**CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday December 12th 2013**

**Chair:** Mike Fancie

**Recording Secretary**: Sam Heaton

**Council Members Present:**

* Grant MacNeil (President)
* Maggie Simpson (VP Operations)
* Lauren Montgomery (VP External)
* Justine De Jaegher (VP Finance)
* Justine Mallah (VP Academic)
* Vincent St-Martin (Office Communications Coordinator, GSA)
* Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)
* Colin Cordner (Senate)
* Melinda Spry (Anthropology and Sociology)
* Abigail Kidd (Anthropology and Sociology)
* Katherine Kenny (Political Science, Proxy)
* Rebecca Louis (Law and Legal Studies)
* Mark Hosak (Political Management)
* James Meades (CUPE 4600)
* Lisa Wright (CSCS/Law and Legal Studies)
* Alexa Dodge (Law and Legal Studies)
* Dennis Arsenault (Human Computer Interaction)
* Emma Hamilton-Hobbs (Art History)
* Inga Taube (Public Administration)
* Lisa Menard (Psychology)
* Chris Peppin (Political Economy)
* Scott Jarosiewicz (Political Economy)
* Ahsan Imran (Computer Science)
* Fraser MacQuarrie (Computer Science)
* Jonathan Constable (Neuroscience)
* Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics)
* Ridha Ben-Rejeb (ALDS, Proxy)
* Andrew Connolly (English)
* Michael Reddy (English)
* Jenna Stidwell (ICSLAC)
* Amy MacDonaed (GRC)
* Nick Hrynyk (History)
* Katy Hartling (Physics)
* Matt Dunford (Physics)
* Nick Falvo (Board of Governors)
* Justin Famili (NPSIA)
* Aran Lofti (NPSIA)
* Millesha Hill Charles (HSTP)
* Caitlin Turner (Communication)
* Jason Rothery (Communications)

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin territory.

**1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

a. Announcement of Proxies

Ehsan Ghias-Begloo for Abdulhak Nagy (Electronics)

Katherine Kenny for Lena Saleh and Kerry Burke (Political Science)

Ridha Ben-Rejeb for Ayman Fareh (ALDS)

Aram Lofti for Gwen Temmel (NPSIA)

Lisa Menard for Cecilia Jorgenson (Psychology)

Inga Taube for Julie Nero (Public Administration)

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved:** Colin Cordner (Senate)

**Seconded**: Rebecca Louis (Law and Legal Studies)

Carried

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. E-minutes from November 15th 2013

**Moved:** Lauren Montgomery (VP External)

**Seconded:** Melinda Spry (Anthropology and Sociology)

Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics): In the Senate report should be Master of Engineering not Mechanical Engineering (Senate Reports) to be changed.

Carried

1. Minutes from November 15th 2013

**Moved:** Lauren Montgomery (VP External)

**Seconded:** Melinda Spry (Anthropology and Sociology)

Carried (Same thing as E-Minutes re: Master of Engineering)

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

President (Grant MacNeil)

**Respectfully Submitted by Grant MacNeil**

**Community Garden**

On December 5th, the university cut the locks of the Kitaganensag GSA Carleton Community Garden, and began removing the fencing surrounding it. The GSA had met with administration to discuss an alternate site, and the process for moving the garden. VP Finance Duncan Watt agreed that a framework agreement for any move was necessary. We had sent a draft Memorandum of Understanding to VP Finance Duncan Watt to serve as this framework, but received no response. The GSA did not, and would not agree to a move until our concerns were addressed with respect to the proposed site and the process of the move. The GSA was notified by someone in Leeds house that the garden was being removed, and GSA members, and the broader campus community came together to stop the removal of fencing. Since an agreement overseeing the move had not been established, the GSA found it inappropriate to begin removing the garden, and as such, prevented the removal of the fencing, and then put the fence back up. The attempted removal of the garden and the opening of the renovated McOdrum library were on the same day, and individuals who had prevented the removal of the garden moved to the library to let people know that touting a newly renovated library, while simultaneously destroying student space was unacceptable. While silently protesting, and distributing leaflets about the garden, a GSA staff member, and a GSA executive member were arrested for ‘trespassing’. As a result of these actions, the GSA has launched a campaign to send letters to the Board of Govenors and senior Administration. If you haven’t already, I encourage you to go to savethegarden.gsacarleton.ca and send one. Immediately following the actions on December 5th, both VP Watt and President Runte contacted the GSA to arrange meetings. We will keep council up to date on the outcome of these meetings. The GSA remains committed to ensuring the continued success of the community garden, respect for aboriginal contributions, and the safety of our members through well planned agreements with the university outlining how the project will continue.

**Meeting with President Runte**

Following a council motion to ask the university to release documents pertaining to the signing of an agreement with the ENN Group to establish a “Clean Energy Institute”, and for the university to state its position on hydraulic fracturing, the GSA sent a letter to President Runte. Several weeks later, we were invited to a meeting with President Runte, with no stated agenda. When we arrived, Dr. Runte informed us that she was unhappy we had sent her a formal letter on the matter and passed a motion at council. The president reiterated the statement contained in the letter, that the university had not actually signed an agreement (it was only verbal), and that the scope of the agreement wouldn’t involve the extraction of liquid natural gas, only its use and distribution. This sounds suspect to the GSA executive, especially since the universities press release specifically mentions both signing an agreement, and shale rock natural gas deposits. The GSA is pursuing the matter, and will continue to push for information surrounding the agreement.

**Mike’s Place Staff Meeting**

The GSA held a meeting with staff from Mike’s Place. It was the first opportunity for the GSA executive to meet all of staff of Mike’s Place. It was great to hear the input from everyone, and gain a better insight into the successes and challenges at Mike’s Place. The success of Mike’s Place is largely due to the hard working and talented staff.

**Alcohol Strategy**

The GSA met with Director of Student Affairs Ryan Flannagan to discuss the universities forth coming Alcohol Strategy. The plan was largely about residence and undergrad drinking issues. The GSA will likely not be overly burdened by any changes to campus alcohol strategy, as we have demonstrated strong best practices with respect to alcohol service.

**Campus United**

The GSA attended a meeting of Campus United, which served as a way to build solidarity on campus, and communicate issues being faced by others on campus. The Carleton University Academic Staff Association discussed its decision to censure the administration, and CUPE 4600 discussed their current bargaining struggles. We will continue to meet in the New Year, and use it as a forum to communicate about issues facing the campus.

**Withholding of OPIRG-Carleton and Garden Spot Levies**

CUSA decided to withhold the funds collected from students for these organizations. This decision was in spite of a contractual agreement between CUSA and OPIRG that stipulated the funds would be transferred within ten days of CUSA receiving them from the University. CUSA tried to do this last year but relented under legal pressure. CUSA executives also supported a referendum to eliminate the OPIRG levy, but approximately 73% of undergraduate students voted in favour of the OPIRG levy last winter. After forcing OPIRG to spend money on lawyers, CUSA has once again relented under threat of legal action. CUSA's actions are very unfortunate and clearly not in the interests of students.

Many of you will recall a motion passed at GSA Council earlier in the year expressing support for the independence of levied groups such as OPIRG. It is expected that CUSA will continue to interfere with OPIRG's activities, which is unfortunate given all of the important student activities organized through OPIRG (for example, it was OPIRG that successfully pushed Carleton to divest from South African apartheid in the early 1990s, something the senior administration did not want to do at the time but now boast about).

To my knowledge CUSA has not released the funds collected from students on behalf of the Garden Spot/Carleton Food Collective.

VP Finance (Justine De Jaegher)

Respectfully submitted by Justine De Jaegher.

**Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Policy Change**

Last week, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced some policy changes to its new tuition fee framework. These include (i) the option of per-term billing, (ii) reforms to "flat fee" policies, and (iii) removal of graduation ancillary fees. These victories for students are the result of lobbying efforts and participation on the working group on "Tuition Billing and Associated Fees" by the Canadian Federation of Students.

Mandatory as of 2015-16, post-secondary institutions will be required to allow students to pay their tuition and other fees on a per-term basis rather than in whole at the beginning of the year, and without incurring an additional fee for per-term payment. For those students receiving OSAP, they will no longer have to pay their tuition before receiving their loan. However, the new per-term billing framework does allow institutions to require a deposit of $500 or 10% of annual tuition fees (whichever is greater) up to three months before the start of term.

Currently, post-secondary institutions are permitted to charge program or 'flat' fees, regardless of the number of courses a student is enrolled in. While the province has not moved towards mandating a course-based fee assessment, they have raised the minimum course threshold to 80% of a full course load in order to charge flat fees. Additionally, if an institution chooses to charge flat fees, the new policy requires that no additional fee be charged for courses taken above and beyond the full course load.

Finally, the new framework mandates the removal of graduation ancillary fees.

**GSA Travel Grant**

Graduate students have been accessing GSA travel grants at a far greater rate than in previous years, and as such the budget line for travel grants has been exhausted. However, given the underuse of other grants such as the Emergency Dental Grant and the Family Leave Grant, some funds may be diverted away from those lines in the aim of funding additional travel grants. However, applications for those designated grants (i.e. Emergency Dental and Family Leave) will be prioritized over additional travel grants.

**Mike's Place Update**

Note that Mike's Place will be closed for the holidays from Saturday, December 21 to Sunday, January 5.

**OPIRG and the Carleton Food Collective**

As per the requirements of a democratic student referendum, the GSA is pleased to report that it has issued cheques to both the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and the Carleton Food Collective and continue to support the work of these organizations, as per the mandate provided to the GSA by graduate students. The GSA will continue to support the autonomy of independent levied groups on campus and the democratic will of its members.

VP Operations (Maggie Simpson)

**Respectfully submitted by Maggie Simpson**

**December 3rd - Community Garden Day of Action**

On December 3rd, the GSA organized a day of action regarding the Community Garden. Several volunteers postered campus with information about the garden, and talked with students – some of which had no idea about the garden.

The day was a great success thanks to our amazing volunteers and very timely I would say. If necessary, we will be organizing similar days of action when we return in January, in an attempt to communicate to both undergraduate and graduate students the importance of student space at Carleton. If you are interested in getting involved please contact: [vpo@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpo@gsacarleton.ca)

**December 6 - National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence against Women**

On December 6th the GSA in collaboration with both on campus and community groups held a series of events in remembrance of Montreal Massacre of December 6th 1989. At noon hour, we held a lunch and discussion facilitated by Stacy Douglas from the legal studies department, regarding safer spaces on campus and community building to end violence against women as well as marginalized genders, peoples and communities. We were very fortunate to have Angela Regnier from the Canadian Association of University Teachers join us for the day's events. Angela provided a brief talk about the prevalence of men's rights groups on university and college campuses.

Later that evening, we offered hot drinks prior to the vigil at Minto Park in the GSA lounge, and created paper flowers to leave at the site in remembrance. About 25 people took the bus from Carleton to attend the vigil that evening.

Overall, it was a very successful day, and we were very encouraged to see the Carleton and Ottawa community working together to combat violence in our communities.

Also, I would just like to say a big thank you to our new Outreach Coordinator Abby, who was the main organizer of the day’s events.

**Winter Orientation**

The plans for winter orientation are in the works, and if you are interested in volunteering with the events please let me know!

**Office Space Expansion**

The Carleton Legal Clinic has agreed to transfer its office on the sixth floor of the University Centre building to the GSA. The Legal Clinic will hold its consulting hours in the GSA boardroom. We are very excited to have this additional space, especially given that the GSA has hired an additional staff member.

VP Academic (Justine Mallah)

**Respectfully submitted by Justine Mallah**

**Graduate Academic Caucus**

Despite the busy time of year, on Thursday, Nov. 28 2013, the Graduate Academic Caucus had another successful meeting with a large turnout.  We were provided with very interesting presentations on the topic of corporatization of universities and commercialization of research by Lauren Montgomery (Vice President External) and Christina Muehlberger (grad student).  There was active discussion regarding the impact this has on students and their research as well as on student space. It was also brought up that students are being let out of class early because of loud private-function events that are being held in some of the buildings (such as the River Building) at the same time of class.   In this way, profits are becoming more important than academics. The garden was also discussed as another example of priority of profit over knowledge development.  GAC also shared tips on conference funding (attending a conference and planning one).  An update on the library was given as well as reports from those on Graduate Faculty Board and Senators.  In addition, though GAC is supposed to meet once every other month, we decided to schedule a meeting for the beginning of January since we had to speed through the departmental reports due to lack of time.

**SSHRC**

During the Graduate Academic Caucus meeting, it was brought to my attention that there had been miscommunication amongst departments, professors, and students at Carleton regarding the proper page length for the master-level SSHRC application document.  Though the document was changed to a 1 page+bibliography, many departments and professors were not aware of this and were instructing their students to write a two-page (+bibliography) letter of intent.  In addition, on the Carleton website, there was also a two-page long example, which only adds to the confusion surrounding the correct format.  Immediately after the meeting, I contacted Wally Clement and Naomi Cappuccio (Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Affairs) and voiced the opinions that were brought up.  More specifically, I discussed the concern regarding how letters would be judged. As it is not fair to judge a 1 pager against a 2 pager, however at the same time, it is not fair to reject an application of a student who was told by their department that the letter should be 2 pages in length.   Because the applications were due only 5 days later, I stated that would likely be very difficult for students to cut a page off of their application and perfect it in such a short time frame (especially given the busy time of year). Despite this, they said that the Tri-Council deadline could not be extended and that application letters must be 1 page + bibliography.  The FGPA also sent around an email to the Carleton community stating this.  I will continue to push for better communication next year.

**Graduate Research Forum**

The Graduate Research Forum Committee had its second meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26.  Like last year, there will be a poster showcase, a multidisciplinary panel (topic TBD - ideas welcome!!) and fun networking social events.  This year, there will be a $100 award for the top participant as well as a $100 award for the most active department (proportionately). Every graduate student is encouraged to make a poster of a topic that they are researching. Registration will be opening up for the Graduate Research Forum and the 3-Minute Thesis soon. Stay tuned.

The GRF and 3MT will be taking place on March 6, 2014 in the River Building.  I know a few departments will be scheduling their conferences around this time.  Please speak to those who are planning your conference and let them know about the GRF and 3MT.

VP External (Lauren Montgomery)

**Respectfully submitted by Lauren Montgomery**

**Canadian Federation of Students Ontario Provincial Executive Meeting December 7-8th, 2013**

I attended the Ontario Provincial Executive meeting at the beginning of December. We went through motions that had been directed to the provincial executive, such as the task force regarding student space on campus.  We discussed the “Not in the Syllabus” campaign, the Ontario Graduate Symposium, CFS services, and membership development. The first draft of the campus organizing guide has been released, it is a phenomenal tool for student groups and the GSA will be incorporating this into our campaigns work. If you would like to see the organizing guide please email VP-External at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)

**National Graduate Caucus Update**

Myself and the other elected representatives created a new campaign tool kit for the Commercialization & Corporatization campaign.  The tool kit includes a USB stick with a presentation regarding the issue of commercialization and corporatization on university and college campuses, how this affects our membership, and the national and local campaigns that address this issue. The toolkits also include campaign materials.  If you would like to have a presentation regarding this campaign for your departmental society or for your membership please contact the VP-External at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)  The National Graduate Caucus also hosted a panel on childcare in Canada. The NGC is currently working on planning the National Graduate Caucus stand alone meeting, which may be held in the first week in April. Events for this meeting will include Access Copyright Trivia, and potentially a mixer at an Ottawa pub.

**CFS Ontario Semi Annual General Meeting**

The CFS Ontario Annual General meeting will be held on January 16-19 in Toronto. The GSA has submitted six motions, which include two motions in solidarity with CUASA and CUPE 4600 Unit 1 and 2, as well as a motion regarding police brutality calling for materials regarding students Civil rights and “students against police brutality” buttons.

**“Not in the Syllabus” Campaign**

This is a campaign developed by the Ontario office of the Canadian Federation of students.  After receiving funding from the government, the Ontario office was able to produce a graduate student survey regarding bullying and harassment. This is a joint project of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee of CUPE Ontario, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada. This is a province wide survey to study the experiences of graduate students with bullying and harassment in academic environments. All of the results and information received from the survey will remain confidential.  You can find the survey at [www.cfsontario.ca/NotintheSyllabus](http://www.cfsontario.ca/NotintheSyllabus) The Ontario office is working on creating new posters for the campaign.

**The Student Space “Taskforce” Working Group**

This taskforce is working on a best practices guide and outline of what student space looks like across the province. There will be a three key themes that will be investigated: Importance of student-run space, decolonizing space, and corporatizing space. There will be three key sections to the guide: obtaining space, maintaining space, and defending space.  This is crucial since we have seen the removal and threat to the GSA community garden and the corporatization and commercialization of student space. If you would like further updates regarding the best practices guide please email VP-External at vpx@gsacarleton.ca

**Outreach OCTEVAW Stakeholder Meeting**

The GSA Outreach Coordinator, Abby and I attended the OCTEVAW Stakeholder meeting where they presented the new “Gender-Based Analysis Perceptions Report: Student Voices, Community Voices”. They are planning another stakeholder meeting in January where groups from various campuses will be asked to present and to discuss what work they have been doing on their campus regarding gender based violence. Abby also recently attended the CUPE women’s caucus, more information to come. The report is available at the GSA office.  If you would like to see the report please contact the VP-External at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)

**CUSA Council**

I attended CUSA council on December 4th, and they will be holding their next council meeting in January. CUSA has decided to move their election dates up to earlier in January.  They have also decided to move towards electronic elections. CUSA also spoke to the levies that were being withheld from OPIRG and the Food Collective. These groups also receive a levy from the GSA.

**Childcare**

I have been working with other elected representatives from Local 94 (University of Ottawa Graduate Students) and from Local 41 (University of Ottawa Students Association) on hosting a Childcare panel at Carleton including some of the speakers from the National Graduate Caucus Childcare Panel. We are still collecting signed Re-Think Childcare postcards.  If you would like some postcards for your department or your departmental society please email the VP-External at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)

**PAC**

The Political Advocacy Committee met again on December 5th, we discussed several issues that have arisen on campus such as the levies for the Food Collective and OPIRG, the GSA community garden, the Minimum wage campaign, and the Re-think childcare campaign.  PAC also discussed doing grad outreach in the new year to talk to new grad students about the GSA and campaigns. This was a really fun meeting, and I am very excited to continue working with the group and new students in the new year.  If you would like to join the Political Advocacy Committee please email the VP-External at [vpx@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpx@gsacarleton.ca)

Questions

**6. OTHER REPORTS**

1. Senate & Senate Committees

**Colin Cordner (Senate):** I can speak from memory. The last Senate meeting was a couple weeks ago. The biggest thing was an extended presentation for the new Aboriginal centre, its motives, history, design, and improvements coming down the pipe. It was interesting overall. It seems to be pretty successful so far and well-attended, a good number in there at any one time, and I think they have some space designed specifically for Elders in the centre itself, so they can come and hold spiritual or ritual activity. There’re also locks on the front door with digital button access, there’s a safe space. Overall it was a nice presentation. Some discussion did come up from reps from Economics and Mathematics with regards to Carleton’s actual ability to attract Aboriginal and Inuit students, seems like we’re not actually doing a great job at that. Though the Centre rep did mention that when some groups, presumably from Aboriginal high schools came recently they were impressed by the centre and they feel the centre will be a big draw in future years. The rest was more or less spent on busy and administrative work. Eliminating programs which have no students and have not had any for years, and rewriting rules and bylaws on ability of departments to self-acknowledge. Under old rules a department board or institute could pass a motion to dissolve itself, and now it’s not allowed, so we had to rewrite rules.

**Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics):** The Aboriginal centre, they mentioned that in Carleton we have 500-700 students who are Aboriginal, and 2-3 faculty members in the entire university. And Alan Steele talked about Discovery Centre talking about the cool stuff that is there.

**Colin Cordner (Senate):** They have spaces where students can hook up equipment and have projector screens, including a gaming room.

**Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics):** Then there’s a treadmill desk, but apparently it’s always empty. Those are the only two desks no one was using. Apparently you could even rent it yourself, you don’t have to be a prof or staff.

**Grant MacNeil (President):** There was a report from the Academic Colleague for the Association for Canadian Universities, talking about what’s coming down the pipe in Ontario, the future of education in Ontario. There’s a projected slowing of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities budget, the ministry that oversees Ontario PSE. They’re doing everything based on the slowing of the budget for that ministry until 2021. This is where you use a lot of that talk about differentiation. The academic colleague is from biology and had a good presentation and made a lot of good points. They said that there’s a thought about institutions being enterprises. They said better schools would likely get more resources. More teaching schools will see funding dwindle. Schools may lose programs for strictly financial reasons. Things will be cut if felt they’re not worthwhile. Things are going to be lean and get cut in the next little while is what it sounds like. Schools are resubmitting mandate plans to MTCU and will make decisions on funding in the future.

**Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics):** To add, the classification of teaching and research universities is off the table for now, frankly because they don’t have the money. A couple other comments about what Colin mentioned - there’s two new special topics offered in winter and summer intro to nuclear safety and engineering. And another is a seminar on religion and public life in Israel.

1. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
2. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
3. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)

**Grant MacNeil (President):** They didn’t have a report but send their regrets.

1. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

**Abigail Kidd (Anthropology and Sociology):** We talked about OGS – in the past it has used a single form, this year they’ve changed it to 3 forms. The one that was the primary concern was 3rd section on leadership and communication, some feel it changes the nature of the award and now it speaks to being a leader and in the past it has been a more general award, and feels like it’s put on the same level of SHIRC, but some thought it would be easier for everyone. This was a conversation as it’s already been made and implemented. Next year they will consider changing back based on how this year goes. The other thing is changes to the program and planning document. There were some minor changes, but the major change was to comp systems. At the PHD level there’s pass, fail, and pass with distinction. The decision was to get rid of pass with distinction across the board, the reasoning being that it’s used differently with different committees. They feel that some students aim for pass with distinction when comp is part of process, not an end goal. There was a conversation about removing it for masters theses as well, which is different because masters thesis is the end point. The removal of that has different implications. I would suggest to talk to professors about this. The final thing talked about is it was revealed… last year there were OGS claw-backs. The admin is supposed to contribute a portion of the OGS awards. They were clawed back. It was originally Carleton assumed they messed up and then revealed that it was a mistake on the government’s part. Last year they gave out 1000 too many, by error.

**Grant MacNeil (President):** Couple other minor things on GFB: with international external recruiters hired by the university there is a lot of murkiness, but now external recruiters have told students that funding is limited and must be self funding when they come. This allows them to give out less and still benefit by having them here and getting tuition. Now this group will not even be given opportunity for funding. Grad admins are upset there is no grad admins on the Dean search committee The university is getting pinned down on some internship definitions, what can and cannot be paid, what’s a co-op and an internship. There’s also the GRIT awards, an international PHD travel award. The idea is as a finishing PHD student you can go travel to conferences. They don’t have enough applications and give out a lot.

1. Carleton Post-doctoral Association (CUPA)
2. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)

**James Meades (CUPE 4600):** Thanks for having me, I will try to be as quick as possible. Three things not directly bargaining related: we have produced stickers that say “marked by a member of CUPE 4600,” and are encouraging CIs and TAs to put them on any final essay or exam you’re marking. The idea is simply to put a little recognition out there as the work we do in the process of negotiation. Thus far we have gone through 6,000 stickers. If you haven’t seen them or would like some, pop by our office on 6th floor. We have a tumblr up, “We Teach Carleton,” and the idea is to put some of the human faces and touches to our working conditions. We’re asking people to make signs and do something positive, they can be good or bad. Dan, our mobilization coordinator has agreed to come to you, so if you want to make a sign on campus he will come visit you in your office. Number three, there were several CUPE members as well as our staff that helped out to put back the Fence. We are in the process of drafting our own sort of letter. A big piece is demanding a written apology to both Justine and Sam for the university’s conduct, the last line is that while pen her apology she should pen her resignation. Bargaining, believe it or not, the university does not like to negotiate with us either. Negotiations have stalled at least for the time being. December for the bargaining teams have been very busy. Some people are defending, others marking exams. The last meeting for Unit 2, CIs, was Nov. 26. Where monetary is concerned we’re still far apart, far apart in getting health and dental, far apart on salary. So much that the university won’t agree to send an email to departments letting them know that CIs can apply for adjunct research assistant. The reason it’s important for our members is to be a primary researcher to apply for SHIRC funding. The university doesn’t want to write this email. Their logic is that CIs are only teachers, and do nothing else. It’s funny because in the last round, they told us the CI position is not a real job. The number of full time, permanent, tenure-track positions in this country is not growing at a strong rate. Expansion of academic freedom clause will protect CIs when they criticize the university and government. For the TAs, things are really far apart. Issues around priority have still come up, and they want to claw back the way they advertise masters and PHD, i.e. saying masters is only 1 year, and PHD program I going to be 4 years, so they provide TAs ship for less time. But it’s rare that a 1-year master’s takes one year. I sit here as a 5th year PHD student. In addition, things around tuition protection, changes, new government framework, and all things we’re trying to factor in. It’s hard to have a conversation that seems one-directional. The last thing, and it sort of came across my desk today: Legally, the way things work is that a collective agreement expires, if you’re in negotiations all the terms stay in place up to legal strike or lockout. So, harassment, grievance, wages, etc are still protected legally as try were last year. The big change is that the university is trying to choose when and where it does this, and what to follow and what to discard. If you are a TA for a class and being subjected to formal student evaluations, and you don’t want to do them, right now you don’t have to. Unless it’s formalized and discussed through us. You’re more than welcome to get feedback, develop evaluation, for your own benefit, by all means, do so. But there’s no way a professor or CI should e forcing you to do it at this point. We already had to file one grievance on this issue. The second, if anyone is in their second year and a TA you are eligible for tuition index protection. I still pay 2009 tuition fees. They charge me the whole thing, and rebate the difference. I found out today they’re deciding they don’t want to do that. Right now this is something we’re looking into. It would be our third union grievance in the last 3 months in terms of tings on the bargaining table. Toward the end of December, go into Carleton central and if you’re in 2nd year or above look for tuition index protection and make sure it’s on your account, they have to give you that. If you’re graduating file for a rebate and they’ll give you a cheque. The very last thing is that because of the diligent work of the university in negotiating, we’ve asked to file for conciliation. We get a rep from ministry of labour a the table to help each side see where the other side is coming. It’s a necessary step to get to a legal strike or lockout position. It’s something CUPE 4600 has had to do every time we negotiate since the 1970s. We hope it sharpens the focus of management to start negotiating.

1. Board of Governors (BoG)

**Nick Falvo (Board of Governors):** Three issues to report on: The new parking garage on the north end of campus. The latest number is 48% over budget. This was even in the Charlatan. We had a vote at the committee level on whether to approve it and we were told we had no choice but to do so. Watt’s position as that the university had done nothing wrong, and it was all city of Ottawa’s fault for being uncooperative. At the next meeting, where Duncan attended, some of the board members were starting to lay into him a bit including by email. He acknowledged that in retrospect they could have had a more detailed plan in place, and could have required that the O-Train stop for much longer, and had a better plan 6 months ahead of time. Second point: the private residence. As mentioned earlier I came from the Finance Committee meeting. The members had a lot of questions fro the university about money, cost, and the model. The board, the issue of the emails sent to the board recently through the online petition, about 240 emails as of yet, I’m happy to report that the message the board is getting on that is to not do anything that will result in more emails. That was communicated by several board members on occasions. The message was not that we’re angry at students, but let’s not do anything that will result in those emails again, because they’re real pain. A lot of you are aware there was a process on how private firms would operate a residence. One was selected, Reichman International, to put forward a formal proposal. Before it got to committee level today, senior officials recommended the board not accept the private proposal, generally because it would be more expensive to build, own and operate than the university to do it in the traditional way. One of the points that came out was that all 3 of the shortlisted firms wanted to write into the contract to have the option to sell it when they wanted to. The university was nervous about this and wondered what would happen. As you know, the motion which I discussed earlier was passed. The board members wanted a lot more details next time we meet. I don’t know of the parking lot made them want more details but they had questions about financials.

The garden came up. One member said “Just give the students space”, he’s a community at large member, Arnie. Said look, we made them unhappy, why not leave the space intact and build someone else. Ron Jackson, BOG chair brought up the fact that it could have been a private building. He said in light of the reaction, let’s not do anything optics-wise that results in further emails and negative attention. The notion was that it’s unpleasant to get emails and embarrassing to get bad press. The issue of 12-month leases came up. This would be the first time Carleton residence would have 12-month leases. This got a lot of attention. Several board members were nervous because it’s possible people won’t sign on to it. Ed Greenspawn said he’s got a son or daughter at McGill and the residence requires 12 month leases and they consider it a cash grab by the university. The issue of tenant protection legislation came up. Watt said if the university owns it, they would not be subject to tenant protection legislation. I asked if the general counsel knew for a fact that it would withstand a legal challenge, and they said they did not know. Occupancy would begin September 2016, for 500 beds, with rent level of $850 per month. Last point, one theme is that there’s disconnect between what’s going on campus and what university officials tell the Board of Governors. When Duncan was reporting on emails by last count there were 142, and the vast majority came from outside student leaders not at Carleton. So if you are concerned about this disconnect, I would remind you of the open forum January 30, the one time where the BoG invites members of the community. At least officially you can present on any topic that interests you. Jan 30, 6:30 PM, exact location not announced yet. Those concerned about the disconnect between reality and what’s happening at the board level I encourage to come and present. Please pay attention, there will probably be an email coming in next month inviting people to present. If I get it I will forward to GSA exec.

1. First Peoples’ Council

Gabrielle Castilloux, president of FPC said they had holiday party Dec 6, which was successful, at the Aboriginal Students Centre. January is Aboriginal Month and don’t have a firm plan yet but will be doing an open mic night, drum and moccasin making, round dance, and food and cultural expo.

**CFS Report:** As you are aware, the GSA at Carleton is Local 78 of the Canadian Federation of Students. Last month was the National General Meeting of the CFS, and we thought we would provide a report back you’re welcome to share with members. It was a very productive meeting, we got to talk to students across the country about things happening on their campuses. We sent a delegation of myself, Lauren, Grant, Vincent and Sam, our new membership coordinator as well as a an undergraduate member Gabrielle from the First People’s Council. She asked permission to attend the meeting to sit on the National Aboriginal Council. She was denied access by CUSA and then approached us to attend and we happily brought her along with us. Essentially it’s a unique meeting structure as motions are discussed by subcommittees, caucuses, and focus groups. There’s queer committee group, racialized students and so on and so forth. There were general elections held for the 3 at-large positions, so Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Treasurer were elected. National Graduate Caucus that we are all members of had a discussion on childcare issues, and had a presentation on the corporatization campaign. Delegates received a ‘campaign in a box’ about this campaign. In terms of motions submitted by our local, they were all passed. The first was the Fed’s harassment and grievance policies amended to recognize special position of grad student academic workers, the second was regarding the review in 2014 of the Canada Transfer. This motion called for research to be conducted on that review and incorporate into lobby documents. And thirdly was an emergency motion to donate to red cross to support Attawapiskat. If you look a the package there’s motions of campaigns we can pursue, including writing letters concerning the Olympics in Russia and anti-LGBTQ policies, issues with Access Copyright at Canadian universities.

**Lauren Montgomery (VP External):** For the Ontario meeting we’ve submitted 6 motions, and I wanted to highlight 3. We have a motion going forward that the CFS and all member locations of Ontario is to write letters of solidarity with CUPE 4600 units 1 and 2. The second is a Be it Resolved for letters in support of CUASA and their censure of Carleton University, and the third one is the motion regarding excessive force by police and police brutality. The BIR is asking that they produce students against police brutality buttons and material on your civil rights as a student.

Athletics board:

**Grant MacNeil (President):** They’re a responsive board, they want to see students enjoy the service. The meeting was on the 11th. They’re going to extend hours in athletics in January until 11 PM. There was a change with competitive clubs coming down the line, like ultimate Frisbee baseball, figure skating. They want to have them overseen by CUSA, so you register as a CUSA club then as a club through athletics. We had a problem because last year CUSA denied access to many graduate students. No one told Athletics about that, and they were like oh really and it shut that down for a little while. If you have insight into club governance let me know. The final thing, based on what a councillor said about PMC, attendant services, and athletics, making it difficult for students with disabilities to get access to information and services, they were shocked it’s not already happening so they’re looking into it. Any issues of questions, the next meeting is Jan 8, send me an email.

1. Questions

**7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2013. 12.12-01 - Motion on Supervised Consumption Sites**

Whereas the Toronto and Ottawa Supervised Consumption Assessment (TOSCA) Survey, released in 2012 by researchers from St Michael's Hospital, the University of Toronto, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, documented an 11% rate of HIV infection, 60% rate of Hepatitis C infection, and a 20% rate of recent overdose amongst drug users in Ottawa, as well as widespread public drug use in our city; and

Whereas over 90 supervised consumption sites currently operate worldwide; and

Whereas empirical research has consistently demonstrated that these supervised consumption sites decrease overdose death and injury; decrease the spread of contagious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C infection; increase access to health services for people who are most marginalized; save health care costs; decrease open drug use and publicly discarded drug use equipment; and do not increase crime; and

Whereas Vancouver's Insite, the only legal supervised injection site in North America, has been subject to rigourous, independent third party research and evaluation, which has been published in a host of reputable, peer-reviewed medical journals, and has clearly demonstrated the positive impacts of Insite in important outcome areas, including overdoses, health, appropriate use of health and social services, and costs associated with injection drug use; and

Whereas on September 30, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada ordered the federal government to allow Insite to continue to operate by granting an exemption from applicable drug laws, ruling that to close Insite would be a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and stating that "Insite saves lives. Its benefits have been proven. There has been no discernible negative impact on the public safety and health objectives of Canada during its eight years of operation"; and

Whereas Bill C-2, the "Respect for Communities Act", reintroduced by the federal government in October 2013, establishes significant new obstacles and burdens for applicants in Canadian cities who attempt to establish supervised consumption sites, including the onerous requirement that applicants of supervised consumption sites provide documented evidence of support from the community, provincial and municipal government, and local law enforcement officials; and

Whereas Canadian healthcare professionals, including the Canadian Medical Association, have publically acknowledged the merits of supervised consumption sites and have spoken out against Bill C-2; and

Whereas equitable access to universal healthcare is a fundamental Canadian value enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas community partners have recently submitted an application for an exemption from applicable drug laws to facilitate the opening of a supervised consumption site in Ottawa; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students recently passed a motion in support of the Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites;

Be it resolved that Bill C-2 be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a letter to the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health be written in condemnation of Bill C-2 and in support of a supervised consumption site in Ottawa; and

Be it further resolved that GSA Carleton support the work of the Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites in Ottawa toward the goal of opening supervised consumption sites in Ottawa for those who use drugs and donate $500 to the campaign.

**Moved:** Abigail Kidd (Anthropology and Sociology)

**Seconded:** Melinda Spry (Anthropology and Sociology)

**Motion to Split 2013- 12-12-01 – Motion on Supervised Consumption Sites**

**Moved by: Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics)**

**Seconded: Jenna (ISCLAC)**

Motion to Divide Not Carried

**Motion 2013-12-12-01: Carried**

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Lauren Montgomery (VP External)

**Seconded by:** Abigail Kidd (Anthropology and Sociology)

Carried

Adjourned