

## **GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES**

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario**

**Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

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### **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

*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**

- Charlie Helme-Smith (Economics)
- Lexi Zamoiski (NPSIA)
- Marianna Rankin (Social Work)
- Martin Martinov (Physics)
- Kristen Bussiere (English)
- Taryn Hepburn (Legal Studies)
- Melissa Pullara (English)
- Natalie Frowse (Neuroscience)
- Carmen Warner (Communication)
- Lucas Jerusalemiec (Political Science)
- Jason Beaver (GRC)
- Annika Mozzarella (Art History)
- Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
- Chelsea Nash (Communication)
- Abisail Curlew (Socio/Anth)
- Meral Hussein (Applied Linguistics)
- Brandon Clin (Political MGT)
- Jacky Tran (Public Policy and Administration)
- Marc Ashford (Political Science)
- Amin Ghaziaskan (Mech & Aero)
- Helyeh Doutaghi (Legal Studies)
- Aula Mustafa Public Policy and Administration)
- Trycia Bazinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)
- Ritvik Pandey (Engineering/Systems)
- Jacqueline Lalor (International Affairs)

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- Alexa Dodge (Law)
- Timothy Walen (Psychology)
- Vincent St-Martin (Office and Communications Coordinator)
- Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)
- Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (VP Operations)
- Zidan Mohamed (Membership Coordinator)
- Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)
- Jenna Amirault (VP-External)

Meeting called to order at 6:11 pm.

### **1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR**

#### **a. Announcement of Proxies**

- Dat Tran appointed Meral Hussein (Applied Linguistics)
- Anurag Das appointed Ritvik Pandey (Engineering/Systems)
- Rob Currie-wood appointed Marc Ashford (Political Science)

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Mover:** Brandon Clim (Political MGT)

**Seconded:** Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

Carried

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **a. E-minutes from January 25, 2018**

**Moved:** Trycia Bazinets (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)

**Seconded:** Jenna Amirault (VP-External)

Abstention: Brandon Clim

Carried

#### **b. Minutes from January 25, 2018**

**Moved:** Debbie Owusu Akyeeah (VP Operations)

**Seconded:** Carmen Warner (Communication)

Abstention: Brandon Clim

Carried

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **a. Upcoming General Elections**

### **5. ORDER OF THE DAY: Update from CUPE 2424 on Potential Strike or Lockout**

### **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

#### **a. VP Operations (Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah) on behalf of the President (Eric Hitsman)**

### **Leave of Absence**

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---

The Vice-President Finance of the GSA is presently on a leave of absence from her duties. The Executive and staff of the GSA wish her well and are working hard to make sure financial tasks are completed and processes maintained. There may be a slight delay in some operations, but we are confident that financial functions will remain operational.

### **Mike's Place Pub**

Soup has been introduced at Mike's Place. Currently we have Mulgatwani homemade soup, which is made with vegetables and lentils in coconut water. Come try it out!

The Executive and staff have had some preliminary discussions about updating the décor and look of Mike's Place. If you have any suggestions, feel free to let me know! I can be reached at [pres@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:pres@gsacarleton.ca).

- b. VP Operations (Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah)

### **Sexual Violence Policy**

Students will be receiving an email in the upcoming weeks that includes a survey from Student Voices on Sexual Violence. This survey from the province will give students the opportunity to provide feedback on issues pertaining to sexual violence. It is extremely crucial you provide feedback as it has come to our attention that the Board of Governors has decided to review the University's sexual violence policy. The areas that are up for review are all areas that the GSA has previously raised as concerns. Look out for a response to this by the GSA.

### **Electoral Board**

The Electoral Board has met and has hired a Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officer. The process for elections is currently underway with nominations opening on March 1.

- c. VP Academic (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

### **Racialized Action Committee Meeting**

The Racialized Action Committee had first event – Black Panther movie at Cineplex. The event was well received and we are planning on holding similar events in the future.

### **Discussions at Grad Faculty Board**

The GFB for the month of February took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and several points of discussion came up. One of the major concerns was that of international grad student funding, more specifically for PhD students. The International Graduate Student Working Group will be launched soon to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Donor funded awards update – there have been several issues with respect to these awards, and the awards office was not particularly helpful in answering some questions. I have challenged them on the deadlines, the selection process, the ease with which students can access information on awards etc. They have promised to work on this but unless we keep pushing them on this, we may never get answers. My hope is to continue to seek answers from them on this.

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---

I was asked to speak about the Mental Health petition that the GSA launched. The FGPA was not particularly happy about this. But they have promised to include our voices in the Graduate Student Mental Health Working Group.

### **Student-Supervisor Relationships**

I am continuing to have conversations about this. During the last few months of me being in this position, I have heard from many students about their relationship with their supervisors. I am still open to hearing from you folks and increasing the number of testimonials that will bolster our ability to urge senior admin to make changes. We can urge for a document to be made available to us that would outline some principles and procedures on the issue.

### **Departmental Town Halls**

We would like to hold departmental town halls. These town halls are opportunities for students to come together and meet with the GSA to reflect on their time in the program and present some questions or concerns. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this. Contact either myself (vpa@gsacarleton.ca) or Zidan (mc@gsacarleton.ca). There will be free food during these town halls. So you don't have to make dinner that day! We did one of the first ones this afternoon with the School of Social Work.

- d. VP External (Jenna Amirault)

### **Mental Health**

The Political Action Committee (PAC) has officially launched the petition for better grad mental health care on campus. On February 15, the Charlatan covered the launch of our petition and Debbie was interviewed. We have collected over 300 signatures so far and encourage councillors to share the petition in their department. We also received our first batch of anonymous testimonials about mental health services and they have been put up on our Instagram and Facebook.

This month, the call went out to councillors asking if anyone wanted to help represent grad students in the "Grad Student Mental Health Working Group" being spearheaded by Matthias Neufang and Paul Keen. There are 5 reps on the committee so far (Hemant Gupta, Timothy Whalen, Laura Dunbar, Jenna Amirault, and Zidan Mohamed).

Mental health petition: <http://gsacarleton.ca/mentalhealth/>

GSA Instagram: gsacarleton

### **Political Action Committee**

PAC is teaming up with Homes Not Bombs to host a workshop on direct action and coalition building. The event will be open to all students but will have limited space. We will notify council when the RSVP is sent out.

Event description:

## ***GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES***

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---

"Climate Change. Pipelines. War. Racism. How can we take nonviolent direct action to confront and transform injustices? What is and how does one organize a sit-in, a blockade? What happens if I get arrested? How can we be effective, accessible, transformative, and creative in our nonviolent direct actions? How do we care for one another in an action/campaign? This workshop on nonviolent direct action and creative protest will involve discussions on the history and philosophy of nonviolence, practical applications of this theory through civil disobedience/civil resistance, role plays, explorations of tactics to de-escalate crises, the legal ramifications of and winning courtroom strategies for civil disobedience (arrests, courts, detention), the role of affinity groups, self- and community-care as foundational principles for political action, accompaniment and witness as forms of solidarity, and more. This workshop is organized by Homes not Bombs, whose facilitators have conducted hundreds of such workshops throughout Ontario in jails, schools, labour unions, church groups, university campuses, and in preparation for major gatherings such as WTO meetings and G7 summits. Homes not Bombs is organizing with the Ontario-Muskrat Solidarity Coalition a nonviolent direct action on May 7 on Parliament Hill in solidarity with the Labrador Land Protectors"

### **Day of Action – February 1<sup>st</sup>**

The GSA, OPIRG, and the Canadian Federation of Students held a successful Day of Action at which the campaign to address mental health services was launched. Student issues were highlighted and discussed, which is especially pertinent given the upcoming provincial election.

### **Justice for Soli**

The GSA collaborated with the Muslim Student Association and the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa on the Justice for Soli Campaign. The GSA rented a bus to transport students from Carleton to an event at the University of Ottawa. The campaign is being led by a family who lost one of their members while being detained in prison and suffering from serious mental health issues. A motion on the campaign is being presented at this meeting.

### **Solidarity with CUPE 2424**

GSA Council passed a motion expressing solidarity with CUPE 2424 at its November 2017 meeting. The GSA and CUPE 4600 will be hosting an information session at 2:30 pm on Thursday, March 1, in the Grad Lounge (6<sup>th</sup> floor University Centre). A representative from CUPE 4600 will give an overview of the main issues in bargaining and will take questions. Free pizza will be served. I encourage Councilors to let their colleagues know about this event.

CUPE 2424 will also be holding a rally in the Atrium at noon on March 2. Everyone is invited and encouraged to wear blue.

In the event of a strike or lockout, the Union has not requested that the GSA offices relocate off campus or that Mike's Place close in solidarity. Rather, we are hoping that these locations can be spaces for students to discuss ongoing labour relations issues at Carleton University.

e. Questions

## ***GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES***

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---

### **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. Carleton Post-Doctoral Association (CUPA)
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- h. Presidential Search Committee
- i. Questions

### **8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Motion 27.02.2018 – 01: Justice for Soli Motion**

Moved By: Jenna Amirault (VP-External)

Seconded By: Abigail (Sociology)

Whereas on December 4, 2016, Solieman Faqiri was temporarily housed at the Central East Correctional Centre (CECC) in Lindsay, Ontario while awaiting a bed at the Ontario Shores Centres for Mental Health; and

Whereas Solieman had been previously diagnosed with schizophrenia and was identified as having urgent mental-health needs by his family and correctional staff; and

Whereas On December 15th 2016, only eleven days after being temporarily housed at CECC, Solieman was killed by guards after they applied force on him; and

Whereas the Coroner's report shows that Solieman had sustained 50 injuries on his body. A significant number of these injuries were due to blunt impact trauma following a prolonged altercation with prison guards in the segregation cell; and

**GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES**

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario**

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---

Whereas despite the extensive findings of the Coroner's report, the City of Kawartha Lakes Police Service ruled that “no grounds exist to process criminal charges against anyone who was involved with Mr. Faqiri prior to his death”, according to inspector Will Herbert; leaving the cause of Soleiman’s death unknown and with no accountability for it; and

Whereas Soleiman was not the first or last individual with mental health disabilities to die in an Ontario prison. The Ontario Human Rights Commission recently launched a legal action against the government of Ontario over its illegal use of solitary confinement detainment for prisoners with mental-health disabilities, in violation of a legally binding 2013 agreement signed by the province around the treatment of Christina Jahn; and

Whereas The Faqiri family remains concerned with the lack of transparency and accountability expressed by the Kawartha Lakes Police Service; and

Whereas On November 3, 2017 the Ontario Regional Coroner announced an inquest to publicly examine the events surrounding Solieman’s death; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA donate \$500 to for the Faqiri family’s legal representation at the upcoming inquest.

Carried

**b. Motion 27.02.2018 - 02: Motion to Approve a CUSERT Referendum Question in the GSA General Elections**

Moved By: Natalie Prowse (Board of Governors)

Seconded By: Brandon (Political Management)

Whereas the Carleton University Student Emergency Response Team (CUSERT), provides 24/7 emergency medical response services on campus, and;

Whereas CUSERT responds to all members of the Carleton community, regardless of whether they are undergraduate students, graduate students, staff/faculty, or visitors to campus, and;

Whereas CUSERT has a proven track record of improving emergency response on campus and supporting emergency services in Ottawa, and;

Whereas CUSERT has a wide range of operating costs, ranging from supplies/equipment to training, and;

Whereas CUSERT is completely funded by student levies, despite working under the Department of University Safety, and;

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---

Whereas the GSA has never had a levy set to help cover the costs of CUSERT, and;

Whereas CUSERT is constantly working to improve its response by seeking out new training and equipment, and is currently increasing its scope of practice, and;

Whereas CUSERT is a volunteer service that that both undergraduate and graduate students can apply to; therefore

BIRT the following referendum question be asked in the 2018 GSA General Elections:

Do you support creating a levy of \$1.31 per semester, indexed to the Consumer Price Index and prorated for part time students, to support the Carleton University Student Emergency Response Team (CUSERT)? Yes/No

Carried

**c. Motion 27.02.2018 – 03: Justice for Indigenous People**

Moved By: Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP-Academic)

Seconded By: Helyeh Doutaghi (Legal Studies)

Whereas, in the last couple of weeks, we have seen court decisions contrary to indigenous justice on two specific cases; and

Whereas, on August 9, 2016, an Indigenous man, Colten Boushie, was shot dead by Gerald Stanley in Battleford, Saskatchewan, and on August 17, 2014, an Indigenous woman Tina Fontaine was found murdered in Red River, Manitoba, by Raymond Cormier; and

Whereas at Stanley's and Cormier's trials in February 2018, an all-white jury in both cases acquitted them of wrongdoing resulting in no accountability for Boushie's and Fontaine's deaths; and

Whereas the Boushie and Fontaine families continue to fight against the injustice meted out to them and other Indigenous peoples across Canada, and the apathy of the judicial system; therefore

Be it resolved that the GSA, with the support of the Council, write a letter to the Attorney General of Canada, The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, urging an inquiry into each of the trials.

**Amendment: BIFRT the GSA support student led initiatives on justice for Indigenous people.**

Moved by: Trycia Bazinet (Indigenous and Canadian Studies)



***GSA COUNCIL – E-MINUTES***  
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---

Seconded by: Jenna Amirault (VP-External)

Amendment carries.

Motion carried as amended.

**d. Presentation and Discussion: Addressing Sexual Violence at Carleton**

Featuring the GSA Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Helyeh Doutaghi (Legal Studies)

**Seconded by:** Jay Ramasubramanyam (VP Academic)

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.