

GSA COUNCIL – AGENDA

***Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario
Mackenzie Building Room 4499 - 6:00 pm – January 30th, 2019***

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, Wednesday, January 30, 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

*Carman Warner (Communications)
Tariqa Tandon (Political Science)
James Patriquin (Political Science)
Kristen Webster (MPPA)
Pansee Atta (Curatorial Studies)
Itai Gibli (NPSIA)
Annika Mazzarella (Art & History)
Sarah Suchotzky (EURUS)
Hope Tohme (ENGL)
Cathy Agyemang (Cognitive Science)
Sidney Moran (SICS)
Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Jesse Whattam (Political Economy)
Taryn Hepburn (Legal Studies)
Jennifer Liu (Journalism)
Sarah (Social Work)
Leigh Dun (Psychology)
Olivia Atsin (Women and Gender Studies)
Simon Vodrey (COMS)
Bridgette Desjardins (Law & Legal Studies)
Lauren Watts (Environment + Geography)
Fatimah Elfeitori (NPSIA)
Melissa Conte (GFP)
Clare (Social Work)*

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

-No Proxies

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Carmen

Seconded: James

Passed

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from December 3, 2018

Moved: Helia

Seconded: Simon

Passed

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zidan- Trivia night on Black Culture in Mikes Place on 30th January

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

a. Presentation on Doug Ford announcement and OSAP changes

Presented by Akbar and Zidan

Questions:

[James CUPE 4600]: First Year have no idea

[]: Reps lost the ability to plan their annual budget.

[Sarah]: Did the interest is going to apply from the current loan also?

[Akbar]: Possibly yes

[Taryn]: Did there is a contract between government and student regarding OSAP?

[Akbar]: No formally

b. Discussion on the fightback

Presented by Ashley and Helia

Questions:

[Jesse]: Draw attention to the fairness of students for tuition fees

[Ashley]: Optional fee going to affects us all

[Melissa]: Graduate students in senior years, have to pay OSAP back in the break time as they are not registered.

[Kristen]: Reduction in money going to impact students

[James]: How's policy changing is going to impact Carleton as a Material according to Carleton Standards.

[Bridgette]: Out of priority TA is frozen for few departments.
[Taryn]: Agreeing with Bridgette point
[Cody]: Bargain with university is not going to give us anything
[Sidney]: Students who are not eligible for OSAP loan.
[Pansee]: How university is able to maintain the resources of services like mental health after they already made the commitment to students
[Farima]: GSA services are going get impacted.
[Melissa]: How going to impact the new students coming to the university.
[Taryn]: GSA Community is going to get impacted
[Helia]: Targeting the student union community
[Ashley]: How as students we are going to fight this
[Hope]: Get in touch with other student unions
[James]: Get in touch with all student unions in the university and outside university
[Jesse]: Learning from other process.
[Akbar]: How the student union can accommodate strike
[Codie]: Prepare Grad students during the departmental meeting
[Sarah]: Reaching out to media for proving students' points
[Tariqa]: Senate put their points in case of which fees are important and which are not, but not proper response from the senate
[Sidney]: Solidarity with Students Getting in touch with the undergrads students by explain situation.
[Codie]: Support Sidney's point
[Bridgette]: Pushback to professor by not doing extra work
[Carman]: Sharing promotional material on social Facebook page (media pages)
[Taryn]: Townhall for this.
[Pansee]: Direct Action got the good like picket line for proving the point.
[Akbar]: Protest in front of offices of key officers of conservatives.
[Lauren]: Alternate solution for fighting back of the changes done by Ford
[Itai]: Sending Email to all graduate students
[Jay]: Carleton is not willing to share the list of the students with the GSA.
[Itai]: Not okay with picketing line and all.
[Carman]: Doodle poll for volunteers for tabling.
[Sarah]: Email about the rally on Monday 4th Feb to forward to students and department.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive Reports – GSA Council meeting – January 30th, 2019

President

Report respectfully submitted by Jay Ramasubramanyam

Winter Orientation

We hosted a dinner and social event for new graduate students joining us in the winter semester. It was a full house at the GSA lounge, with approximately 100 students coming by. It was one of the most successful Orientations we have had in a few years. We were also present at the general orientation to

provide support and information about the GSA's advocacy and services.

Grad Student Advocacy

The VPA and I have been working with a number of students to provide support in dealing with the university and FGPA regarding academic and non-academic issues. We have had some successful advocacy sessions on behalf of students, so if you have any problems with your program, feel free to reach out to me, and let your constituents know that they can reach out to the GSA for support.

Senate Updates

We attended the first Senate meeting of the year. There were a few updates on the recent Ford announcement but nothing clear about how the changes will affect students or student associations. There have been assurances that the President will work closely with student associations on this issue. Please stay tuned for the upcoming presentation on the changes.

Vice President Finance

Report respectfully submitted by Ashley Courchene

Collective Bargaining with our staff

We have been preparing to renegotiate our collective agreement with CUPE Local 1281. This agreement covers all of the GSA's part time and student staff. The first round of bargaining begins next week. We would like to apologise it has taken more than a year and a half to get to this point. We aim to present policies and guidelines in the near future so this does not happen again. It is critical that the collective bargaining process occur without delays when possible.

Reconciliation

The planning for the "Let us speak strong" conference is still ongoing and we are reaching out to potential keynote speakers. The conference will be held in late February or early March, so watch out for that. We have been engaging with the newly struck CU Indigenous Strategic Initiatives Committee to give feedback to Carleton on how to better serve Indigenous students. If you want to get involved in some Indigenous language revitalization projects, email me at vpf@gsacarleton.

Organising against Ford

I have been part of the group of organisers that organised the last few direct actions since the Ford announcement. We called several well attended rallies. In addition, we supported a group of students who wanted to share their experiences with MPP Merrilee Fullerton, the Minister for Training, Colleges and Universities, at a meet and greet event with the Young Conservatives. Unfortunately, she was not interested in listening, and left during the second speaker's testimonial. The next rally is happening on Monday February 4th, part of a coordinated provincial actions all across the province. The rally will tentatively be held at Parliament at 12pm. If you would like to connect with the organizing efforts, please feel free to email me at vpf@gsacarleton.ca

Vice President Operations

Report respectfully submitted by Miranda Leibel

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

January 21-25th was sexual assault awareness week, and the GSA participated in many events, including art workshops and outreach events. Overall the week was a success, and we would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who made this possible. It has come to our attention that a film we screened during this week, "Slut or Nut" has recently been called out for its harmful practices. The GSA and the Consent Culture Committee apologize for screening the film without doing our due diligence in researching the implications of this film. We will be issuing a public statement of apology with further details.

Sexual Violence Policy Consultations

The second round of policy consultations will take place on Monday, February 11th, from 10-12pm in MacOdrum Library 481. These consultations are open to all graduate students, and prior registration is not needed to participate. If you are interested, the Consent Culture Committee will be meeting next Monday, February 4th, at 4:30 in the GSA Boardroom to prepare for these consultations.

Mental Health Peer Support Program

The graduate student mental health peer support program has been fully implemented this semester. There are 11 trained grad student peer support volunteers, who run drop in hours three times a week. The volunteers and staff of the program have run a number of workshops and drop-in sessions, including positive psychology, craft workshops, and more. In February, the program will host a number of events, including a book club, a Palentines Day event, and an eating disorder workshop. More information is available by emailing GradPeerSupport@cunet.carleton.ca

Powershift 2019

This is a reminder that in the December council meeting, we voted to endorse 5 seats for our members at the upcoming Powershift summit, happening in February in Ottawa. We are still looking for students to participate in the event. Please feel free to email me at vpo@gsacarleton.ca to find out more information, or to request a seat at the symposium.

Vice President Academic

Report respectfully submitted by Farima Afaq

Student Engagement Initiative

We have created a Graduate student Facebook Group to inform students of events, campaigns and other issues.. Please pick up your phones now and search for #EngageCarletonGrads to join the group, a safe and respectful space, where you can initiate discussions and share resources with graduate student of all Departments. If you have any questions, please shoot me an email at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

Graduate Academic Caucus

We had our first meeting of the year last week. Thanks to student representatives who were able to attend the meeting. We discussed topics including student engagement initiative, the leave of absence and parental leave, supervision policy, and etc. We are still missing representatives from many other departments, so if you would like to provide an input regarding specific academic related issues on behalf of your department, please reach out to me, and either yourself or someone else from your department can participate at GAC meetings. The meetings are only held once a while, so it is not a huge commitment. If you are unsure whether or not your department may have a GAC rep, please connect with me.

Leave of Absence and Parental Leave

The committee for the leave of absence and parental leave which includes faculty, FGPA and GSA representatives recently held a meeting. The committee has been advocating for resources, such as access to library, gym, and counselling to be provided not only to those on parental leave but also students who are on leave of absence for various reasons. Both graduate and undergraduate students are deemed not eligible to benefit from the service. The committee hasn't finalized next steps and our work continues.

Vice President External

Report respectfully submitted by Helia Doutaghi

Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario General Meeting

I was at the CFS-O Provincial general meeting when the Doug Ford announcement was made public. It was a good opportunity to touch base with all student unions in the province. We discussed possible plans for the fightback to save the student movement. We organized a rally at Queens Park, which was a precursor for the massive rally that occurred the following week.

Building an Ottawa Student Coalition

I have been working with provincial and Ottawa activists to build a coalition that will mobilize students to fight for free education and to reverse the damages that the Ford government will inflict on students. We are having our first Ottawa wide meeting tomorrow.

Campaign strategy

Students must be made aware of all the changes coming in September. I have been working on developing a campaign strategy to mobilize students on campus. We will be giving class talks, posterizing the campus, tabling regularly and visiting grad offices.

Mental Health First Aid Training

The Mental Health First Aid Training will be taking place on February 23 & 24 from 9:00am-3:30pm both days. We have 11 spots for graduate students on a first come first served basis. Participants must commit to attending the entire training. If you are interested in attending, please email me at vp@gsacarleton.ca

f. Questions

[Sarah]- Mental health training is for Reps or grad

[Helia]- For all

g. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

[Melissa]-

- Parental Leave- FGPA agreed to give some resources for students in parental leave [Claire]
- FGPA – talk about the milestones [Module implementation]

- Ford Cuts discussion on GFB with Dean of FGPA

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

e. Board of Governors (BOG)

f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

g. Questions

[Tariqa]- How we are going to handle the change in FGPA Dean?

[Melissa]- We need things in writing as some other person will going to take that position.

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

[Jennifer]: Feb 5, Lunar new year Departmental celebration, Events, thanks GSA for support.

[Helia]: Event is open for all?

[Jennifer]: We are trying to make it open?

[Lauren]: Conference Happily Ever After hosting by Law and Legal Students, Date is tentative

[Farima]- Share those events on new Facebook page.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Motion 30.01.2019 – 01: Motion to Establish Voting Dates for the 2018 GSA General Elections

Moved By: Jay Ramasubramanyam

Seconded By: James

Whereas the GSA normally holds its elections in March of each year and voting takes place for two consecutive days; and Whereas the Electoral Board is being struck and the process for selecting a Chief Electoral Officer(s) has been initiated; therefore: Be it resolved that the Graduate Students' Association Council set March 21 and 22, 2019 as the dates for the 2019 General Elections.

[Zidan] – Put in an amendment that changes that date

[Carman]- Motion for amendments on 20 and 21st March

Moved by: Carman

Seconded by: Sarah

Amendment Passed

Questions:

[Codie]- Fridays are bad for elections date.

Motion Passed

b) Nominations and elections for two (2) GSA Electoral Board positions

[Jessy]: What does the role intend?

[Zidan]: It is the body that oversees the bylaws for the elections and all rules, hiring chief electoral officer.

Nominations- Carmen and Jesse

Done

c) Motion 30.01.2019 - 02: Motion to Appoint GSA Councillors to the Electoral Board

Moved By: Jay Ramasubramanyam

Seconded By: **Simon**

Whereas GSA By-Law #10, Section 2, states that the Electoral Board will include two members of GSA Council who are elected by Council, therefore;

Be it resolved that ___Carman_____ and _____Jesse_____ be appointed to the GSA

Electoral Board for the 2018 General Elections.

Motion Passed

d) Motion 30.01.2019 - 03: Motion to Fight Doug Ford

Moved By: Helyeh Doutaghi

Seconded By: Clare

Whereas the Doug Ford government's post-secondary reform will have disproportionate impacts on the quality of education and services offered by Carleton University;

Whereas the cut of the OSAP program will have serious impacts on students' capacity to afford post-secondary education;

Whereas the cut of the OSAP program will have serious negative impacts on both international and graduate students' capacity to afford graduate studies;

Whereas the proposed "Student Choice Initiative" is a direct attack on campus democracy and essential services that students chose to fund;

Whereas the Ontario government has made it evident that they do not intend to listen to the needs of students on campuses across the province;

Whereas the GSA is committed to fight for high quality and affordable education for graduate students on campus and protect its member's interest against the anti-democratic initiatives and policies;

Whereas the GSA strongly condemns the aforementioned announcement by the Ontario government;

Be it resolved that the GSA works in collaboration with CFS National, CFS Ontario, community organizers, local activists and labor groups on campus to build capacity and mobilization in opposition to the recent Ontario announcement;

Be it further resolved that the GSA Executives work to plan for necessary structural

changes and take necessary measures that will be required in order for the Organization to maintain its essential services to its members.

Carman- Language of the Resolve?

Helia: GSA is considering all the necessary structure as not sure about the budget cut

Carmen- Any changes will bring to the council for any structural changes?

Helia- No, Executives will be responsible for decisions

Motion Passed

e) Motion 30.01.2019 - 04: Notice of Constitutional Amendment to Reduce Number of Executives

Moved By: Ashley Courchene & Helyeh Doutaghi

Seconded By:

Whereas the Ford Government introduced the “Student Choice Initiative” in January 1st 2019, which creates a mandatory opt out system of student union dues; and

Whereas GSA needs to operate in the most cost efficient manner in preparation for the implementation of the “Student Choice Initiative”; and

Whereas the GSA can potentially operate with four executive members in times of crisis

Be it resolved that article 5.1.2 of the constitution to read as follows:

5.1.2 The Executive shall consist of the President, Vice-President Finance & Vice-President Operations, Vice-President External and Vice-President Academic.

Be it resolved that article tt.2 of the constitution to read as follows:

tt.2.1 Monies allocated to the GSA shall be distributed, in principle, by a budget prepared by the association’s Vice-President Finance & Operations.

tt.2.2 Prior to the upcoming fiscal year, the Vice-President Finance & Operations, with the advice of the Executive and the Board of Directors shall prepare the estimates for the expenditure of GSA funds for the next fiscal year. These estimates shall be presented and voted on at the May or June meeting of Council and the approved estimates shall constitute the budget for the fiscal year.

tt.2.3 Should changes in the need for funds arise during the fiscal year, the Vice-President Finance & Operations, on behalf of the GSA, shall present supplementary estimates which upon adoption by the Board of Directors shall be a supplement to the budget. The Vice-President Finance & Operations and/or the Board of Directors shall report any such changes to Council.

Be it resolved that article 8.3.1 of the constitution to read as follows:

8.3.1 The offices of the President, Vice-President Finance & Vice-President Operations, Vice-President External, and Vice-President Academic, the graduate nominees to Senate, and the graduate nominees to the Graduate Faculty Board shall be contested by a secret ballot general election, as defined in the GSA By-Laws and Electoral Policy.

Be it resolved that article 10.1.1 of the constitution to read as follows:

10.1.1 Recall proceedings may be initiated against a departmental representative on Council, by the presentation of a petition signed by 25% of the graduate students

within the department concerned to the Vice-President Finance & Operations of the GSA who shall initiate recall procedures.

Be it resolved that the article 10.3.1 of the constitution to read as follows:

10.3.1 Recall proceedings may be initiated against the President, Vice-President Finance & Vice-President Operations, Vice-President External, or the Vice-President Academic by the presentation of a petition signed by 5% of graduate students, with no more than 25% (of the 5%) of the signatures being from one department, to the Council chairperson.

[Carmen]: Good thing to discuss

[Taryn]: How many hours and load of work

[Helia]: Not close to part-time hours. Sharing the work for execs. Its going to be hard work

[James]: Sends a good message. Responsibility how is going to impact the VP- Finance.

[Bridgette]: What will be the timeline?

[Jay] It will be applied to next upcoming team.

[Melissa]- Thanks from all the Staff Member.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT to GSA Carleton Meeting

Moved by: James

Seconded by: Sidney

Motion passed