**CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday, February 26, 2016**

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

**1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

a. Announcement of Proxies

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. E-minutes from January 22, 2016

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

1. Minutes from January 22, 2016

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**4. ORDER OF THE DAY**

 Discussion on Carleton's Student Mental Health Framework

**5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

1. President (Michael Bueckert)
2. VP Finance (Roxana Barcelo-Singh)
3. VP Operations (Vidushi Gupta)
4. VP Academic (Alannah James)
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) Presentation of U Pass Referendum by Chief Electoral Officer, Chris Genovesi.**

b) **Motion 26.02.2016-01**: **Motion to ratify the Spring/Summer U-Pass Referendum Results**

**Moved**: Chris Genovesi (Cognitive Science/Chief Electoral Officer)

**Seconded:**

Whereas GSA Council approved a referendum question on a Spring/Summer U-Pass Program and graduate students voted on February 24 and 25, 2016; and

Whereas the results of the referendum have been presented to Council; therefore

Be It Resolved That GSA Council ratify the results of the February 2016 referendum on a Spring/Summer U-Pass Program.

Be It Further Resolved That ballots for the February 2016 referendum be destroyed.

Motion Carries

**c) Motion 26.02.2016-02: Motion to hold a Health Plan referendum**

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

**Seconded:**

Whereas the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan experienced a nearly 30% increase in average per student health claims, and an over 9% increase in average per student dental claims in the 2014-2015 academic year ; and

Whereas preliminary numbers for the first four months of the 2015-2016 academic year are showing additional increases in claims, and

Whereas the current premium of $298 per student per year is unsustainable; therefore

BIRT the GSA Council approve the following referendum question to be presented to graduate students during the 2016 General Elections:

Are you in favour of either:

A $70 increase in the annual premium for the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan.

OR

A significant reduction in benefits offered under the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan.

(Mark only one choice).

BIFRT the GSA create a document clearly outlining any and all reductions in benefits that would result from no increase in the health, dental, and accident plan, subject to approval by the GSA Electoral Board.

Motion Amended

**The amended motion now reads:**

BIRT the GSA Council approve the following referendum question to be presented to graduate students during the 2016 General Elections:

Are you in favour of either:

A $70 increase in the annual premium for the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan to keep the current benefits package.

OR

A significant reduction in benefits offered under the graduate student health, dental, and accident insurance plan.

(Mark only one choice).

**Motion Carried as Amended**

d) **Motion 26.02.2016 - 03**: **Motion to Approve the Proposed Amendments to the GSA Policy Manual**

Moved: Roxana Barcelo-Singh (VP Finance)

Seconded:

Whereas full-time students writing theses in disciplines such as Biology, Computer Science, Neuroscience and Engineering are not required to obtain three credits before completing their thesis, making them ineligible to apply for the GSA Full-time Student Excellence Award,

Whereas amending the GSA Full-time Excellence Award to require the completion of two semesters and at least 50% of credit courses would increase the accessibility of the Excellence Awards,

Whereas amending the requirements of the GSA Part-time Student Academic Excellence Award to one semester and at least 25% of credit courses preserves the award’s accessibility, while making the wording of requirements more consistent with the proposed amendments to the full-time award,

Whereas the Awards Committee, who met on January 25, 2016 recommends the following amendments, therefore;

Be it resolved that the following proposed amendments be approved to the GSA Policy Manual:

GSA Full-time Student Academic Excellence Award

Applicants must have completed ~~three (3.0) full credits, or the equivalent~~. Two (2) semesters and at least 50% of credit courses.

GSA Part-time Student Academic Excellence Award

Applicants must have completed ~~one (1.0) full credit, or the equivalent.~~ One (1) semester and at least 25% of credit courses.

**Amendment to motion proposed**

Be it resolved that the following proposed amendments be approved to the GSA Policy Manual:

GSA Full-time Student Academic Excellence Award

Applicants must have completed three (3.0) full credits, or the equivalent. Two (2) semesters and at least 50% of credit courses OR three full course credit whichever is lower

GSA Part-time Student Academic Excellence Award

Applicants must have completed one (1.0) full credit, or the equivalent. One (1) semester and at least 25% of credit courses OR 1 full course credit whichever is lower.

**Amendment carries**

**Motion carries as amended**

e) **Motion 26.02.2016 - 04**: **Motion to Endorse the "Renounce Canada Park" Campaign of Independent Jewish Voices**

**Moved:** Michael Bueckert (President)

**Seconded:**

Whereas the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF Canada) has funded a project called “Canada Park” in the occupied Palestinian territories, over the village sites of Imwas, Yalu and Deir Ayyub, and over lands belonging to the village of Beit Nuba, which were each depopulated and demolished by Israeli forces in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and

Whereas a panel commemorating donations to Canada Park lists the “City of Ottawa”;

Whereas Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) has a campaign calling on the Council of the City of Ottawa: 1) to call on JNF Canada to remove the City of Ottawa from its panels of donors and honourees to the park, and 2) to publicly renounce any City of Ottawa affiliation to Canada Park; and

Whereas IJV is coordinating a national speaking tour of Heidar Abu Ghosh, a former resident of a village displaced by Canada Park; and

Whereas IJV has requested the support of the GSA for these initiatives; and

Whereas the GSA has a history of partnering with IJV and other organizations to advance Palestinian rights on campus and in the community; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA endorses the “Renounce Canada Park” campaign of Independent Jewish Voices; and

Be it further resolved that the GSA donate $250 to sponsor the Heidar Abu Gosh event in Ottawa.

**Motion carries**

f) **Motion 26.02.2016 - 05**: **Motion to Oppose the Energy East Pipeline**

**Moved:** Taylor Howarth (VP External)

**Seconded:**

Whereas the Energy East Project under consideration by the National Energy Board is a 4600-kilometre pipeline proposed to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Eastern Canada,

Whereas this refined oil will be sold to an international market,

Whereas the proposed pipeline would pass through the nation’s capital and cross the Rideau River, which could leak hazardous diluted bitumen into the river and into our drinking water in the event of a spill,

Whereas Aboriginal Communities have not been fully and respectfully included in the hearing process for economic development projects, they have experienced many documented treaty rights violations by corporations operating in and for the tar sands, and they experience a higher incidence of rare and deadly cancers in communities downstream of the tar sands,

Whereas pipelines will lead to further tar sands expansion beyond the 4.5 million barrels a day reported in 2014, which the International Energy Agency reports is a level of production fitting global demand scenarios that lead to a catastrophic increase in global temperatures,

Whereas academics, scientists, and economists worldwide state that up to two thirds of known fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground to avoid a 2°C global temperature increase,

Whereas the tar sands are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada,

And whereas chemical and physical erosion is common in pipelines, inevitably resulting in leaks that are hard to locate, costly to clean, and irreparably damage ecosystems,

Be it resolved that the Graduate Students’ Association condemn the proposed construction of the Energy East pipeline and where possible promote alternative means of energy production.

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Students’ Association facilitate discussions on campus with community partners to educate and engage the campus community about alternative means of energy production and what this shift means for a 21st century economy.

**Ryan Vienneau: Motion to divide.**

**Seconded by: Jasmine Dünn**

**The motion fails.**

**Motions carries**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Announcement by ISSO for Graduate Students**

The International Student Services Office is currently recruiting Graduate students to act as peer mentors for the 2016-2017 year. These positions have an honorarium associated with them and the time commitment will be 7 – 10 hours per week during the first 6 weeks of the academic year. Applications are being processed through the Student Experience Office but these positions ARE open to graduate students and the ISSO is always in need to graduate student mentors. Please disregard the note on the application form that says you must be registered as an undergraduate student. Applications due March 4th. Learn more at carleton.ca/isso.

**Graduate Student Parents Network**

Raising children while attending graduate school is a uniquely challenging and rewarding experience. In collaboration with the GSA, students are seeking to build a network to offer support, share experiences and socialize with other parents studying at Carleton University. We plan to organize regular play groups and family-friendly outings. If you are interested in participating, please send your contact information to meganmuller3@cmail.carleton.ca.

Drink tickets will be provided at Mikes Place for post council social.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**