**CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm, Friday, April 12th 2013**

**1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

a. Announcement of Proxies

Fraser MacQuarri for Brian Moffat (Computer science)

Jesse Howell for Brendan O’Neil (DGES)

Graeme Turner for Golshid Chatrchi (Mathematics and Statistics)

Elizabeth Whyte for Holly Gilroy (VP Academic)

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Correction Item 8 – “nomination and election” and BIRT should read “approve the election of \_\_\_” and same wording for last motion to elect GSA rep to BoG**

Moved: Abigail Kidd (Sociology)

Seconded: Justine Mallah (Communication)

Carried

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. E-minutes from March 15th 2013

**Moved:** Ron Couchman (Sociology)

**Seconded:** Cecilia Jorgenson (Psychology)

**Carried**

1. Minutes from March 15th 2013

**Moved:** Nyssa McLeod (SPPA)

**Seconded:** Lisa Menard (Psychology)

**Carried**

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Mike's Place is Open All Summer
* Call for Players and Teams for the Graduate Recreational Softball League
* Call Out for Community Gardeners!
* GSA Office - Summer Hours and Closure on April 29

**5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

1. President (Kelly Black)

**Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Black**

**Research Forum**

Thank-you to all those who promoted, participated, volunteered, and attended the Research Forum and 3 Minute Thesis (3MT). As this was the first time that Carleton and the GSA have done something like this there was a bit of nervousness about how it might go. However, I am happy to report that we will certainly be doing the Forum and 3MT again next year! The Department of Psychology was the winner of the $150.00 prize for the most participants – congratulations! Next week the FGPA and GSA will be sitting down to discuss how to improve upon next year’s events. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them my way.

**Community Garden**

We are looking for gardeners for the inaugural season of the GSA Community Garden. Application forms for garden plots are now available for download on our website – http://gsacarleton.ca/section/376. All members of the Carleton community are welcome to apply. Plots will be distributed through a lottery system – however, community members who volunteered in the construction of the garden will be given preference. For more details contact Garden Coordinator Chris Bisson - communitygarden@gsacarleton.ca

**New Tuition Fee Framework**

Since we last met the province has announced a new tuition fee framework. Under the new framework, annual fee increases for undergraduate students will be capped at an average of 3% cent for the next four years – down from 5%. Tuition fees for professional and graduate programs may be increased by up to 5% – down from 8%. International student fees continue to be de-regulated. This is an unfortunate decision by the province as the Minster was presented with several cost-neutral proposals for reducing tuition fees. You can read more about these proposals and the new framework at the following links:

http://ocufa.on.ca/2013/ontario-announces-new-tuition-framework/

http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1137637/tuition-fees-set-to-more-than-double-under-liberals

**Family Leave Grant**

Some of you may recall that I have previously discussed the possibility of creating a grant for students who need to take leave from their students in order to care for dependents (for example, in the case of maternity/paternity leave, childcare, or caring for an aging parent). While the development of this form of support took a backseat over the last few months I am happy to report that I have been working with the Leah DeVellis, Coordinator of Graduate Services & Professional Development at the FGPA, to develop a policy for this grant. The grant will be financed by both the GSA and FGPA. Watch for details later this spring.

**Bike Repair Stand and Tire Pump**

We have waited a few months for signage for the bike repair stand and tire pump and it has finally arrived. The sign, located above the stand between the Mackenzie and Architecture buildings reads “Bike Repair Stand and Tire Pump – For use by the Carleton Community – A service of the Graduate Students’ Association – Local 78 – Canadian Federation of Students.” Our contact information is also on the sign so that users can contact us if there are any issues with the stand or pump.

**Football**

Students have been consistently told by Athletics and senior Carleton administration that the return of football to Carleton was being paid for entirely by alumni donations. A recent article in the Ottawa Citizen has revealed this to not be the case. Carleton will be using $500,000.00 from its ancillary fee fun to contribute to the construction of new stands at the football field. According to the article, another $1 million will be “borrowed.” The university often tells us that a 1% increase in tuition fees is equal to almost $2 million in revenue to the university. It’s not unreasonable to think that our tuition fees could be slightly reduced if only football were not a priority for this academic institution.

Ottawa Citizen story: http://www.ottawacitizen.com/sports/Carleton+building+grandstand+football+comeback/8208371/story.html#ixzz2Ppx60CpW

1. VP Finance (Elizabeth Whyte)

**Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Whyte**

**Council Discretionary Budget Line**

As we are nearing the end of the fiscal year, I would like to remind Council they have some room left in their discretionary budget line. There is currently $500.00 in the budget line. As of May 1st, 2013 that budget line will be replenished to $1000.00 to cover spending for fiscal year 2014. Every councillor has the right to bring forward motions both to spend this money as well as to direct the full range of GSA business. I hope councillors will continue to think of issues they would like this money or other GSA support to be provided.

**GSA Excellence in Teaching Award**

The GSA is proud to present Professor Anne Trepanier with our excellence in teaching award. She has been awarded a certificate and her name will be engraved onto the plaque. More awards are soon to be adjudicated upon.

**Sexual Assault Support Centre Fund Committee**

This committee met on Wednesday, April 10th. We assessed the financial situation of the fund. It is in very good shape so it is time for us to put our minds to developing new initiatives to be proposed to the fund committee. All ideas are welcome. If any of you councillors have some ideas please send them to my email and I will bring them to the committee for consideration.

1. VP Operations (Chloë Grace Fogarty-Bourget)

**Respectfully Submitted by Chloe Grace Fogarty-Bourget**

**Mike’s Place Events**

Mike’s Place and host Brandon Wint held the last Open Mic of the season earlier this month, it was well attended and folks are already looking forward to starting up again in the fall semester. Trivia is also winding up for the season, however, will be running through the exam period. We’ve had the Mike’s Place Trivia Tap Trophy rendered from the old hobgoblin tap and are excited to award it to this year’s winning trivia team!

**Community Garden**

Springtime is just around the corner and we are gearing up to start getting our hands dirty in the GSA Community garden! As mentioned at previous meetings we have enlisted Chris Bisson to see construction and planning into the summer and he will be helping us begin the process of assigning beds to members of the Carleton community through a lottery system. The application for beds is now available for download on our website so if you are interested in taking part please check it out! We continue to need volunteers to help put some finishing touches on the site, if you would like to volunteer and help complete this wonderful project, email Garden Project Manager Chris Bisson, communitygarden@gsacarleton.ca

Stay tuned for further details as the ground thaws!

**Councillor Credits**

Please note that Councillor Credits from last year will expire April 30th. You still have a bit of time to use up expiring credits! If you do decide to make use of this available credits remember that in order to receive a cheque for monies earned through Councillor Credits you must submit a Councillor Credit Claim form to the GSA office complete with an itemized receipt of your purchase(s). The item(s) purchased must be shown to benefit all members of your department. Make sure to advertise any events to all members of your department and make sure you receipts and claim forms are attached before submitting them. There’s two weeks left, plan some things or buy some stuff!

1. VP Academic (Holly Gilroy)

**Respectfully Submitted by Holly Gilroy**

**Graduate Academic Caucus (GAC)**

The final GAC meeting of my term will be held next Friday. We will conduct an overview of the committee's work this year and brainstorm objectives for the coming year. Additionally, we will continue to brainstorm suggestions for the FGPA Graduate Student Think Tank. Any suggestions from councillors as to how grads could see an improvement to graduate student services are more than welcome at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

**Graduate Student Services Committee**

I have been attending committee meetings held by the FGPA and their graduate student coordinator on graduate student services and how to improve the graduate student experience at Carleton. GAC has been appointed the Student arm of this committee, where students can bring their experience and experience of their peers with reference to the overall Graduate Student Experience at Carleton. This committee is looking to find ways to improve engagement and participation of graduate students. While GAC is the new arm of this committee, any councillors are encouraged to talk with me or email suggestions for ways to improve the grad student experience: vpa@gsacarleton.ca

**OGS**

OGS results are out and the FGPA is reviewing the process this year in order to improve it for next year. If you have any suggestions (process, application, dates, new adjustment scheme etc.), please feel free to forward them my way as I sit on this working group and am happy to communicate student concerns.

Additionally, the first wave of students under the new scheme, with a $15000 OGS, and a standard $5000 departmental scholarship (to replace all other departmental scholarships), has begun to feel the effects. For the majority of OGS winners, this means an increase in funding, as the majority of students and OGS winners have less than $5000 departmental scholarship. However, there is a minority for which this scheme still represents a significant claw back. If you are appreciative of this top up, or suffering because of the clawback, please feel free to let me and the FGPA know. I am happy to communicate these concerns to the working group as well.

**FGPA Funding Term Changes**

Interim Dean Wallace Clement has informed the Graduate Faculty Board that going forward all Carleton programs will operate on a fall/winter/summer (F/W/S) system for funding. Twenty-four out of thirty-seven departments currently operate on a F/W/S system, all except Architecture, Business, Economics, EURUS, French, Journalism, Law, Mass Communication, NPSIA, Philosophy, Political Economy, Public Policy and Social Work. This means that going forward the above departments will be expected to divide funding over the three terms unless they explain to the FGPA why their program should continue to fund students only in F/W, and allow for students not to register in the summer. This change will not impact students who are already enrolled, but if departments do not make their case and transition to F/W/S, new students will see their funding (excluding TAships) divided over three terms instead of two.

Wallace Clement suggested at Graduate Faculty Board that two departments had already been approved in their appeal to remain F/W. I strongly encourage councillors of the above departments to share this information with students in your departments if you have not already, and to bring this up with their department chairs and administrators or on their departmental boards.

**FREE GSA Yoga**

Yoga is finished for the term. Thank you to everyone who participated, and if you would like to see yoga continue next year please feel free to be in touch with your incoming GSA executive to let them know.

1. VP External (Anna Goldfinch)

**Respectfully Submitted by Anna Goldfinch**

**Townhall on Consent and Sexual Assault**

On April 4th the GSA held a town hall on consent and sexual violence in the GSA lounge. It was well attended and productive. Participants answered questions about their perceptions of rape culture on campus and what the GSA could do to fight back. Break out groups continued this brainstorm. There are many ideas for how to move forward with programming and events for the sexual assault awareness outreach coordinators next year. The coordinators, the incoming VPX and myself will be meeting in the coming few weeks to discuss how to move forward next year.

**Ontario Executive Committee Meeting**

I attended the Ontario Executive Committee meeting on April 6th and 7th. There was great discussion on how to develop materials specifically designed to raise awareness about membership of the federation. I got to take part in the graduate-specific brain storm on materials. Additionally, there was discussion about the release of the new tuition fee framework and how member locals and the Ontario office should react. Executive members decided that because it was a busy time of year for students, the best outreach tools would be online for busy and studying students.

**Tuition Fee Framework**

The new tuition fee framework for Ontario was released March 28th. The framework allows institutions to raise tuition fees by 3% for undergraduate and college students and 5% for graduate and professional programs. The Canadian Federation of Students Ontario issued a press release in response. I have written an Op Ed about the lack of measures in Ontario to make graduate school affordable and accessible and have sent it to the Charlatan.

**Release of the Anti-Sexual Violence Tool Kit**

Tuesday April 9th was the release of the CFS-O Anti-Sexual Violence tool kit. Members from the GSA went to the launch that took place at the University of Ottawa where there was a panel who discussed the materials in the tool kit and its importance. The tool kit was created when a member local of CFS-O recognized the need for one and passed a motion to that effect at a general meeting. Since then it has been developed by students across the province. The GSA will be making the material of this tool kit available to members as well as using the resources in upcoming programming.

**6. OTHER REPORTS**

1. Senate & Senate Committees
2. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
3. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
4. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)
5. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
6. Carleton Post-doctoral Association (CUPA)
7. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)

Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies): Brief update; I was just recently acclaimed as Co-VP external for CUPE 4600. We had our AGM on Wednesday. It was fairly well attended and had a general election. Some new people on new roles and some staying for bargaining, and appointed bargaining committee and research committee and delegates to the upcoming conference. Bargaining surveys are going to CIs and TAs, and encourage everyone to fill it out as it is really important. There’s been a membership education committee struck to revamp communications strategy. It was the inaugural year for the Stuart Ryan solidarity award, established in honour of SR’s 30th year with 4600, awarded to its namesake Stuart Ryan and in future years awarded to differently gendered members of the community. Also, the global justice solidarity with Philippines delegation is coming up, contact the union.

1. Board of Governors (BoG)

Nick Falvo (Board of Governors): Nick discussed the structure of the Board of Governors nominating committee. There are about 30 BOG members; 10 are designated, 20 are community-at-large these are approximate numbers. There are 4 student members. Just over 10% - students are very much in the minority on the BOG, and the student positions tend to be short term, 1-year terms. The community at large tend to be 2-year terms and often get renewed. Students are on the fringe and the community at large hold the balance of power. They select who replaces them, and reproduce themselves. There are four positions available and four names were put in front of the board, however the board wasn’t told how they were selected. It was suggested to vote them in. Nick asked how these candidates were chosen as potential nominees , and Runte said she put forward two, and Goldy Hyder put forward two as well. . The decision was put off after discussion. Nick said as much as it’s good to have board who know about business fundraising it’s also important to have people that know about student debt and unemployment. Nominations are ongoing. Although we only get four positions, it’s possible that students can suggest community at large positions as well; people who used to be students, used to be active at Carleton. Nominations are ongoing throughout the year, and if you know of somebody interested in being a community at large position send their name to Anne Bauer. In terms of the four community at large positions open now they have to be firmed up next month, so if you currently know anyone who is familiar with grad issues, student issues, submit to Nick or Kelly or encourage them to nominate themselves. If the board doesn’t get t the names they can’t be considered. This will be firmly voted on at the late June meeting of BOG. I think it’s important to always remember that 2/3rds of the members are not democratically elected.

1. Athletics Board

**7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Nomination and Election of GSA Members to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board**

Justine De Jaegher nominates Christopher Yordy. (PHD) (PAPM)

Abigail Kidd nominates herself (MA) (SOC)

Ron Couchman nominates Melinda Spry (MA) (SOC)

Ridha Ben-Rejad nominates himself (MA) (SLALS)

Lisa Menard nominates Cecilia Jorgenson (PHD) (PSYCH)

Ehsan Ghias-Begloo nominates himself, (PHD) (Electronics)

Council members voted by secret ballot for up to five candidates.

1. **Motion 12.04.2013 - 01: Motion to Approve the Election of GSA Members to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board**

**Moved:** Paul Donaldson (NPSIA)

**Seconded:** Lisa Menard (Psychology)

Whereas there are 5 vacant seats for Masters and PhD level GSA members on the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board; therefore BIRT GSA Council approve the election of Christopher Yordy, Abigail Kidd, Melinda Spry, Ridha Ben-Rejad, and Cecilia Jorgenson as representatives to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board.

Carried

1. **Motion 12.04.2013- 02: Motion to Adopt GSA Election Results
Moved:** Phil Beriault (Philosophy) **Seconded:** Abigail Kidd (Sociology)Whereas the nominations for GSA Executive closed on Friday, Friday, 8 March 2013 at 4:30pm; and
Whereas GSA Elections were held on 21 and 22 March 2013; therefore

BIRT Council adopt the Elections 2013 report of the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs); and

BIFRT Council recognize the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Grant MacNeil to the position of President; and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Lauren Montgomery to the position of Vice-President (External); and

BIFRT Council recognize the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Maggie Simpson to the position of Vice-President (Operations); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Justine De Jaegherto the position of Vice-President (Finance); and

BIFRT Council recognize the acclamation, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Justine Mallah to the position of Vice-President (Academic); and

BIFRT Council recognize the results, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of the referendum question; and

BIFRT the GSA destroy all election ballots

Carried

1. **Nomination and Election of a GSA Member to the Carleton University Board of Governors**

**Nominations:**

Kelly Black nominated Nick Falvo

1. **Motion 12.04.2013 - 03: Motion to Approve the Election of the Graduate Students’ Association Representative to the Carleton University Board of Governors**

**Moved:** Paul Donaldson (NPSIA)

**Seconded:** Anna Goldfinch (VP External)

Be it resolved that Nick Falvo be elected as the Graduate Students’ Association Representative to the Carleton Board of Governors for the 2013-2014 period.

**Carried**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. New Motion:**

Moved: Ron Couchman (Sociology)

Seconded: Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)

WHEREAS: A grad student from Uruguay highlighted a community organization has put out a call for help to sustain fight against poverty in their community, which has worsened in recent months.

WHEREAS: Unidos is an educational center located in Villa Española, a marginalized neighborhood in Montevideo, Uruguay. The center serves some 25 kids of this neighborhood, ranging from the ages of six to twelve years old.

WHEREAS: Unidos provides youth in their community a small breakfast in the morning. The children then transition to work on homework that has been assigned to them in school, with the help of a specialized teacher.

WHEREAS: A pivotal goal among the Unidos team is to afford these children with the space to progress academically; they feel that it is just as important to foster positive values (such as collaborating in a team), as well as individual self expression.

WHEREAS: The project came out of a severe economic crisis that hit Uruguay in 2002, leaving many families in dire conditions, and many children in need of food. With the goal of addressing this need, a collective of volunteers began to serve lunch for the children of the area, and later expanded to include educational activities and help doing their homework in a safe space.

WHEREAS: Unidos is currently housed in a makeshift trailer on borrowed land from the government. Although most of their organization is sustained through donations and volunteers, they seek to raise a small amount of capital to put up a building to adequately meet the needs of their youth.

WHEREAS: 100% of monies collected go directly to this capital investment with the exception of small banking fees (to cash a cheque for example).

BIRT GSA Council donate $250 to Unidos to help provide educational facilities to the youth of Uruguay.

Ron Couchman (Sociology): This came from a graduate student in my department from Uruguay, and wanted support for a grassroots organization supporting feeding and pre educating students before their day at school.

Seconded: Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)

**Carried**

b. New Motion

Moved: Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)

Seconded: Phil Beriault (Philosophy)

Tabatha Armstrong (Canadian Studies)**:**

WHEREAS austerity measures deployed by federal, provincial, and municipal governments represent a sustained attack on workers’ rights, public services, accessible post-secondary education, and precarious populations across Canada;

WHEREAS these attacks on social programs and workers rights negatively impact graduate students, staff, faculty, and other members of the campus community;

WHEREAS the Carleton Graduate Students Association works to fight and uphold the interests of its members and the role of post-secondary education as an accessible public service;

WHEREAS May Day represents an international day of solidarity and struggle against austerity and capitalism in general;

WHEREAS Solidarity Against Austerity is at the forefront of organizing for a May Day “Reclaim the Streets” March and Street Party for May Day in Ottawa;

BIRT that the GSA donate $250 to Solidarity Against Austerity organizing committees to support May Day planning, promotion, supplies, and food.

BIRFT that the GSA encourage its members to support and attend Ottawa May Day events.

**Carried**

c. New Motion

Moved: Andrew Connolly (English) Seconded: Wesley Petite (Political Economy)

Motion that Council officially thank the outgoing executive for their hard work.

Carried unanimously

d. New Motion

Moved: Kelly Black (President) Seconded: Elizabeth Whyte (VP Finance)

Motion to destroy the ballots from Graduate Faculty Board election.

Carried

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Graeme Turner (Mathematics and Statistics)

**Seconded by:** Ron Couchman (Sociology)

Carried