

CALL TO ORDER – 6:08pm, Friday, September 29, 2017

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.

Attendance

Dat Tran (ALDS)
Anurah Das (Systems and Computer Eng)
Carmen Warner (Communications)
Lexi Zamojski (International Affairs)
Alicia Lapierre (Psychology – Proxy)
Natalie Prowse (Neuroscience) (BOG)
Ayla Mustafa (SPPA)
Jason Beuver (GRC)
Kyle Curlew (Sociology/Anthropology)
Ahmed Hassan (Civil Eng) (Senate)
Victor Malkov (Physics)
Martin Martinov (Physics)
Anthony Zoccoli (History)
Chelsea Nash (Communications)
Alexa Dodge (Proxy) (Legal Studies)
Trycia Basinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
Rob Currie-Wood (Political Science)
Lucas Jerusylimiec (Political Science)
Shuikh Aslam (Systems and Computer Eng)
Kirk Kitzul (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
Melissa Pullara (English)
Jacqueline Lalor (NPSIA)
Robert Lech (GRC)
Colin Martin (GRC)
Miles Krauter (SOC/CUPE4600)
Damiano Torre (SCE)
Helyeh Doutaghi (Law)

Demi Plagianakos (Psychology)
Jacky Tran (Public Admin)
Meral Hussein (Applied Linguistics and Discourse)
Charlie Helmer-Smith (Economics)
Codie Fortin-Lalonde (GFB)
Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP-Operations)
Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP-Academic)
Taylor Howarth (VP-Finance)
Jenna Amirault (VP-External)
Vincent St-Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
Zidane Mohamed (Membership Coordinator)
Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

Chair: Rick Telfer

Minute-Taker: Chi-Chi Ayalogu

a. Announcement of Proxies

Lauren Thompson appoints Demi Plagianakos (Psych, 1 vote proxy)

Tim Whelan appoints Alicia LaPierre (Psych, 1 vote proxy)

Taryn Hepburn appoints Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies, 2 vote proxy)

Danielle Taylor appoints Melissa Pullara (English, 2 vote proxy)

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Kirk Kitzul (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)

Seconded: Damiano Torre (Systems and Computer Studies)

Adopted

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. E-minutes from August 14, 2017

Moved: Martin Martinov

Seconded: Charles Helmer-Smith (Economics)

Adopted

b. Minutes from August 14, 2017

Moved: Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

Seconded: Martin Martinov

Adopted

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Council Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendars:

Thursday, October 19, 6 PM

Monday, November 13, 6 PM

Tuesday, December 5, 6 PM

b. Mike’s Place Social After Council – Free Drink Tickets!

5. ORDER OF THE DAY: Councilor Orientation and Review of Robert’s Rules of Order

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a. President (Eric Hitsman)

Taylor Howarth (VP Finance) summarized report submitted by Eric Hitsman.

Meetings with Senior Administration

In late August, members of the Executive have had meetings with the Vice-President (Students and Enrolment) Suzanne Blanchard and Vice-President (Finance & Administration) Michel Piche. Several recurring items have been raised in meetings. First, the GSA still is not being given access to our membership list, and we are pushing to get this at every meeting. Without the membership list and contact information for members, we have to manually sign students up to the Grad Bulletin. Second, the GSA continues to push for additional space on the 6th floor of the University Centre. This is in the hope of expanding the number of rooms that can be used by grads, clubs, and departmental societies, as well as to renovate to make the space more functional. Third, the University has spoken to the GSA about the pending legalization of marijuana, and how this will unfold on-campus. Recent announcements have begun to shed some light on how the Province will regulate marijuana, but there is still some uncertainty.

Hiring

A job posting for Mike’s Place Bar Staff went up the other day. Please encourage your colleagues to apply.

Mike’s Place Pub

Your graduate student pub continues to offer affordable food and the best drink selection on-campus. Trivia Nights on Wednesday evenings continue to be very popular, with many departments and groups of friends fielding teams. You can catch live music every second Friday at Live at Mike’s. There is 10% off vegetarian food every Meatless Monday. Pints of beer are only \$5.50 on Mondays and Tuesdays.

As a venue owned and operated by the GSA, Mike’s Place is a great venue for holding departmental society socials and other events. Come and build your community at Mike’s Place!

Membership Outreach Update

The Executive and the outgoing Council have highlighted membership outreach as a priority for the current year. It is very important that all graduate students know about the services and campaigns of their students’ union. One of the challenges faced by the GSA is the senior administration’s refusal to provide a membership list and contact information for graduate students at Carleton University.

Please make sure your colleagues are signed up for the Grad Bulletin e-newsletter. They can sign-up on the GSA webpage, gsacarleton.ca. An

Outreach Coordinator position has been created and Helyeh Doutaghi, the Councilor for Law and Legal Studies, has been hired.

The Executive will be contacting Councilors in the hopes of setting up events with different faculties and departments. We can help organize events for grads in your department, including events that encourage a dialogue between the GSA and graduate students. We may be able to arrange for pizza or other enticements to encourage graduate students to participate.

If you would like copies of posters the GSA has developed, or want buttons or other material to distribute in your department, please let us know!

b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)

Financial Statements and End of Year

Immediately following the regular GSA Council meeting in October, we will be holding a meeting of GSA Carleton Inc. All graduate student, voting members of Council are also members of the corporation.

At this meeting, I will be presenting the audited financial statements for the GSA and Mike’s Place. I am happy to report that the auditors are very pleased with our financials and have found no issues.

Graduate Residence Caucus

The Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC) held elections for executive team members this Sunday. I acted as the Chief Electoral Officer for the election and am pleased to announce that all of the executive positions have been filled by awesome folks, and we are looking forward to working with them closely over the coming months.

GSA Health and Dental Plan: Important Date

Friday October 6th, one week from today, is the final day to opt in or out of the GSA health and dental plan. This also includes adding dependants.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) Distribution

You can get your ISIC at the GSA offices on the 6th floor of the University Centre. The ISIC is free for all members of the Canadian Federation of Students. In the past few years, the GSA has been distributing ISICs for both grads and undergrads as CUSA refuses to offer this free service to its members.

Student Organization Grant

A few years back, the GSA voted to add another grant to its roster which would allow grad students, departmental societies, and Carleton clubs and societies to receive funding for “activities like academic conferences, colloquia, speaker presentations, panels, workshops, and social events that contribute to graduate students’ education and community”. Applicant groups are eligible to receive between \$50 and \$600 per event or program.

Back in June, we passed the fiscal year 18 budget (the operating budget for the Graduate Residence Caucus, GSA, and Mike’s Place) that includes \$25,000 of available funding for the Student Organization Grant. So, we encourage you to spread the word to your peers and within your departments.

You can find more info and a printable copy of the form online at:
<http://gsacarleton.ca/student-organizations-grant/>

c. VP Operations (Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah)

Welcome Weeks

Last Friday marked the end of another successful Welcome Weeks. For those who don't know, the GSA runs the longest Grad Welcome Weeks in the country! It was really great meeting many of you at our various events and giving you a little taste of what it is like to be members of the Graduate Students’ Association. If you have any feedback about the events, please email me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Black, Indigenous, and People Of Colour (BIPOC) Event

One particular Welcome Weeks event that I want to highlight was our Spicy Food Night/BIPOC Social. It was a closed space for racialized and Indigenous students to get together, talk about our experiences leading up to graduate school, and what a racialized students’ committee could look like at the GSA. We're hoping that spaces like this could be used to engage grad students, both racialized and allies, on the issues of racism at campus especially with the growing issue of white nationalist groups at universities.

Book Launch

The GSA is happy to announce the book launch and panel for the much anticipated book by Robyn Maynard entitled, *"Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present."* The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 12th, 2017 at from 6-8pm at the Senate Room. The location may be subject to change, so please look out for updates on the event via the Grad Bulletin or the GSA Facebook page.

Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators (SAOCs)

Some of you may have met our Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators during Welcome Weeks. Their names are Rukiya and Miranda and we're super excited to have them be part of the GSA. They will be overseeing our sexual health education on campus and advocacy work on sexual/gender-based violence. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know!

GSA Office Hour Extension

The GSA office has extended its hours! Students can now use the office resources and lounge until 9pm Monday-Thursday (5pm on Friday). You can

use the lounge as an individual or group study space, or even a place to eat. The boardroom and lounge can also be booked by campus groups.

d. VP Academic (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

Upper year PhD students’ extension fees

It has been brought to my attention by several students that upper year PhD students are being charged an extension fee as a form of penalty and also an overdue fee, in some cases to the excess of \$200. In addition to my attempt at bringing this up in the Graduate Faculty Board meeting last week, I am trying to get more information on this from different departments. I would like to urge Councilors to take this information back to your respective departments and perhaps get back to me on this.

Library Resources

It has also been brought to my attention that several resources in the library are being axed to move towards a more “digital” platform. Government reports, UN reports, Climate Change reports, are just some of the many resources that are being binned. The justifications allude to the fact that the University of Ottawa is a depository, but it is not. Many of these reports are also unavailable online. Once again, I seek information from you all. If you find that some of these resources are either missing or have been shelved, please let me know. I will be speaking to the Library Senate Committee and also the University Librarian in the coming weeks to get to the bottom of this issue.

Graduate Academic Caucus (GAC)

I am in the process of getting together the information needed to send out the invitation and agenda for the upcoming Graduate Academic Caucus meeting. The plan is to convene in October once I get the information on the potential representatives for GAC. The process is to ensure that representation is high and from all departments. I will send out a doodle poll and then an agenda for the meeting. Hopefully we should be able to meet by the 3rd week of October. If anyone from your department or yourself would like to volunteer to be on GAC, please let me know through email.

e. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

Rally Against Racism

When: Sunday September 30 @ 10am – 1pm

Where: Meeting at the Terry Fox statue on Wellington Street and walking to Parliament Hill

Given the increasing prevalence of racist and fascist groups on campus and in the Ottawa community, the group United Against Fascism is holding an anti-racist demonstration at Parliament Hill. This demonstration will be countering a hate-group that has organized a rally on the same day. United Against Fascism has been holding regular events such as this one and

encourages community members to attend and demonstrate that hate groups will not be tolerated by Ottawa community members.

Joint Statement

On September 11, several students reported seeing white nationalist posters throughout Carleton campus. These posters were also found at the University of Ottawa and campuses across the country. After reporting the posters to Carleton, Campus Safety proceeded to remove them with the aid of several students. Later that day the GSA, CUSA, and University Administration released a joint statement condemning hate groups without naming the organization involved. The joint statement can be read at: <https://goo.gl/Jq9Xqe>.

The GSA is committed to fighting fascism and white supremacy. We encourage students to report any additional sightings and to get involved in anti-racism, anti-xenophobia, and anti-fascist work being done on campus.

Political Action Committee

The GSA's Political Action Committee will be meeting monthly to discuss organizing around tuition fees, grad mental health, anti-war initiatives, and other initiatives. If you are interested in being a part of PAC please sign-up on at: gsacarleton.ca/pac/.

Kitigànensag GSA Community Garden

The GSA garden is wrapping up for the summer season. Codie Fortin Lalonde has been hired as our stand-in Garden Coordinator to finish off this gardening season.

More information: Kitigànensag, Algonquin for "little gardens," is a student-run project that promotes local, organic food production, education and community building. It is a space where members of the Carleton community come together to grow and enjoy healthy, socially just, sustainable food and work towards greater food security and sovereignty on campus.

Applications for plots are open to all members of the Carleton community, with preference going to volunteers who have helped construct the garden. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis and can be submitted via email to our Garden Coordinator (garden@gsacarleton.ca).

Talk Exchange

When: Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017 @ 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Dunton Tower, Room 2017

The chair and vice-chair of the Community Relations and Advancement Committee of the Board of Governors (Linda Ann Daly and Jay Nordenstrom), invite the university community to an open discussion about the future of Carleton.

This initiative is the second installment of the Talk Exchange – the opportunity for the Carleton community to provide feedback to the Board of Governors. The committee will pose three questions: *What do we want Carleton University to be known for? How do we get there? How do we improve?*

Students and community members are invited to share their ideas and comments. Please register online as seating is limited.

The Rumour Mill

When: Wednesday, October 18 @ noon to 1pm

Where: Residence Commons, second floor conference rooms

The Rumour Mill is the president and provost’s new forum for the university’s faculty, students and staff to ask questions and separate fact from fiction when it comes to information circulating on campus.

Anti-Oppression Training with CUPE 4600 (RSVP Required)

When: Friday, October 20, 2017, 10:00AM-5:00PM

Where: 608 Robertson Hall

The GSA and CUPE 4600 are organizing anti-oppression training, and all GSA Councilors are welcome to attend. The training will involve discussions on confronting and dismantling oppression. For more information, or to register, please contact the GSA’s Membership Coordinator, Zidan Mohamed, at mc@gsacarleton.ca.

f. Questions

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

Alexa Dodge: Carleton has been bad for suppressing speech; Interim President Alistair Summerly apologized that predecessor didn’t bring the Strategic Mandate Agreement to be approved; Questioning the fees that continue to be added on to grad student tuition.

b. Graduate Faculty Board

Codie Fortin-Lalonde: Introduced GFB and noted that Carleton wants to see itself as a research institution.

c. Graduate Residence Caucus Colin Martin

Colin Martin: Expressed interest in working with GSA Council.

d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)

Miles Krauter :Updates include CUPE co-sponsoring the book launch Panel presentation and extends invitation to members to go to rally against racism on Saturday.

e. Carleton Post-Doctoral Association (CUPA)

Not present.

f. Board of Governors (BOG)

Natalie Prowse : Introduced BOG to council; notes that their big push has been for transparency on all levels of administration.

g. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)

Not present.

h. Carleton Athletics Board

Nothing to report.

Ahmed Hassan (Presidential Search Committee) asked to give a report:

Noted that PSC has poor student representation; noted that PSC is hosting townhall specifically for grad student: Senate room – October 12th, 4pm to 5pm; Undergrad student townhall – October 13th, 3-4pm in senate room; open town hall – October 12, 9:00am, 3rd floor of Residence Commons.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

9. NEW BUSINESS

a: Motion 09.29.2017 – 01: Motion to Create an Ad-Hoc Racialized Action Committee

Moved: Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP Operations)

Seconded: Kirk Kitzul (Indig. & CDN Studies)

Whereas “Race” is defined by the Ontario Human Rights Commission as a social construct specific to economic, political, geographic and cultural factors, and is the continuing impact of a historical legacy of racism, such as the effect of colonialism and slavery; and

Whereas Racialization is ‘the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life’; and

Whereas the GSA constitution stipulates that the GSA promote and assist in maintaining an academic and social environment free from prejudice, rape culture, discrimination, exploitation, or abuse on the basis of, but not limited to race, ethnicity, nationality; and

Whereas the GSA has to ensure racialized students are adequately represented within GSA’s structures; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA form an ad-hoc “Racialized Action Committee” to organize, educate, support, and empower racialized students on campus.

Be it further resolved that the Racialized Action Committee be Chaired by a member of the GSA Executive.

Adopted

b) Discussion on the Role of Councilors

Motion to postpone item to next meeting.

Moved: Taylor Howarth (VP Finance)

Seconded: Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

Adopted

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Charles Helmer-Smith

Seconded: Meral Hassan

Adopted.