

***GSA COUNCIL –Meeting Minutes
Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Wednesday, November 21st, 2018***

CALL TO ORDER – 6:05pm, Wednesday, November 21st, 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.

Start at 6:05 PM

Attendance-

Anna (Ania) Paluch: ICSLAC (Cultural Mediation)
Leigh Dunn: PEISA
Bridgette Desjardins: Law and legal studies
Tariqa Tandon: Political Science
Maggie Bryan (Proxy): Art and History
Reza Samanfar: Computer Science
Cathy Agyemang: Institute of Cognitive Science
Pansee Aloan El Atta: Curatorial Studies
Carmen Warner: Communication
Lauren Thompson: Psychology
Morissa Gaudette (Proxy): SLALS (ALDS)
Jennifer Liu: Journalism
Sidney Moran: SICS
Simon Vodrey: Communication
Hesam Farahani: ALDS
Jane Sarrah: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Sean Sarrah: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Itai Gibli: NPSIA
Lauren Watts: Geography and Environmental Studies
Edna Tehranzaden: Health Sciences
Brendan Conway Smith: Cognitive Science

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1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

Reza Samanfar for Hemant Gupta (Computer Science)
Marissa Gaudette for Codie Fortin Lalonde (Linguistics and Language studies)
Hasam Farahani
Maggie Bryan from Art and history Department

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Simon Vodrey

Seconded: Helia

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from October 30th, 2018

Moved: Sidney Moran

Seconded: Jay Ramasubramanyam

Carried

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Council Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendars:

Monday, December 3, 6 PM

b. Reminder to fill out councilor nomination forms

Miranda: Announcement for filling out new councilor nomination forms and submitting them to the GSA

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

a. Discussion with Melissa Philpott, the Graduate Student Mental Health Peer Support Coordinator on the new mental health programming for Carleton graduate students.

Melissa Philpott: Focusing on Peer support and peer support volunteers. Current Peer support hours are Tuesdays 12-4PM in GSA Boardroom. November 29, open house for peer support between 7PM-9PM at GSA lounge. Overview of peer support program, mental health support group and have some snacks. Chance to meet new grad counselor.

Bridgette: Date for Event.

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Melissa: Event is on 29th November, 7PM to 9PM and chance to meet new Grad Counselor.

- b. Presentation on the review of the Sexual Violence Policy with Bailey Reid, Equity Advisor and Coordinator of Sexual Assault Services.

Bailey Reid: Last year, former president, committed to review Sexual Violence policy. Starting this year, Pre-consultation phase is done in August and Consultation phase begin in August and that is also completed. Carleton is currently in the listening phase and collecting feedback and ideas from online anonymous forms.

Hosting Consultation meeting with key stake holders and GSA is one of those. Also doing design thinking workshop to solicitate feedback with open and close sessions.

First week of December for Workshop.

Pansee – Description on the Design thinking Workshop.

Bailey: Workshop are design to think as designer. Agenda is available online. Series of group activities for policies where we are come with values on sexual violence policies should contain three different perspectives: the university as user; user being a survivor; user being a respondent. Answering the questions on few situation-based question.

Bailey: Announcement- Equity Services moving to new location in CTTC Building.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive Reports – GSA Council meeting – November 21, 2018

A.

PRESIDENT

Report respectfully submitted by Jay Ramasubramanyam

International Graduate Student Working Group

The International Graduate Student Working Group met on the 12th of November to discuss more issues surrounding international graduate students. There have been discussions on how international students would benefit from reduced tuition fees. The procedure is going to be decentralized. Departments will be allocated a certain amount of money to distribute to their international student doctoral candidates.

Issues around Research Assistants

There have been several complaints mostly from NSERC departments about Research Assistants not being paid— could be the result of several loose agreements (verbal or otherwise). So, if you hear anything in your departments, please let me or Farima know so that we can advocate more strongly. I have already asked the FGPA to send out a PSA to this effect, but I am not sure if this is a possibility. We need stronger advocacy in order to ensure that students don’t get taken advantage of.

B.

VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE

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Report respectfully submitted by Ashley Courchene

Mikes Place Revitalization

We are focusing on three areas of improvement for MP:

- a. Increased marketing. Myself, our MP manager and our finance officer are working for a new marketing campaign that will be launched soon.
- b. We are calling for artwork by local artists to display their work. This is a venture that the GSA would like to undertake to support local artists and strive to give them the best opportunities to exhibit their work. We plan on showcasing and featuring an array of artists. We are passionate about creating a space for up and coming artists in the community to thrive and create long lasting relationships with the Graduate Students’ Association. We will be accepting artwork on a rolling basis until the 10th of December 2018. 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.
- c. Rebranding: This is of course in just the discussion phase, but if it is to continue we want student input on the matter. Once we figure out the logistics for student consultation we may be pushing ahead with this.

ReconciliAction

Our indigenous language education campaign is well underway.

We are currently looking at starting a new conference that focuses on the significance of language revitalization, which we are hoping will take place early in the new year.

We are also hoping to create a promotional video about reclaiming indigenous languages. I’ve talked to Jennifer Liu, our journalism Councilor here at the GSA, who will hopefully be helping out with that video. If you know anyone who wants to get involved in either the conference or the video, please email Gavin Woodburn at reconciliAction.carleton@gmail.com

There is also the possibility that I will be a part of launching this campaign at Guelph University and University of Toronto. It’s early in the works but after speaking about this campaign at a panel at the Canadian Federation of Students Annual General Meeting last weekend, it looks like this initiative is picking up steam in other parts of the province.

Grants & Scholarships

We are working to update all our application forms so all students have access to our newer grants like our Health Leave Grant.

Additionally we are striking our Scholarship and Awards Committee tonight, so if you want to join, please stick around for our emergency motion we are bringing forward at the end of the meeting. Being a part of this committee will be good experience to put on your CV, so think about joining!

C.

VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS

Report respectfully submitted by Miranda Leibel

Consent Culture Committee Updates

The Consent Culture Committee will have our last meeting of the semester on November 26th, from 4-6pm. We are extremely grateful for the work that this team of deeply dedicated and passionate volunteers have done over the course of the term and are looking forward to continuing our work in the new year.

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At our meeting next week, we will have the opportunity to learn from Lauren Montgomery, who was a graduate student and activist who was involved in the first round of Sexual Violence Policy negotiations and consultations. We are all looking forward to learning from her experiences, as well as maintaining organizational memory and continuity around this policy work.

I have yet to hear from Equity Services regarding the scheduling of a closed consultation session for graduate students, but this is something we had negotiated previously, and I am maintaining communication to ensure this happens before Carleton releases its draft updates next term.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

Sexual Assault Awareness Week is a campus-wide, week-long event that will take place from January 21st-25th, 2019. The Graduate Students’ Association is eager to promote programming throughout the course of the week.

We have worked with a number of on- and off- campus partners (including the CUSA Womxn’s Centre, Equity Services, OPIRG, Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, and the Feminist Twins) to put in an offer to have Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, give a keynote address during Sexual Assault Awareness Week, and we are really looking forward to seeing this event.

For those interested, the Graduate Students’ Association will have a Sexual Assault Awareness Week planning meeting on December 3rd at 4:30pm in the GSA Boardroom to discuss events and awareness campaigns we would like to run over the course of this week.

I have also been invited to represent graduate students at the Equity Services Sexual Assault Awareness Planning Committee, and will report back on that discussion at the next council meeting in December.

Upstander: Bystander Intervention Training

The GSA hosted an Upstander/Bystander Intervention training and train-the-trainer session on November 12th. It was well attended by graduate students, as well as Carleton staff members.

For anyone interested in learning more about this program, feel free to email me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Solidarity with Yemen

The GSA is working collaboratively with a number of community partners, including the Ottawa Peace Council and the Yemeni Canadian Association, to offer support to those experiencing violence in Yemen. The intentions are two-fold: to offer financial support to communities in Yemen who are faced with famine as a result of war, as well as to put pressure on the Canadian government to stop supplying arms to Saudi Arabia, which is allowing for the perpetuation of this violence.

There will be a fundraising event in December. I hope to have further details about this for the December council meeting.

Graduate Student Mental Health Working Group

I attended the first meeting of the Graduate Student Mental Health Working Group on November 14th. This meeting is a coalition of different campus stakeholders, including the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, Health and Counselling, the Graduate Students’ Association, and the Office of the Vice President Students and Enrollment.

The meeting was positive and the different groups represented on the meeting are happy to be working together to support graduate student mental health. Our two main programs are the grad counselor as well as the graduate student peer support program, both of which are on their way to be fully implemented. The remainder of this semester will be dedicated to outreach and promotion of the programs.

The working group will meet again in January to discuss progress and next steps.

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Peer Support Launch Event

As part of our promotion for the graduate student peer support program, we will be hosting a launch event on November 29th from 7-9pm in the GSA lounge. This is intended to be an opportunity for graduate students to hear a little bit more about the various mental health programs we are launching this year, as well as provide their feedback in terms of what they would like to see from the programs.

The event is also an opportunity to meet with Melissa, our peer support coordinator, Kat, a graduate peer supporter from Equity Services, and Alisa, the new graduate student counselor. There will be opportunities for discussion, as well as self-care programming, community building, and snacks.

OPIRG Harm Reduction and Naloxone Training

On November 27th, OPIRG Carleton is offering Harm Reduction 101 and Naloxone training from 1-3pm in the Wellness Centre. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend.

If you are hoping to attend this event, please register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/naloxone-training-and-harm-reduction-101-tickets-52599650972>

If you are interested in the training but unable to make the date, please email me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca . I am working with OPIRG to offer a Harm Reduction and Naloxone training at the GSA in the winter semester.

D.

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Report respectfully submitted by Farima Afaq

I firstly would like to thank the GSA Exec team and staff for their tremendous support, which has been a huge help with the smooth transition in my role as the VP Academic. I am looking forward to meeting each of you at future meetings at Council, and particularly at the Graduate Academic Caucus.

Graduate Academic Caucus

Thanks to our current Graduate Academic Caucus Representatives. We are still lacking representation for many departments. So, please make an announcement to your fellow students to get involved and to represent the interest of our diverse student body and your individual departments. For your information, the Graduate Academic Caucus (GAC) is a standing committee of the Graduate Students’ Association. Representatives serve as direct links between students, departments and the GSA, while also ensuring that the academic needs of graduate students are represented and conveyed to Carleton’s Senate and university administration. The time commitment is around 2-3 hours every 1-2 months and it is a great experience to promote your resume. You can join the Graduate Academic Caucus by contacting VP Academic, Farima Afaq at vpa@gsacarleton.ca. Please note that if you sit on your faculty board, you already have a seat at GAC but please still contact Farima.

Student Engagement Initiative

As part of current ongoing policy issues including the upper year graduate students concerns about completion timelines and the student, supervisor relationship guidelines and with other potential concerns and student needs, we are strategizing to involve as many students from all graduate departments at Carleton, as we would like the final proposal to be inclusive of all students’ voices and concerns. The strategy would certainly include group discussions as well as surveys. If you want to get involved now or to share feedback, please reach out to Farima at vpa@gsacarleton.ca.

E.

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Report respectfully submitted by Helia Doutaghi

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Political Action Committee

We had an introductory meeting earlier this month and discussed what folks would like to see happen this year. We were also able to obtain a list of investments Carleton has, and it’s all the worst companies you can think of. If you are interested in this or in getting involved in any GSA political initiatives, please consider joining PAC.

We will also be screening “sorry to bother you “ on November 30th at 5:30 at the GSA lounge.

Fight for 15

We represented the GSA at two actions against Bill 47, I also submitted a letter of recommendations to the parliamentary committee reviewing the bill, stay tuned for more actions and next steps. Also, let us know if you would like to join the fight for 15 Ottawa chapter! Shoutout to Hissam for collecting petition signatures!

Muslim Students Association

We are very excited to be holding the first ever networking event in collaboration with the MSA for Muslim graduate students. The event will be happening this Friday. If you would like to have further information, please check our Facebook event or get in touch with me. All are welcome.

We are also holding a Mental Health Aid Training in collaboration with the MSA. This training is for student organizers across campus and the participants will have training certificates. The dates are to be confirmed and the seats are limited. More information will be on our pages soon as we are finalizing some items.

Canadian Federation of Students General Meeting

I was just at the Canadian Federation of Students meeting over the weekend and in it, we discussed the most pressing issues facing students and the fightback we need to build. Issues like the freedom of speech directive, mental health services on campus and rising tuition fees. I am also happy to report that the national student movement has overwhelmingly voted in favor of endorsing the boycott divestment and sanctions campaign. Let me know if you would like to know more or if you want to get involved in the student movement.

F. Questions

Simon: Idea about the what kind of industry involved where Carleton making investments discussed in the PAC meeting

Helia: Weapon Manufacturing company. Mining companies, Banks, Google have that list in public

Carmen: Decentralize system for international student funding, is this the move in right direction?

Jay: In terms of recruitment, there is a deadline about how many international students they can recruit in each department depends on number of domestic students. Every department has funding for international student. Certain department has low amount on funding for grad international student. In the decentralized system departments and faculties have say in who will have the funding. Rather than having it through FGPA who make a standardize decision based on CGPA and give department more autonomy regarding deciding for funding. Waiting in how its going to take an effect. Assurance was given that all international PhD students will pay

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domestic fees. But masters students still in question of funding. So there are some advantage of this.

Jennifer- Regarding Scholarship and Award committee, did students have say over the department decision regarding awards if we join the committee?

Ans- Not sure about it, how much it based on in the department decision but you have a say as a committee member in the meeting. Ashley provided a motion for this but still waiting on more details about it.

Phil-Competitions are done blind. Encourage people to join committee. Two immediate awards coming up are full time student excellence award and student-parent award. IN case you are applying for some award, you will not be able to participate in the discussion and decision making for that award.

Ashley

Carmen- About Mental health Working Group, university, constitution and pressure are more systematic issues. Are these things we are going to part of working group.

Miranda- We have fair amount of student representation. In the past, we faced many oppositions from administration regarding mental health. Skeptical on systematic changes like changing tuition fees for students. Best we can do is keep putting pressure on them. Currently we are in strong position we have visibility in various departments. Hope for visibility and united front.

Fatima- Research Assistant, why verbal agreement ?

Jay- Verbal Agreement is there and is happening in a quite a few scenarios. Not students’ fault. We trying to get this issue in front of FGPA. Trying to turn this around so that FGPA will fight for us. And will be doing announcement that please have a written agreement for RA with proper tasks assigned, duties.

Bridgette- Did RA, want to unionized ?

Jay- We should be getting them unionized. Some RA are unionized. Trying to advocate more RA so that these cases will not repeat.

Pansee- Verbal agreement- Internal funding RA are already unionized. Employers do not have access for these, and union did not do not know about who the members are. And Therefore, students are unable to know about their rights, therefore all these things need to be formalized.

Lauren- As jay mentioned, some departments are trying to actively work on increase funding for students

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Jay- Not formal, had a conversation with few chairs, they suggest their faculty members about the masters student and PhD students funding should be kept separate. Still working on some details.

Next Month

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees

Tariqa- Free Speech Policy, Language change for not mimicking the directed given by the government. They are keeping the point of removing funding which GSA has opposed. All legal agreements are binding over this policy. It will be on senate next week for vote. Created another document for thinking behind drafting the policy

Helia- Will be able to share the second draft?

Tariqa- Yes

- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

Jay- Demands from graduate students in terms for timeline completion. Graduate student will not feel constrained for finishing on certain time.

Experiential learning, done by vice-provost- Learning based on hands on activities. Lots of opposition by GFP. Trying to incorporate experiential learning in undergrad and grad programs.

Melissa- Liberal government, each department has to involve experiential learning in their program and in meeting there is a discussion how we are going to implement it in graduate programs. Opposition from engineering departments as they said they do that on daily basis.

- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
e. Board of Governors (BOG)
f. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
g. Questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

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a) Motion 21.11.2018-01: Motion to Amend Printing Protocols for GSA Council Meetings

Moved: Helia Doutaghi (VP-External)

Seconded: Reza Samanfar

Carried.

Whereas the GSA stands for broad support for Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, and;

Whereas the GSA prints hundreds of paper every Council meeting, and;

Whereas the GSA should strive to minimize its environmental impact, and;

Whereas online platforms are more sustainable, accessible, and convenient;

Be it resolved that the GSA print meeting materials only for councillors who request it beforehand.

Questions – None

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion- Motion to strike Scholarships and Awards Committee

Moved: Jay

Secunder- Helia

Carried.

Whereas the Scholarship and Awards Committee (SAC) is a standing committee that disburses all GSA scholarships in an impartial and fair manner, and;

Whereas the SAC should meet at least once a year to review the guidelines and operating functions of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, and;

Whereas no current Scholarship and Awards Committee exists for the 2018-2019 academic year, and;

Whereas all GSA scholarships should be made public and awarded before end of the current academic year, therefore;

Be It Resolved that the GSA Council strike the Scholarship and Awards Committee with up to 10 members of the GSA Council at the November 21, 2018 Council meeting.

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Be It Further Resolved that GSA Councilors be encouraged to self-nominate by putting their names on the sign-up sheet distributed at council.

Question:-

Sidney- Can we apply for award when we are part of committee?

Jay – Yes, you can apply for award, but you will not be involved in discussion for that award.

Carmen- When is the first meeting?

Jay- Beginning of next year.

Phil- Ashley, is trying to meet with committee in December to set the deadline.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Sidney

Seconded by: Simon

Carried.