**CALL TO ORDER – 6:03pm, Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

We would like to recognize that this GSA council meeting is taking place on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin Territory.

**Chair: Jessica Squires**

**Recording Secretary: Neerija Kumar**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

* Al Kornelsen (Music & Culture)
* Alex Klein (Legal Studies)
* Alexa Didge (Legal Studies)
* Amber Bramer (Political Management)
* Andree-anne Laforce (Geography and Environmental Studies)
* Anna Hoque (Communications)
* Andrew Woodard (Psychology)
* Bethany Berard (Communications)
* Bonnie Bates (History)
* Chris Genovesi (Cognitive Science)
* Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
* Colin Cordner (Senate Financial Review)
* Dina Mujic (Public Administration)
* Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Senate) (Electronics)
* Electra Skaarup (Geography and Environmental Studies)
* Fares El-Zoheiry (Electrical Engineering)
* Gaurav Sharma (Economics)
* James Arteaga (Canadian Studies)
* Jenna Smith (Garden Coordinator)
* Jillian McGivern (Health: Science, Technology & Policy)
* Justine Mallah (Membership Coordinator)
* Kevin Dick (Systems and Computer Engineering)
* Lauren Montgomery (Sociology/Anthropology)
* Lena Saleh (Political Science)
* Lynette Schick (Social Work)
* Meredith Comba (History)
* Michael Bueckert (President)
* Nicholas Lamb (Legal Studies)
* Patricia Dawn Severenuk (ALDS)
* Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)
* Roxana Barcelo-Singh (VP Finane)
* Russell Burgess (BoG)
* Samuel Morten (Earth Sciences)
* Sarah Rodiman (Sociology/Anthropology)
* Shreena Thapa (Psychology)
* Taylor Howarth (VP External
* Vincent St. Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
* William Felepchuk (Canadian Studies)

**1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

a. Announcement of Proxies

* Lynette Schick for Laura Quilliam (Social Work)
* Electra Skarrup for Julia Riddick (Geography and Environmental Studies)
* Jillian McGivern for Hayley Miloff (Health Science: Technology and Policy)
* Patricia Dawn Severenuk for Susan Chabot (Applied Linguistics)
* Qasim Kareemi for Russell Burgess (Political Economy)
* William Felepchuk for Lindy Van Vliet (Canadian Studies)
* Andree-Anne Laforle for Rupesh Subedi (Geography and Environmental Studies)

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved:** Michael Bueckert (President)

**Seconded:** Roxana Barcelo-Singh (VP Finance)

ADOPTED

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. E-minutes from November 13, 2015

**Moved:** Sarah Rodiman (Sociology)

**Seconded:** Lauren Montgomery (CUPE 4600)

CARRIED

1. Minutes from November 13, 2015

**Moved:** Bonnie Bates (History)

**Seconded:** Kevin Dick(Systems and Computer Engineering)

CARRIED

**4. ORDER OF THE DAY**

 a. Report by Jenna Smith, Garden Coordinator

**5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

1. President (Michael Bueckert)
2. VP Finance (Roxana Barcelo-Singh)
3. VP Operations (Vidushi Gupta) (Delivered by Roxana Barcelo-Singh)
4. VP Academic (Alannah James) (Delivered by Michael Bueckert)
5. VP External (Taylor Howarth)
6. Questions

**6. OTHER REPORTS**

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

Questions:

**7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

 **a)** **Motion 08.12.2015 - 01: Motion to oppose tuition fee deregulation in Nova Scotia**

**Moved:** Michael Bueckert (President)

**Seconded:** Bonnie Bates (History)

Whereas in April of 2015 the Government of Nova Scotia deregulated tuition fees in Nova Scotia, allowing for multi-year tuition fee resets; and

Whereas the result of this deregulation is that, over the next three years, universities in Nova Scotia will increase tuition by up to 18% at Cape Breton University, 20% at Mount Saint Vincent University, 24% at the University of King’s college, 35% at Saint Mary’s University, and 37% at NSCAD University; and

Whereas tuition fee increases of a similar scale are expected to be announced at Nova Scotia’s other universities; and

Whereas tuition fees will continue to remain unregulated for all out of province students and all graduate students; and

Be it resolved that the Graduate Students’ Association condemns the Nova Scotia government’s decision to deregulate tuition fees; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be send to the Nova Scotia Minister for Labor and Advanced Education Kelly Regan, calling on the Nova Scotia government to immediately cancel the tuition reset process, reduce tuition fees, and restore public funding to universities.

**CARRIED**

**b) Motion 08.12.2015- 02: Motion to oppose Windmill Developments/Dream Corporation and Hydro Ottawa's projects at Akikodjiwan (Chaudiere Falls area) in solidarity with the nine Algonquin nation communities.**

**Moved:** James Arteaga (Canadian Studies)

 **Seconded:** Anna Hoque (Communications)

Whereas the GSA recognizes and understands the unceded and unsurrendered status of these lands on which we live, work, and study, and actively and fully positions itself in solidarity with struggles for Algonquin nationhood; and

Whereas the GSA recognizes we as students on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory, continue to benefit from these ongoing processes of colonization through the use of stolen land and appropriation of Indigenous culture and knowledge; and

Whereas the GSA opposes further colonization of Algonquin communities and lands, and has previously pledged to support all efforts to engage in the long process of reconciliation; and

Whereas the GSA supports substantive and active steps towards decolonization of these lands, especially locally; and

Whereas the GSA has already supported and endorsed the recommendations included in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which includes a call for Canadian society to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and has formed a committee committed to the implementation of the TRC Final Report recommendations; and

Whereas UNDRIP recognizes that “Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites.” and

Whereas the Windmill/Dream corporations and Hydro Ottawa projects at Akikodjiwan have been identified by the 43 constituent First Nations of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) as in violation of these aforementioned rights recognized by both UNDRIP and the TRC; and

Whereas Algonquin nation communities have issued a call for our “for individuals, groups and organizations to ENDORSE OUR LIST OF DEMANDS in order to build pressure on the federal, provincial, municipal governments and corporations, particularly the Windmill Development Group”; and

 Whereas the demands of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador are:

 “Therefore be it resolved that the AFNQL Chiefs-in-Assembly:

* Call upon the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to immediately consult the Algonquin communities who form the Algonquin Nation regarding changes to the status of lands and islands within the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan; and
* Oppose the re-zoning of the sacred area Akikodjiwan (Gatineau Waterfront in Quebec and Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria islands in Ontario) from parks and open space to mixed use due to the failure to consult and accommodate the Algonquin communities who form the Algonquin Nation; and
* the Algonquin Nation in their opposition to the Windmill Development Groups’ Zibi Project proceeding within the Algonquin sacred area Akikokjiwan unless and until the free, prior and informed consent of the Algonquin Nation is given;
* Support the Algonquin Nation in their demand for the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan to be returned to the Algonquin Nation and controlled by an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin communities who form Algonquin Nation; and
* Support the Algonquin Nation in their demand for the governments of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Ottawa and Gatineau to purchase any lands privately held within the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan and return those lands to an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First nations comprising the Algonquin Nation; and
* Call on the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to immediately contact the duly elected Algonquin Chiefs and Councils forming the Algonquin Nation to discuss the establishment of the proposed Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site to be established on part of the Akikodjiwan under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin Communities who form the Algonquin Nations”

Be it resolved that the GSA endorses and supports the demands of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador, representing 43 First Nations community including nine Algonquin nation communities, of November 19th, 2015 in opposition to the development of Akikodjiwan by Windmill/Dream corporations and Hydro Ottawa; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA endorse and support a campaign to support the above positions and to oppose the plans of Windmill/Dream and Energy Ottawa for Akikodjiwan, and ask its executive board to publically release a solidarity statement as requested by Algonquin nation communities; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA endorse and support the student and labour committee formed to organize and coalesce settler solidarity with the Algonquin position, including committing $250 for a public teach-in event by Algonquin representatives in January; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA send two GSA representatives to meetings of this committee in order to report back to and mobilize our membership around the campaign to oppose these projects; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA direct the GSA Council Executives to communicate this decision of the GSA Council by letter to the governments of Canada, Ontario, Quebec,Ottawa, Gatineau, the National Capitol Commission and the Windmill Development Group.

 **CARRIED**

**c) Motion 08.12.2015- 03: Motion to Support tuition freeze for all students in Newfoundland and Labrador**

 **Moved:** Roxana Barcelo- Singh (VP Finance)

 **Seconded:** Bonnie Bates (History)

 Whereas the province of Newfoundland and Labrador has been an example of accessible education to the rest of Canada with the most affordable post-secondary in the country, in part due to a 15 year tuition fee freeze; and

 Whereas the most recent public opinion polling indicates that 82% of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are in favor of maintaining the tuition fee freeze and 85% believe in free education; and

 Whereas the 2015 Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Budget cut more than $20 million in core-operating funding to Memorial University, and increased tuition by 30% for

Graduate and International students; and

Whereas the provincial Liberal Party, which recently won a majority government in the provincial election, has not made any tangible commitments to keep the tuition freeze for all students, nor to restore the harmful funding cuts to colleges and universities; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA sends a letter to the newly elected government in Newfoundland and Labrador to keep the longstanding tuition fee freeze for all students in the province, and to restore public funding for post-secondary education.

 **CARRIED**

 **d) Motion 08.12.2015- 04: Motion to Amend the GSA Constitution**

 **Moved:** Michael Bueckert (President)

 **Seconded:** Sarah Rodiman (Sociology)

 Whereas the Chief Electoral Officers for the 2015 GSA General Election made the following two recommendations:

6.1 The CEOs recommend clarifying the rules on unopposed candidacies and the general acclamation process. The next set of rules should include a clear protocol indicating how CEOs shall proceed with the acclamation process. It is of the opinion of the CEOs that such a protocol may deter future complaints regarding the absence of an election or secret ballot for those candidates running unopposed.

6.2 The CEOs recommend that the question of holding a Yes/No vote for all acclaimed positions (including cases wherein all candidates are running unopposed) be brought to GSA Council. It should be noted that the question of holding a Yes/No vote is an internal Council decision that requires an official amendment to the GSA Constitution and Bylaws. Should this recommendation be acted upon, the CEOs would further recommend the development of a clear protocol for instances wherein the graduate student body votes against a candidate who is running unopposed.

 Be It Resolved that section 8.3.4 be added to Article 8.3 of the GSA Constitution:

8.3 Elections

 8.3.4 In the event that a candidate is running unopposed, members of the Graduate Students' Association will be able to vote in favor or against electing the candidate to the position.

 Be It Further Resolved that Article 9.0 be amended to read:

 Article 9.0 By-Elections

 9.2 If an Executive member is unable to complete their term of office, or should no candidate come forward to run for an Executive position, or should members vote against electing an unopposed candidate, Council may, at its discretion, appoint a replacement officer for the duration of the term of office, or hold a by-election. Council may choose to appoint an interim officer to hold the position until a permanent replacement is made.

 **CARRIED**

**e) Motion 08.12.2015- 05: Motion to Amend GSA By-Law #10**

 **Moved:** Michael Bueckert (President)

  **Seconded:** Roxana Barcelo-Singh (VP Finance)

Whereas it is important for GSA By-Laws to clearly articulate responsibilities for conducting the GSA General Elections, and;

Whereas Section 2b and 3a contain a contradiction, therefore;

Be It Resolved the GSA Council adopt the following amendments to GSA By-Law #10:

Section 2: GSA Electoral Board

a) The GSA Electoral Board shall consist of two representatives from Council (who shall be elected by Council), the Executive Coordinator, one executive member and one external director from the Board of Directors.

b) The GSA Electoral Board shall have the authority to hire CEOs, approve electoral rules established by the CEOs which are not already defined in the GSA Constitution and By-Laws, and address candidate or campaign committee grievances, as per Section 6 of By-Law 10.

c) The GSA Electoral Board shall have the authority to establish the nomination period, the campaign period, and the deadline for any appeals.

d) In the case of an election or by-election, none of the members of the GSA Electoral Board shall be eligible to run for a position to be elected in the election for which they will be selecting CEOs. In the case of a referendum, none of the members of the GSA Electoral Board shall be eligible to serve on a campaign committee for the referendum for which they will be selecting CEOs.

**Section 3: Responsibilities of the CEOs**

a) The Chief Electoral Officers shall be given the authority to ~~strike an election committee~~, call for nominations, receive nomination forms, announce candidates and campaign committees, limit campaign expenditures, publicize the election, announce the results and to undertake any other duties required to carry out the election, by-election and/or referenda in accordance with the GSA Constitution and By-Laws.

b) CEOs shall have the authority to determine campaign and election rules which are not established in the GSA Constitution or By-Laws. These rules are subject to the approval of the GSA Electoral Board and shall be made available to all candidates.

c) CEOs are responsible for informing the Clerk of the Senate of Carleton University of the name of the President-Elect and the Vice-President Academic-Elect of the GSA and the names of the graduate students elected to sit on Senate.

**Section 4: General Elections and By-Elections**

a) GSA General Elections should normally occur, annually, on two consecutive days in March as determined by a motion passed at GSA Council.

b) GSA By-Elections should normally occur on two consecutive days. At least two weeks public notice shall be given for any by-election to be conducted.

c) Elections shall be by a simple majority of those members of the GSA voting.

d) In the case of ties in an election, by-election or referendum a by-election shall be held on one day no later than seven days following the initial election, by-election or referendum. This by-election shall be repeated until the tie(s) is(are) broken.

e) In the event of an empty ballot for the Senate seat allocated for a doctoral representative, a representative from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Business or the Faculty of Public Affairs, or a representative from the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Engineering and Design, a candidate(s) that does not meet the criteria but receives the next highest number of votes may assume the seat.

**CARRIED**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

a) Motion in support of student striking at L’universite de Quebec a Montreal

Moved: Bonnie Bates (History)

Seconded: Lauren Montgomery (CUPE 4600)

WHEREAS the members of *Syndicat des étudient-e-s employé-e-s de l’UQAM* (SÉTUE) began strike action on Monday, December 7, 2015;

AND WHEREAS the members of SÉTU include teaching assistants, research assistants, liaison officers in the UQAM Foundation, and other student workers;

AND WHEREAS these members are striking for improvements that are important to student workers across Canada;

AND WHEREAS their priority bargaining demands include:

* Improved definition of working hours, to ensure students have a guaranteed minimum hours of work in their contract per session;
* Improvements to the salary scale;
* Signed contracts to protect the intellectual property of research assistants;
* More transparency in the staffing process and clarity regarding contracts;
* Signed contracts for research assistants; and
* Improvements to the grievance process.

AND WHEREAS Carleton Graduate Students’ Association has frequently engaged in solidarity campaigns with student workers;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GSA write a letter of support to the *Syndicat des étudient-e-s employé-e-s de l’UQAM* (SÉTUE), to express our solidarity with their strike and call for a fair collective agreement for student workers at UQAM.

**CARRIED**

b) In support of Dr. Root Godick

 Moved: Michael Buerckert (President)

 Seconded: Ehsan Ghias-Begloo (Electronics/Senate)

Whereas Dr. Root Gorelick, who is one of 2 elected faculty representatives on the Carleton University Board of Governors, has blogged regularly about open meetings of the Board since 2013; and

Whereas in August 2015, the Executive Committee of the Board unilaterally revised the mandatory Fiduciary Statement to include additional restrictions on the ability of Board members to speak publically about Board meetings; and

Whereas under the revised statement, Dr. Gorelick is prohibited from continuing to blog about anything discussed by the Board of Governors; and

Whereas, as a result, he has refused to sign the revised statement and is facing the threat of removal from the Board of Governors; and

Whereas in response to the revised statement, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has unanimously passed a motion to begin a censure investigation against Carleton University for its disregard for the democratic functioning of the institution; and

Whereas the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA) released on December 8, 2015 a petition to show support for Dr. Root Gorelick; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA Council expresses its support for Dr. Root Gorelick against the actions of the Carleton University Board of Governors; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA releases a public statement in support of Dr. Root Gorelick; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA endorses the letter and petition by CUASA, distributing it widely, and encouraging all graduate students and members of the Carleton community to sign it.

 **CARRIED**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Seconded by:** Lauren Montgomery(Sociology/Anthropology)

**CARRIED**