

## **GSA COUNCIL – Minutes**

**Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario**

**On Zoom - 6:07 pm – Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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### **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**

#### **a. Announcement of Proxies**

1. Molly Mcguire for Liam Mcdermott - Public Policy and Administration
2. Kimia Fardfini for Sonya McLaren - Psychology
3. Kit Chokly for Miles Kenyon - Communication and Media Studies
4. Sydney Roy for Mohammed Salah Uddin - Carleton SPPA

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved:** Namrata

**Seconded:** Chi-Chi

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **a. Minutes from the last meeting.**

**Moved:** Brendan

**Seconded:** Anna

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Namrata:** Council Credits will not be expiring until the semester we go back to campus

**Stephanie Meyer:** Science to Business re: Panel Discussion on BioTech in Feb, 2021

**Chi-Chi:** Healing Spaces re: Forward the email/poster to departments.

**Victoria Asi:** Please let your department know about a Townhall kinds meeting on Feb 12, 2021  
re: Academic challenges faced by students

### **5. ORDER OF THE DAY:**

#### **a. Presentation of Reports and Motions**

### **6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- a. President (Namrata Tilokani)
- b. VP Finance (Hemant Gupta)

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- c. VP Academic (Victoria Asi)
- d. VP External (Harar Hall)
- 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

**Anna:** Regarding BOG, is it possible to have notices sent out earlier? The notice to apply to BOG was sent after the deadline for application had already passed.

#### **8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- Tarah, ALDS: Virtual Symposium for students to showcase their research. Would you be able to provide any suggestions on how to proceed and what platform to use?
- Sydney, SPPA: There is an increasing interest in Mental Health Coverage. Our department students are very interested. Additionally, they require support to help the co-op office and job board be more efficient.

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- The Future of Mike's Place
  - Presentation by Harar.
  - Questions:
    - Can I ask what the cost of running Mike's is right now?
    - Would the new space have the same kind of vibe as Mike's place?
    - Would the transition eliminate the "open bar" set up? i.e.- you mentioned that faculties would have to rent out the space at night- is there any way to have Mike's place functioning the same way it was before in the evening? (multipurpose?)
    - I have never been to Carleton to study or enjoy its facilities in the academic setting, but is this the only university bar for grad students? I know from the University of Ottawa, there are several university bars and places that students can go to especially since it is downtown- not sure how this would affect spaces for graduate students who only want to socialize?

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- Have you compared this to other grad students/incubators like the one at Ryerson or at University of Toronto etc.? Some of these have been balloon costs and lose focus etc? How many years have you planned for?
- Regarding being a space for celebrations: Is this supposed to be possible only after regular opening hours (e.g., 9-5) and ahead of time? And what are the costs you have in mind for that?
- How will this space be branded differently so it doesn't sound just like a student/department lounge? Like, how will students choose Mike's over their department lounge?
- Have you considered asking students if they would be willing to pay a certain amount extra with tuition fees for Mike's (depending on the price per student of course)?
- Can someone address how a bar on a closed campus lost 210k this year? Were staff still being paid?
- How are these services directly different from what I heard about the GSA grad lounge?
- Did Mike's Place receive any Federal Wage Subsidies?
- How much money was paid to employees while the bar was closed?
- Was the consideration for a temporary lay-off considered while the government announced the CERB or CESB?
- Have other alternatives been looked into? Perhaps privatizing the bar, or altering hours, staffing, etc? I think we need to recognize that Mike's place has become a staple in many grad student's lives. While financing is obviously a massive issue- perhaps there are alternatives or ways of fundraising- things like renting out space or including some of these alternative ideas you are proposing for the new space.
- What happens in case the community consultation results in favour of keeping Mike's?
- Is the GSA planning on sending a survey to the whole grad student body on their thoughts?
- Isn't having a place like Mike's place key to promoting the essential work-life balance for our graduate students?
- Would there be funding available through Carleton for renovations?
  
- In the survey would you ask students if they would be willing to pay extra in Mike's place for Mike's? say \$50.00 per student?
- If the students selected closing Mike's Place, could the costs somehow be passed along to students? i.e., cheaper bus pass, health costs, other student services
- Many services being suggested for the new place are many of these services to be provided in the GSA Lounge. What would be the differences between these 2 spaces?

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- Why do you think the losses have been going up since 2017? This year is exceptional of course, but are there clues as to why in other years?
- In all honesty, students want somewhere to go after class and work (which usually takes up all of their 9-5 hours). If this is only rented out at night for specific activities and its drop-in isn't accessible to students (like me) who work 2 jobs or do their research during the daytime hours. How can you ensure that this is more accessible for students? (i.e., longer hours or allowing for other activities)
- Can we move or note in the minutes that all our concerns raised will be put (likely repurposed slightly for ease of expression) into the survey?
- How much is Mike's space rent?
- Why can't the research, organizing, and other help happen in the GSA lounge?
- If students adamantly state that they want to keep Mike's place, will due diligence be done to find alternatives and figure out a way to keep it afloat? Or has this decision been already made to close it?
- Are lots of people currently using the GSA lounge in this way?
- What would be the purpose of the survey? what will be asked?
- Have you considered some form of membership? So, students who want to use the service can purchase a membership and receive some discounts. For people who do not have a membership prices would be higher. This way only people who want the service would pay more. Also, what about fundraisers such as merchandise or partnering with another student organization on campus?
- Would CUSA consider making it a joint space for undergrads and grads as right now some undergrads already use the space?
- What is Ollie's doing right now? How are they functioning? Do they have the same concerns?
- Why is it 200k if rent is only 42k and you have laid off the manager and other employees now?
  
- Would a petition from students for rent relief help in your opinion?
- What were the results of this consultation with the students?
- Is the GSA going to have a preliminary vote before the issue goes to the students' cohort as a whole vote?
- I truly understand the complicated situation, and I believe many people will understand. But also, I can't see how Mike's substitution will replace Mike's function. Why not run everything in the GSA lounge and save even more then?
- How would changing Mike's function save money next year/rest of this year if the campus remains to be closed?
- May I add some more context around memberships and our efforts to get support from other campus groups?
- Does anyone have any cheaper/sustainable idea to substitute Mike's place, keeping its social characteristics?

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- Aren't executives required to bring the closing of Mike's place to the Council for a vote?
- Faculty are frequenting Mike's as well, right? Are there any options/organisations on that side that we could hope for support from?
- Do we mean sustainable as financial or environmentally?
- Will the council get to see the survey before it is sent out?
- What exactly is this survey dealing with though? Whether to refurbish the space or just close it?

### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Student Organization Grant** - Please apply for it if you are organizing any virtual event or merchandise (like hoodies). It's \$600.00.
- **Consultations around accommodations** - We will be resuming. Please feel free to contact us.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: Hemant

Seconded: Stephanie

**At: 8:50PM**