

GSA COUNCIL – AGENDA

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Wednesday, March 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER – 6:09pm, Wednesday, March 20, 2019

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 acknowledgement is but a first step in accepting our responsibility to correct these injustices through action and furthering the education of ourselves and others.

Attendance

Hesam Farhani (ALDS)
Hemant Gupta (Computer Science)
Fatimah El Feiteri (NPSIA)
Tariqa Tandon (Political Science)
James Patriquin (Political Science)
Cathy Aqyemang (Cognitive Science)
Leigl Dunn (Psychology)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Simon Vodrey (Communications)
Annika Mazzarella (Art History)
Olivia Akin (Women and Gender Studies)
Alaine Spiwak (BOG)
Sarah Suhotcky (Eurus)
Sidney Moran (SICS)
Paisley Barham (SICS)
Kristen Webster (PSSA)
Codie Fortin Lalande (ALDS)
Ashley Courchene (VP Finance)
Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

- a. Announcement of Proxies
 - Mackenzie Birdgenaw appointed Paisley Barham
 - Hai Gibli appointed Fatimah El Feiteri
 - Carmen Warner appointed Simon Vodrey

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a. Minutes March 20, 2019
 - Moved:** Jay
 - Seconded:** Ashley

Carries

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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- b. Minutes from February 27, 2019

Moved: Simon

Seconded: Ashley

Carries

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nothing to report

5. ORDER OF THE DAY: All Candidate Committee Forum

Candidates presented themselves. Each one of them addressed the council representatives for a period of three minutes.

- Kristen: How come the previous recommendations of the CROs were not incorporated with the current process?
- Jay: there was a lot of miscommunication. The CRO of last year did not share most of the information related to the candidates. Those miscommunications were really hurtful and I am not going to go in detail about them because this is not what today's meeting is about. A lot of recommendations were not taken into consideration because of these reasons.
- Kristen: Just in terms of finance, and after talking to previous council members: Mike's place is not making profit. Ashley mentioned that there is a new system that shows whether Mike's place is selling well or not. Maybe you also need to implement a new thing to sell like cappuccino machine for those who do not drink.
- Jess: Definitely, we can do something that is welcoming to everyone.
- Alaine Spiwak: is there a reason why we do not do online voting? Many people do that to get more votes.
- Ashley: The issue is security. Students can hack the system and change the results. We are still open to talk about that in future.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

Elections

As you heard from our candidates today – elections are upon us. Please vote and get your student colleagues to do the same! I have been busy working with the CEO on elections logistics.

Meeting with FGPA.

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I met with the FGPA this week to talk about a few issues surrounding grad student life from student tuition fees, to international grad students, student-supervisor documents, TA class sizes and leave of absence policies.

Graduate Mental Health Peer Support Committee

I met with folks from the Peer Support Committee and the Mental Health Committee. Grad counsellor and Peer Support Coordinator check-in. The PSP will end on April 18 th for the term and they will be off for the summer

Ancillary Fee Protocol Meeting

I met with senior admin to talk about Doug Ford's changes. They gave us mock-up plan of how the opt-out process will look like. There is an extra step in the registration process which will give students the opportunity to opt-out

- b. VP Finance (Ashley Courchene)

Grants

Please let everyone you know about our March 30th deadline for GSA grants and awards. Students may either come up to the GSA to get a paper application form or download the form at gsacarleton.ca - just look at the navigation bar under Awards.

Coalition building & resistance against Doug Ford

Today was the student walkout. It was a great first step. Additionally, the coalition we build here on campus is planning a service blackout possibly for April 1. This means that most services that the GSA provides will be shut down for a day to show students what they lose if Doug Ford's cuts go through. We are trying to get as many student organizations as possible to join us.

Elections

Feel free to ask me about my election campaign after the meeting.

- c. VP Academic (Farima Afaq)

Community Engagement Steering Committee

I am representing the Graduate Students' Association at the Community Engagement Steering Committee. As per the committee's terms of reference, its mandate is "to provide strategic guidance in the development of Carleton's community engagement initiatives, informed by consultations and previous reviews of Carleton's community engagement."

Thus far, the main idea proposed is creating a hub to a digital strategy for community engagement. This initiative is inclusive of three different phases, to create a centralized portal for

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information about community engagement opportunities, enhancing a platform to promote collaboration between campus community and the general public, and allowing the community to proceed with the next steps for action such as posting opportunities through the portal. Please note that the ideas discussed above are still at their initial stages.

Student Engagement and Mobilization

As part of our Team strategy at GSA, we have been looking into various ways to raise awareness of students about the recent student tuition cuts and its impacts on students. As one of the approaches, I am working in collaboration with the CKCU, a community based campus radio station, which you may have heard of. Our first tentative program will be conducted this week with guest speakers who will introduce the issue and discuss its implications. Stay tuned, as the program link may be shared via #EngageCarletonGrads, so join the group if you haven't already done so. We also would like to raise students' voices on behalf of this issue and their experiences, so if you or any students from your department can speak on the matter during upcoming programs, please reach out to Farima Afaq, VP Academic at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

Upper Year Students' Issue Survey

As you may recall from last council meeting, we had a Survey sent out to graduate students through departmental emails and social media. We only received 13 responses, which is not many by far compared to the number of graduate students at Carleton. However, this data is still helpful in demonstrating that prominent issues circulate around misunderstanding, unclear communication and a lot of confusion amongst students, their respective departments and the administration. For instance, students have indicated confronting problems related to the clarity of guidelines on completion time, the process of extension, etc. We will continue to try and hold more conversations on these issues.

With any questions and concerns about this issue or any of the above matters, please contact Farima Afaq, VP Academic at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

- d. VP External (Helia Doutaghi)

CFS - National Graduate Caucus

I met with the graduate student representatives across the country at the NGC meeting on 15-17th March in Ottawa. We discussed various issues including the impact of Ford's cut on provinces other than Ontario and how they can contribute to the fight. We further strategized for better and more effective outreach and communications with our members at our locals and each other. I presented our Mental Health campaign and what we have achieved in the past two years and discussed the ways in which GSA can help others implement this campaign on their campuses.

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I am also thrilled to announce that I was elected as the next Chairperson of the NGC. I am very excited to be working with graduate students across the country and will continue to serve the graduate students at Carleton next year.

Student Government Lunch

I attended the student government lunch last week where we spoke about the Indigenous initiatives that Carleton is currently working on. The GSA will be working with the university for better outreach on these projects. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact us.

Remembrance/ Solidarity night

We released a joint statement condemning the terrorist attack against Muslims in New Zealand. We are also working on an event for April 4th to honour the victims of this cowardly attack thanks to Fatima's initiative, our councillor, and in collaboration with the MSA.

Keep an eye for further details on our social media.

e. Questions

Simon: the discussion of the FGPA, is there an update about the extension for the PhD program?

Jay: FGPA is dancing around that issue, they are asking why the students are not anticipating when they should contact the FGPA for extensions, why they are waiting to the last minute to do that? I am meeting with FGPA next week, but I will give the matter for the new team to handle that.

James: I would like to hear from someone of that electoral board about the CRO report.

Jay: Absolutely, we can reconstruct and reorganize the board.

7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

Hemant spoke about how they can improve or stop getting rid of books from the library, because it is specially affecting the English department.

b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

Nothing to report

c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

Jay: Faculties are losing international students because other universities are simply providing better packages, a matter that should be addressed.

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- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)

Nothing to report

- f. Board of Governors (BOG)

Alaine:

- For 2020, there will be a decrease of 20%.
- Graduate application fee will go up 10 CAD, the first increase since 10 years.
- You can always attend our next meeting, it is at 3 am and open for public.
- The sexual violence policy has not yet been approved.

- g. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

Nothing to report

- i. Questions

- Tariqa: We need to do fundraise in order to have a better library. It does not make any sense to me that I have to pay thousands of dollars and not receive what is essential for any student: the access to a decent library.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Simon: communication studies on– tomorrow and Friday

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion 20.03.2019 – 01: Solidarity with Justice for Abdirahman Coalition

Moved By: Jay Ramasubramanyam (President)

Seconded By: Ashley

Whereas, Mr. Abdirahman Abdi, an unarmed Somali-Canadian man with Mental Health issues was killed during a police altercation on Sunday, July 24th, 2016

Whereas, the GSA condemns this despicable act by the Ottawa police that has resulted in such a heartbreaking loss for Mr. Abdi's family

Whereas On February 4th, 2019 the criminal trial of Ottawa Police Const. Daniel Montsion began in Ottawa, on charges of manslaughter, aggravated assault, and assault with a weapon in connection with the beating death of Abdirahman Abdi. The trial is scheduled for a 12 week period from February 4th to May 3, 2019.

Whereas the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition has requested to take notice of this trial and attend as much of it as possible.

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Be it resolved that the GSA donate \$200 to the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition

Be it further resolved that the GSA increase awareness of the trial and to encourage members to attend the trial.

Carries

b. Motion 20.03.2019 – 02: Support for the Micheal Bueckert Legal Defense Fund

Moved By: Helia Doutaghi (VPX) (James because Helia is absent)

Seconded By: Heymant

Whereas Micheal Bueckert is being sued for \$150,000 by an executive of the "uOttawa Students for Free Speech" for suggesting in a blog that he may hold alt-right ideological views due to his association with Gavin McInnes (former leader of the alt-right gang Proud Boys) and other extremist figures.

Whereas the individual suing publicly claimed to be one of the only students in the province to be consulted by Ontario Premier Doug Ford on sweeping changes to student fees (a policy which will have the effect of defunding most campus activities).

Whereas this lawsuit is a clear intimidation attempt designed to silence Micheal Bueckert and other student activists.

Be it resolved that the GSA contribute \$500 to Micheal Bueckert's legal defence fund

Carries

10. OTHER BUSINESS

James: I think it is a good idea to send an email to councillors before we get to the meeting instead of just asking surprisingly during the meeting if there are other businesses.

Jay: Usually, we send email a couple of days earlier, but maybe we can do that a week earlier from now on.

Codie: Speaking about the website, I was checking it to see the minutes and the last time the minutes were posted was on March 2018.

Jay: The website has gone through a lot of changes, but we will make sure they are now posted.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Simon

Seconded by: Hemant

Meeting is adjourned at 7:30