

GSA COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – Monday, September 28th, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 pm

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

- i. Ashley Promislow appointed Tarah Lemours – Applied Linguistics
- ii. Nathan Murtha appointed Bindiya Chama – Physics
- iii. Tessa Pinch appointed Lean Wilson – Legal Studies

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Chi-Chi

Seconded: Namrata

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the last meeting.

Moved: Tarah

Seconded: Chi-Chi

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sharing the recording with those not having access i.e other councillors.

5. ORDER OF THE DAY:

- **Presentation of Reports and Motions**

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Namrata Tilokani)
- b. VP Finance (Hemant Gupta)
- c. VP Academic (Victoria Asi)

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- d. VP External (Harar Hall)
- e. VP Operations (Chichi Ayalogu)
- f. Questions
 - 1. Taryn - Can we get a bit of information on the expectations of a Board Member?

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)
- f. Board of Governors (BOG)
- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- i. Questions
 - 1. Taryn - Have we updated the list for new GFB members?

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Nothing to Report

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 30.09.2020 - 01: Cell Phone and Internet

Moved By: Namrata

Seconded By: Hemant

Whereas COVID-19 has exacerbated the need to communicate via internet and through personal cell phones,

Whereas executive members of the GSA do not get reimbursed for their cell phone usage and internet usage,

Whereas having this reimbursement would be helpful to eliminate technology barriers with regards to working from home,

BIRT Council approve the expenditures for the five (5) Executive members to each have a cell phone benefit of \$80 per month and internet benefit of \$50 per month.

Motion to Amend: BIRT Council approve the expenditures for the five (5) Executive members to each have a cell phone benefit of \$80 per month (increased from \$20/month) and internet benefit of \$50 per month, as of September 1st, 2020.

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Moved by: Namrata

Seconded by: Hemant

Motion to Amend: Carries.

Discussion/Questions:

1. Is there an end date of this measure?
2. Is this intended to be a permanent increase? Or a COVID accommodation?
3. Would it be possible to get some information on what other benefits the executives get?
4. Could you please explain to me if you are planning to upgrade your internet and data?
5. Has there been an increased need to use data/international calls for each executive member due to COVID -19?
6. Would this monetary compensation come from the budget?
7. Is there an increased use in phone data?
8. It's understood about the usage for bandwidth and that the internet can be a problem since everything is online, however if calls are not necessary, why would the phone budget be needed to be increased?
9. Has the \$20.00 budget for phones been a longstanding benefit?
10. Based on the discussion of longstanding benefits, shouldn't these be two different amendments i.e. one for internet for COVID-19 and one for phones in general to act as a perk for exec?

Comments:

Nathan: I think unless this is a policy/bylaw change, it expires at the end of April 2021 regardless.

Taryn: It is perhaps worth noting that most jobs that require use of your personal phone include some compensation for that.

Motion Carries.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Questions:

- **Taryn:** How shall we proceed with nominations for incoming representatives?
- **Hemant:** Starting a channel for new grad admits. What is the good medium in terms of social media for connecting with graduates?

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:08pm.