. VP Operations (Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah)

### **Sexual Assault Awareness Week**

This week is Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2018, which is hosted by Equity Services alongside many campus partners like the GSA. Our Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators

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(SAOCs) Miranda and Rukiya have worked hard to include some events in the programming for the week. This Friday the SAOCs will be hosting another Feminist Self-Care Night at the GSA Lounge starting at 6pm. Come make some self-care kits and plans as we mark the end of SAAW week.

### **Athletics Board**

At the last Athletics Board meeting two key items came up. First, Athletics is now no longer under the responsibility of Michel Piché (VP Finance and Administration), but is now under Suzanne Blanchard (VP Students and Enrollment). Considering the large budget that Athletics has and the large amount of revenue it generates, this is quite the interesting move. This leads to the second item which is that Athletics will be cutting student staff jobs because of the minimum wage increase.

### **Elections**

GSA elections are right around the corner! We're looking to hire a Chief Electoral Officer. Applications are due tomorrow. Additionally, we're looking for two Council members to be on the Electoral Board. If this interests you, stay tuned to hear how you can fill those positions.

- d. VP Academic (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

### **Racialized Action Committee meeting**

We will be holding our first RAC meeting of the New Year on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. So come on out and meet with other racialized students on campus if you like.

### **Discussions with Grad Students**

I am in the process of discussing some very important issues relating to student-supervisor relationship dynamics. There have been some very serious concerns raised by students and I am in the process of trying to resolve them.

### **Winter Orientation**

60 new grad students attended the Winter Orientation on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. They had a great time! Our Outreach Coordinator Helia led some of the activities and Office and Communications Coordinator Vincent St-Martin provided the rundown on health plan. There was a ton of food, trivia, board games and a campus tunnel tours (yeah who's going out when it's 40 below right?!)

### **Departmental Townhalls**

We are planning on holding a few departmental townhalls. These townhalls are opportunities for students to come together and meet with the GSA to reflect on their time in the program and present some questions or concerns. This is a way to increase involvement with the GSA and students. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this. Contact either Zidan (mc@gsacarleton.ca) or I (vpa@gsacarleton.ca). There will be free food during these townhalls. So you don't have to make dinner that day!

- e. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

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**Political Action Committee and Mental Health**

The Political Action Committee will be meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the GSA Boardroom (6<sup>th</sup> floor Unicentre).

PAC continues to work on our mental health campaign. Currently, this includes gathering testimonials from students and launching our petition for an embedded grad counsellor.

**National Graduate Caucus**

The National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students is holding its standalone meeting at the end of March. This meeting is taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the meeting, grads get a chance to hear about what is happening on other campuses, discuss campaigns, and hear from student activists.

Those interested in attending should contact the GSA.

**Justice for Soleiman**

The GSA, in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Students and the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO), is looking to host an event to bring awareness to the Justice for Soli Campaign. Soleiman Faqiri was killed under government care on December 15, 2016.

For more information about the campaign and how you can get involved:  
<https://goo.gl/yHMUuM>

f. Questions

**7. OTHER REPORTS**

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
  - Nothing to report.
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
  - Our Social Coordinator changed because he is graduating – I want you to be all aware
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
  - Nothing to report.
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
  - Nothing to report.

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- e. Carleton Post-Doctoral Association (CUPA)
  - Nothing to report.
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
  - Natalie: There have been two Board of Governors meetings this term: one to discuss and fight the code of conduct that happened two years ago and another one in January. On another note, the Neuroscience students have moved to another building, which is difficult to access through the tunnels. Students have to go out of the building to access it. The facilities in the building are not very impressive; the heating system does not work regularly and students went without landlines for weeks. Apart from that the labs themselves are gorgeous and neat. Facilities management should have been more efficient; it is not the first time Carleton has constructed a building.
- g. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
  - Nothing to report.
- h. Presidential Search Committee
  - Nothing to report.
- f. Questions
  - Nothing to report.

**8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. Taryn Hepbrun (Legal Studies): We are having a conference in our department. The call for paper topic is “Happily Ever After?” (Utopia/Dystopia).

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Motion 25.01.2018 – 01: Motion to Establish Voting Dates for the 2018 GSA General Elections**

**Moved by:** Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP-Operations)

**Seconded by:** Abigail Curlew (Sociology)

Whereas the GSA normally holds its elections in March of each year and voting takes place for two consecutive days; and

Whereas the Electoral Board is being struck and the process for selecting a Chief Electoral Officer(s) has been initiated; therefore:

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Be it resolved that the Graduate Students' Association Council set March 20, 21, and 22, 2018 as the dates for the 2018 General Elections.

Motions carries.

**b. Nominations and elections for two (2) GSA Electoral Board positions**

Nominee one: Jason Beaver (GRC)

Nominee two: Dat Tran (ALDS)

There were no other nominees.

**c. Motion 25.01.2018 - 02: Motion to Appoint GSA Councilors to the Electoral Board**

**Moved by:** Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP-Operations)

**Seconded by:** Taryn Hepbrun (Legal Studies)

Whereas GSA By-Law #10, Section 2, states that the Electoral Board will include two members of GSA Council who are elected by Council, therefore;

Be it resolved that Jason Beaver and Dat Tran be appointed to the GSA Electoral Board for the 2018 General Elections.

Motions carries.

**d. Nomination and election for one (1) graduate student representative to the Graduate Faculty Board**

Nominee: Meral Hussein (ALDS)

There were no other nominees.

**e. Motion 25.01.2018 – 03: Motion to Appoint a Graduate Student Representative to the Electoral Board**

**Moved by:** Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP-Academic)

**Seconded by:** Carmen Warner (Communications)

Whereas William Felepchuk is unable to complete his term as a graduate student representative on the Graduate Faculty Board, and has submitted his resignation, and;

Whereas the term for graduate student representatives on the Graduate Faculty Board are normally May 1 to April 30, and;

Whereas Article 9.5 of the GSA Constitution states:

If a Graduate Faculty Board representative is unable to complete their term of office, Council may, at its discretion, appoint a



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replacement representative for the duration of the term of office.  
By-elections will not normally be held for Graduate Faculty Board representatives between general elections.

Be it resolved that Meral Hussein be appointed by Council to represent graduate students on the Graduate Faculty Board for the remainder of the 2017-2018 term.

Motions carries.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- No other business.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

**Seconded by:** Natalie Prowse (Neuroscience)

**Carried.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.