



GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Bilan Arte

Execs: Faith Achile, Hande Uz Ozcan, Milan Sanghani, Navyashree Krishnareddy, Evans Boadi

Staff: Benjamin Segobaetso

Councillors: Kavita Mistry, Shannon Wong, Anna Stone, Anna Theus, Mason Rodney, Kimia Fardfini (psychology), Amanda Chafee (CM Math/Stat), Laura Polakova, Tamara Banbury (Comms), Reza Sohrabi, Erin Kinzie, Hayat El Fazani

CALL TO ORDER

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: no proxies

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Hande
Seconded: Milan



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3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. The minutes of the July and August Council meeting have been shared to councillors.

Moved: Hande
Seconded: Kimia

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. None.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

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

- a. Motion to postpone the implementation of the business model suggested by Mike's Place Committee to be considered for the year Period September 2023 - April 2024 as a pilot project.

*See appendix A for a full list of clauses.

Be it resolved that the vendor model proposed by the Mike's Place committee be considered for the year period September 2023 to April 2024 as a pilot project to give the business operations a grace period to adjust and to prepare for a smoother transition properly.

Moved: Hande
Seconded: Milan

Motivation, Ben Segobaetso: So currently we have been tasked with opening Mike's Place and there has been an intention from our end to do this by this fall, as it was actually an instruction from council. And the other thing that we have to put into consideration is that there has been a Mike's Place committee recommendation to use a vendor model which we really appreciate, but the current impediment we have is that we still have outstanding contracts in place that we have to negotiate, to get out of, in order to transition much more properly to that model that has been recommended. So we will require a grace period to transition. Like, for instance, the space is currently a unionized space, and we also have lease contracts that the lease doesn't incorporate the vendor into it, and we have the liability assurances that don't have the incorporation of a vendor. They don't recognize the vendor at this



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junction. And as well as the alcohol license that we have to operate the space. Those contracts are really binding and we have to tread carefully if we have to get out of them. So we have to negotiate, sit down, and transition smoothly. The model that has been proposed is interesting to all of us, but we just have to be careful that we can just move forward. This motion was brought to council two times now, but unfortunately we didn't get a quorum to be able to move forward to get the motion approved, and we are at the very late stage at this juncture to open and students are really calling us asking, "why is Mike's Place not open? Are we gonna be opening?" So we really need council to support us in moving this motion, so that we can open, and then consider transitioning slowly to the vendor model in the next coming year, based on also looking at the fact, council has been all shut down for two years. So we're really trying to get back and on our feet. Thank you.

Discussion: none.

No opposition, one abstention from Amanda Chafee.

Motion adopted as presented.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORT

- a. Presentation of reports
- b. Questions

Milan Sanghani, President: First of all, thank you everyone for joining us today. September was actually all about the welcome weeks, so we experienced the highest amount of student engagement until now during these welcome week events. I personally participated in many events, such as the Indigenous tour in downtown Ottawa, welcome week kick-off party, movie night, information fair, equity workshop, and salsa dance workshop. I also represented the GSA

at 2LGBT orientation on September sixth, which gave us an opportunity to get in touch with the new student community. I would also like to mention that the welcome weeks were a great success however, we have also identified some areas for improvements where we can perform better for the next time. Apart from the welcome weeks, I have also attended the student government welcome lunch where I raised some important issues that graduate students are facing. Those issues include the fees assessment at graduate level and funding for entrepreneurial activities. Right now, the graduate students' fees are calculated



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semester wise, rather than credit wise. So, many graduate students are being charged a full semester fee, just for the one course. So, secondly, Carleton has a lot of scholarships and funding for research students, but no specific pool is there for entrepreneurial activities. Hence, I raised both the issues at the student government lunch. I also appealed to the university to see if we can start accepting appointments for the spouses of the graduate students at the university health center as a students' spouse's health also affects their study. Last, but not the least, after working in the university for almost 5 months, with the other executives, I am representing the GSA outside the University at two different CFS meetings, one in Montreal, and the second one here is here in Ottawa. Thank you. This was my report for this month.

Hande Uz Ozan, Vice President Academic: September was very busy with the welcome weeks, and execs attended and organized welcome weeks. And it was really a success. We also created international events with ISSO, and an anti-oppression workshop, equity workshop, also parties at the lounge. So the lounge is open right now and it was a great success. And most of the students are engaged, which is great after two years. So September was very busy with welcome weeks for all of us. But I have one extra note, and I have good news. So as you know, for three months I am talking about sixth year international PhD students. So, international PhD students generally have an IDTS bursary which is International Doctoral Tuition Support and they are paying domestic fees, not international fees, but domestic fees. And they can pay these domestic fees only in their fifth year of school. But when they are in their sixth year, they lose their bursary. But some of the international students reached out to me claiming that because of the pandemic their research labs were closed. So that's why they couldn't end their PhDs in their fifth year, so that they have to extend to the sixth year. But right now they have to pay international fees again, and they would like to learn about how they can again transit to the domestic fees. So at first I talked with the student affairs dean, and they told me that you know IDTS has nothing to do about COVID extension, so we cannot do anything. But then we also go to the graduate faculty board and ask this, and they also say that they cannot do anything, this bursary is not about COVID extension. And I also ask this question to the senate, and saying that the research labs are closed, university is closed. So this is not international students' fault, COVID is not international students' fault, what can we do about that? And in that senate meeting I got the news from Dean Patrice that they are talking with the provost about this. And then yesterday student leaders had lunch with the provost. The provost gave me the happy news that they are gonna do this transition. So I know some of the international doctoral students are here that are in their sixth year. And so you are going to receive again the domestic bursary. The provost told me this in yesterday's meeting, so



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I'm very happy that we do what we can do first of all, bureaucratically, it's winning. I'm so happy to give you this happy announcement.

Navyashree Krishnareddy, Vice President External: So this month, as my colleagues have said, we had an intense welcome weeks orientation activities, promoting the services provided by the GSA to students, and also how they can receive them. Also we were working on the mental health benefits that can help students from issues concerning them, because most of the students have contacted us for most mental health. And there were also other CFS campaigning trainings which I attended. Also meetings between the other externals from different universities, where we discussed many issues. We were supposed to go for a forum, which is a consent culture forum, a forum fighting for gender equality among the students. But unfortunately it was canceled due to the hurricane in Nova Scotia. But we had a meeting before that, like what to discuss from externals, which was really useful because there were many common issues which were discussed from all the universities which really helped me to understand how the motion works, and how we can proceed later. And this is my update, thank you so much.

Faith Achile, Vice President of Operations: September was majorly the welcome weeks month for us. If you're here at the August meeting, you would remember I mentioned we had already started the planning from July-August. We had the welcome weeks coordinators in August, and they really helped us facilitate things, but I was there long before then. I was in there to oversee the events, facilitated some payments to vendors. I also had to be involved in projects that needed it sometimes, posting of updates on our IG stories, and taking feedback from the welcome weeks coordinators and also, attending departmental orientations to introduce the services of the GSA. So I was at the civil engineering, history, systems engineering, mechanical engineering orientations and other execs attended other departmental orientations. I also facilitated a closing meeting for the welcome weeks with the welcome weeks coordinators to get their reports and documentation to help the next set of execs. We also finalized the hiring of our peer support coordinator, the sexual assault outreach coordinator, and the Mike's Place manager, which thankfully to some extent I was able to facilitate. I also attended the student government lunch, where we discussed a few issues and asked a few questions pertaining to graduate students. Some in particular that I was able to speak to were advocating for more job opportunities for graduate students because we've noticed time and again that many opportunities on campus are open to just undergrads. So just advocating to student leaders that graduate students are open to work, and you know they should not be segmented. Also talking about the counsellors that have been allocated to grad students in health and counseling and services. Currently there's only one grad



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counsellor, and you know I spoke to the possibility of having more, considering the fact that we're now in person and the demand for that service may be much more. I also facilitated weekly operations meetings and attended weekly exec meetings. I also had to facilitate the scheduling of the council meetings and delivery of the minutes by our recording secretary. Also had bi-weekly meetings with the director of Student Life to discuss any issues of grad students and get information on opportunities available to graduate students so that they can be publicized on our social media platforms for students to take advantage of. There was also a harm reduction meeting that was more towards the Panda Games which I attended this month and we got to discuss a few things even though most of the discussion was around Oliver's, owned by CUSA, I believe once Mike's Place is open that would probably be a very useful meeting that issues pertaining to Mike's Place would be discussed. But for the most part I was able to ask how graduate students can be involved in the Panda Games seeing that it's already sold out. The person in charge let me know that they will be taking volunteers for the game clean-up, and all of that. So if you're interested in that, definitely check out the Panda Games website. Or you can send me an email, and I'll send you the required link. I also facilitated recent documentation of new counselor sign ups, and also departmental GSAs. So this is also a call to counselors that if you are yet to submit your counselor nomination forms for the new term, please do so that we can confirm. Even though you are the same counselor continuing, please, you would need to fill out the form and send it in, so that we can have a confirmed list for September or for the new school year. I also had to process counselor credit claims and assisted in the opening of grants which the vice president of finance will speak more to. And yeah, this amongst many others that I was able to do during the month of September. Looking forward to October. Hope to do more to support the graduates.

Evans Boadi, Vice President Finance: Welcome to our new students. I'll touch on the opening of our grants. As of September 1st, the grant is open and I would like to get this to your department that the grants are available. And the applications are online now. They are available on our website, so you can go to GSA Carleton and then you find the application there. So they are open and you guys need to let your departments know so they can take advantage of this opportunity to also make some impact in your finances.

Questions:

Observer: So I did notice that the grant applications are online, but I was wondering about the student awards. I went into just a couple of here, and it's just saying that they're closed, and will reopen for fall 2022. So I'm just wondering if we can get a timeline on that.



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Evans Boadi, Vice President Finance: We are working on this. We know some of them have deadlines. So they will be available soon and hopefully by our next meeting we will be getting more updates on that.

Observer: I'm going to be a volunteer reviewing the applications. When are we going to sit together to review the applications?

Evans Boadi, Vice President of Finance: We will have our first meeting next Tuesday and you will get more information there.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
- e. Board of Governors (BOG)
- f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- g. Questions

Senate and Senate Committee's report:

Mason Rodney, Graduate Student Appeals Committee of the Senate Committee: the committee that handles all appeals from graduate students who are being kicked out of their program for contravening certain provisions within the graduate calendar, and so, coming up, there's a likelihood that we will start handling appeals on compassionate grounds well as appeals related to the academic regulations, so just a slight change there, so that students will be able to appeal if they're being kicked out of their program on compassionate grounds, which wasn't the case before. The undergrad appeals committee had that option, but ours did not.

Hande, Vice President Academic, also a senator who joins senate meetings: I would like to let counselors know know that, and I would like to encourage counselors that if you are detecting any problem regarding our grad student life and policy and any kind of thing, if you have any questions you can assent them to me and I can of course, write them as a question to the Senate.

Observer: I just wanted to let you know that it's a little unclear for programs that are joint between the schools, which regulations and what not apply. So that might be something



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worth considering with the Senate at some point. Some clear understanding of what applies where when dealing with Ottawa U as well.

Mason Rodeny: That is an excellent point, and I will be sure to bring that up at the next meeting.

Graduate Residence Caucus: No report.

Graduate Faculty Board, Hayat Elfazani:

Hande and I came up with a list of questions that we are planning to ask in this important meeting. And I think I heard from Hande that Milan already spoke with or met with the associate chair and you already discussed those questions with him. And I got an answer for those questions from Hande by email. Is that correct?

Hande Uz Ozcan, Vice President Academic: yes, so we had an executive meeting as well and Milan attended the Graduate Faculty Board meeting and asked the two questions, and they said they replied. Because I asked the same questions to the senate, they gave me a different reply.

Hayat: This is the second time I've attended a meeting but I didn't see my name in the graduate student agenda. So I attended half of the meeting, but during that time they didn't mention anything important.

Hande: I will check and make sure that your name will be on the list as well.

CUPE: no report

Board of governors: no report

Carleton University Students' Association: no report

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee: no updates since the last meeting.
- b. Political Advocacy Committee: no report.



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- c. Accessibility Committee, Hande Uz Ozcan, Vice president Academic: we met with accessibility committee members throughout the late summer, and we finalized the survey monkey, a PMC accessibility survey and it will be online soon. It will be published by the end of this week.

- d. Organizational Review Committee: no report.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Department of Psychology, Kima Fardfini, co-president of the psychology graduate students' association: Travel awards, there has been some concern over the amount. \$200.00 isn't enough to cover registration fees these days. As well, students are wondering if there is a way to start the application prior to going because right now you apply after the fact and submit receipts. It would help students know that they have this funding before going to their conference.

Faith Achile, Vice President Operations: you can send us an email about that and we will look into it in more detail because right now we can't give you a yes or a no. So we'll look at the relevant committee and see if it's feasible. So if you can send an email to VP finance, you can copy me or any of the execs and we'll get back to you and everyone else.

- Department of Political Science, Mason Rodney: Political science graduate student association has just recently held its general election on Monday and Tuesday. So we'll be receiving the results in, well, probably tomorrow, and we should have a new executive by the weekend.

- School of Journalism and Communication: Anna Theus is exiting the position and there will be a new counselor for the next year.

- Department of English Language and Literature: no report.

- Department of French: no report.

- Department of Geography and Environmental Studies: no report.



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- Department of History: no report.
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology: No report.
- Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture: No report.
- Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies: No report.
- Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies: no report.
- School for Studies in Art and Culture: no report.
- School of Linguistics and Language Studies: no report.
- School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies: no report.
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: no report.
- Department of Electronics: no report.
- Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering: no report.
- Department of Systems and Computer Engineering: no report.
- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism: no report.
- Industrial Design: no report.
- Information Technology: no report.
- Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering: no report.
- Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs: no report.
- Department of Economics: no report.
- Department of Law and Legal Studies: no report.
- Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies: no report.
- Institute of Political Economy: no report.



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- Norman Paterson School of International Affairs: no report.
- School of Public Policy and Administration: no report.
- School of Social Work: no report.
- Department of Biology: no report.
- Department of Chemistry: no report.
- Department of Earth Sciences: no report.
- Department of Health Sciences: no report.
- Department of Neuroscience: no report.
- Department of Cognitive Science: no report.
- Department of Physics: no report.
- School of Computer Science: no report.
- School of Mathematics and Statistics: no report.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. No other business

11. ADJOURNMENT

At: 6:50PM



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APPENDIX A: List of Motions

Motion to postpone the implementation of the business model suggested by Mike's Place Committee to be considered for the year Period September 2023 - April 2024 as a pilot project.

Whereas Mike's Place will be re-opening this Fall semester of 2022.

Whereas the GSA is currently not in a good position to immediately transition to the Vendor Model suggested by Mike's Place Committee due to insurance liability, Liquor license issues, and other legally binding and active agreements that need to be addressed first before the suggested model is adopted.

Whereas adopting the new model without giving the business a grace period to adjust and follow due process could potentially violate legally binding agreements and some labor laws.

Whereas the model could be better if considered for the year period of September 2023 - April 2024 since it will be too risky to be adopted immediately without proper preparations put in place.

Whereas liability and various legal issues need to be addressed before this proposed model is adopted.

Whereas Mike's Place, is a unionized workspace, therefore, the immediate adoption of the model could create a labor relations conflict with the unions and bargaining units members.

Whereas it is a standard practice in many professional settings that when major operational changes are being considered, a grace period is created to give allowances for a proper transition to avoid violating agreements that are still active, legally binding, and enforceable.

Be it resolved that the Vendor Model proposed by the Mike's Place Committee be considered for the year period (Sept -2023-April 2024) as a pilot project to give the business operations a grace period to adjust and to prepare for a smoother transition properly.