

## **GSA COUNCIL – Minutes**

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

**Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Monday, September 30, 2019**

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**CALL TO ORDER – 6:14 pm, Monday, September 30, 2019**

*We, the members of GSA-Carleton are committed to following Indigenous legal traditions of acknowledging the sovereign waters, lands, and the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Nation in the territory of the Kitchissippi watershed, which includes the City of Ottawa. In doing so, we are also acknowledging the illegalities of our presence under Indigenous legal traditions, and acknowledging the ongoing and violent methods of settler colonialism. This acknowledgment is but a first step in accepting our responsibility to correct these injustices through action and furthering the education of ourselves and others.*

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

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

None

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

**Moved:** Taryn

**Seconded:** Hassan

#### **- Emergency Motion:**

Condemn all forms of white supremacy on campus.

**Moved:** Simon

**Seconded:** Shalimar

Carries.

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

#### **a. Minutes from August 22nd, 2019**

**Moved:** Simon

**Seconded:** Taryn

Carries.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **a. GRC General Meeting -**

Graduate Resident Caucus: For students living on campus. It is to ensure that graduate students have a community. It is taking place this Sunday at 12pm at the GSA lounge.

#### **b. Peer Support Program -**

Mental health program: We are launching in October, around the 17th of October. It will be circulated in the bulletin. We are focused on one-one support to grad students and secondly, panels and workshops relating to workplace, gender or sexual violence.

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### **5. ORDER OF THE DAY: Councillor Orientation and Review of Robert's Rules of Order**

Shalimar: GSA is a democratic organization for graduate students, by graduate students. We provide health plans (and dental), peer support programs, scholarships/grants, political action committees against grievances on campus, printing services, and manage Mike's place.

The role of Council: You all have voting memberships and provide direction to executives. As a counselor, your role is to attend monthly meetings. Additionally, be involved in informing us about department engaging and community building activities. We work with Uottawa and other organizations and can be a great experience to learn how to manage activities and events at the university level.

### **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

a. President (Ashley Courchene)

Opt-outs: Less than expected, this is good news. Total revenue loss - \$28,0013.15. We need to keep resisting this because there are benefits to it. We must continue to resist it and one way to do it through Town Hall.

Candidate's Debate: All candidates running for Federal Elections. We would like to publically condemn the invite to PPC.

OC Transpo: There are troubles in accessing campus as Upass expires sooner during summer and students have issues in accessing the campus for classes. It might lead to a small increase in price.

b. VP Finance (Jesse Whattam)

Welcome weeks: We had a great time and had a balance of political and creative events. Students were interested and engaged, so that was fun.

Grants: We were able to negotiate \$41000 from FGPA, double from last year.

Mike's place: We focused on making people aware that Mike's place is on campus and we encouraged folks to get to it.

Carleton Admin: We are working on doing a strategic mandate. As the universities' performance is based on Ford's Mandates, so we wanted to make sure how that would affect post-grad students.

c. VP Operations (Shalimar Woods)

Welcome Weeks: Very fun, lots of community engagements and lots of events. We worked on making sure the spaces were social yet safe. We want to create an envt where grad students can meet and engage.

For one-one support, the first location: Equity services and second location: Women's centre. Events involving mental health will include positive masculinity. TA's are eligible are eligible to use their hours towards pedagogical hours.

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Council recruitments: The operations team and myself have worked hard on getting graduate students to come forward and get involved.

**d. VP Academic (Hemant Gupta)**

Welcome Weeks: Working on involving international students and host an event for them.

Council Recruitment: If you have friends in other departments who don't have representation, please ask them to join GSA.

**e. VP External (Namrata Tilokani)**

Welcome Weeks: It was amazing. It took a lot of planning but we got some really good feedback. I was more focused on mobilizing and the political side of things. We are thinking of doing departmental mobilization sessions.

PAC: During welcome weeks, we did a lot of reaching out and having people sign up. We would be meeting in the second week of October. We started a video project on recording experiences of students due to OSAP cuts.

OSAP Townhall: We decided to do this to highlight how it affects students, more specifically International students. We launching the invite tomorrow, its from 6-9 pm on the 4th floor.

Climate strike: We made signs and how the planet is getting affected. We all executives went out and 20,000 people showed up in Ottawa.

**f. Questions**

Codie: I was wondering if you were getting your membership?

Ashley: They have agreed to give names but we will still keep pushing for full information, and have spoken to a lawyer. The university refuses to give out information on members due to some legal pretenses.

Hassan: Student choice initiative - The student from Uottawa does not have option to opt-out of GSA, I was wondering why?

Ashley: If they are not following what the province has mandated, we only know that our administration has been trying to follow it properly. Every university has taken its own interpretation of the mandate. We heard that in some universities, it is not opt-out but opt-in which is worse. It is the individual admin of each university as to how it gets implemented. The admin will not listen to us on how to implement it.

Shawn: When students are engaging in climate strikes or events, there are elements that go rogue, so my question is if we are issuing anything to condemn those actions? Eg: there were issues or statements that students were swearing in meetings. Are we issuing statements separating us from them or are we not doing anything? I also saw people throwing eggs during climate strike and I was just hoping to know if society is issuing a statement?

- Jesse: As a collective, we make a decision on case to case basis.

- Ashley: there are different types of acceptable protests. As executives, we will do our best to represent our grad students but we don't have control over what other students are doing.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS**

**a. Senate & Senate Committees**

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- Nothing to report.
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
  - Nothing to report.
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
  - Nothing to report.

Taryn: It kind of came up in passing, the GFB as the board or at least the chair was talking about limiting Professional development funds i.e. having conferences. Lastly, they are working on doing TAships.

The TAships issue is vague. They are restructuring the way they are giving. No consultations with unions were made, but we hope they talk to students.

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

We are currently negotiating the contract for staff under CUPE 4600 and we are trying to negotiate with Doug Ford, who is never at the meetings. We are going to be giving lots of thorough details to everyone. If you want to get involved, there is a mobilization meeting in Canal meeting tomorrow, please come. The General Members Meeting this Wednesday at 6 pm.

Codie: We are looking for an alternative negotiating member. Please let anyone interested.

- e. Board of Governors (BOG)
  - Nothing to report.
- f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
  - Nothing to report.
- g. Questions
  - Nothing to report.

## **8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- Nothing to report

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Motion 09.30.2019—01: Motion to Impeach Doug Ford**

Moved: Ashley Courchene

Seconded: Namrata

Motivated by: Ashley

Whereas Doug Ford and the Ontario government have significantly cut funding for OSAP, making post-secondary education even more inaccessible to students;

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Whereas Doug Ford and the Ontario government have implemented the Student Choice initiative to weaken student unions ;

Whereas Doug Ford and the Ontario government have implemented policies that hurt large sectors of Ontario's population, especially the most marginalized ones;

Be it resolved that the GSA impeach Doug Ford.

Be it resolved that the GSA executive works with GSA members, other student unions and allies to advocate for a no-confidence vote in Doug Ford's government.

Ashley: This is only for example purposes as we wish to introduce the concept of Point of Order and striking out the clause from the agenda.

Discussion:

Favor of the motion: Namrata

The Student's choice initiative undermines the ability of students to get advocacy and have a safe space. We wish to work with other unions to eradicate this initiative.

Taryn: How can we go about pursuing the end of this motion?

Ashley: We have the OSAP Townhall. We need to gain insights and motivate the students to become interested in. In theory, we need to do a lot of coalition building, getting people agitated and riled up.

Jesse: There are so many mobilizations happening across the province. The idea is to connect it to the wider attack and doing education pieces. We can also sit down and talk about it as to what you would like to do.

Namrata: Hopefully this SCI is repealed. But if it is not, we are definitely having conversations across the province to move forward.

Amendment: Motion to Amendment to Resolution that "GSA will write an open letter to an MPP. If SCI is not repealed, we will discuss a petition."

Moved: Namrata

Seconded: Ashley

Passed unanimously.

**b) Motion 09.30.2019-02: Condemn all forms of white supremacy on campus**

**Motivated by:** Ashley

Questions:

Taryn: What kind of de-escalating activities are you thinking about?

Ashley: We asked CUSA to revoke the invite to PPC. But when this was not going to happen, we decided to publish a statement condemning their actions and ask people to show up and express their displeasure. We have also discussed drowning them out, creating a live feed.

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Ashley: We also know that they are using something for audio will get through a live feed, so we will have to maybe create signs.

We are having a meeting for this event on October 2nd, tomorrow at 3 pm.

Taryn: What excuses were they giving?

Ashley: They basically said that Global affairs allowed PPC on their debate so will we.

Namrata: They also said that many people are collaborating on this debate, so they can not uninvite the PPC candidate.

Shalimar: They said that it is complicated to rescind. Which it is not, because there are other ways. But this is what we got.

Taryn: Can we reach out to other people collaborating?

Ashley: Yes, we are discussing that tomorrow at 3 pm in the grad lounge.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Codie

**Seconded by:** Ashley

**Adjourned on 7:47 pm**