

GSA COUNCIL – Meeting Minutes
Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Room 282 University Centre - 6:00 pm – August 1st, 2018

CALL TO ORDER – 6:09pm, Wednesday, August 1st, 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

Seung Hwan Lee (Proxy, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

Amin Ghaziaskan (Mech & Aero)

Dat Tran (Public Policy and Admin)

Kirsten Bussiere (English)

Jana Sarran (Guest, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Sean Sarran (Guest, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Miranda Leibel (VP-Operations)

Ashley Courchene (VP-Finance)

Helyeh Doutaghi (VP-External)

Trycia Bazinet (VP-Academic)

Phil Robinson (Executive Coordinator)

Mohammad Akbar (Office Communications Coordinator)

Melissa Conte (Outreach Coordinator)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

- Helyeh Doutaghi appointed Amin Ghaziaskan

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Miranda Leibel

Seconded: Dat Tran

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. E-minutes from June 21st, 2018

Moved: Amin Ghaziaskan

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Seconded: Trycia Bazinet

Carried

- b. Minutes from June 21st, 2018

Moved: Miranda Leibel

Seconded: Helyeh Doutaghi

Carried

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trycia introduced Mohammad Akbar as a new member to the GSA as an Office Communications Coordinator
- Miranda Leibel introduced Melissa Conte as an Outreach Coordinator

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

- Nothing to report

- b. VP Finance (Ashley Courchene)

Grants, Grants, Grants

We have motions forthcoming to establish Health Leave Grant, and increase the value of the Family Leave Grant, which we will see later. I’ll speak more to them when I motivate them.

We are also introducing our policy for the Indigenous Student Scholarship that was established last month. It is in the same format of the International Student Scholarship. Speaking of which, I am putting forward a motion to amend the International Student Scholarship so students do not have to demonstrate financial need for the scholarship. Students who are in financial need can apply through one of our needs based grants such as the Emergency Grant. This way we can still help students who require it but leave the scholarships to be decided upon by merit.

BIG NEWS: We received a \$21,000 contribution from Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs to go towards our Family Leave, Health Leave, and Emergency Grants. This means we can support more students in need.

Mike’s Place Revitalization

Found a POS System that our Mike’s Place manager likes, so we will be going forward in having that installed this month and have all staff members trained by August

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Phase 2 of revitalization will begin after that, which includes more art in the dining area and possibly a larger TV on one of the walls. We will continue to consult with George and other FT Staff before moving forward with that.

Canadian Federation of Students

As Helia can elaborate, we put forth a few motions to the Canadian Federation of Students for the Ontario General Meeting. The motion I put forth is to address the lack of decolonial workshops and knowledge that could be included in CFS events such as the OGM or Skills. There have been a lot of great strides that the CFS has taken to bring in Indigenous perspectives but the general membership still has lots to learn. So this motion is to get the CFS to commit to increasing the number of workshops of colonialism and increase the depth of content in those workshops.

Lobby Efforts

Met with Mayor Jim Watson. We discussed 3 things:

1. The new rail system and the possibility of increasing the frequency of the 4 & 7 to and from campus. We have to follow up with the Director of Transit Customer Systems & Planning to discuss this matter further.
2. We also talked about the possibility of a 211 number that Ottawa citizens could call for non-emergency, non-violent situations instead of calling the police. The Mayor indicated that there were no talks on the issue and that we should talk to the current 211 services referral guy. If students think this is a issue worth pursuing, we may push this to the Political Action Committee.
3. Lastly, we talked about the Herongate evictions taking place in Ottawa south. It is a disappointment that the Mayor did not want to take on more responsibilities to help the residents of that community. We acknowledge that he cannot arbitrarily stop a private corporation from evicting their tenants but we believe there is more that can be done to support the residents of Herongate, who are low-income families and students whose homes are in a state of disrepair. Thus we are moving a motion to donate \$300 to community organizers who are advocating on the behalf of Herongate residents.

We are also going to meet Joel Harden, this riding’s MPP later this month, and in the near future, this riding’s MP Catherine McKenna. If there is any issue you want us to pass along, please let me know via email at vpf@gsacarleton.ca, or in person. We are open to your ideas.

CUAEL/GSA job positions

We are trying to have both our Outreach Coordinator and Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator job postings with the Carleton University Accessibility Experiential Learning (CUAEL) program

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under the Paul Mention Centre (PMC). This allows students with disabilities the opportunity to get work experience in a similar fashion as a work placement program. CUAEI reimburses the wages of the workers we hire through this program, as mandated by the provincial government, and once we hammer out an agreement between the PMC, the GSA, and CUPE, we hope to open up some more employment opportunities as the GSA.

- c. VP Operations (Miranda Leibel)

Welcome Weeks

Planning for the 2018 Welcome Weeks is underway and we have a number of confirmed events, including a keynote address from Harsha Walia, a Sexy Trivia Night, a trip to Gatineau Park, a Queer Community Care Night, a Racialized and Indigenous Student Dinner, as well as a lot of our established programming such as the International Student Lunch and Panel, a Surviving Grad School Workshop, and collaborations with other University departments such as the Library and Equity Services.

Equity Orientation Weeks

Equity Services is hosting six weeks of orientation events in September and October. The purpose of this orientation is to facilitate outreach and awareness about healthy sexuality and consent culture. The first six weeks of the Fall Semester are when most incidents of sexual violence are reported on University campuses.

We are collaborating with Equity and other organizations on campus to ensure that their events reach a broad student audience. Some of the highlights include an #IBelieveYou day, as well as self-care kits, Take Back the Night, and participation at Panda Game events. If you would be interested in volunteering with Equity Services for any events, please send me an email at vpo@gsacarleton.ca

Peer Support Programming

Throughout the summer, myself and the VP-Academic have been sitting on the University’s Peer Support Working Group to develop a proposal for peer support programming at Carleton. We submitted a comprehensive proposal on behalf of graduate students, which was distinct from the overall proposal to specifically meet the needs of our members. The proposal for the undergraduate peer support programming was approved. We are meeting with administration to discuss our options further, as we are continuing to advocate for a graduate specific peer support program run out of the GSA.

In the meantime, we have negotiated with Equity Services to run a pilot sexual violence peer support drop-in time at the GSA. Equity has two graduate/mature students who have submitted their applications and will be completing training in the fall. The drop-in hours should be available by October 2018.

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Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator Hiring

We have hired Bridgette Desjardins as a Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator for the coming year.

We will be re-posting the position again shortly in the hopes of hiring a second SAOC for the 2018-19 year.

Canadian Federation of Students Mental Health Campaign

I have been participating in the Canadian Federation of Students’ consultations regarding the existing Mental Health Policy and Campaign. They are seeking to revitalize the campaign for the coming academic year, and to take this opportunity to address concerns that members have had regarding this specific campaign.

On behalf of the GSA, I have advocated for a deeper integration of intersectional thinking throughout the campaign and policy, including an integration of gender, sexuality, and class, which are not presently mentioned in the campaign materials, as well as an ongoing integration of the specific needs and concerns of racialized and Indigenous students. Additionally, I have advocated for increased attention to the distinct needs of those living with mental illnesses, rather than a generic focus on mental health.

Carleton Sexual Violence Policy

Carleton will be opening up the Sexual Violence Policy for review in the 2018-19 year. Consultations are scheduled to begin in the fall, and the consultation process will likely be ongoing throughout the academic year. The reviewed policy is slated to be released in its complete form in April 2019.

We have met with Equity Services for a pre-consultation meeting to provide our input on how we would like to be consulted. Currently, the consultation timeline proposed by Equity will span the entire academic year, resulting in the Policy being submitted to the Board of Governors for the April 25th meeting.

In preparation for this consultation process, the GSA will be reconvening the Consent Culture committee to engage with our membership regarding graduate student priorities with regard to the Carleton Sexual Violence Policy. Those who are interested in participating in this committee are welcome to email me at ypo@gsacarleton.ca. Please also share this call-out with your peers. The committee will likely hold its first meeting in late September.

Solidarity with #DefendHerongate

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I have been working closely with the Herongate Tenants Coalition in support of their resistance to the forced evictions by TimberCreek. As will be discussed in our motions, they will be holding a fundraising concert on August 25th and are seeking financial support so that all donations received can go directly to the Tenants Coalition.

The GSA will continue to support these efforts, and we encourage those who are able to purchase a ticket to the concert. Although the suggested donation is \$15-\$20, all donations are appreciated, and no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket to the concert, please contact me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca. Tickets are also available for purchase at the front desk at the GSA.

d. VP Academic (Trycia Bazinet)

Upper Year Grad Students

We have not launched the survey yet because we are still looking for more feedback on the survey from student senators. We will have an organizing meeting on the issue on August 13th. If you would like to join, email me at vpa@gsacarleton.ca. We are thinking of developing this issue into a longer term campaign on the neoliberalization of Carleton, which is in the research phase at the moment.

Statement of Understanding between Supervisor and Students

The statement of understanding is progressing and I will receive another draft from the Faculty of Post-Doctoral and Graduate Affairs (FGPA) that Jay and I can provide further input on. Again, this statement of understanding is meant to be signed by both the supervisor and the student so as to establish a mechanism that has more weight when issues arise. We hope that this statement will highlight and emphasize students’ concerns, such as time window for feedback, ensuring anonymity of students so that they are not impacted by talks that might be circulating in the department and a strong emphasis on the need for a conflict mediation process. Any inputs or stories are welcome in this case too.

Scanner at the Library for books on reserve

Jay and I met with the library admin and while we did not have time to clarify on a few changes that have taken place, we brought in some concerns raised by students as well as talked about the meet and greet event with subject librarians to take place on September 14th. They confirmed that the library will get a scanner right next to the reserve counter; this scanner will be a quick and efficient way to scan the sections that you need from books that are only on 2 or 4 hours reserves. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to improve library services to grad students as they seem open to listen to us: vpa@gsacarleton.ca

Safer-Space Policy

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We are in the early process of developing a policy around the application and navigation of harm reduction for the GSA events and spaces. We will be collaborating with Equity and Center for Indigenous Initiative to develop this policy.

GFB assignments

Graduate students have 5 seats on the GFB. The GFB reports to Senate and oversees the administration and content of graduate studies at Carleton. So the remaining Student Representative of the Graduate Faculty Board have all been assigned at the last council. Congrats to Kevin O’Meara, Hemant Gupta, and Chelsea Nash who will be joining Melissa Conte and Bridgette Desjardins as student reps

Environmental Justice Speaker Series

I want to develop a speaker series about Environmental Justice in praxis to take place over the academic year so if you have any suggestions of specific speakers who are engaged in land protection, environmental justice or resurgence, feel free to suggest their names.

Welcome Weeks Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help us during Welcome Weeks. If you would like to participate as a volunteer for the first two days on September 1st or 2nd, please email me at vpa@gsacarleton.ca. If you would like to volunteer for other Welcome Weeks events as well, feel free to contact me or the other execs and we will make sure to reach out to you. This opportunity provides the chance to connect with several other grad students and is essential to the ongoing process of building community on campus.

- e. VP External (Helyeh Doutaghi)

Campaigns

Anti-War

We are currently researching and preparing materials for our Anti-war campaign. Our initial goal is to find our information about Carleton university’ involvement, investment and collaborating with any a weapons manufacturing and or military. If you are interested to get involved or know someone who is interested to help out please contact me at VPX@GSACARLETON.CA

Anti-Islamophobia (Anti-Muslim Racism)

We are collaborating with CFS and NCCM for improving and refreshing the Anti-Islamophobia materials. NCCM has been invited to hold a workshop at welcome weeks on anti-islamophobia, as part of our campaign. We further be having educational materials ready and distributed on

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September. Please contact me if you are interested to get involved and help out with this campaign.

Canadian Federation of Students

On July 9th, we met with the CFS Ontario Chairperson and discussed our visions and plans for the year and how the CFS can support our members and initiatives in the coming year. Some of the highlights of the discussion for the services we provide were the promotion of our ISIC machine and increasing the benefits, ethical purchasing of giveaways for Welcome Weeks, as well as tax clinics, which I will have more information for you all of you as we approach the second semester.

CFS-Ontario meeting will take place August 23-26. We submitted a motion for the coming CFS-O meeting that commits the CFS to launch and support locals for their Anti-War initiatives. We submitted a motion that commits CFS to financially our upcoming event in October. Ash can update you on the third motion.

Anti-Oppression Policy

I am working with Munda our anti-o facilitator to develop an anti-o policy for the GSA. The policy will be presented at the next council.

Outreach Coordinator Hiring

We are very excited to announce that we have hired Melissa Conte as our new Outreach Coordinator. She will be working closely with Zidane, our Membership Coordinator, and myself to plan the outreach for the year and prepping for campaigns.

Website

The Board has approved the budget for website design. We have been in touch and received quotes from few designers and will be finalizing our decision signing a contract this week. NEW WEBSITE COMING!

Renovations

We now have signed a contract with a contractor and will be doing renovations (GSA floors, cabinets and painting) at the office. We are aiming to have this done ideally before September. We might have to close the office for few days in August to be able to get the job done safely. I will have more information at our next meeting as the timeline will be finalized soon.

RISE Conference

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The GSA is co-organizing a RISE conference in November with a number of local organizations and student unions. RISE Ottawa is going to be modeled after the two previous National RISEs organized by CFS .

f. Questions

- Nothing to report

6. 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

e. Board of Governors (BOG)

- Nothing to report

f. Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSAs)

- David (CUSAs president) announced that CUSAs is working on accessibility initiative by launching anew bursary fee for students to apply and be funded. CUSAs is also working on Sexual Policy and hiring students with disabilities to give them the opportunities they deserve.

CUSAs is concerned about the new Marijuana policy that the university is working on. CUSAs wants the university to be careful with the language they use so the students feel safe.

CUSAs is making some changes in the business – opening Avin book and coffee – working with the club societies to do the best for their students. CUSAs is planning to move some business to the university center space, to offer more grab and go food option because the students are complaining about the lack of options.

g. Questions

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- Nothing to report

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Nothing to report

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 01.08.2018—01: Implementation of a Sexual Violence Policy

Moved By: Miranda Leibel (VP Operations)

Seconded By: Ashley Courchene

Whereas the GSA is committed to anti-oppressive practice, which includes supporting survivors of sexual and gender based violence, and;

Whereas the GSA advocates on behalf of graduate students for more intersectional sexual violence policies from Carleton University, and;

Whereas the GSA currently does not have a sexual and gender based violence policy that applies to our spaces, and;

Whereas the GSA operates a Sexual Violence Outreach program and hires Sexual Violence Outreach Coordinators to facilitate outreach and programming regarding sexual health and sexual violence, and;

Whereas College and University campuses in Canada have high rates of sexual violence;

Be it resolved that the GSA adopt and implement the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy as outlined below.

Be it further resolved that the GSA commit to revisiting this policy regularly and make changes as needed, with the consent of our Council.

Carried

Carleton Graduate Students’ Association Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy

I. Purpose

The Carleton Graduate Students’ Association is committed to ending sexual and gender based violence in all its forms. This policy therefore reflects a two-pronged approach to ending sexual and gender based violence on campus, with a focus both on addressing specific cases of sexual violence as they arise, and on building a campus culture of consent. This policy makes clear this

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commitment to addressing sexual violence and rape culture through survivor support, awareness, education, training, and prevention programs, the appropriate handling of reports or complaints of sexual and gender based violence incidents, and to fostering and promoting a culture of consent.

The GSA recognizes the need for intersectional approaches to sexual and gender based violence, as the individuals and communities most often impacted by these forms of violence are often subject to structural marginalization based on gender, sexuality, race, Indigeneity, religion, language, dis/ability, class, and nationality. Rape culture cannot be isolated from these other interconnected forms of oppression.

II. Definitions

A. Intersectionality

Intersectionality can be understood as a theoretical and political framework, which helps to understand the interlinking forms of oppression that people experience. It does not consider experiences of oppression, like racism and misogyny, as two separate experiences, but rather as structures that intersect and are mutually constituted, and we all experience these intersections differently based on our positionality.

The inclusion of intersectionality in this policy, which names gender, sexuality, race, Indigeneity, religion, language, dis/ability, class, and nationality is intended to acknowledge that experiences of sexual and gender based violence, as well as the ways we experience healing, are shaped by our positions at these intersections.

B. Sexual Violence

Sexual violence can be broadly defined as any experience of unwanted sexual attention, communication, or touch. This means that sexual violence is not only a physical experience, but also includes sexual harassment, stalking, cyber-stalking, and other forms of violence. Sexual violence is fundamentally an expression of power, and functions through the attempted control over someone else’s sexuality.

C. Gender Based Violence

Gender based violence refers generally to experiences of violence that are shaped by dominant ideologies of gender. Although this has generally been used to refer to violence against women, the GSA understands that gender based violence impacts people of many different genders, and is an expression of power that is intended to limit and constrain gender expression to conform to cis-normative and heterosexist ideologies of gender.

D. Consent

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The GSA defines consent as ongoing, enthusiastic, and affirmative. While this document is specifically referencing consent within the context of sexual and gender based violence, the GSA also acknowledges that consent can and should be extended to other aspects of our life that are non-sexual in nature, and doing so helps to deconstruct the pervasive rape culture in which we live.

E. Rape Culture

Broadly defined, rape culture refers to a social context in which common attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours tolerate, normalize, and condone sexual violence. This includes various behaviours that are included on the spectrum of sexual violence, including rape jokes, and the devaluation of emotional labour, as well as entitlement to time, energy, and labour.

F. Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is defined as any non-consensual sexual touch. This means that sexual assault is a very broad category, and while it does include rape, rape is only one of a set of experiences that can be defined as sexual assault. For example, sexual assault also includes non-consensual kissing or touching, and does not only include experiences of non-consensual penetration.

G. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted sexual attention or communication that is intimidating, humiliating, and/or offensive. This can include sexual comments directed specifically at one person, but could also include general sexual jokes or comments that make anyone in the room feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

H. Stalking

Stalking is a form of gendered and spatialized violence that is intended to make certain groups feel as though they are never ever safe from being watched or attacked. This causes extensive and permanent anxiety and fear in the everyday lives of survivors. Stalking is connected to instances of sexual violence and their link should not be undermined.

I. Entitlement

The logics of rape culture operate on a large spectrum that encompasses forms of gendered entitlement. Entitlement to time, energy, labour may not always have a sexual nature, but operate as part of the founding logics of a culture in which sexual violence is prevalent, justified and normalized.

J. Intimate Partner Violence

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Intimate partner violence includes any experiences of violence within an intimate relationship-- including, but not limited to romantic and sexual partners. Importantly, intimate partner violence does not only include experiences of physical or sexual violence, but also emotional, psychological, verbal, financial, and other forms of abuse.

K. Cyber-harassment

Sexual and gendered violence can and does take place in virtual spaces. This ranges from the non-consensual circulation of photos, unsolicited pictures and name-calling and insulting on dating and social apps. Cyber-harassment may not always have a sexual nature but it can have a gendered nature, in which some genders do not feel safe sharing certain things or are targeted because of their genders. Cyber-harassment can include forms of stalking, wherein past or current abusers send messages, friend requests or more. The effects of cyber-harassment are as real as physical harassment and should be treated as such.

L. Harm reduction

The understanding and application that people’s usage of substance does not explain or cause violence that happens to them. Harm reduction is a set of approaches that seek to address the stigma associated with usage, a stigma that is known to further exacerbate victim-blaming.

III. Background

This policy is put forward in the context of gendered and sexual violence that takes place on College and University campuses across Canada, as well as outside of our institutions. The GSA recognizes the existence of sexual and gender based violence as a spectrum, which can include more visible instances of violence, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner violence, and rape, as well as the more everyday experiences of misogynistic, homophobic, and transphobic jokes, or the invisibility and devaluation of feminized and emotional labour. The GSA recognizes that these behaviours and logics underpin a society in which moments of sexual and gender based violence can occur.

Specifically in a campus setting, it is also important to acknowledge that alcohol and other drug use is often implicated in moments of sexual and gender based violence. The GSA acknowledges that a survivor is never to blame for their experience of violence, regardless of whether or not alcohol or other drugs were consumed.

IV. Application and Scope

This policy applies to all members, staff, executive, and volunteers of the Carleton Graduate Students’ Association, as well as individuals who make use of GSA spaces, including the GSA Lounge, Boardroom, and Mike’s Place Pub, and the GSA’s online platforms (including the GSA Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages). This policy additionally applies at official GSA events, whether they take place on- or off-campus.

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V. Policy

- a. The GSA commits to a zero-tolerance policy for sexual and gender based violence, including assault, harassment, and stalking.
- b. The GSA commits to maintaining the Sexual Assault Outreach program at least one (1) Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator per year to implement education, outreach, and programming dedicated to building a healthy consent culture on campus.
- c. The GSA commits to respecting the difference between a disclosure of sexual or gender based violence, and a formal complaint.
- d. The GSA commits to maintaining the confidentiality of the survivor, unless legally prohibited from doing so, in which case the survivor will be made aware of the need to break confidentiality.
- e. The GSA commits to working with survivors on a case-by-case basis to determine the kinds of support the GSA is able to provide, including, but not limited to, the completion of a safety plan; protection from face-to-face encounters with the perpetrator in GSA spaces and at GSA events; support in navigating the University sexual violence policy and reporting mechanisms; and informal and/or restorative justice alternatives.
- f. The GSA commits to offering sexual and gender based violence training for staff and executives at the GSA.
- g. The GSA commits to a policy of harm reduction, which includes supporting survivors of sexual and gender based violence regardless of their use of alcohol or other drugs.
- h. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University create an intersectional, comprehensive, survivor-centric institutional policy on sexual and gender based violence.
- i. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University thoroughly consults students, including the Carleton GSA and its membership, when any changes are being made regarding University policy on sexual violence.
- j. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University specifically consult with groups who are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender based violence when making decisions on sexual and gender based violence policies.
- k. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University provides sufficient funding to improve support services across campus.
- l. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University respect the difference between a disclosure of sexual violence and a formal complaint.
- m. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University provide access to support services to students, regardless of whether or not the survivor chooses to report.
- n. The GSA commits to advocate that Carleton University provide academic and housing accommodation to students regardless of whether or not the survivor chooses to report.
- o. The GSA commits to review this policy on an ongoing basis, and to update it as necessary with the consent of Council.

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- b. Motion 01.08.2018—02: Support for the Herongate Tenants Coalition**

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Moved: Trycia Bazinet (VP Academic)

Seconded: Miranda Leibel

Whereas over 408 people, including 202 children, are facing eviction by the Timbercreek corporation that plans on destroying their townhouses in what they call a “revitalization” project, and;

Whereas this specific eviction is only phase 2 out of larger eviction campaign being launched by Timbercreek, and;

Whereas the city of Ottawa is complicit in one of the largest eviction campaign ever seen (although they did not grant demolitions permits to Timbercreek as of yet, as this requires the cut of essential services), and;

Whereas people who are affected by these forced evictions are predominantly people of colour (89%) and 44% Somali, and;

Whereas forced evictions and mass displacement is a human rights violations, and displacement of communities of color has a racist and traumatizing precedent in Canada, and;

Whereas the homes of Herongate tenants have been willingly neglected by the landlords in an effort to accelerate eviction processes;

Be it resolved that the GSA will offer \$300 in financial support, as well as free printing for any event communications, for an upcoming fundraiser organized to the benefits of the Herongate Tenants Coalition that will take place on August 25th, from 7-10 pm at the Happy Goat Café on Laurel.

Be it further resolved that the GSA is ready to offer support to its members who might be affected by this issue.

- Amin: Are they evicting students already?
- Trycia: More than 400 people have been evicted so far and it keeps going.

Carried

c. Motion 01.08.2018—03: Adoption of the Indigenous Student Scholarship Policy

Moved: Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)

Seconded: Miranda Leibel

Whereas the legacy of colonialism, residential schools and systemic racism has made access to post-secondary education full of social and economic barriers for Indigenous peoples, and;

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Whereas despite the responsibility of government to ensure Indigenous students’ access to education, vast inaction and prohibitive bureaucracy has created more barriers for Indigenous students, and;

Whereas the GSA is committed to decolonialism and fighting for greater access to education for Indigenous students, and;

Whereas the GSA has already passed a motion committing to creating this award;

Be it resolved GSA adopt the policy governing the Indigenous student awards outlined below:

The GSA Indigenous Student Award was created to help the financial burdens Indigenous students incur over the course of their graduate studies to obtain a degree. The GSA recognizes that Indigenous graduate students make a significant contribution to graduate student life on campus while facing barriers that result from the historical and ongoing process of colonization, exploitation and land theft.

Terms of Reference:

1. The Award

- 1.1. Two (2) awards will be given out each year in the Winter term.
- 1.2. The value of each award is \$500.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Applicants must be members of the GSA.
- 2.2. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- 2.3. Applicants must have completed at least one term of graduate study at Carleton University.
- 2.4. Applicants must be in good academic standing, as defined by the Graduate calendar.

3. Selection Procedure

- 3.1. The committee charged with administering the award is the GSA Awards and Scholarships Committee.
- 3.2. The anonymity of the applicants will be preserved during the selection process when the Awards and Scholarships committee makes its decision.
- 3.3. Applications will be processed with strict confidentiality.

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4. Application procedures

Applicants must submit:

- 4.1. A completed application form;
- 4.2. A personal statement from the candidate that outlines the candidate’s academic achievements, goals, career aspirations, and any other relevant considerations. This statement should not exceed three (3) single-sided pages.
- 4.3. Two references from professors or members of the Carleton Indigenous community.
- 4.4. An academic transcript from Carleton University (photocopies are acceptable).

Carried

d. Motion 01.08.2018—04: Motion to Increase the Value of the GSA Family Leave Grant

Moved: Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)

Seconded: Sean Sarran (Guest, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Whereas the GSA Family Leave Grant (FLG) was established to provide financial support for full-time and part-time Masters and PhD students who require academic leave for parental leave or other family related issues, and;

Whereas the current value of the FLG is a one-time amount of \$1500.00, and;

Whereas the FLG policy has not been updated since 2009 and the cost of living for families has significantly risen since then, and;

Whereas the GSA has received \$21,000 from the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Affairs (FGPA) towards ‘needs-based’ grants for grad students, and;

Be it resolved that the value of GSA Family Leave Grant be raised to a one-time amount of \$3000.00.

Be it further resolved that this raise be reflected in the GSA’s Family Leave Grant Policy.

e. Motion 01.08.2018—05: Adoption of a Health Leave Grant

Moved: Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)

Seconded: Amin Ghaziaskar

Whereas students carry far heavier debt loads, are facing unprecedented competition for jobs, have greater academic pressures and far fewer educational resources, and;

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Whereas these circumstances negatively affects student’s mental and physical health, and;

Whereas the GSA has received a \$21,000 contribution from the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral towards needs-based grants for grad students;

Be it resolved that the GSA establish a Health Leave grant for Masters and PhD students requiring a leave of absence for physical and mental health reasons.

Be it further resolved that the GSA propose the Health Leave grant policy at the September 2018 council meeting.

f. Motion 01.08.2018—06: Motion to Amend the International Student Award Policy

Moved: Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)

Seconded: Sean Sarran (Guest, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Whereas the GSA International Student Award was created to help the financial burdens of international students that they incur over the course of their graduate studies, and;

Whereas the GSA International Student Award is a scholarship that is based on merit rather than a need, and;

Whereas clause 4.4 of the GSA International Student Award policy states that an applicant must submit “a one-page budget that clearly outlines the candidate’s income and expenses for the academic year”, and;

Whereas clause 4.4 is irrelevant to personal merit,

Be it resolved that the GSA International Student Award policy remove section 4.4 to reflect the following policy:

Preamble:

The GSA International Student Award was created to help the financial burdens international students incur over the course of their graduate studies to obtain a degree. The GSA recognizes that international graduate students make a significant contribution to graduate student life on campus while facing additional financial barriers including much higher tuition fees and *limited rights* to work off campus.

Terms of Reference:

1. The Award

1.1 . Two (2) awards will be given out each year in the Winter term.

1.2 . The value of each award is \$500.

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2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Applicants must be members of the GSA.
- 2.2. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- 2.3. Applicants must have completed at least one term of graduate study at Carleton University.
- 2.4. Applicants must be in good academic standing, as defined by the Graduate calendar.

3. Selection Procedure

- 3.1. The committee charged with administering the award is the GSA Awards and Scholarships Committee.
- 3.2. The anonymity of the applicants will be preserved during the selection process when the Awards and Scholarships committee makes its decision.
- 3.3. Applications will be processed with strict confidentiality.

4. Application procedures

Applicants must submit:

- 4.1. A completed application form;
- 4.2. A personal statement from the candidate that outlines the candidate’s academic achievements, goals, career aspirations, and any other relevant considerations. This statement should not exceed three (3) single-sided pages.
- 4.3. Two references from professors or members of the Carleton Indigenous community.
- 4.4. An academic transcript from Carleton University (photocopies are acceptable).

Carried

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- Sean Sarran (Guest, Civil and Environmental Engineering): is there anything for the local students as such the new funding that the university is applying on International tuition fee
- students in the future.
- Ashley: yes
- Mira

10. ADJOURNMENT

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Moved by: Miranda Leibel
Seconded by: Trycia Bazinet

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03