

CALL TO ORDER – 6:04pm, Monday, December 3rd, 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:

Hemant Gupta (Computer Science)
Alaine Spiwak (BOG)
Sidney Moran (SICS)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Alexa Dodge (Senate)
Carmen Warner (Communication)
Pansee Atta (Cultural Studies)
Cathy Aqyemang (Cognitive Science)
Seung Lee (Mechanical & Aerospace)
Tariqa Tandon (Political Science)
Clave Classio (Social Work)
Bridgette Desjardins (Legal Studies)
Jesse Winatom (PECO)
Etaï Gibli (NPSIA)
Annika Mazarella (Art History)
Hesam Farahani (ALDS)
Kristen Webstern (Public Policy & Admin)
Michael Hyjik (Public Policy & Admin)
James Patriguin (Political Science)
Lelan Dunn (Psychology)
Saram Tari (Social Work)
Taryn Hepburn (Legal Studies)
Simon Vodery (Communication)
Brendan Conway-Smith (Cognitive Science)
Fatimah Emeitori (International Affairs)
Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)
Miranda Leibel (VP-Operations)
Ashley Courchene (VP-Finance)

Farima (VP-Academic)
Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)
Mohammad Akbar (Office Communications Coordinator)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

- a. Announcement of Proxies

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: James

Seconded: Miranda

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Minutes from November 21st, 2018

Moved: Sidney

Seconded: Miranda

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Councilor Appreciation Social: tonight at Mike's!
- b. Council dates for Winter semester: Mark your calendars!
 1. January 14th (6-9pm)
 2. February 13th (6-9pm)
 3. March 13th (6-9pm)
 4. April 8th (6-9pm)

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

- a. Presentation from Amber Lannon, Wayne Jones, Joanne Rumig, and Patti Harper from the Macodrum Library

- More regular meetings with the GSA executives;
Request for a scanner in the reserve area (will take place in January)
Theses are now available in the Archive
Starting this year, you will only be charged for the reserve and recall; if you have a book and no one asks about it, you will not be charged.
- Miranda: Concerning the government documents, is it acceptable to be disregarded, or will it be scanned to be available in an archive for future consultation?
Amber: It is under review for the time being.
- Carmen: I have heard that the space of the library is part of the material shrinking, like the stack in the library; there will be fewer books on display, is this true?
Amber: There is no actual finite plan for this, but it could be under review if we do not have the right mix of seats, compared to our peers.

- Taryn: Do you know if there is a plan yet about the books that you will disregard? Are they going to give them to students?
Amber: We still have not decided on that. It is still way far ahead of where we would be, but I think faculties will give us feedback about what to do with them.
- Codie: Many departments and faculties have their own libraries; bigger universities even have multiple libraries. Are you considering opening other libraries?
Wayne: No, we are not willing to open a new library; it is costly, but we have storage space for the collections.
- Jay: Will the grad space increase or decrease?
Amber: the number of spaces (grad spaces) will remain the same.
- Farima: The 5th floor in the library is mainly allocated for grad students, but it is hard to distinguish if the people using them are grad or undergrad students.
Amber: The 5th floor is open to everybody, not only assigned to grad students.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- c. President (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

Grad Student Funding

Just a little more clarity on Grad Student Funding from last council meeting:

- RA Matching Scholarships are being extended to new domestic PhDs in 2019-20
- The RA Matching Model provides an additional \$1,000/year in scholarship money if an RA of \$3,000/year (or more) is offered, or an additional \$2,000/year in scholarship money if an RA of \$6,000/year (or more) is offered.
- The Matching Scholarship continues for the length of the RA, up to a maximum of two years (Master's) or four years (PhD).
- 2019-20 International Doctoral Excellence Programs (IDEs) are allocated to specific Faculties. Faculties can offer tuition support to additional international PhD applicants via Faculty funded bursaries.
- Faculties' Associate Deans determine the distribution of IDEs to their academic units, and the selection of IDE recipients, as well as the allocation of any additional Faculty funded international tuition support.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee

Equity Services is looking for a grad student rep to sit on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee. If you are interested please send an email to Bailey Reid (bailey.reid@carleton.ca) with a letter of intent.

Artwork

We are accepting artwork to exhibit at Mike's Place. Please let me know if you are interested. You can email me on pres@gsacarleton.ca. Please let your colleagues and friends know as well.

Goody bags

We plan on handing out a few goody bags as end of year self-care kits. So... watch this space!

d. VP Finance (Ashley Courchene)

Mikes Place Revitalization:

After successful Pomo of Mill Street Mountain Bike, Steam Whistle German Stain, and Moosehead Winter Toque, an another promo will start on Monday.

Buy pint of Muskoka Detour for \$1.00 off and you can win "cool" Vintage Cooler.

Gareth, one of our Mike's Place staff, has let us know about some student artwork that the Neuroscience Department has been holding onto from some of their previous events, so we are going to be putting that artwork on display pretty soon. Shout-outs to Gareth and the rest of the Mike's Place staff for bringing this to our attention. We're excited that we can showcase student artwork at Mikes.

We're still accepting artwork however. If you would like to have your artwork exhibited, please contact gsa@gsacarleton.ca Please ensure that your artwork is framed for display. There is a small honorarium for artists. The GSA will ensure that artists' names are clearly displayed while the work is being exhibited.

ReconciliAction:

We officially structured our organization to have 2 co-chairs, a secretary, someone for social media and a treasurer. **We are looking for a social media coordinator and canvassers. If you want to get involved in some Indigenous language revitalization projects, email me at vpf@gsacarleton.ca** There is a space open for you to do that in those positions.

Our plans for a conference that focuses on the significance of language revitalization is underway as well. The conference's name is "Let us speak strong" and we are reaching out to potential keynote speakers. The conference will be held in late February, early March, so watch out for that.

Grants & Scholarships:

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the scholarships and awards meeting. I sent out a doodle poll to everyone although I did get some bounce-back emails, so if you didn't get the email, please come see me after this meeting and we'll get acquainted for the next meeting.

First meeting according to the doodle poll: tomorrow at 4pm. Come to the GSA boardroom and we will eat cookies and discuss things.

- e. VP Operations (Miranda Leibel)

Peer Support Programming

The peer support programming has been exceptionally well-received thus far. In the first week of promoting the program, our peer support coordinator received over twenty applications from graduate students who want to be involved in the program. We will be interviewing over the next couple of weeks to select our peer support team for the winter semester.

We held our peer support launch event last Thursday, November 29th, in the GSA lounge. The launch event was an opportunity for graduate students to meet with our peer support coordinator, the new grad counselor, and other Carleton staff working to develop this programming. It was also an opportunity for graduate students to provide input on the kind of programming and initiatives that graduate students would like to see on campus. We received a lot of really great feedback, and graduate students were able to share concerns, questions, and experiences with each other and with mental health staff.

We are hoping to have one workshop in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned on the GSA Facebook and Instagram pages for more information.

Graduate Student Counselor

The graduate student counselor has been working out of FGPA on Thursday afternoons on a drop-in basis from 1:00pm to 3:45pm. If you wish to be seen for one of these drop-in sessions, you can visit the FGPA reception area on the 5th floor of the Tory Building.

Sexual Violence Policy Review

The GSA's involvement in the sexual violence policy review has been an ongoing priority over this semester. We are almost ready to send out a draft of the joint GSA/CUPE 4600 response letter. This letter has been developed and written by members of the Consent Culture Committee, which includes GSA staff and executive, as well as CUPE 4600 leadership, and graduate students from across campus. When it is ready to be sent out, it would be great to have graduate student societies across campus sign on to the letter.

The closed session design thinking workshop for graduate students was held this afternoon.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

Planning is underway for Sexual Assault Awareness Week, happening January 21st to January 25th 2019.

I have been meeting on an ongoing basis with a number of campus partners, including the Womxn's Centre, the Wellness Centre, and Equity Services in preparation for the keynote event. We were hoping to have Tarana Burke as the keynote speaker, however she has cancelled and we are searching for a new keynote address.

The GSA's Sexual Assault Awareness Week planning committee met for the first time just before the council meeting. We have a number of exciting initiatives that we are planning to include, specifically geared towards Carleton graduate students. One event that I am able to share, that we are very excited about, is a collaboration between CUPE 4600 and the GSA, and will be an arts-based workshop held on Friday, January 25th.

If you are interested in being involved with planning or implementation for Sexual Assault Awareness Week, please get in touch with me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Powershift 2019

Organizers of Powershift 2019 have been in touch with me to seek the GSA's endorsement and engagement for the 2019 Powershift symposium, happening in Ottawa. This year's symposium is primarily organized around the 2019 federal election, and the need to promote climate change and climate justice as a central election issue.

Powershift is a youth-led symposium dedicated to climate justice activism. They organize in Ottawa, across Canada, and internationally. This year, the focus is on building capacity for collective climate justice organizing. Two of the keynote speakers will be Christi Belcourt, a Métis artist and organizer, and Kanahus Manuel, a [Secwepemc](#) and [Ktunaxa](#) organizer, and one of the founders of the Tiny House movement in BC.

I have submitted a motion for this council meeting to seek council's endorsement of this event.

Processing Party Event

Jess, one of our Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinators, is planning a 'Processing Party' event for the end of term. This is an opportunity to come together as a community to practice community- and self-care. This event is especially geared towards preparing for the holidays, which may be emotionally difficult or stressful for many of us.

The event will be held Thursday, December 13th, at 6pm in the GSA lounge. More information will be available soon.

f. VP Academic (Farima Afaq)

Final Shout Out:

Graduate Student Representative for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs

We are currently assisting the Provost office with their recruitment for a Graduate Student Representative for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, who would participate in a committee chaired by the Provost to select the next dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and make a recommendation to the President. The student must be a current full-time graduate student, preferably female to represent the diversity of our student body. The committee will meet late in the day or early in

the evening, and interviews are often held during the weekends. The committee may complete its search by the end of March 2019.

I hope students will consider getting involved in this rewarding opportunity, and if interested, they can directly reach out to me at vpa@gsacarleton.ca by **Tonight**.

Freedom of Speech:

The freedom of speech policy passed at the Senate Meeting on November 30, 2018. Thanks to our team at the GSA, we did ensure that the interests of student organizations that act for and by the students are preserved. The student based organizations including the GSA were ensured that the proposed Freedom of Speech policy doesn't supersede the current existing legal relationship between the university and its student associations.

Goody Bags:

As Jay had mentioned about the end of the term "be well and feel well" goody bags, which we hope to distribute to your respective departments within the next couple of weeks. You will find in the bags "everyone loves to eat items," including chocolate, candy, tea bags, chips, gums, etc.

If your schedule allows and you would like to be part of this fun activity and go to your departments with us, please let either myself or Jay know. This way, you will also ensure that you can get a bag of your own.

Student Engagement Initiative

As mentioned last council that we are in the process of working on the initiative to engage more graduate students and more departments, potentially starting with an event for student society representatives. Stay tuned!

We would also appreciate your feedback and opinions and if you would like to be part of this discussion, please connect with me, or shoot me an email at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

g. VP External (Helia Doutaghi)

Trailblazing with Knowledge – MSA , GSA Networking Event

We were so excited to see so many of our members and undergraduate students who are thinking of doing graduate school join us in Friday 23rd November. Our speakers talked about their stories and we had very engaging Q&A session. We will be holding more events with MSA in the near future.

Mental Health First Aid Training

We will confirm the dates soon. In the meanwhile, please contact me if you have any questions. The following provides a brief background:

What is Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis is resolved. The concept is based on the model of medical first aid. Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based course which has been formally evaluated and shows a number of benefits:

- Better recognition of mental health problems
- Increased knowledge about appropriate treatments
- Reduced stigma
- Increased confidence in providing help to others

What is the Purpose of the course?

Mental Health First Aid Course teaches people to:

- Identify when a person may be a danger to themselves or to others and take steps to preserve life.
- Recognize the early signs of mental health problems and provide help toward preventing more serious problems from developing.
- Provide comfort to someone with a mental health problem and support them in their recovery.
- Guide a person toward the appropriate professional help.

After completing the Mental Health First Aid Canada course, participants will receive a Mental Health First Aid Canada Certificate.

Participants are also provided with the first aid package which covers the course content and provides additional resources. Participants must attend all 12-14 hours of the course to receive their certificate.

For more information on the Agenda, feel free to contact me at vpv@gscarleton.ca

The Emergency CFS Ontario Executive meeting

The meeting was supposed to take place last week. However, we were not able to reach quorum and thus it has been postponed. I will have more updates on the results in the next meeting.

Movie Night with PAC

We had a great movie night on Friday with our PAC crew. Thanks everyone who came out and watched “sorry to bother you” with us.

Ontario General Meeting

The OGM will be taking place from January 17-20 in Toronto. Please contact me if there are any specific motions you would like the GSA to put forward. Otherwise I will have updates on the upcoming meeting.

National Graduate Caucus

I am working with the National Graduate Caucus and following up different local's policies on the freedom of speech. We are further working on an online mental health services for graduate students across the country. I will have more updates on that soon.

h. Questions

- Nothing to report.

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

- Alexa: The Senate has changed the tone of the policy of free speech. People received it well and no body voted against it.

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)

- Wesley: Over this year, we are working on setting standards; we are having meetings with two different committees: TA committee and Contract Instructor Committee.
There are certain people who are working more than 130 hours, we are not going to stop them, but you need to know that you can actually be paid overtime.
CI may go on strike, this is the kind of scenario we are look at.
We are going to elect three presidential positions, if you or somebody else in your department is interested in that, please email me.
Also on the meeting, we will be bargaining proposals in order to avoid strikes.

e. Board of Governors (BOG)

- We had people coming over to speak about mental health.
We had an update from the indigenous community.
We got an update on the free speech policy.
Our next meeting is March 28.

f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

- Nothing to report.

g. Questions

- Melissa Conte: About the over time, is this in our collective agreement?
Wesley: the first 130 hours are paid by the FGPA, the overtime hours have to be approved by the department because they are paid by the department.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Nothing to report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Motion 03-12-2018-01: Motion to Amend GSA-Carleton's Land Acknowledgement Policy**
Moved: Ashley Courchene (VP-Finance)
Seconded: James

Whereas acknowledging the territories of Indigenous nations are a part of broader Indigenous legal traditions, and;

Whereas these traditions are founded on the principles of respect for territorial rights, reciprocity, and renewal, and;

Whereas the GSA-Carleton is dedicated to these principles embedded in Indigenous legal traditions;

Be It Resolved that the GSA Land Acknowledgment Policy be amended to the following:

The GSA acknowledges that the lands we occupy are the territories of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg nation, which were never given willfully to the Canadian state. The GSA also recognizes that we as students continue to benefit from the ongoing colonization of the waters and lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Nation.

The GSA opposes further colonization of Algonquin Anishinaabeg, their waters or lands, and commits to engage in the process of decolonization. The GSA fully supports substantive and active steps towards the decolonization of these lands and waters.

We assert that decolonization and solidarity with the Algonquin Anishinaabeg is an ongoing and unending process that touches every aspect of how the GSA operates on illegally occupied territories. This work requires us to engage in Indigenous legal traditions that are founded on the principles of respect for territorial rights, reciprocity, and renewal. These principles are central to our operation as an organization.

It is the policy of the GSA that the following statement be read before all council and committee meetings, as well as any event held or hosted by the GSA. Such a statement is not an end in and of itself, but rather represents a continuous and ongoing commitment to take substantive action;

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 acknowledgement is but a first step in accepting our responsibility to correct these injustices through action and furthering the education of ourselves and others.

Carried.

b) Motion 03-12-2018-02: Motion to Endorse Powershift 2019
Moved: Miranda Leibel (VP-Operations)
Seconded: Sidney

Whereas Powershift has been a leader in empowering youth-driven climate change organizing in Ottawa, across Canada, and at an international level, and;

Whereas 2019 is a federal election year in Canada, and;

Whereas the Liberal government under Justin Trudeau's leadership has pushed for the expansion of the tar sands industry, as well as additional pipeline construction and enhancement projects, and;

Whereas the effects of climate change have become increasingly apparent in massive and destructive wildfires, rising sea levels, and other destructive climate conditions such as hurricanes and flooding, and;

Whereas climate change activism intersects with a number of priorities identified by the GSA, including Indigenous sovereignty, anti-racism, and gender-based violence activism, and;

Whereas the GSA has previously committed to climate activism, and is recognized as a leader in climate activism within the Ottawa community

Be it resolved that the GSA endorse the Powershift 2019 federal event being held in Ottawa, and;

Be it further resolved that the GSA sponsor the costs up to five (5) Carleton graduate student participants at the Powershift 2019 symposium.

Carried.

c) Motion 03.12.2018-03: Motion on Labour Solidarity
Moved: Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)
Seconded: Codie

Whereas on November 26th, Canada's Senate passed a back to work legislation to resume mail services and end the ongoing six-week long strike action by Canada Post, and;

Whereas this amounts to stripping workers of the constitutional right to strike and ensue labour action, and;

Whereas the implementation of Bill C-89 has implications on the autonomy of labour unions like CUPW, and;

Whereas this creates a dangerous and negative precedent for other labour unions' ability to strike

Be it resolved that the GSA stands in solidarity with our friends in the CUPW, and;

Be it further resolved that a letter of solidarity be sent to the union in support of their strike action, and;

Be it further resolved that the GSA organize a solidarity contingent/delegation to support the efforts of CUPW/UNIFOR on these issues.

Carried.

d) Motion 03.12.2018: Motion on Labour Solidarity
Moved: Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)
Seconded: Clare

Whereas on November 26th, General Motors announced the closure of the Oshawa Plant, where 4000 jobs are at stake, and;

Whereas UNIFOR and the Ontario Federation of Labour have condemned the announcement and have vowed to fight it, and;

Whereas GM is pursuing this move despite posting record profits and after receiving significant support from Canadians through government bailouts, and;

Whereas this potentially represents the start of a move to shut down auto plants across Canada, therefore;

Be it resolved that the GSA stand in Solidarity with UNIFOR, the OFL, and the CLC in defending Canadian workers, and;

Be it further resolved that the GSA write a letter of support to UNIFOR Local 222 in Oshawa and to UNIFOR National, in support of the workers affected.

Carried.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- Nothing to report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: James

Seconded by: Sidney

Meeting adjourned 07:21 pm.