



GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – Tuesday, May 31st, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Bilan Arte

Execs: Milan Sanghani (President), Faith Achile (VP Operations), Hande Uz Ozcan (VP Academics), Evans Boadi (VP Finance), Navyashree Krishnareddy (VP External)

Staff: Benjamin Segobaetso (Executive Director)

Council: Meg Lonergan [CUPE 4600 VP External], Apoorva Sanagavarapu, Hayat Elfazani, Patric Harrigan, Erin Kinzie, Brendan Conway-Smith, Cassandra Szabo, Abby Mckinnon, Sanghy's iPhone, Mason Rodney, Evans Boadi, Rafael Bacha (EARTH SCI), Olivia Musselwhite, Laura Polakova, Dominique Gene [The Charlatan].

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bilan called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory as follows:

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:

Amanda Chafee, GSA councillor for the School of Mathematics and Statistics hereby appoints Patric Harrigan as proxy for GSA meeting May 31, 2022.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Hande Uz Ozcan

Seconded by Mason Rodney

THAT the Agenda be Adopted

Carried



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3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. The minutes of the April 11 and April 29 Council meeting have been shared to councillors prior to this council meeting

Moved by Hande Uz Ozcan

Seconded by Mason Rodney

THAT the minutes of the April 11 and April 29 Council meetings be approved as presented
CARRIED

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The VP Operations, Faith Achile made two announcements:

- a. She announced that a free pizza event hosted by the GSA would be held on the 11th of June and invited all councillors to be a part of it.
- b. She highlighted that the GSA would be sending out bulletins and asked that councillors sign up to receive these bulletins if they had not already. The link to sign up was posted in the chat box to that effect.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

5. NEW BUSINESS (Details on motions can be found subsequently in appendix A)

- a. Indication of interest in Graduate Faculty Board Membership - Hayat El Fazani
Hayat presented her reasons for wanting to be on the Graduate Faculty Board of the GSA. She stated that she would like to serve in this position in order to advocate for numerous issues being faced by Graduate Students. She mentioned issues like unfairness in thesis defense, Research Assistant that are international students having their pay sent to their student accounts with Carleton as opposed to a direct deposit, allowing graduate students to opt-in to the dental plan during the summer and reduction of tuition fees for International students in Masters programs.

Executive Director (ED) Ben, clarified that the dental plan is regulated internally by the GSA.

- b. Motion 31.04.2022 - 03: Election of Graduate Faculty Board; Senate positions
Chair Bilan read out the motion as presented in Appendix A (without the names) and made a call for Volunteers to fill these positions

A councillor asked about the time commitment for the role to which VP

Academics Hande replied that there are both on demand and monthly meetings



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which last a maximum of two hours. She further stated that the monthly meetings would require the GFB to write a report on the meeting

Three Councillors Nominated themselves to the GFB namely: Hayat Elfazani, Apoorva Sangavarapu, Meg Lonergan

Chair Bilan called for volunteers for the Senate Position

One Councillor Nominated themselves to the Senate namely: Mason Rodney Mason introduces himself as a second year Masters Student in the Political Science program. He indicated that he is on the Graduate Senate Student appeals committee where he has sat for the past year. Mason stated that he would be interested in staying a part of the Graduate Senate Student appeals committee and hopes to have the support of councillors in the coming year.

Hayat asked for more information on the senate to which mason agreed to give more insight via email

Chair Bilan read out the motion as presented in Appendix A and called for a Mover and Seconder

Moved by Faith Achile

Seconded by Cassandra Szabo

THAT the Motion 31.04.2022 - 03: Election of Graduate Faculty Board; Senate positions be adopted as presented

Carried

6. EXECUTIVE REPORT

a. Presentation of reports

Executive	Report
President - Milan Sanghani	“We have got all of our transition meetings done with the former executives. So for me, it was for President Chi-chi. And she really made a nice presentation to make sure that transition is smooth. We have also completed our essential training related to bankings duties and responsibilities and other essential understanding of the organization. Ben is really quite helpful with regards to all of these duties, responsibilities and understanding. On a weekly basis, I arrange an executives meeting. Apart from that I've also started attending operations meetings and various other meetings. I'm also going through all the essential documents and contracts of GSA for better understanding of the organization. Recently we have hired a



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	<p>director of communication who is Fatima and a garden coordinator for facilitation of our services. We are planning to open the GSA office to graduate students for essential services. We would be opening Mike's Place during the Fall Semester and are now active on all social media platforms. Thank you all for listening.'</p>
<p>VP Operations - Faith Achile</p>	<p>"A major part of May was spent onboarding, transitioning and learning about what exactly is expected from me on the role. I was trained by the past VPO, Rae which was really great as she went into all the details and I feel better equipped to succeed in this role. I also recently joined the Campus Master Planning Committee and invite all council members to let me know about suggestions with regard to the campus master plan in order to properly represent the interests of graduate students. I have been chairing weekly operations meetings which have been productive so far as we are making needed progress. We have also been working hard to revive our social media platforms with the help of our new Director of Communications. As I always like to mention, please feel free to reach out to me with suggestions on how we can serve you better and I would be happy to take that up. Thank you."</p>
<p>VP Academics - Hande Uz Ozcan</p>	<p>"For the month of May as you all know there was a transition and we got our training on the infrastructure of GSA thanks to Ben, training on finance from the former VPF and on my role from the former VPA. I have been attending GFB meetings and there were 3 in May where I represented the GSA. In the first two meetings there were discussions concerning limited funding for graduate students, in the second meeting the provost was in attendance and professors mentioned again the issue with limited funding for graduate students. I also mentioned the high fees for international students. The last meeting was with FGPA about the PMP committee. Matt from the accessibility committee reached out to me and there is an accessibility survey regarding PMC which is ready and would be published in September to Graduate Students. The Senate Meeting will be this Friday and so I will be attending that. This is my executive report for May. Thank you"</p>
<p>VP Finance - Evans Boadi</p>	<p>"This month has been much of transitioning and getting to know the role. I have gone through trainings on banking, payroll, setting up accounts, mike's place, awards and grants. I thank Celia the finance officer and Ben who have been helping me in this new position. I received training from the former</p>



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	<p>VPF. The awards and grants are currently closed for review and revision to match it with the budget we are currently preparing. The awards and grants would be reopened in September. We have also renewed the payments for our office space and many other agreements. I received reports for Mike's Place committee and we are looking to bring back Mike's place in Sept 2022. Based on recommendations Mike's place would be closed in the summer to reduce losses as not many students are on campus during summer. Coming up we are working on the budget alongside other execs and staff for the coming year and hopefully would be presented to you in the coming meeting. Thank you all for listening”</p>
<p>VP External - Navyashree Krishnareddy</p>	<p>“We had many meetings under the guidance of Ben and Celia to know our roles and responsibilities. We also had a Financial Policy meeting to know about all awards GSA offers and if any changes have to be made. I have also discussed the role of VPX with the former VPX. I also represented the GSA in a few meetings online at the Federal and Local level and am still learning how best I can represent the graduate students in those meetings. We are also planning social events to interact with graduate students and let them know about all services we have to offer. Thank you for listening”</p>

b. Questions

Hayat had a question concerning the Travel Grants being closed as it is really surprising for her. She's not sure why this is closed as many students need to use it.

VP Finance Evans indicated that the funds for Travel are reimbursed after the travel and so students can go on their conferences and apply afterwards.

Hayat asked about students graduating before September and if they will be eligible. She suggested that it be open with limited funding instead of closing completely

VP Finance Evans indicated that students graduating can still apply for the grant as long as they went for the conference while they were students

Meg asked about renewing the Health Insurance Policy

VP Finance Evan stated that we went through the process of renewing the Health Plan and also made the necessary payment

Meg asked if the plan was renewed as is or if it was renegotiated and if GSA is the administrator of the plan with Greenshield

Ben responded that Greenshield is the service provider and GSA hires their service. He also mentioned that the plan was renegotiated and a few services added.



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7. OTHER REPORTS

Committee	Report
Senate & Senate Committees	Mason highlighted that there hasn't been a meeting yet so he would get back with a full report at the next council meeting
Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)	VPO Faith highlighted that the GRC had been inactive for a while but would be revived in Fall 2022 based on the Graduate Students living on Campus.
Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)	VPA Hande highlighted the GFB report as part of her exec report. (refer to VPA report above)
Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)	Meg highlighted that CUPE 4600 is mostly getting ready for bargaining. They have had to postpone due to the recent power outage. Unit 1 is yet to set a new date but Unit 2 would be meeting tomorrow (June 1) evening. We really stress the importance of members attending caucus meetings to get to know about the bargaining process.
Board of Governors (BOG)	No report provided
Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA):	No report Provided
Questions	No questions asked

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee	Report
Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee	No report provided



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Political Advocacy Committee	VPA Hande mentioned that there is a need for more committee members on this team.
Accessibility Committee	Working on the PMC Survey to be published in September
Organizational Review Committee	There is a need for more members on the committee. The committee is yet to meet but would be providing a more comprehensive report by the next council meeting

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No reports provided

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:08pm, May 31st 2022.



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APPENDIX A: List of Motions

Motion 31.04.2022 - 03: Election of Graduate Faculty Board; Senate positions

. Motion 31.05.2022 - 01: Election of Graduate Faculty Board; Senate positions

Whereas 5 Graduate Faculty Board (GFB) positions and 1 Senate Positions were vacant after the general elections;

Be It Resolved That Council nominate and appoint **Hayat Elfazani, Apoorva Sangavarapu, Meg Lonergan** as the **GSA GFB representatives** for the upcoming academic year

Be It Further Resolved That Council nominate and appoint **Mason Rodney** as the **GSA Senate representatives** for the upcoming academic year.