



GSA COUNCIL – AGENDA

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – Friday, September 2nd, 2022

***This is a rescheduled meeting and it serves as the August 2022 GSA Council meeting. There were not enough members present at this meeting for quorum. Therefore, no motions were voted on.**

ATTENDEES:

Chair:

Bilan Arte

Execs:

Faith Achile, Hande Uz Ozcan, Milan Sanghani, Navyashree Krishnareddy

Staff:

Benjamin Segobaetso

Councillors:

Apoorva Sanagavarapu, Hayat El Fazani, Laura Polakova, Brendan Conway-Smith, Olivia Musselwhite

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bilan Arte, Chair: *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.*



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1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Implementation of Recommendations by Auditor

Faith Achile, VPO: The GSA external auditor has informed us that we should not have a surplus of funds at year end, financial year 2022, that's April 30th, 2022. CRA does not want a non-profit to show a surplus consistently from year-to-year which has been the case for the GSA in the last two years. The goal of a non-profit organization should always be to break even, not make a profit. CRA can revoke non-profit status for non-compliance. The government has been more lenient during this period with COVID. With less activity, there were fewer expenses. It was impossible to budget and spend the money allocated to us. One example is that the GSA forecasted a budget of losses to open Mike's Place for both the fall and winters of financial year 2020 and financial year 2021. Each time the pub was to open, the university moved to online learning from on campus due to COVID variants. In September, the GSA will be approaching the board to increase some line items in the financial year 2022 budgets for immediate high demand for on campus events and active student engagement. In October, November the overall budget will be drafted and sent to the board and counsel, with the goal to comply with the directive from the external auditors regarding CRA. So that is the announcement. And just for your information, we hope that when you see the review of the budgets, you will understand where that is coming from. The auditor has advised us to increase our expenses so that we can retain our status as a nonprofit because we've made profit for the past two years because of COVID we have not been able to spend as much.

b. Grants Committee Opening - 2 council member

And the next announcement is regarding the grants committee, so we are establishing a grants committee to review the grants and awards for all the applications that are going to be coming in. This month, I believe we should already be open, but we would confirm that with a post on our social media, when it is actually open. So we need two council members to be a part of the committee. And this is a call for applications or volunteers who would like to be a part of the grants committee to please indicate here or send an email to the vice president finance at VPF@gsacarleton.ca and we'll be able to tell you what the process is like. Does anyone have any questions?

Hande Uz Ozcan, VPA: I think if there are two volunteers here we can decide here and as well and we can take it in the minutes.

Faith Achile, VPO: Because of the nature of the role the applications are going to have to be reviewed in some way so that you understand what you're really getting into. So even if you volunteer now, you know, we will still have some back and forth, some discussions with you to properly understand the role.



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Okay, I think we have one volunteer, so Hayatt, you can send me an email indicating this and this will also be recorded in the minutes. If there's anyone else that wants to volunteer on this committee, you can speak now.

Attendee: I have a question. If I volunteered to help with this one and at the same time, I've already applied, I think there's a conflict of interest. In this case I shouldn't be eligible to apply, or to become a volunteer for this committee, right?

Faith Achile, VPO: yeah so we're going to discuss with all volunteers what it means for you. The first step is to volunteer and then we pass all the information to you, and you can decide if you want to move forward or not.

Bilan, Chair: Okay, so we still don't have a quorum, so we're just going to skip ahead to reports, and hopefully we'll have some more members joining us so I'm just going to turn it over to the executives to give their report.

2. EXECUTIVE REPORT

- a. Presentation of reports
- b. Questions

Hande Uz Ozcan, VPA: Hi everybody, I'm the VPA. And so, I would like to make an announcement as well. And so one student reached out to me and they are a PhD student, and they extended their PhD to five years because of COVID 19, because they cannot go to their labs because the labs were closed. So the university is extending their PhD, but since they're also an international students at the University, it didn't extend their ITTS (International Doctoral Tuition Support Bursary) and they reached out to me, and I went to the FGPA regarding this, but they say that they cannot do anything about this. And, on September 9th, there is this deadline to submit Senate questions, so I will send the Senate question regarding this. But I would like to let you know if there are any students in your departments that are experiencing the same thing, could you please send me an email, could you please reach out to them, or could you please tell them to send me an email about this. The other thing is, since September 9 is the deadline to submit questions, if you would like to ask any questions to the Senate, you can send them to me and I will be vocal for it. Thank you so much. Other than that, you know, this is now about the coming weeks and we are very busy with welcoming international students, welcoming domestic graduate students. And so we are busy with the events. We will be very happy if you are joining us in these three weeks. Thank you.

Milan Sanghani: So especially August has been a very busy month for me due to the semester ending, academic submissions, and other formalities. Moving forward from my previous report in terms of support, I'm in the middle of the procedure of reintroducing cricket at the graduate level. We have some students of graduate level who are willing to help in this direction, and they are also interested in this game, so we are working together to reintroduce cricket at the graduate level. I'm also working with the Director of Graduate Services in the direction of



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proposing the university to allocate funds, in terms of grants or scholarships for entrepreneurial activities at graduate level. I'm also representing GSA at LGBTQ orientation which is going to happen on September 6. With regards to opening Mike's Place as soon as possible, along with the other executives, I participated in the hiring committee of the Mike's Place manager and we have recently made an offer to one of the candidates and we are still in the middle of finalizing the hiring of the Mike's Place manager for the final position. I'm also working with the other executives and Green Shield towards the direction of having one more opt-in window open during summer for the students to add their spouses, which is very crucial for the students who are getting enrolled in summertime. We had a meeting with the Green Shield executive last week for the same. And finally, with regards to working with CUSA, we are also looking forward to renewing our contract with CUSA for the benefit of our graduate students with eight different types of service centers.

Navyashree Krishnareddy, VPX: We are presently working on the international welcome week to represent and market and also introduce our services, what exactly the GSA is and what all we are providing. The three main things we're working on, one is Mike's Place which will possibly start in September, soon. Also we're working on Green Shield which Milan has already explained clearly. And one more thing from my side is there is a campaign which is happening in Nova Scotia on September, 22, for three days, regarding a consent culture forum from CFS, which I'll be probably representing as a student organizer from my university to increase awareness around issues of sexualized and gender-based violence. I'll also get some mandates which can help the university also.

Faith Achile, VPO: The vice president finance sends his regrets that he won't be able to be a part of this meeting, but he will be sending you some reports that would be included in the coming meeting minutes so you can always look out for that. And for me from the tables of the vice president operations, this week has been very busy, this month has been very busy with the welcome weeks planning which I've had to supervise to some extent in many ways. We hired the welcome weeks coordinators which has been a very great decision as they have been very instrumental to moving the planning and execution of the welcome weeks forward. And like Hande said, I take this opportunity to invite you all to all of our welcome weeks events. There's going to be a lot happening and the calendar is out on our social media. You can check our Instagram accounts @GSACarleton and be a part of it. The first event is happening tomorrow evening by 6pm which is the kick off grad party. Please feel free to come around and have a nice time and connect with other grad students. Also during this month, a lot of hiring has been going on, which I've also had to coordinate for the most part. We've hired for most of the positions but we're going into the final process of hiring for the peer support and sexual assault outreach coordinator by next week so we should be done with that, in no time. I also facilitated the operations meetings for this month for the month of August, which has helped us to move forward and make decisions as an organization. I've also been in touch with Career Services for possible job opportunities for graduate students which we'll be giving more updates on in the coming council meetings on how things proceed with the Career Services. Our garden has also been doing really great. There's been good produce and the garden coordinator is doing really



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great with that. Most of the plots have been allocated and the garden is doing great. If you're still interested in getting the plots, you can always reach out to a garden coordinator who will be able to attend to you on that. We are also into the final stages of negotiation for the CUSA x GSA agreements. That's for the eight service centers, and we hope that by the end of September, it will be signed and graduate students will have full access to all service centers on campus. The month of September is mostly welcome weeks that we're so busy with so please be a part of it, as, as a graduate student, thank you all.

Question from observer: I have a question for you. For the FGPA, for international students. I heard there is a reduction in the fee for PhD students for the international PhD so then across Canada not even here at Carleton. When I reached out to them, they said, "this is something new, since you already registered, this is not something for you since you're already in the program a long time ago, you're exceeding already five years". So what I understand from you, Hande does that mean now they can let the student pay less fee? The international student the domestic fee, even if they are exceeding this five years of PhD, is that correct?

Hande Uz Ozcan, VPA: No. So, yes, just as you experienced some of their doctoral students also experienced the same thing. So they have to exceed their university, and their PhDs because of the pandemic. But the labs are closed, and this is not their fault. And I asked FGPA, if labs are closed, this is not their fault. Why can't we do anything for these students for the students that have to extend their studies, because of the pandemic. But they say, "no, we cannot do anything about it. We are sorry, we don't have enough funding, it is a different thing so we cannot do anything". They answered me like that. So we still want to be vocal about this in the Senate, I will be vocal about this in the Senate. The FGPA already said that they cannot do anything, but at least I just wanted to let them know that these students couldn't finish their doctoral education because of the pandemic. I want to advocate for the PhD students and I will be vocal and I am thinking that it would be good if I know the number, how many students are experiencing the same thing. And just now I learned that you're one of them. Yeah, or you can send me an email about this. And I will ask Senate. We have so many students who are experiencing this. I will be vocal about that.

Bilan Arte, Chair: so we still don't have at least 10 counselors present. So I'm not sure if folks want to continue to wait or just try to reschedule. I see there's a suggestion, we can go on to other reports.

Faith Achile, VPO: so we won't be able to reschedule again for the August council meeting. This is going to count as the August council meeting, anything that needs to be voted on will be moved to the September council meeting just so that we are respectful of everyone's time as we can't keep scheduling council meetings every week. So I would say, if there are reports from the Senate or any other bodies, we can have them now.



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3. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees: There were no Senate meetings in the summer. The first Senate meeting will be in mid September. So, there are no reports right now.
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC): None.
Faith Achile, VPO: With the new students moving into Leads house, that's the residence, we'll be forming the graduate students caucus for the new academic year, within the month. So by the next council meeting, all things being equal, we should have a caucus together.
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB): No meetings in August. First meeting is in September.
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600):
Observer: I'm not the one in charge of this, but I want to say something about this. I want to mention something that I recently noted in the new building that we have here at Carleton. There is no washroom for women in this building, which is very very strange. So I'm glad to report that to the women's caucus in CUPE4600 because this is a big issue. There's only a men's washroom.
- e. Board of Governors (BOG): None.
- f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA): None.
- g. Questions: None.

4. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee: None.
- b. Political Advocacy Committee: None.
- c. Accessibility Committee:
From Hande Uz Ozcan-VPA: As an accessibility committee chair we will be publicizing our accessibility PMC survey on the second of September. It will be publicized by our Survey Monkey application, since it is accessibility friendly. And that's all.
- d. Organizational Review Committee:
From Faith Achile, VPO: The organizational review committee is still yet to have enough members. Currently there aren't enough members to function and, you know, make adjustments to the policy as needed or take on policy related issues with the GSA as needed. So if you are interested in becoming a part of this committee, please reach out to me via email, and let's get things started for the semester.



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5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. None.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45pm