

**GSA COUNCIL –E-MINUTES Carleton University Graduate Students’
Association, Ottawa, Ontario Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:05 pm -
Thursday, October 19th, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:05pm, Thursday, October 19, 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 selfdetermination 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

Rosita Sharif Ahmad (Electronic)
Hemant Gupta (Computer Science)
Taryn Hepburn (Law and Legal Studies)
Annika Mazarella (Art History)
Robert Lech (Graduate Residence Caucus)
Carmen Warner (Communications)
Kirsten Bussiere (English)
Jason Beuver (Graduate Residence Caucus)
Rhys Steckle (Sociology and Anthropology)
Jacky Tran (Public Policy and Administration)
Alisha Karim (Public Policy and Administration – Proxy)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Melissa Hernandez (Computer Science)
Bridgette Desjardins (Law and Legal Studies)
Lexi Zamojski (International Affairs)
Kyle Curlew (Sociology and Anthropology)
Bavithra Kuppusany (System and Computer Engineering)
Melissa Pullara (English)
Simon Vodrey (Communications)
Kathleen Day (Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies)
Alex Ross (Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies)
Ahmed Hassan (Senate)
Charlie Helmer Smith (Economics)
Kirk Kitkul (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
Jaqueline Laclr (International Affairs)

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Zameer Masjedee (Carleton University Student Association)
Tim Whalen (Psychology Graduate Student Association)
Trycia Bazinet (ICGS)
Damiano Torre (Systems and Computer Engineering)
Lucas Jerusalemiec (Political Science)
Rob Currie-Wood (Political Science)
Laleah Sinclair (Social Work)
Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (VP-Operations)
Jay Ramansubraman (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)
Eric Hitsman (President)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

Rick Telfer (Chair)
Chi-Chi Ayalogu (Minute Taker)

- a. Announcement of Proxies
Simon Vodrey (Communications) appoints Chelsea Nash
Aula Mustafa (Public Policy and Administration) appoints Aisha Karim
Helyeh Doutaghi (Law and Legal Studies) appoints Bridgette Desjardins
Meral Hussein (Applied Linguistic and Discourse) appoints Kate Day
Dat Tran (Applied Linguistic and Discourse) appoints Alex Ross
Anurag Das (Systems and Computer Engineering) appoints Bavithra Kuppusamy

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Carmen Warner (Communication)
Seconded: Charlie Helmer Smith (Economics)
Approved

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. E-minutes from September 29, 2017
Moved: Simon Vodrey (Communications)
Seconded: Lexi Zamojski (International Affairs)
Approved
- b. Minutes from September 29, 2017
Moved: Taryn Hepburn (Law and Legal Studies)
Seconded: Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)
Approved

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Halloween Party at Mike’s Place Pub

5. ORDER OF THE DAY: Comments and Question Period with Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, Dr. Matthias Neufang

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Eric Hitsman)

Student Senate Meetings

Donald Russell, the Clerk of the Senate, has invited student representatives to monthly meetings. The meeting takes place between representatives from GSA, CUSA, and the Carleton Academic Student Government. The purpose is to give student groups an opportunity to discuss issues at the Senate, or to discuss motions that we are interested in putting forward.

Senate Committees

The Senate brings motions to various committees’ who provide recommendations on the decisions that the Senate will ultimately make. There are currently a number of vacancies for graduate student positions on the committees. Graduate student voices are very important in these spaces, and it is a good opportunity to debate with faculty about significant issues. If you or anyone you know is interested in any of these positions please contact me at pres@gsacarleton.ca.

- Senate Academic Program Committee – 1 vacancy (meets 2x per month on Thursday mornings at 9am)
- Senate Committee on Curriculum, Admissions and Studies Policy (SCCASP) – 2 vacancies (meets 2x per month on Tuesday mornings at 9am)
- Senate Academic Governance Committee – 1 vacancy (meets 2 – 3 times per term)
- Senate Library Committee – 1 vacancy (meets 2x per year)
- Senate Honorary Degrees Committee – 1 vacancy (meets 2x per year; next meeting in November)
- Senate Educations Equity Committee – 1 vacancy (meets as required)
- Senate Academic Integrity Appeals Committee – 1 vacancy
- Senate Graduate Student Appeal Committee – 1 vacancy
- Senate Review Committee – 2 vacancies (New committee)

Credit/Debit Machine

The GSA office is finally getting to the 21st century! We have received a new Point Of Sale system for the front desk and are preparing to install the system. We hope to have all staff trained on the new system by November. This means we will finally be able to accept your debit and credit cards in the office!

- b. VP Finance (Taylor Howarth)

Health, Dental and Accident Plan

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The Health, Dental and Accident Plan opt in/out deadline has passed. Our Office and Communications Coordinator is currently hard at work to deliver refunds within the next few weeks for those students who received confirmation of their opt-out.

Audited Financial Statements

After six months of amazing work, the staff and financial team of the GSA are happy to report that we received an unqualified, or no-issue, audit. Our auditors are very pleased with the degree cleanliness and organization with which we manage our books. Special thanks to our Financial Administrator for all her hard work for the end of year.

Grants

Many students have taken advantage of the various grants that the GSA, through the approval of Council, have made available to students. I just want to highlight that many more can take advantage of these grants, and I encourage you to pass on that info to the grads in your department.

Family Grant: 4,500/6,000

Dental Grant: 1,402/5,000

Emergency Grant: 750/6,000

Travel Grant: 5,985/20,000

Last year council approved the addition of a new grant to our roster: the Childcare Grant. Because of its newness, not many students are aware that there are funds available for them that cover the cost of childcare expenses while they are attending academic conferences, presentations, or other academic-focused events relevant to their work outside of regular childcare hours.

More information is available on our website about all of our grants. You can also find application forms there too.

Ancillary Fee Protocol Committee Meeting

This is just a heads up that at an upcoming Council we will be discussing a very important agreement between on campus parties that is mandated by the province. The Ancillary Fee Protocol is a formal agreement between CUSA, the GSA, and Carleton that regulates non-tuition related fees. This includes rules around referendums, which fees are considered ancillary and which are deemed within the jurisdiction of student unions (as there is a separation), and what standards a referendum must meet in order to be recognized and ratified by the university’s Board of Governors.

Last week, the GSA met with CUSA and members of senior administration to discuss proposed changes to this protocol brought forward by the university.

GSA Membership List

An ongoing problem for the GSA is the refusal by senior administration to provide us with a list of our dues-paying members and their contact information. Most students’

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unions, including our colleagues at the University of Ottawa, are provided this information.

The absence of our members’ contact information means that we are constantly working to get members to sign-up for the Grad Bulletin newsletter, and cannot directly send all of our members important information about grants and the Health, Dental and Accident Plan deadlines. For this we rely on the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.

The Executive intends to continue to push for the membership list and may seek assistance from Council. Regardless of whether the senior administration agrees to provide the GSA with a list, we are also interested in restarting efforts to get Right to Organize legislation in Ontario for students’ unions. This legislation would be similar to what’s in place in Quebec and British Columbia, and would provide further legal guarantees that universities cannot interfere with autonomous students’ unions and must provide us with our members’ information. Previously, both the Liberals and the New Democratic Party have supported Right to Organize legislation in Ontario.

c. VP Operations (Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah)

Racialized Action Committee

The Racialized Students' Action Committee had their first official meeting as a committee last week. In this meeting students discussed ideas for recruitment. We are looking to speak with the International Student Services Office (ISSO) about advertising the committee to graduate international students, as well as sharing this information with department administrators to share via email. Our Outreach Coordinator, Helia, is also doing an amazing job informing graduate students about this committee. Additionally, we discussed events and programming for the year, so look out for that soon. We will also keep you up-to-date as we are currently working on the terms of reference for the committee.

Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators

Our Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators, Miranda and Rukiya, have been very busy planning their programming for the year! So far they have coordinated the GSA presence at Take Back the Night and the Sisters in Spirit Vigil. The SAOCs are hosting an open door event for you to meet them, discuss feminism and sexual health, and mingle on November 2nd from 2pm-3pm at the GSA lounge. They will also let you know about volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved.

Book Launch: Policing Black Lives

Last week’s book launch and panel for “Policing Black Lives” was an absolute success! Thank you to everyone that attended, volunteered, or shared the event with their networks. The Senate room was completely packed with people eager to learn from Robyn Maynard and our panelists. Her book sold out before we even got to intermission and many people left thanking the co-sponsors for hosting such a rad and informative event. One comment I heard a lot of was that this campus is desperate for things like this.

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So, I am honoured that the GSA played a part and we’re looking to do similar events in the Winter semester. Stay tuned!

d. VP Academic (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

Grad Academic Caucus (callout)

While quite a few departments have contacted me with their Graduate Academic Caucus representatives, I am yet to hear back from many others. This is an opportunity to discuss issues of academic importance in a smaller group. The plan is to convene in November once I get the information on the full list of potential reps for GAC. The process is to ensure that representation is high and from all departments. So if any of you here today would be interested in participating, please let me know. There is a sign-up sheet. But if you may know others, who would be interested, please let me know.

Library Resources

I will be meeting with the Library Senate Committee on Monday after the reading break. As you may know, there have been issues with several resources being purged by the library and I wish to get to the bottom of it. If any of you have already experienced difficulties as a result of this move by the library please let me know, as I could raise this at the meeting on the 30th of October.

International Students Committee

This is one of the committees that has yet to meet in the last few years. I envision this committee to be a space that would essentially discuss issues of importance to international students. If you may know international students from your department, please inform them that this is happening. I hope to have small workshops and events that would be directed towards international students. I hope to create a space where they can share their concerns and network with other international students. I will be working with the ISSO and will keep you all updated as we get closer to these events.

Outreach

I have been working closely with the Outreach Coordinator Helia and VPO Debbie on meeting with grad students from various departments to get representation in Council. This is also a way of trying to create better outreach mechanisms for our membership.

e. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

Meeting with Interim President Summerlee

The GSA met with President Alastair Summerlee on October 4, 2017. The President has accepted our invitation to attend a future GSA Council meeting.

At our brief meeting President Summerlee discussed his vision for post-secondary education. We also discussed some of the outstanding issues that graduate students and the Graduate Students’ Association are having at the university.

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We asked the President what his administration planned to do about the outstanding issues in the Sexual Violence Policy. This issue was also brought up on October 18 at the Rumour Mill event hosted by the President and the Provost. There seems to be no real effort to revise the policy despite concerns from faculty, students, and workers. Last year, a student-led petition asked that the following revisions be implemented to the policy:

1. Add visitors and alumni to those who are within the scope of the policy.
2. Add a clause prohibiting complainants from being forced to attend hearings that bring them face-to-face with the respondent.
3. Add an immunity clause to protect survivors from being sanctioned for drug or alcohol use at the time of the assault.
4. Amend the policy to allow the Review Committee to inform survivors of the sanctions ordered against the respondent (already found responsible of sexual assault).
5. Create a survivor advocate position, whereby a support worker will be able to help the survivor as they navigate the complaint process.

The policy has yet to address these concerns despite being pressed on the issues. A copy of the petition can be found: <https://goo.gl/KucUnn>

Additionally, we spoke to Summerlee about obtaining the GSA’s membership list. An outstanding problem at the GSA is our inability to communicate with our membership. Summerlee expressed shock at this and said that he would look into it. We hope that this issue is resolved quickly and we are following up with Summerlee about this issue.

Meeting with Administration and Student Representatives

On October 16, the administration held a lunch for student executives to discuss Carleton’s vision for mental health. A presentation was given of Carleton’s new mental health website and their new online counseling sessions.

At the meeting, VP-Student Affairs, Suzanne Blanchard, asked those in attendance if they had any ideas about where Carleton’s funding for mental health initiatives should be allocated. We asked if having an embedded grad councilor was still a priority and we brought up that students have expressed interest in peer-support.

The GSA is currently in discussion with students who are interested in leading a campaign on mental health. We are coordinating this effort through our Political Action Committee.

Political Action Committee

A reminder that the GSA’s Political Action Committee is planning to meet on Monday, November 6th at 5pm in the GSA Boardroom (6th Floor University Centre). All students interested in organizing on campus are invited to attend the meeting.

f. Questions

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
No report.
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
Budget approved and held first event.
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
No report.
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
Miles Krauter: Anti-O training on Friday 20th, from 10am – 5pm;
Organizing to support strike by College faculty.
- e. Carleton Post-Doctoral Association (CUPA)
No report.
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
No report.
- g. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
Zameer Masjedee: First townhall held today in the atrium and the next one will be in November; CUSA is considering implementing aid to help with name pronunciation during convocation.
- h. Presidential Search Committee
Meeting next Tuesday, October 24th, 2017
- i. Questions
Suggestion for CUSA: introduce phonetic cards to help with name pronunciation.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No report

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Motion 10.19.2017 – 01: Motion in Solidarity with the OPSEU College Academic Division**
Moved: Jenna Amirault (VP External)
Seconded: Kirk Kitzul (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)

Whereas on October 16, full-time and partial-load faculty (including instructors, librarians and professors) at Ontario’s 24 public colleges, as represented by OPSEU College Academic Division, went on strike; and

Whereas education is better when students have access to faculty with full-time jobs, job security and a dependable income; and

Whereas to ensure student success, they need the support of faculty who are given enough time and stability to develop curriculum, teach courses, provide out-of-class support, and use what they learn in one term to improve the course for the next term; and

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Whereas 81 percent of faculty are contract faculty with the kind of low-wage, precarious short-term jobs their students are trying to avoid; and

Whereas faculty and students don’t have a voice in decision making since Ontario’s colleges centralize both academic and administrative decision-making in the hands of administrators; and

Whereas faculty is fighting for academic freedom, to protect the academic integrity of programs and services; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA write a letter of solidarity and support to the OPSEU College Academic Division

Be it further resolved the GSA mobilize its members to support the strikers on the picket lines.

All in favour / none opposed

Approved

b) Discussion on the Roles of Councilors

- i) Introduction (5 minutes)
- ii) Break-Out Group Discussion (15 minutes)
- iii) Report Back (5 minutes)

Group 1: The GSA should incorporate more social events to bring different disciplines together.

Group 2: The GSA should host a movie screening night at the park or the garden, host marking groups for TAs, and host more board game nights for graduate students. Issues affecting graduate students: not all researchs assistants are unionized.

Group 3: Councillors should not only verbally report back to department but also send out blast emails to reach all students. The GSA should host more book launches and workshops on how to disseminate research.

Group 4: The GSA could host karaoke nights at Mikes Place and more outdoor events (ie: hiking & skiing). The GSA could advocate on behalf of international student funding, specifically for administration to improve GPA conversions and better award students with funding Possibly workshops on topics like alternatives to disseminating research.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to report.

11. ADJOURNMENT TO GSA INC. MEETING

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Moved by: Simon Vodrey (Communications)

Seconded by: Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

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