

**GSA COUNCIL – AGENDA Carleton University Graduate
Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario Robertson Hall, Senate
Chamber - 6:00 pm – Thursday, August 22nd, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:05 pm , Thursday, August 22, 2019

We, the members of GSA-Carleton are committed to following Indigenous legal traditions of acknowledging the sovereign waters, lands and the Algonquin Anishinabeg 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 acknowledgement 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

- Simon on behalf of Carmen from Communications

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Simon

Seconded: Namrata

Carries

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from June 27th, 2019

Moved: Hemant

Seconded: Hasan

Carries.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report

5. ORDER OF THE DAY:

a) OSAP discussion:

Questions:

1. Namrata: it was trending on twitter a while ago that the grants and fundings have been cut down. We would like to know your opinions and/or if you have been approached by someone about it?
2. Simon: Can you tell us about the reduction in grants and fundings, please? I'm not aware of it.
3. Namrata: The tuition aid estimator has been showing less support to grad and undergrad students applying for funding. There is a big protest outside Doug Ford's office. It affects low-income students because the grants are being turned into loans, so it is going to put a lot of burden on them.
4. Katie: I agree, now that the cuts have been solidified, its putting a lot of pressure. A lot of my friends have said to me that if they were not close to finishing their degrees they would have dropped out.
5. Shalimar: To add the GSA perspective, if you can bring this back to your friends or departments that GSA offers scholarships and funds to students, it would be great. So with the cuts coming to OSAP, please let everyone who is looking, especially this year, that we have the resources available. For all MA, Ph.D. students.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Ashley Courchene)
- b. VP Finance (Jesse Whattam)

Presented by Shalimar:

Mike's place: Jesse is working closely with the budget committee, focusing on changes to improve the space. This means changes to the menu items, activities and events to be held, along with changes in the hiring process. She is working with the budgetary Committee established in April.

- c. VP Academic (Hemant Gupta)
- d. VP External (Namrata Tilokani)

Political Action Committee: It is important to mobilize students and we will particularly start meeting in July. It is specifically about OSAP cuts and about

Student choice Initiatives.

Also, we are going to have a host website and the videos from the platform will be uploaded to social media and we aim to tag Ministers like Doug Ford. The idea is to start an education piece which can also be a conversation starter.

OSAP Town hall: Highlighting student experiences is important, not only digitally but also in-person. We would also like to discuss the burden on International Students who pay international Fee. It is at 5:30 pm and the venue is yet to be decided.

Welcome Week: Our calendars are being finalized right now and we can give them to you! We would like for you to hand it out to new students in your department. It will help new students overcome Isolation.

Opt-in:

Namrata: Did you see any posters to stay opted-in with GSA?

Simon: Yes

Namrata: If you need materials to email or give to students, please let me know. I would be happy to provide you with materials to help students make a choice.

CSF: We discussed membership and how govt will impact our membership. Like if students don't opt-in, then how will it impact us. We also talked about Campaign, and networked to have solidarity student actions against these cuts.

e. VP Operations (Shalimar Woods)

Peer-support groups: We are working with other organizations such as FGPA, to help students who may face problems on campus and with students. There are three components within the group:

- Grad Life - To help students settle in, especially international students.
- Mental Health - We have actually finalized a counselor. But we are looking for Volunteers. There are two training workshops lined up as well.
- Sexual Assault - We have done some internal hiring (outreach coordinator). The coordinator will oversee the programs, activities, and events. We welcome volunteers, please ask for volunteers from your departments. We are also looking forward to Counsel Recruitment in the fall.

Questions

1. Simon: Can you send us the list of departments you have contacted? That way we can know if We need to speak to our departments in involving you with the Orientation?

2. Simon: When are we going to know how much people will stay opt-in?

Zidan: We can not commit to a number now, as the number will change once the fall semester starts but right now it's looking closer to 80%.

3. Simon: Do we need to reach out and speak on behalf of GSA, as to why people should stay opted-in or is this something you guys will do?

Shalimar: Feel free to do it. We are too planning strategies to reach out to students.

4. Hasan: How come Uottawa students can not opt-out of GSA fee but Carleton Students can? Are both GSA under one law? The most one can opt-out at Uottawa is \$23.

5 Hasan: We just registered for the Fall semester, there was no GSA fee in the Student account? I was already opted-out, how can I opt-in? The students are not automatically opted-in and I believe the GSA will lose out. Have you heard from other students about this?

Zidan: It is definitely at step 4, please go back and check. You are probably automatically opt-ed in.

Hemant: By default you are opted-in. The keyword GSA is not there, the services are divided. With the Communications department, we need someone to contact us back for the Department Orientation.

7. You said there are two different types of training for Peer-support group. Could you elaborate more?

Shalimar: The students involved with sexual assault will need more training as it is a highly sensitive matter and will need more sensitivity training. From Sept 17 to Oct 1, we are having training and workshops on the same. We can provide more details once we launch.

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

- Nothing to report

b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

- Nothing to Report

c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

- Nothing to Report

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

- Nothing to Report

f. Board of Governors (BOG)

- Nothing to Report

g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

- Nothing to Report

i. Questions

- To be taken at the end together with other business.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Nothing to Report

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothing to Report

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Questions:

- Simon: I wanted to ask about updates for Mike's place that can be shared publicly?
- Zidan: Aesthetically we are improving. We have a new Manager, who is starting on Monday. We are planning to change the food supplier and we are closely working with the Budgetary Committee. We are also looking to slowly change the menu items which is healthy but affordable/cheap.
- Simon: So, it's going to survive then?
- Zidan: Yes, as opt-ins are up and our idea to strike a break-point. Current numbers are looking promising. We hope to have a strong year ahead.
- Shalimar: When we did do our budget report and discussed mike's place, it was based on 30% opt-in. Through the summer, we were able to cut costs and also reconstruct some expenditure.
- Simon: Softball will be back to business next year? Coming Spring? Will the GSA be running it?
- Shalimar: We will know better based on our income on Winter Semester. Come back with the same question in May.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting is adjourned at 6:48 PM