



GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – Thursday, June 30th, 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), Celia Armitage (Finance Manager)

Councillors: Laura Polakova (Psychology Representative), Naga Nikhil Kari, Anastasia Lettieri (CUSA President), Apoorva Sanagavarapu, James Gray, Erin Kinzie, Tamara Banbury, Sanghy Ramani, Olivia Musselwhite

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bilan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. 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

Anna-Lena Theus, GSA Councillor for the School of Journalism and Communication hereby appoints Tamara Banbury as proxy for GSA meeting June 30th 2022

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Milan Sanghani

Seconded: Hande Uz Ozcan

THAT the Agenda be Adopted

Carried



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3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. The minutes of the May 31st Council meeting have been shared to councillors.

Moved by Hande Uz Ozcan

Seconded by Milan Sanghani

THAT the minutes of the May 31 Council meeting be approved as presented

CARRIED

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. All Councillors are invited to join GSA committees

VPO Faith made a call for interested councillors to join the Organizational Review Committee. In Addition, she announced that there remains one slot vacant with the GSA board of directors for any who may be interested to take it up. She also encouraged members to send any emails to the official email addresses of the execs and not personal emails for accountability and transparency purposes.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

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

a. Presentation of Budget for new financial year

The FY23 budget had been shared to all councillors prior to this meeting. VPF Evans gave a detailed breakdown of the proposed budget for the 22/23 academic year after which the floor was opened by chair Bilan for questions and comments. There were no questions from the councillors and chair Bilan indicated that VPF Evans could be reached afterwards with any questions or comments. VPF Evans provided his email for this purpose.

Motion to Approve GSA FY23 Budget as presented:

Moved by Evans Boadi

Seconded by Hande Uz Ozcan

THAT the GSA FY23 be approved as presented by the VPF, Evans

No discussions or oppositions

CARRIED



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- b. Motion to remove GSA Executives from the Board of Directors for accountability reasons

Chair Bilan stated that councillors could refer to the appendix in the agenda document for the full motion. She read out the resolution as follows. Be it resolved that GSA Executive no longer seat as GSA Board members but instead report to the Board for accountability purposes and Be it resolved that the GSA Carleton Inc by-laws are reviewed and ensured that they comply with the new Ontario non-for-Profit Act.

Moved by Tamara Banbury

Seconded by Milan Sanghani

Motivated by Faith Achile and Benjamin Segobaetso

No oppositions

Motion Carried

- c. Motion to amend the GSA Executive Compensation Policy

Chair Bilan stated that councillors could refer to the appendix in the agenda document for the full motion. She read out the resolution as follows. Be it resolved that the Executive compensation is not linked to that of contract instructors and Be it resolved that the Executive compensation be decided by the appropriate GSA governing body (Board of Directors) as a way of enhancing accountability at the GSA and adopting best practices.

Moved by Milan Sanghani

Seconded by Tamara Banbury

Motivation by Benjamin Segobaetso

No opposition

Motion Carried

6. EXECUTIVE REPORT

- a. Presentation of reports

Executive	Report
President - Milan Sanghani	"Moving forward from my previous report, with the help of other executives, I worked on a setting up our GSA office to have it open for Mondays and Wednesdays so from now onwards, the GSA office is open for open on Mondays and Wednesdays,



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	<p>and we hope to have a better community engagement than before. As a part of my presidential goals, I have also started working on involving graduate students in sports as the GSA used to have a softball league earlier and I'm trying to get that back on track. With that being said, I also met one of the former softball league players in person, collected some data related to that and found him a suitable task to move forward with that. I'm also going to work on introducing an international sport to increase engagement of graduate students in sports as well. I'm also trying to fill a gap between domestic students and international students that we are having on campus. And for that, in the previous meeting with ISSO so I proposed to have an event or an activity as a part of our welcome week for both international and domestic students together. In terms of funding opportunities for students, the university has a lot of scholarship available for research oriented students but there is no specific funding available for entrepreneurial activities at graduate level to fill this gap. In the last senate meeting I suggested having funding in the form of a grant or a scholarship for entrepreneurial activities as not only business students but also other students are interested in becoming entrepreneurs. So this funding will help them to do better in their entrepreneurial activities on campus. All the executives are working on reopening Mike's place during the fall term. And for now, we are in the middle of cleaning Mike's Place to get it back into business. With regard to the online presence I am working with all executives and our Director of Communications, to keep our social media accounts active and hence we have a better community engagement, online than before. And this is my report for today. Thank you for listening."</p>
VP Operations - Faith Achile	<p>"With regard to my report, the month of June was quite a busy month for the GSA, we were able to finally host our first in person event for the 22/23 academic year, which was the pizza event and it was a great success. We had a great turnout. So that was one of the major things we worked on as execs, the planning and execution of that. I've also had to be in a couple of meetings. I organize weekly operations meetings and that has helped us to progress with the internal operations of the GSA. We've had meetings with Green shield, (the body that administers the health plan) to understand better how the health plan works and better support graduate students.</p>



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	<p>Towards planning for the welcome weeks, we also had a meeting with the FGPA which is the faculty of graduate and postdoctoral affairs and we were able to make some progress and share ideas on how the FGPA could support Graduate students even better. We also had some events from the CFS skill development symposium, where we had a few training sessions on event planning, anti oppression and many others that were quite useful and I believe would come in handy in successfully delivering in my role as the VPO. Things are gearing up for the welcome week planning and I've been working on that, trying to come up with a calendar and hopefully by next month which is July will be able to have our welcome week's calendar ready. I've also been working with the director of communications to have some updates to the websites which are going live little by little. Also, as the President mentioned, increasing our social media engagements and presence by working with the director of communications to facilitate higher community engagement and reach out to more graduate students. And the final thing I'll talk about is the GSA survey which all execs have worked on together and I have put a link in the chat. So please, if you're here and you're a councillor for any department please share the link with all graduate students that you know as we are trying to optimize the services offered by the GSA. That's a little bit of all, everything that I worked on and as always if you have any questions you can always reach out to me via email. Thank you for listening.”</p>
VP Academics - Hande Uz Ozcan	<p>“At the beginning of June, we had the meet and greet event, and it was a very good participation and feedback was very, very good. Also in June I attended the workshops, organized by the Canadian Federation of Students, or Ontario CFS. Some of these are an organization for a better world anti oppression workshop, and they told us that they will be available to do these workshops for our universities as well so in both the fall and winter terms, we will be doing these workshops. Another workshop is funding for post secondary education, the case for free education and fight the fees. So, fight the fees is one of the campaigns we will hopefully be collaborating with other universities to do. And also, there is the meeting with green shield representatives to understand more about new green shield coverage, and because we want to provide accurate</p>



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	<p>information to the students we first met with them. There will be changes, regarding mental health coverages. We observed that on Carleton central in the student invoices this green shield insurance name is written as, accident/dental plan. However, from the beginning of the fall, we'll look into talking to the university about representing this correctly on the students' invoices. We also met with FGPA for potential collaborations, and the GFB meetings were canceled this June, due to some complications. It will be resuming in the coming months and I will be there to represent our grad students. So, these are the updates from my end. Thanks so much."</p>
VP Finance - Evans Boadi	<p>"Okay, so many of the things we worked on as executives have already been covered by the President. The main thing that I worked on this month was to get this budget prepared and then presented to Council, and I'm glad that it is well received and approved by council. So, going forward, we will also be looking into reviewing and reopening the grant and scholarship, and providing more information on this hopefully by the next possibility. Thanks."</p>
VP External - Navyashree Krishnareddy	<p>"Hi everyone, my name is Navya. So I'm working as the VP external with the GSA presently. I think most of the points were already covered by the other executives but from my side I think we all worked on the green shield health plan this month. We are also working to collaborate with the University of Ottawa for a few of the campaigns related to the tuition fees increase. And I've also attended workshops from the CFS symposium events to learn all the different factors to act on as a VP external. And we are eagerly waiting for the welcome weeks which is happening at Carleton University in collaboration with so many of the services on campus relevant to the GSA. What we have done in the past and what we are going to do in the future will be presented. Thank you so much."</p>

b. Questions



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7. OTHER REPORTS

Committee	Report
Senate & Senate Committees	Nothing to Report
Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)	Nothing to report
Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)	Nothing to report
Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)	Nothing to report
Board of Governors (BOG)	Nothing to report
Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA):	<p>“Hi everyone I'm Anastasia, I'm the president of CUSA and I just wanted to start off by saying thank you for having me here tonight to deliver the CUSA report. To introduce myself a bit, I'm going into my fourth year of law history in criminology and I've been a part of numerous clubs, associations and governing bodies over my time at Carleton, including serving as a former undergraduate governor on Carleton's Board of Governors Student Government. It is an important part of Carleton and I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to advocate for the betterment of the student experience. Over the past year CUSA has undergone mass structural and organizational changes, most specifically we embarked on much needed democratic reforms and created our board of directors which received training and that this past weekend. The democratic reforms right reform recommendations are posted on our website and I encourage you to give it a read sometime this year. We have committed to continuing implementing those democratic reform recommendations, such as mass electoral reform which includes hiring a third party CEO and more. We're also committed to continuing the work of the last executive by investigating our student fees and pushing towards the removal of fees that serve</p>



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	<p>no purpose to the student body. Over the past few months we've also been working on our master services agreement with the university and collective bargaining with full time staff and soon with part time staff. We'd love to hear more about what your agreement negotiations process has looked like over the past years. Now that Ians has moved out we are also beginning conversations on space allocation and we would love to hear more about how the GSA is allocating their space in the University Center this year just to highlight I'm looking forward to hearing about the plans for Mike's place but in the meantime Ollies has reopened with adjusted summer hours. Tuesday through Friday from 11:30am to 6pm, and we're working on various program programming plans for that business. I encourage all graduate students to stop by and check it out. And one of our other businesses haven has reopened after a year of renovations, our cafe and books are located on the first floor and our second floor now has a co working space for the room and a digital Creative Suite, all of which are available for booking, we'd love to see the GSA and graduate students utilize the wonderful space our staff has created over at haven. I'll also highlight that our service centers: the Carleton disability awareness center, the gender & sexuality Resource Center, the center of the racialized and International Student Experience, the unified support center, the Wellness Center, the women's learning advocacy and support center and hatch are all open and hard at work planning for the year ahead. Thanks to the CUSA/GSA service center agreement these services have historically been available to all graduate students, and we look forward to reconnecting to that agreement this year. To note the USC Food Bank has expanded and we're happy to see that many graduate students were able to leverage that service in the past few years. On a final note myself and the rest of my executive are looking forward to working with the GSA this year, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas for collaboration. Thank you.”</p>
Questions	No questions asked



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8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee	Report
Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee	Nothing to report
Political Advocacy Committee	Nothing to report
Accessibility Committee	Hande Uz Ozcan: "I can speak to that. Okay. So, in the May Council meeting, I mentioned that the accessibility survey is ready, and it will be published in the second week of September. Currently, every infrastructure is ready for the publishing and the survey would be announced and promoted once it is published. Thank you so much."
Organizational Review Committee	Nothing to Report

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No reports provided

10. OTHER BUSINESS

VPO Faith encouraged all councillors to not only fill out the GSA feedback survey but also share with graduate students in their departments and network as the results would serve as a good resource for the executives to plan and make improvements to the services offered by the GSA to graduate students.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05pm, June 30th 2022.



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APPENDIX A: List of Motions

Motion to remove GSA Executives from the Board of Directors for accountability reasons

Whereas by-law #6 of the GSA Carleton incorporation; section (a) states that...

The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a board of nine (9) directors, each of whom shall be a member of the Corporation. Five of these shall be nominated by being duly elected executives of the Graduate Students' Association of Carleton University and confirmed by members of the Corporation at the annual general meeting. The remaining four shall be selected by the members from among their number. The term of offices of the latter four shall be from May 1 to April 30 of the following year.

Whereas the GSA executive members seat in the GSA Board of Directors while also reporting to the board.

Whereas the GSA executive members should be reporting to the Board instead of being part of the Board.

Whereas GSA executive members seating on the Board of Directors creates a conflict of interest.

Whereas the current GSA Executives feel Executives should not seat on the Board because that means they are reporting to themselves.

Whereas the current GSA executives feel it is important that GSA adopts best accountability practices.

Whereas the GSA's Carlton Inc. by-laws and the executive members reporting structure may not be compliant to the new Ontario not-for-Profit Act.

BITR that the GSA Executive no longer seat as GSA Board members but instead report to the Board for accountability purposes.

BITR that the GSA Carleton Inc by-laws are reviewed and ensured that they comply with the new Ontario non-for-Profit Act.

Motion to amend the GSA Executive Compensation Policy

Whereas the Executive Compensation Policy is designed to maintain the practice of providing the GSA Executives with compensatory funds as a part of the budget for each fiscal year, including a salary and tuition fees credit.

Whereas the GSA executive shall receive a remuneration set at exactly the rate of Contract Instructors at Carleton University, which will be adjusted to reflect the outcome of collective bargaining between CUPE 4600 and Carleton University.



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Whereas GSA executive members are not members of CUPE 4600 by the virtue of their current jobs at the GSA.

Whereas GSA executive members are not Contract Instructors.

Whereas GSA executive members are not employees of Carleton University but employees of GSA

Whereas the GSA is an autonomous organization from the University

BITR that the Executive compensation is not linked to that of contract instructors

BITR that the Executive compensation be decided by the appropriate GSA governing body (Board of Directors) as a way of enhancing accountability at the GSA and adopting best practices.