

GSA COUNCIL – AGENDA Carleton University Graduate Students’ Association, Ottawa, Ontario Robertson Hall, Senate Chamber - 6:00 pm – Wednesday, February 27th, 2019

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm, February 27th, 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:

Carmen Warner (Communication)
Jennifer Liu (Journalism)
Annika Mazzarella (Art History)
Codie Fortin Lalonde (ALDS)
Olivia Atsin (Women and Gender Studies)
Hesam Farahani (ALDS)
Cathy Agyemang (Cognitive Science)
Lauren Thompson (Psychology)
Itai Gibli (NPSIA)
Leigh Dunn (Psychology)
Tariqa Tondon (Political Science)
Pansee Atta (Cuatorial Studies)
Gabe Senecal (MPPA)
Simon Vodrey (Comm)
Brendan Smith (Cognitive Science)
Elise Wohlbold (Law and Legal Studies)
Alexa Dodge (Senate)
Bridgette Desjardins (Legal Studies)
Jesse Whattam (Political Econ)
Fatimah Elfeitori (NPSIA)
Taryn Hepborn (Legal Studies)
Clare Colassco (Social Work)
Edna Tehranzadeh (Health Science, Technologies)
James Brunet (CUPE 4600)
Michael Hajik (SPPA)
Kristen Webster (SPPA)

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHAIR

a. Announcement of Proxies

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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Mover: Simon
Seconded: Codie

Agenda Adopted

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from January 30th, 2019

Moved: Carmen
Seconded: Ashley

Passed

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jay- VPO resigned from her post due to her health reasons.

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a. President (Jay Ramasubramanyam)

Rinag Meeting

We met with our food supplier Rinag two weeks ago to talk about how best to keep costs down at Mike’s Place. We are working out plans to see if we can negotiate some discounts given that we have been buying from them for over two decades. We also took a tour of the facility and ensured that everything is done in a clean and hazard-free environment.

Part-Time fees International Grad Students

There have been some reports from international students who are paying full-time fees in the last term of their program, despite them taking only one or two classes. There has been a recent change in the regulations which has been applied retroactively to folks who started the program before this was implemented. We will be speaking to the FGPA and will try to come up with a plan to resolve these issues. If you know anyone who is facing such issues, please ask them to contact me.

Elections

Election time is upon us. We will be holding our elections in March. If you are interested, please try to nominate yourself for any positions you are interested in. It is critical that we keep the GSA running and for that to happen, we will need as much student engagement as we can get. All details can be found at gsacarleton.ca/elections .

b. VP Finance (Ashley Courchene)

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Collective Bargaining with our staff

We have dates! We will be sitting down with the CUPE 1281 reps on March 5th and 6th. Even though the GSA is under an existential threat, we still want to make sure that our workers are fairly and adequately compensated.

Scholarship and Awards update

Make sure to apply to the GSA awards before the deadline on March 30th. You can see the full details of our awards on our website. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about them.

ReconciliAction

I am going to Guelph tomorrow to help launch the ReconciliAction working group at the University of Guelph campus. If you want to get involved in some Indigenous language revitalization projects, email me at vpf@gsacarleton.

Students launch “Week of Action”

I have been working with student unions across the province to launch the “We The Students” campaign that aims to call on the provincial government to:

- provide more grants not loans;
- eliminate tuition fees for all students;
- increase public funding for public education;
- protect students’ independent voices; and,
- defend the right to organize.

In Ottawa we gave Minister Fullerton a “failing grade” for being a terrible minister. If you would like to get involved there is a Carleton coalition meeting on Thursday March 7th at the GSA boardroom at 6pm. If you would like to connect with the organizing efforts, please feel free to email me at vpf@gsacarleton.ca

c. VP Operations (Miranda Leibel)

d. VP Academic (Farima Afaq)

CFS Lobby Week

The Canadian Federation of Students conducted lobby week last week between the dates of February 18th and 22nd. I received the opportunity of participating and representing the Graduate Students’ Association to lobby Members of the Parliament and Senators on behalf of students’ post-secondary education tackling issues such as accessible policies and availability of grants to all students including domestic and international students, in addition to addressing the issue of Doug Ford’s policy related to the post-secondary education.

Library Updates

Great news. The scanner in the library is ready now and has been set up next to the reserves desk. There has been positive feedback provided, as per our contact in the library. Please start using the scanner and feel free to provide any feedback you may want to share.

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Graduate Students' Academic Issues Survey

Please take the following survey and share with your departments, conducted by the GSA which collects information on the issues that upper year graduate students are confronting. The deadline is on March 5th. The responses will help the GSA to better advocate on behalf of graduate students' issues. For further information and to take the survey, please click on the link [here](#) . The survey would only take you less than a minute.

Reminder: Graduate Academic Caucus Representative

We will always look into addressing students' issues and of various departments, so we continue with our search for members from all departments at the Graduate Academic Caucus. Please reach out, if you are interested or if anyone from your department may want to join GAC. I can be reached at vpa@gsacarleton.ca

e. VP External (Helia Doutaghi)

Meeting with the Carleton Administration re: Student Choice Initiative

We met with the Carleton president and his team regarding the student choice initiative. They have created a working group for the upcoming changes. They agreed to give the GSA the membership information of students who don't opt out. They also indicated that the fees might be taxable.

Outreach

We are conducting weekly outreach, to spread awareness about all the upcoming changes and how we can fight them. There is a volunteer training coming up on Wednesday March 6th as well as a Carleton coalition building meeting on March 7th. Please let me know if you are interested in attending the trainings and the meeting, or if you can spare a hour a week to volunteer for outreach.

NGC

The National Graduate Caucus is taking place next month in Ottawa. We will be meeting with graduate representatives from across the country and discuss the ongoing issues regarding Ford's announcement, mental health initiatives, graduate-supervisor relationships and more. If you would like to discuss this further please feel free to get in touch. I will have more updates next month

f. Questions

Taryn: Awards due on March 30th. ?

Ashley: Yes

Farima: March 5 is the deadline for Upper-Year Grad survey

Melissa: Is the survey is going to share with FGPA?

Farima: Yes, and Townhall will be the next step.

Melissa: Most of the students do not have access for this due to their current academic status.

Farima: We will take this into account.

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7. OTHER REPORTS

a. Senate & Senate Committees

Tariqa: Discuss on opt-in and opt-out not properly discussed.

b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)

c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)

[Jay]: Meeting got cancelled

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

[James]: Health benefits for TA canceled but will be getting reinstalled.

[Clare]: They are going to full funding or partial.

[James]: They are going to deposit the amount so that it will work till September.

[Jay]: This did not happen before? how to prevent this in future?

[James]: Important to discuss these points for next year CUPE bargaining team.

[]: Share thoughts on improving the collective agreement for bargaining for CUPE to design a better proposal.

[Alexa]: Is there a meeting for doing that?

[James]: There is GMM tomorrow for this.

e. Board of Governors (BOG)

[Eliza]: No update from boards. Gender Neutral Washroom, getting stone walled and always transferring issue from one committee to another.

f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)

g. Questions

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

[Simon]: Communication department is holding their conference in mid March.

[Taryn]: Legal studies also holding conference on March 12th.

[Codie]: Applied linguistics is also holding their 14th annual symposium in March 14th.

[Fatima]: Conference on March 8th.

[Akbar]: Please send information to OCC for grad bulletin

[Melissa] Sociology and Anthropology also doing their conference on April 4th and abstract is due by March 8th.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Motion 27.02.2019 - 01: First Reading - Constitutional Amendment to Reduce Number of Executives

Moved: Helyeh Doutaghi & Ashley Courchene

Seconded: Carman

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Whereas the Ford Government introduced the “Student Choice Initiative” in January 17th 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 7.2 of the constitution to read as follows:

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

7.2.2 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.

7.2.3 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.

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[Carman]: Do we open this position again in future in case of proper funding

[Ashley]: There is rules to do that.

[Alexa]: Why finance and operation combine?

[Ashley]: As due to currently working as VP finance, I thought that it is possible.

[Jesse]: Implication of doing 4 out 5

[Ashley]: A whole lot of work load on the executive during current political situation.

[James]: What percentage of budget is 18K?

[Ashley]: it's a very small percentage closed to 1%.

[James]: Is it will be more than after including benefits?

[Ashley]: 20k

[Bridgette]: What will be the forecast for next year after cuts?

[Ashley]: We did some forecast but cannot make a commitment.

[Taryn]: Who will be the deciding party for this ?.

[Akbar] Working Group is going to pick that up. Trying to involve students' societies and working staff of GSA.

[Taryn]: How this motion going to work.

[Ashley]: Can we table this motion.?

[Speaker]: Yes, we can do that separate this into two separate motion. But there is constituonal conflict.

[Ashley]: Discuss and debate

Motion is open for debate:

[Ashley]: I want to speak against it. 1. Advertisement for 5 position. 2. We do need 5 execs for work load for fighting against cuts. 3. Conflict with the constitution.

[Speaker]: Motion is out of order but by-law need to be updated.

[Pansee]: Not supportive of this as GSA exec work a lot. Its 5 people worth of work. Percentage of salary cut from all execs might be the solution. We can make that changes in the future due to the institutional

[James]: Against, CUSA exec get paid twice a much and even cuts are not suggested.

Moton to Table: Ashley

Seconder: Izia

[James]: We can vote it down directly

[Codie]: If we table it, will it be different in next meeting

[Ashley]: No

[Speaker]: If we voted down, we cannot bring it whole term.

[Taryn]: Are we changing it?

[Speaker]: We can change the language.

[Ashley]: Mechanism to withdraw the motion for table.

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[Helia]: Call to vote

[Speaker] Motion on floor currently is motion to table for next meeting.

Motion defeated

[Speaker] First motion

Motion is defeated

10. OTHER BUSINESS

[Farima]: Running for Board for Governors. Please vote on March 4th and 5th.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Simon

Seconded by: Helia