

GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
On Zoom – 06:20 pm – Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

We, the members of GSA-Carleton are committed to following Indigenous legal traditions of acknowledging the sovereign waters, lands, and the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Nation in the territory of the Kitchissippi watershed, which includes the City of Ottawa. In doing so, we are also acknowledging the illegalities of our presence under Indigenous legal traditions, and acknowledging the ongoing and violent methods of settler colonialism. This acknowledgment is but a first step in accepting our responsibility to correct these injustices through action and furthering the education of ourselves and others.

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR AND ANTI OPPRESSION FACILITATOR

Anti-Oppression Facilitator (Melissa) Ground Rules for today's meeting:

1. No Discriminatory/Oppressive remarks
2. Attack the problem, not the person
3. Use "I" statements and experiences
4. Share the Mic/ Raise Hands
5. Be cognizant of how much time you're taking
6. Respect others point of view

a. Announcement of Proxies

1. Murtadha Faraj has appointment Bradley Sylvestre - NPSIA

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Namrata

Seconded: Chi-Chi

1. Motion to Amend the Agenda to add 5.b "GSA Procedure Discussion" and move "Mike's Place Consultation discussion" to be moved to 5.c in the Agenda. The motivation is to revisit and reiterate the existing procedures regarding decision making abilities of the executives.

Moved: Kimberley

Seconded: Mathew

2. Motion to Amend the Amendment: If the concern is to bring out the words from the governing document; then can this be a point of clarification instead of discussion.

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- Motion Withdrawn/Cancelled.

Voting to adopt Motion #1 - Abstention: Harar

Motion Carries. Agenda was amended and Adopted.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the last meeting.

Moved: Jeremy

Seconded: Tarah

Motion to Table the minutes: Less time was given to review the minutes.

Moved: Nicole

Seconded: Kimberley

5. ORDER OF THE DAY:

- a. **Motion 10.02.2021-01: Motion to Elect Council Representatives on the Electoral Board**

Moved by: Namrata

Seconded by: Hemant

Whereas the GSA forms an electoral board each year to oversee the GSA elections;

Whereas according to the GSA Bylaws, the council has two representatives on the electoral board;

Be it resolved that Mason Rodney and **Jeremy Keats** are elected to be on the GSA electoral board.

Motion carries.

Questions:

1. What are the roles and the responsibilities of the Representatives? Could it be detailed a little bit for some context?
2. I'm not sure if we can strike an elections committee without two counselors?

b. GSA Procedure Discussion

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Letter by Nicole Lee on behalf of GSLA. GSLA has three asks:

1. The GSA releases clear and transparent financial statements as well as business plans for the Community Hub detailing 2-4 years' expenses and sustainability of the new structure, along with an outline of the advantages of the new venture over Mike's place.
2. When essential changes are proposed to any student service, the GSA shall form a committee to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of that service. Meaning consultations are needed.
3. No major financial decision is made without the vote of the council. This would ensure work productivity amongst associations. If there is any ambiguity in the by-laws, then those should be amended.

Questions:

1. What does the GSA's constitution say is required to change a Bylaw? Does it require a vote by ALL members (students) or is a vote by council sufficient?
2. Were the finances not presented to the Council?
3. How are the executives going to ensure that they are more transparent and accountability in the future?
4. Could we establish a committee consisting of Executives and Council members to go over finances or specifically about Mike's place?

c. Mike's Place Consultations Discussion (1.5 hours)

Motion to Amend: Extend the time of this discussion by 20 mins to allow people on the speakers list to finish speaking.

Moved: Kimberley

Seconded: Kimia

Carries.

Questions:

1. Executives had put together a proposal by executives which seems biased and consultation is not in good faith? I do not believe it's a fair and unbiased questionnaire.
2. Executives used 'relevance' language for Mike's place's staff is highly classist and racist and the student body was not consulted. The Staff working there is relevant. Why was none of Mike's place issues put forward?
3. Are we asking for the students to not be consulted?
4. Folks have been extremely rude and disrespectful. The treatment of GSA staff should not be done in a way that is vile. Can everyone do that and be more compassionate?
5. A lot of racialized students have reached out regarding Mike's place. When we are talking about Mike's place's future, we must not limit our choices based on the people present in the meeting. But also ensure racialized students are also represented?

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6. How does the GSA plan to account for the sentiments of first year grad students who cannot form an opinion on Mike's Place because COVID-19 has prevented them from being on Carleton's campus?
7. Why can we not change it to a non-profit restaurant?
8. Why isn't Mike's a non-profit space if the GSA is a non-profit org?
9. Is there any reason why the pub cannot be not for profit?
10. If it is a proposal, why was the MP manager Fired?
11. Can a GSA member read Salman's statement?
12. Since there's a lot of conversation going on the chat, would it be possible to see the current order of the speaker's list just in case folks who think they are on the speaker's place can get themselves added if they are not already on it?
13. Would the Community Hub lose money? If so, how much, and how much relative to Mike's Place?
14. Where are we getting those numbers from?
15. What if the entire campus unites and asks for rent relief? Their rent is scheduled per the operating costs of the space, and the operating cost during COVID I imagine has to be less, no?
16. Further to Nicole's point, is it possible to have advanced notice for the consultations because a lot of the consultations were happening on very short notice, which would not allow for maximum participation from the students?
17. There doesn't appear to be any consultation with any of the engineering departments, is this correct? or have they simply not yet been scheduled?
18. Can we move to let them speak and extend the time?
19. Can we establish a time frame in which the next meeting will happen?
20. Was Mike's Place open during 2020?
21. After this meeting, will there be new specific information for us to share with our respective department grad students and will the survey be amended before being re-distributed to our department?
22. Maybe consider removing the survey until council and executives can agree on one for the grad student body?
23. Could we be given complete access to the financials i.e., financials be provided to the council which would allow individuals to conduct their own analysis?
24. Would Folks support hiring an independent auditor? Or folks prefer a financial committee and sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement?

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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

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- e. VP Operations (Chichi Ayalogu)
- f. Questions
 - No questions

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
 - a. Board of Governors (BOG)
 - b. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
 - c. Questions
 - No questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Nothing to report

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothing to report

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion to set a Council Meeting in the next 2 weeks.

Moved: Kimberley

Seconded: Maxine

Carries.

Question:

1. Can we set a timeline for the next meeting or next steps?
2. Could we have the minutes from this meeting and Agenda sent to us prior to the day of the next meeting?
3. Could the council discuss the next time over doodle and decide?
4. Can executives speak to removal of the miscommunicated question on the survey?

11. ADJOURNMENT

At: 9:42PM