

GSA COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Tuesday, October 30, 2018

CALL TO ORDER – 6:12pm, Tuesday, October 30, 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)
Jana Sarran (Civil Engineer)
Saan Sarran (Civil Engineer)
Bridgette Desjardins (Legal Studies)
Taryn Hepburn (Legal Studies)
Itai Gibli (NPSIA)
Jay Jennings (Institute of Cognitive Science)
Simon Vodrey (Communication)
Kendra Landry (English)
Leiqn Dunn (Psychology)
Gathy Agyemang (Institute of Cognitive Science)
Gyathia Amanynose (Economics)
Abigail Curlew (Sociology and Anthropology)
Alexa Dodge (Legal Studies)
James Patriquin (Political Science)
Tariqa Tander (Political Science)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Annika Mazzarella (Art History)
Jennifer Liu (Journalism)
Saram Tari (Social Work)
Melissa Pullara (English)
Sang Hwan Lee (Mech & Aero)
Jesse Umattam (Political Economy)
Farima Afar (MPPA)
Fatimah El Feitori (NPSIA)
Michael Hoyik (MPPA)

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Hesam Farahani (ALDS)

Breudan Smith (Cognitive Science)

Dlivia Atsin (Women and Gender Studies)

Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)

Miranda Leibel (VP-Operations)

Ashley Courchene (VP-Finance)

Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)

Mohammad Akbar (Office Communications Coordinator)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

- Hope Tohme appointed Melissa Pullara
- Carmen Warner appointed Simon Vodrey

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Simon Vodrey

Seconded: Jay Ramasubramanyam

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from September 27, 2018

Moved: Hemant Gupta

Seconded: Helyeh Doutaghi

Carried

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Council Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendars:

Wednesday, November 21, 6 PM

Monday, December 3, 6 PM

b. Corporate Meeting

c. Councilor Credits and Funding Opportunities for Grad Events

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

a. Opening comments from Carleton University President Bacon, followed by a question and answer period.

- Abigail: would you be the first president to give the GSA the list of emails of Graduate Students to help facilitate communication between graduate students?
Bacon: Jay has raised this topic earlier with me and we are still studying the possibility.

- Jay: Do you have a vision from your past experience about international student advocacy?

Bacon: I have not been able to find a student strategy for international student yet. It is a broad topic, including tuition, help, and space. But we will be working on

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how to attract and maintain students. We are building our strength, but we need to strategize better.

- Simon Vodrey: How long do you think a PhD student should take to finish their program? Movement enforcing time to start and finish in five years.
Bacon: The question is if the student can or cannot finish; it is a shared responsibility between the student, the professor, and the department.

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

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

International Graduate Student Working Group

The International Graduate Student Working Group met on the 2nd of October to discuss more issues surrounding international grad students. We spoke a little bit about the implementation of the International Doctoral Excellence Program and the International Doctoral Tuition Bursary. There are some questions being raised by some faculty members around academic integrity, but there are issues around how this is being framed. Please ask me any questions if you may have some.

Search Committees

Several search committees have been launched. As much as executives are being requested to sit on these committees it would be good to have the membership represent the GSA. We have the Provost Search Committee and the Dean of FGPA Search Committee looking for reps.

Senate Committees

Last council meeting you may remember a hand out which had the list of Senate Committees. We would really like some of you to volunteer for these committees please. These are important opportunities and would be awesome if we can have some of you represent. If you would like to get involved please let me know (pres@gsacarleton.ca).

Collaboration with Equity Services

On the 15th of October we had Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard come to Carleton to speak on the topic “Barriers and Brilliance: Being Black in the Academy”. It was a very well attended event and the GSA was given an opportunity to collaborate with Equity Services on this.

- b. VP Finance (Ashley Courchene)

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Graduate Students’ Association Audit

The GSA audit has released and I will be making a presentation on it later in this meeting. Long story, short: After providing full disclosure to the auditing company, they report that our finances are clean. They also reported a surplus of \$59,000, retained for future use. Again, I’ll explain the audit in detail later.

Mike’s Place Revitalization

Due to the CFS referendum and other priority items on our mandate, this objective has taken a back seat. However, now that things have settled down, we as a team are going to refocus our energies on ensuring that Mike’s Place gets the attention it deserves. Starting next week, staff and executives, alongside George, our Mike’s Place Manager, are going to sit down and devise a timeline as to when we are going to complete our goals, which include:

- Food costing and portion control
- Front of house decorating (TV and art)
- Monthly events

ReconciliACTION

I announced this campaign last month but ReconciliACTION was officially launched on Oct 15 with a good turnout of people who came to the event. The purpose of ReconciliACTION is to strengthen Indigenous language education on our campuses across Ontario. The working group was established by the GSA, the CUSA Mawandoseg Centre, and members of the First Peoples’ Council. At the launch we released our position paper and are looking for coalition partners to get our objectives met. If you would like to join this Working Group (you don’t need to be native, but want to show your support), please let me know after tonight’s meeting and I will let you know about our next steps.

Canadian Federation of Students

I just returned from the Ontario Executive Committee (OEC) as the Circle for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students representative. For anyone who doesn’t know what that means, it’s okay... neither did I until I got to the meeting. The OEC is basically the board member meeting for the CFS organization. Just like the GSA holds its board of director meetings under the Ontario Not-For-Profit Act, so too does the CFS. The OEC is the Federation’s board of directors meetings.

- So there were a few issues raised at the OEC, which included:
 - Rising tuition fees;
 - Doug Ford’s “Free Speech” Policy;
 - Municipal Election;
 - The Local 1 (CUSA) referendum, and;
 - The organization’s budget (which looks like is in good form)

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Free Speech Policy

We are extremely concerned with the way that Carleton phrased its draft Free Speech Policy. We released our statement about Doug Ford’s mandate in September but more action is needed. This is why we are going to strike a subcommittee on the matter in the next Political Action Committee (PAC) meeting, taking place this Thursday at 5:30PM at the GSA boardroom (6th floor UC).

We encourage you all to come to this meeting as the free speech policy has some very serious implications for student unions, not only here on campus but across the province. As we are seeing from Doug Ford’s policies, the livelihoods of students are being threatened and so we need to strategize as a unit. Please make some time to come to the next PAC meeting.

- c. VP Operations (Miranda Leibel)

Consent Culture Committee Updates

The Consent Culture Committee has been meeting regularly the Fall semester to represent graduate student interests throughout the ongoing Sexual Violence Policy Review. As a result of our collaborations, we have decided on two actions related to the review process:

- 1) Graduate student letter in response to the policy, including specific policy demands, and;
- 2) The creation of a Carleton Community Informal Database, which will be a space for different groups on campus to demonstrate the number of disclosures they receive.

The creation of a community database is a direct response to the SVP promise that Carleton will maintain publicly accessible statistics regarding reports and disclosures of sexual violence. In the process of our discussions, we realized that Carleton in fact only monitors formal reports through the policy—which means that Carleton claims only 3 incidents of sexual violence happened in the last academic year.

We will be meeting with campus partners next week (November 8th), including unions, CUSA representatives and service centres, and OPIRG to discuss the creation of this community database, which will be completely anonymous and confidential.

Our next Consent Culture Committee meeting is happening November 5th from 4-6pm in the GSA Boardroom.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

Carleton’s Sexual Assault Awareness Week will take place in mid-January 2019. We are currently planning our involvement in a number of activities for this week. A coalition of campus and community partners (including Equity Services and CUSA Womxn’s Centre, as well as the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women and the Feminist Twins) are working to bring

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Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement as a keynote guest for the Survivors Speak event.

We are currently seeking additional partners to help cover the cost of the event. If you know of anyone who would be interested in getting involved, please contact me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Herongate Tenant Coalition

In our 2017-18 Council year, Councillors voted in favour of supporting the grassroots organizing action of the Herongate Tenant Coalition to resist the mass evictions happening to tenants in the Herongate community. It is with great sadness that I share that the eviction deadline has now passed and tenants have been forcibly relocated out of their homes, following a prolonged period of abuse at the hands of TimberCreek.

However, the organizing efforts of the Tenant Coalition have not stopped, and the GSA continues to support this work. Currently, the Tenant Coalition is seeking student volunteers who might be able to help them translate the community newsletter into Arabic or Somali. As many of the residents in the neighbourhood are newcomers, this will support the grassroots movement to better represent the needs of the community. If you, or someone you know, is able to support these efforts, please contact me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Student Mental Health Advisory Committee

The Student Mental Health Advisory Committee met for the first time in 2018-19 on October 26th to discuss Carleton’s progress towards fulfilling the mandate of the Mental Health Framework 2.0.

The committee highlighted the success of piloting two new peer support programs, one of which will be run exclusively for graduate students out of the GSA office. They also noted that three new counselor positions have been hired, and emphasized that one of the position will be working part-time with graduate students, specifically out of the GSA or the FGPA. We are finalizing the details with Health and Counselling now.

We are also working with Health and Counselling to running a Supporting Students in Distress and Mental Health workshop/teach-in for graduate student Teaching Assistants and Contract Instructors. We have been told that this session would count as paid pedagogical training.

The Student Mental Health Advisory Committee has proposed that an Implementation Committee be established to monitor the progress of various aspects of the framework. More details to come.

We can also expect a consultation and review of the framework sometime in 2019.

Graduate Peer Support Program

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I have been working closely with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs and the Office of the Vice President Students and Enrollment to ensure that the commitment for the peer support program will be honoured.

We have conducted interviews and are reaching out to the successful candidate to sign the contract, with the intention of having the facilitator start by November 1st. The facilitator will use the Fall semester to conduct group focused workshops on mental health, as well as the process of recruiting and training volunteers.

If you are interested in participating as a graduate student peer support volunteer, please contact me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca. Please also spread the word with your colleagues and peers.

Graduate Student Mental Health Working Group

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs has announced that the first meeting of the Graduate Student Mental Health Working Group will happen on November 14th. I will have more to report on that at the November council meeting.

Upstander: Bystander Intervention Training

The GSA is hosting a Bystander Intervention Training/Train the Trainer session on November 12th from 10am-3pm. Danielle Carr, a PhD student from Western University will be facilitating this workshop. The session aims to provide participants with not only the skills to become active bystanders, but also to facilitate bystander intervention trainings on their own. It is therefore intended to be a sustainable model of bystander intervention training that we will be able to participate in for years to come.

The Upstander program is a provincially funded bystander intervention training platform being piloted for free across campuses in Ontario. We are excited to be a part of this program and look forward to reporting more after the session. Due to the incredibly popular nature of the event, we will consider hosting future sessions. We are pleased with the amount of interest we have received, and the event is currently at capacity.

New Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator Hired

We have hired our second Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator for the 2018-19 year. We are pleased to announce that Jessica Wilson, an MA student in Law and Legal Studies has joined our Outreach team. We look forward to the work that Bridgette and Jess will be able to accomplish this year, and we would like to thank them both for all the work they have already done as members of the Consent Culture Committee.

Equity Peer Support Updates

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In May, the GSA reached an agreement with Equity Services to pilot drop-in peer support hours for graduate students in the GSA boardroom. Now that Equity Services has finished training their peer supporters for the year, we are pleased to announce that drop-in hours will begin this week.

Equity’s peer support service aims to provide anonymous, confidential, and non-judgmental service for survivors of sexual violence and their supporters. The intention of grad student specific drop-in hours is to alleviate some of the barriers that exist in seeking support following sexual violence. The peer supporter is a graduate student themselves, and will offer hours in the GSA space. This drop-in program will begin this Thursday, November 1st, from 2:3-4:30pm, and will be recurring each Thursday afternoon throughout the Fall semester. Winter semester hours TBD.

Department Societies

We encourage graduate students in all departments to register their graduate student departmental society with the GSA. Many of our councillors this year were self-nominated, rather than elected through department societies. Having a departmental society offers graduate students in their departments opportunities for formal and informal community building, events, and other forms of support.

When a departmental society is registered with the GSA, we are also able to provide a range of supports, including event planning and room booking support, funding, and social media visibility. If you are interested in having a department society registered with the GSA, please contact me at vpo@gSacarleton.ca

15&Fairness Campaign: Precarity is Scary

Most of you likely received an email from me yesterday regarding our work with the 15&Fairness campaign happening at Carleton tomorrow. This campaign is a response to the Ford government’s announcement that minimum wage will be frozen at \$14, and that other labour rights will be impacted.

We are asking any councillors who are willing to support this campaign to please pick up some of the petition sheets that we have available tonight, and to bring them back to your department and encourage your colleagues and peers to sign. Those who are interested in taking on a more active role are also encouraged to meet at the OPIRG office (3rd floor UC) tomorrow morning at 11am. The organizers have planned a Halloween theme with media stunts to highlight that “Precarity is Scary.”

Inside Out Film Festival

The GSA has purchased 30 tickets to the Inside Out Film Festival for our members. The Inside Out Film Festival is Ottawa’s queer film festival, and will begin on November 9th. We will be

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attending three screenings: Splinters (November 9, 7:15pm); The Fruit Machine (November 10, 12:00pm), and Rafiki (November 10, 7:15pm).

If you would like to reserve a ticket, please email vpo@gsacarleton.ca and let me know which screening you would like to attend.

This is part of an ongoing effort at the GSA to increase the space available for our queer members to come together and build community. We hope to be able to continue offering this kind of programming.

Indigenous and Diasporic Friendship Festival

The GSA was happy to work in collaboration with the Indigenous and Diasporic Friendship Festival this year to host a panel event on Indigenous and Refugee Solidarity. The event was attended by graduate and undergraduate students, as well as community members.

We continue to value collaborative initiatives with community organizers, and are happy to offer our space and resources for these kinds of events.

d. VP Academic (Vacant)

- Nothing to report

e. VP External (Helia Doutaghi)

Hoda Katebi Event

The second event of our social justice speaking series with Hoda Katebi was a great success. Over 100 tickets were sold and the room was packed. We will be continuing with this series and invite more activists and speakers throughout the year.

Political Action Committee

The Political Action Committee (PAC) is happening on November 1st. If you are interested in getting politically involved at the GSA about issues that our students face , please consider joining.

Freedom of Speech Policy

We have met with the President and discussed several issues and raised our concerns about the Freedom of Speech Policy as well as our membership list. Please take the time to read the Senate's draft on this policy and voice your opinion, and ask your colleagues to do the same. It is really important that the working group and the university is aware of the Student's concerns around this issue. On the membership list, we have provided the president with a briefing to

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update him on the history of the ongoing issue between the GSA and the university admin and are awaiting a response.

Anti-War Campaign

We are working closely with OPIRG and other community members to conclude the phase one of our initial research. We will be discussing this and our next steps at PAC this week.

Canadian Federation of Students National General Meeting

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) National General Meeting is happening later in November. The GSA will be following up on our previous motions and we are on the final steps of submitting our new motions. If there is any motion/issues you would like us to highlight in the meeting please feel free to contact me at vpx@gSacarleton.ca - otherwise I will have more updates next month.

Canadian Federation of Students Carleton Referendum

We welcome the undergraduate student's decision to remain united as part of the student movement to collectively fight alongside half a million students across the country for their rights. We are looking forward to working with CUSA on building a better and safer campus for all of our members.

f. Questions

- Nothing to report

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

- Alexa: Free policy – the first draft came from the Senate. A working group, including faculties, created the original draft to protect human freedom. However, policies created are not as powerful as agreements, which means policies cannot overrule agreements.

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)

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- Nothing to report
- e. Board of Governors (BOG)
 - There has been one board meeting from last time. One thing they are trying to push is no gender washroom on campus.
- f. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA)
 - Nothing to report
- g. Questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Environmental Engineer: About academic writing, the GCEE has run a workshop for international and domestic students. The presentation gave the students ideas about writing, thinking, and plagiarism, as well as provided guiding books. The event was highly favored by the professors.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Election for the Position of Vice-President Academic
 - i. Presentation by Nominated Candidates
 - ii. Questions
 - iii. Voting
- b) **Motion 30.10.2018 - 01: Motion to Ratify In-Council Election for VP-Academic under Section 9.2 of the Constitution**
Moved: Miranda Leibel (VP Operations)
Seconded: Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)
Carried

Whereas Trycia Bazinet has formally resigned from the position of Vice-President Academic of the GSA effective October 19th, 2018, and;

Whereas Article 9.2 of the GSA Constitution states:

9.2 If an Executive member is unable to complete their term of office, or should no candidate come forward to run for an Executive position, or should members vote against electing an unopposed candidate, Council may, at its discretion, appoint a replacement officer for the duration of the term of office, or hold a by-election. Council may choose to appoint an interim officer to hold the position until a permanent replacement is made.

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Whereas GSA Council voted on September 27, 2018, to hold an in-Council election at its October 2018 meeting, with nominations due by October 17, 2018, therefore;

Be It Resolved that GSA Council ratify the election of **Farima Afaq** to the position of Vice-President Academic effective immediately for a term ending April 30, 2019.

c) Nomination and Selection of one (1) GSA Member to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board

d) Motion 30.10.2018 - 02: Motion to Elect one (1) GSA Member to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board

Moved: Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)

Seconded: Miranda

Carried

Whereas one student representative has had to resign, and the vacant seat for a GSA member on the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board needs to be filled, and;

Whereas GSA Council has had the opportunity to nominate and vote for a replacement, therefore;

BIRT GSA Council ratify the election of **Jay from Institute of Cognitive Science** as a representative to the Carleton University Graduate Faculty Board.

e) Motion Referred From 27.09.2018-05: Motion to Accept a Collective Response to Ontario’s Announcement of a Campus Free Speech Policy

Moved: Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)

Seconded: Ashley Courchene

Carries

Whereas GSA Council voted on September 27, 2018, to postpone voting on a motion regarding Ontario’s Campus Free Speech Policy until the language could be clarified, and;

Whereas the language has been redrafted, and addresses developments since the September 27 meeting, and;

Whereas on August 30th, the Ontario Government released a statement calling on all publicly assisted Colleges and Universities to develop a policy on Freedom of Speech by January 1st, 2019, and;

Whereas the Province has indicated that operating grant funding will be affected depending on the severity of non-compliance, and suggests Universities and Colleges to police the speech of Students’ Unions, and;

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Whereas the creation of such a policy has many dangerous implications on freedom of speech, open discussion, free inquiry and academic freedom, and;

Whereas this policy couches itself with language that presents itself as a policy that promotes free speech and expression, but in reality, represents a limitation on free speech;

Whereas on October 19th, Carleton University’s Senate released a draft Freedom of Speech policy, and;

Whereas Carleton’s proposed free speech policy has raised concerns around student organizations being recognized by the University, and;

Whereas the creation of such a policy has implications on the autonomy of student organizations like the GSA, therefore;

Be it resolved that the GSA Council support efforts to protect student union autonomy, as well as teaching and research academic freedoms.

Be it resolved that the GSA elicit input from Council and membership on Carleton’s draft free speech policy.

Be it further resolved that such steps be taken to ensure the best interests of marginalized members are taken into consideration.

Be it further resolved that the GSA strongly encourage members to vocalize any and all opposition at attempts by the provincial government to police the lawful speech of students, staff and faculty.

Carried

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- Nothing to report

11. ADJOURNMENT to GSA Carleton Inc. Meeting

Moved by: Ashley
Seconded by: Simon

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.