

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm - Friday, November 11, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Friday, November 11, 2016

The GSA recognizes and acknowledges that the lands on which we live, work, and study belong to the Algonquin nation.

The Algonquin nation, whose territories comprise the entire Kichi Sibi (Ottawa River) watershed and include the city of Ottawa, never ceded or surrendered its territories to Canada. The Canadian state laid claim to these territories through violent systems of colonization that resulted and continue to result in the dispossession, marginalization, and impoverishment of Algonquin people and the overexploitation of land and waters within their territory.

The GSA commits to fully supporting Algonquin struggles and Algonquin assertions of self-determination and nationhood. We are not innocent in the ongoing colonization of these lands and we resolve to challenge the presence of colonialism in our words, actions, and communities. We extend our ongoing solidarity to the Algonquin nation with our words, actions, time, skills, and resources.

Members present:

- Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies)
- Alexandra Skutonich (Psych)
- Anna Hogue (Communications)
- Bonnie Bates (History)
- Brittany Andrew (Political Management)
- Chloe Pedneault (Psychology)
- Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
- Danielle Taylor (English)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)
- Eileen Yauy (SPPA)
- Emily Sandham (NPSIA)
- Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
- Erin Felepchuk (Music and Culture)
- Grace Daly (Chemistry)
- Jay Ramasubramanyan (Legal Studies)
- Jenna Amirault (VP External)
- Jenna Ko (History)
- Jenna Smith (Sociology)
- Jessie Gamarra (Art History)
- Jordan Boswell (Political Management)
- Kirk Kitzel (Ind. And Canadian Studies)
- Martin Martinov (Physics/Senate)
- Matt Dunford (Physics)
- Michael Bueckert (Soc/Anth)
- Miles Krauter (CUPE 4600)

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- Ryan Barlow (NPSIA)
- S. Clay Steell (Biology)
- Simon Vodrey (Communications)
- Soan Mo Kuron (CGES/Economics)
- Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)
- Warren Trottier (PAPM)
- William Felepchuk (VP Academic)
- Zihan Xu (Economics)
- Trycia Bazinet (Canadian Studies)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

- a. Announcement of Proxies
Soon Mo Kwon for Jing Han (Economics – 2 votes)

Minutes: Loriann Garden

Chair: Jessica Squires

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Bonnie Bates
Seconded: Warren Trottier
Motion approved

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. E-minutes from Sept 30, 2016
Moved: Eric Hitsman (VP Operations)
Seconded: Jessie Gamarra (Art History)
Motion approved
- b. Minutes from July 23, 2016
Moved: Bonnie Bates
Seconded: Damiano Torre (SCE)
Motion approved

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. ORDER OF THE DAY

- a. Welcome Week

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Debbie Owusu Akyeeah)
 - b. **Sexual Violence Policy**
 - c. For those unaware, every student has received an email from Carleton administration regarding the latest draft of the sexual violence policy.

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d. The purpose of this email is to continue the consultation process with the entire Carleton population. As you know, prior to this the consultation process involved selected students' groups like service centres, the GSA, labour unions, etc.

e. We strongly encourage that all of you provide your feedback and relay this encouragement to your departments as well.

f.

g. You can provide feedback through the online form or by email before October 28th.

h. The GSA is waiting to meet with our campus and labour union allies before we release a public statement.

i.

j. **Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG)**

k. This past Wednesday, I represented the GSA at the first CASG meeting of the school year. The Carleton Academic Student Government, CASG, is the official body representing undergraduate students at Carleton on academic issues. The councillors represent the student voice on important issues such as changes to courses (including adding, modifying, or deleting the courses), changing requirements for a certain degree, and even have the power to discuss and vote on creating or ending an entire degree program.

l.

m. At this meeting there was a motion to vote Chloe Miller, the interim CASG president, to the official president role after the previously elected president stepped down in the summer. The motion was successful.

n.

o. The meeting proved to be useful to help promote the November 2nd- National Day of Action to a group of active undergraduate students.

p.

q. **Athletics Board**

r. The first athletics board meeting was this week. All four student representatives were present: GSA, CUSA, RRRA, and the Varsity Council Rep.

s.

t. Athletics was previously under "Finance and Administration" and is now under "Students and Enrolment". Not sure what this will mean for the future of athletics, but we will keep you posted.

u.

v. It was identified at this meeting that the High Performance Centre (varsity gym) does have free timeslots during the week. This is important to keep in mind for the women's/non-binary gym hour

w.

x. Sitting on the Athletics Board allows for the GSA to engage with stakeholders that we hope will eventually vote to approve women's/non-binary gym hour.

y.

z. The Director of Athletics mentioned that the GSA has been influential in bringing change to athletics (specifically with the gender-neutral change room campaign). Let's hope we can continue to be influential.

aa.

bb. **Consent Culture Week**

cc. Next week from October 16th-21st is Consent Culture Week. This is a week to promote and encourage a consensual approach to university culture.

Consent Culture is a group of societal norms built on a consent based framework.

dd.

ee. Events for the week include:

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ff.

gg. Tuesday, October 18- 5:30 pm- Keynote Address- Fenn Lounge

hh. Linda Christina Redgrave- Linda Christina will be speaking about her experience dealing with the judicial system as the first complainant in the sexual assault trial of Jian Ghomeshi in early 2016. Yamikani Msosa from the Ottawa Sexual Assault Support Centre and Carrolyn Johnston from Carleton's Equity Services will also be speaking.

*Peer Supports and ASL interpretation available

ii.

jj. Wednesday, October 19- 10:00 am-12:00 pm- Survivors' Meet and Greet- Womyn's Centre

Survivors of sexual violence are invited to this meet and greet to connect with other survivors. We will be serving breakfasts foods and drinks. Survivors are invited to bring along a support. *Peer Support will be provided. *

Wednesday, October 19- 8:00 pm- Film Screening- Rooster's Coffee House

We will be screening the 2015 documentary "The Hunting Ground". This film discusses sexual assault on campuses and institutional attempts to cover up these crimes. The film contains some graphic content and is rated PG-13. This event is put on in association with OPIRG Cinema Politica,

Peer Support will be provided

Thursday, October 20- 2:00 pm- Healthy Relationships Workshops- Womyn's Centre

This will be an interactive workshop discussing violence in dating relationships. Debbie from the GSA will facilitate it.

kk. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)

ll. Operations

Last week we received our audited financial statements for our annual audit with chartered accounting firm Collins Barrow LLP. The accountants conducted the audit throughout the summer and have reported no qualifications and that our staff was very cooperative with their team.

Mike's Place Pub now has a new beer on tap! We are pleased to welcome a locally brewed beer, Ashton Brewing Company, owned and operated by the proprietors of Quinn's and Patty's Pub on Bank street in old Ottawa South.

Health Plan

The opt in/out period has ended as of the 7th of October therefore we are no longer able to refund the health care premium to students with external insurance coverage, nor are we able to add dependents to a students' existing plan.

mm. VP Operations (Eric Hitsman)

nn. Mike's Place Pub Events

oo. Trivia continues to be successful at Mike's Place. There is a list of upcoming themes for the year, the following one to be this Wednesday. To advertise for the upcoming National Day of Action, Jenna and Justine will be hosting a social Justice Trivia themed night. However, this trivia will take place an hour earlier than it normally does to accommodate the presidential debate screening.

pp.

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qq. Considering the success of the previous presidential debate screening, we will be screening the third presidential debate this Wednesday in Mike's Place at 9pm.

rr.

ss. **Council**

tt. There are a number of councillors whose formal councillor registration form I have not received. Please ensure that you get those forms into the GSA office as quickly as possible, these forms are vital in regards to being able to keep in contact with you.

d. VP Academic (William Felepchuk)

Graduate Academic Caucus (GAC)

The next GAC meetings will be on Friday November 4th at 10 AM, and on Wednesday December 7th at 1 PM. Location to be announced.

The November 4th meeting will be very interesting as, among other things, we are meeting with the FGPA deans before then to discuss academic advocacy issues, and with the head librarian Wayne Jones to discuss library issues. I will have reports on both of these meetings on November 4th.

The official meeting announcement will be going out on Tuesday Oct. 18th. Please let me know before then, if you haven't already done so, who your GAC reps are, at vpa@gsacarleton.ca. They are the grad students who sit on your department's board/council/assembly with administrators and professors.

Justice for Abdirahman Community Conference

The GSA, along with numerous labour and community organizations, hosted an amazing conference on Anti-Black racism, xenophobia, colonialism, mental health, and state violence in Canada on Sunday, October 2nd, 2016, in response to the Ottawa police killing of Abirahman Abdi in July, 2016.

As mentioned at the last exec meeting, the GSA was a key organizer in the JFA Community Conference. It was a resounding success, with 150+ participants and a variety of amazing speakers. Participants have given us feedback that it was healing, life-affirming, and very inspiring gathering. There will be a consensus document being published with the results of each session.

More to come soon!

Multimedia, reflections on the conference, and the consensus document will be posted at <http://www.justiceforabdirahman.ca/CommunityConference/> in the coming weeks.

Meeting with Faculty of Postdoctoral Affairs (FGPA) Deans

We have an upcoming meeting with the FGPA deans in which we plan to focus the conversation on the challenging new funding distribution scheme. We will also bring up several other issues, including inconsistent policies on completion times, the treatment of International students, and the issue faced by part-time students brought forward by our History department representatives.

Student Parents and Guardians

There will be an important motion coming forward at this council meeting regarding this campaign. It will be followed by a November event focusing on student parents and guardians and their families that will amplify this campaign. Please email me at vpa@gsacarleton.ca if you want to help out!

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Truth and Reconciliation Subcommittee of the Aboriginal Education Council

I continue to represent the GSA on this subcommittee of student association reps, faculty, administrators, and Indigenous students. After much discussion, we have crafted seven priority areas for the implementation of the TRC report at Carleton, and building on the many valuable initiatives already in place on campus. These seven areas have been presented to the AEC and will be detailed with concrete recommendations at coming meetings:

Creating a Respectful and Inclusive Learning Environment: Articulating a Vision for Carleton University based on the TRC's Calls to Action

1. Increase awareness of Indigenous cultures, knowledges and history
2. Prioritize teaching and revitalization of Indigenous languages with a preliminary focus on Anishinaabemowin, Mohawk, Michif and Inuktitut
3. Include Indigenous worldviews, ways of knowing and teaching methods in the classroom
4. Enhance community partnerships and establish relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations
5. Focus on Indigenous learner success
6. Remove systemic barriers and improve access to Indigenous education
7. Increase support for Indigenous research

uu. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

Day of Action

Students' unions and solidarity partners across the country will be going ALL OUT on November 2 to demand public, universal, tuition-free post-secondary education for all students. If you would like to get involved in organizing for the day of action, please contact our VP External, Jenna Amirault, at vpexternal@gsacarleton.ca.

The GSA and CFS hosted a panel discussion on October 12 to discuss free education. The event was well attended and a research document, "Time to Think Big: The Case for Free Tuition," was circulated and discussed.

On **November 2** students are meeting in the UC Atrium at 11am and busing to the University of Ottawa at 11:30am. From the University of Ottawa we will be marching to Parliament.

You can pledge to go **#AllOutNov2** and learn more about our demands at <http://www.cfs-fcee.ca/>

Motions for CFS-National

The GSA drafted three motions for the upcoming CFS-National meeting in November:

1. Motion to Reaffirm the CFS-National's commitment to a national, socialized, public system of post-secondary education.

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2. Motion calling on the CFS-National to work in solidarity with Québec students.
3. Motion to amend the CFS's policy on taxation.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
- e. Rideau River Residence Association (RRRA)
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- h. Other
- i. Questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 14.10.2016 - Motion for a childcare fund to facilitate student parent's participation in extracurricular academic activities

Moved: William Felepchuk (VP Academic)

Seconded: Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Whereas many GSA members are student parents and guardians caring for children while pursuing their studies; and

Whereas student parent and guardian members face numerous financial and time barriers to successfully completing their degrees; and

Whereas these barriers include the often overwhelming costs of childcare; and

Whereas access to childcare is difficult to obtain and expensive outside of regular daycare and school hours;

Whereas many extracurricular academic activities such conferences and speaking events, important to a successful career in academia, take place on evenings and weekends;

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Be it resolved that the GSA adopt the following policy:

Childcare Grant (Student-Parent or Guardian Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities)

Preamble

The purpose of the Childcare Grant (Student-Parent or Guardian Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities) is to help graduate student parents and guardians pursue academic related events outside of regular childcare hours. The grant defrays the costs of childcare for parents attending academic events.

The Grant

1. The GSA shall award a maximum of \$250 per applicant per GSA fiscal year (01 May to 30 April) to offset the costs of childcare.
2. Applicants are entitled to apply for more than one grant per fiscal year (01 May to 30 April), where the total of all grants awarded to any one candidate will not exceed the maximum award per applicant in one fiscal year (\$250.00).
3. The grant shall not be awarded to provide childcare during regular childcare hours or the child's regular school hours.
4. The grant shall not be used to provide childcare for ongoing seminars, classes, or courses that are part of the student parent's or guardian's degree (occasional activities only).
5. No childcare covered by a GSA Travel Grant may be used in an application for this grant.
6. The grant shall not be awarded for childcare that may be covered in the collective agreement between CUPE 4600 and Carleton University.
7. The GSA reserves the right to refuse any application, and retains sole discretion to determine approved funding amounts.
8. Grants will cease to be awarded when the budgeted maximum for these grants has been dispersed.
9. Grants shall operate on a reimbursement basis after the childcare has been provided.

Applications for Reimbursements

1. Applications may occur in advance in order to obtain approval for the grant.
2. Applications must be approved by the Vice-President Finance or designate, and will normally be processed within five (5) working days of application date providing that all the criteria have been met.
3. Grant application forms will include a brief description of the event and a brief justification for the event's relevance to the applicant's academic life, a copy of the applicant's ID, and a copy of the ID for each child like a provincial health card or birth certificate.
4. Receipts for the childcare must be submitted for the reimbursement to occur.
5. The deadline for applications is April 15 of the GSA fiscal year in which the childcare has occurred.

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Appeals

1. Applicants may appeal a decision regarding their grant to the GSA Carleton Inc. Board of Directors.
2. By a majority vote, the GSA Board of Directors will decide any appeal of a grant decision.
3. All appellant decisions of the GSA Carleton Inc. Board of Directors are final.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSA create a new budget line, entitled “Childcare Grant: Student-Parent Participation in Extracurricular Academic Activities,” and that it be funded by \$4,000.00 annually.

William: have a speaker here, Victoria, who can motivate better. One of the priorities for Executives is to improve GSA services and solidarity with student parents, I'm one. One of the things that our slate ran on and it's a promise and want to see it fulfilled not just in events which are important but also in substantial allocation of GSA resources. Money where our mouth is.

Victoria: thanks for having me. Really happy that William got excited about this project, put it together, piece of it, Pennies for parents, fifth year PhD student in Sociology, as grad students you'll know that we don't just work 8-5 a lot of what we do especially networking and conferences, exists in academia and a lot of the opportunities, knowledge of funds, publication, happen with networking stuff after conferences. If you're a parent this requires extra childcare fees, already you'll have day care and tuition will have this additional child care fee. Vision was to promote equal access to parents especially grad students, usually we go away for school to do our studies therefore can't lean on our families for free child care that many people do. So when away need to turn to either fellow grad students, so excited about this project, in many ways can help parents build networks so may not be always a financial transaction, solidarity networks. In the meantime, my 5 years has been good thanks to my babysitter but my idea for this is to have a fund that graduate students can draw on to offset the cost of involved when having to spend time a conference or group meetings. Brought my two kids, 7 and 4.

Questions? Factual?

Anna Hoque: number 7, GSA can refuse applications, can you elaborate

William: will pass to Vince, has more experience

Vince: that's a line in case there is suspicion of fraud or other issues.

Warren Trotter: is this policy taken, first of its kind, is it translated from other places? If so, is this something that other grad students are doing and talk about it how this came to be and whether there's more room for amendments in the future to upgrade, include new clauses.

William: not sure if this has been adopted before, I know that there are limited resources for student parents, CUPE 4600 have a little subsidy which this is not supposed to overlap but in terms of other associations, I don't know. In terms of origin, like Victoria said, she planned on doing this as a fundraiser

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to create a fund that can offset costs but decided it would be more effective to have a yearly occurring fund, ongoing resource.

Tryca Bazinet: is this proposed fund, proportional to amount of student parents on campus? And if not, how is the priority to be established and could it prioritize single parents?

William: we haven't established a priority clause, that's something that we can amend if want to. Don't know how many student parents are in our membership, goal of campaign, same range we give to other grants so that's why it's this, same ball park as those. Based on more what the GSA can offer in budget then all the people who are out there who need funds, symbolic gesture too.

Fahd Alhattab: budget, don't recall the most recent budget, were you at a 0 at the end of budget of expenses and revenues or enough surplus to add this?

Taylor Howarth: there was a surplus but this is out of contingency

Fahd: annual reoccurring cost to take out?

Taylor: going to be out of contingency, in coming years will be in budget

Charles: regarding number 8, so say for example, I'm a parent and apply but application isn't successful because budget has been met, if I remain do I have to reapply or do I get priority?

Taylor: because we're on a fiscal year basis, need to reapply.

Jordan Boswell: number 9, wondering if that would kind of hurt accessibility if someone can't front costs, any potential changes where credit can be given.

Taylor: would be based on organizational grant form, if submit application before money and then reimbursed once they have a receipt. Claim for money once they spend.

Motion passes unanimously

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Anna Hoque (Communications)

Seconded: : Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (President)

Carried.