



## **GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES**

***Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa,  
Ontario On Zoom - 5:00 pm – Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

### **ATTENDEES:**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Bilan Arte</b>
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	<b>Emmet Mark</b>
<b>Execs:</b>	<b>Faith Achile (VPO), Hande Uz Ozcan (VPA), Milan Sanghani (Pres), Evans Boadi (VPF), Navyashree (VPX)</b>
<b>Staff:</b>	<b>Benjamin Segobaetso</b>
<b>Councilors:</b>	<b>David Macintyre, Martina Boddy, Tamara Banbury (Communications), Maia Lugar, Bronte Wells (Political Science), Wil Robertson, Shannon Wong (History), Kavita Mistry, Sheikh Mohsin, Mengxue Peng, Izak Mason (PoliSci), Shajn Sederoff, Kimia Fardfini (psychology), Nathanael Beaulieu, Kyuson Lim, Anna Stone (Psychology), Robert Nelson (SPPA - he/him), Amanda Chafee (CM Math/Stat), Angel Paez, Aseel Qazzaz</b>
<b>GFB, Board, Senate:</b>	<b>Hayat Elfazani, Mason Rodney, Robert Nelson</b>
<b>Others:</b>	



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### **CALL TO ORDER : 5:05pm**

*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**

Bilan announced herself as Chair.

#### a. Announcement of Proxies

Shaun Sederoff is present as a proxy for a EURUS Councillor

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved: Shaun Sederoff

Seconded: Mason Rodney

No discussion.

Agenda is approved.

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a. The minutes of the October Council meeting have been shared to councillors.

Moved: Hande

Seconded: Navyashree Kirhsnareddy

\*Discussions held concerning presentation of minutes\*

Mason Rodney: Asked if minutes could be reviewed once more for grammatical errors and spelling mistakes

No opposition to adopting the minutes.

Minutes adopted.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. Report containing flow through of GSA fees has been shared with all councillors



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according to the resolution passed at the last council meeting. Please review and send any questions to [vpf@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:vpf@gsacarleton.ca)

### **ORDER OF THE DAY:**

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

Presentation from Milan.Sanghani on new business under Appendix A on ISOW student initiative to use university resources to support International Students from zones of conflict

- If referendum passes, it affects student; we need a solution from Council
- Joint initiative from GSA and CUSA, with help from Wilfred Laurier University

Hande: Comment on how international students overcoming war and conflict zones would be positively impacted by this

Benjamin: Asked a question - does this motion simply create a guidance for council?

Milan: At this point, we are simply seeking guidance from council members, to know how best to move forward with this

Amanda Chafee: How many scholarships will this provide and what proportion of Carleton students will receive this, and proportion of WLU/Windsor university students? Wants to ensure that Carleton student funds stay at Carleton.

Milan: Carleton University will be responsible for our student eligibility, although a council will be struck. As far as we know, these scholarships will be divided

Mason: How did this initiative come to be?

Milan: Wilfred Laurier reached out to Carleton regarding this initiative.

David MacIntyre: How much will we have to raise each year to raise our portion for the scholarships?

Milan: We don't have an exact number, but the number used in the referendum at Wilfred Laurier was 8 dollars per student.

Amanda: The number of grad students isn't known yet, but will it be an equal number of graduate students to undergraduates?

Milan: The ratio between undergraduate and graduate students at each institute has not yet been determined.



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Amanda: Notes that she is uncomfortable with costs being asked for, without things being fully costed as well as further information provided

Benjamin: This was not planned by Carleton executives, but rather a call to action by WLU

### **Resolution to Elect Council Representatives on Electoral Board:**

Benjamin: This is largely to help hire individuals who will be appointing to the CEO for the upcoming GSA elections

Whereas the GSA forms an electoral board each year to oversee the GSA elections, Whereas according to the GSA Bylaws, the council has two representatives on the electoral board,

Be it resolved that Bronte Wells and Izak Mason are elected to be on the GSA electoral board.

Moved: Amanda Chafee

Seconded: Robert Nelson

No opposition, resolution is adopted

## **6. EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **a. Presentation of reports**

#### **Milan Sanghani, President:**

- Focus on improving discussing student and Graduate student experiences
- CFS and other organizations of students at other institutions have been consulted on best practices
- Meeting with AVP Student Life on unlocking an Accessibility Fund to improve student community
- Raised a food hamper issue to combat food insecurity on campus
- With VP Hande, working with students who are facing tuition hike fees
- working as well with innovation hub

#### **Navya, VP External:**

- Month has been productive and successful
- FGPA at Carleton has agreed to postpone fee deadlines for students in Iran

#### **Hande Uz Ozcan, VP Academic:**

- Academic caucus meeting happened - idea: open up online study sessions for graduate students (coworking)
- Every Tuesday for a month, this coworking session will be available for those



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interested in joining

- Instead one day a week, may be increase to two days a week for Winter Term
- International Student Bursary for 6th year PHD students - work of GSA is successful in advocating that this opportunity remains available
- Attending FGPA and Senate Meetings
- Canadian Students coming from other provinces: fees are being raised and GSA is working to find solutions

### **Faith Achile, VP Operations:**

- Sexual Violence Prevention Engagement Committee - learned how to allow GSA to garner tools to combat sexual violence on campus
- Sexual Assault Awareness Week Planning meeting - roundtable session sharing ideas on programming for the week. Let the team know that the GSA spaces are open for booking, Encouraged graduate student specific planning
- Graduate Residence Caucus - VP Achile was invited to sit in this caucus. Housing and Residence Life Committee: Representing GRC. Budget for the coming year was shared and reviewed. Plans to increase housing fee to reflect current realities
- Working towards streamlining varying committees and organizations as they pertain to role as VP Operations
- Facilitation of Organizational Review Committee Meeting
- CFS Conference - Annual General Meeting, Workshops to improve the graduate student experience
- CAGS Conference New Models of Mentoring, New Modes of Research: Internationalizing the Graduate Experience - Alongside GSA president and Dean of FGPA
- Mike's Place - Facilitation of Hiring of Bar Staff
- Processing of Councillor Nomination Submissions, Minutes, Administering Council Meeting
- CUSA/GSA Agreement - Payment Finalization
- Supporting our SAOC and Peer Support Coordinator
- Weekly Operations Meetings and fulfillment of regular duties

### **Evans Boadi, VP Finance:**

- Mainly working on administrative work regarding financial affairs
- Has been receiving impressive applications about the giving of our grants for available funding
- Reaching out to FGPA to obtain more funding to support graduate student initiatives on campus
- Grant Committee meets every two weeks

b. Questions.

Amanda Chafee: Question regarding Mike's Place - concerns raised about things



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being neglected for so long, wants any concrete deadline on when items will be closed

Evans Boadi: Since Mike's Place was closed for a long period of time, repairs will need effort

- Although manager is hired, initial assumptions about timing was unclear
- Unable to give a concrete timeline

Amanda Chafee: How long have we had a manager hired? Raised further concerns about needing concrete timelines as things need to be done.

Benjamin: Staff shortage on campus but low turnaround of people

- We need to rehire; manager has been in place since November
- Realistic soft opening in mid December - unfair to place blame as the manager is doing the best they can with the current situation

Mason: Status on GSA Awards

Evans: Normally award applications are opened in 2nd term, and will be corrected on website to not mislead prospective applicants.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS**

**a. Senate & Senate Committees, Hande VPA:** November Senate meeting happened last week, roadmap initiative launched in Senate; Carleton digitalization to enhance student experience

- Question about flu season and wearing of masks
- Only one graduate student who nominated themselves for the Carleton Senate
- Current discussion to addressing issues regarding filling Graduate seats on Carleton Senate - confusion about who was supposed to fill what, but challenges currently resolved

**b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC): Faith, VPO-** Aiming to have individuals fill certain positions, but there is an issue with having people interested in putting themselves forward

- We were unable to hold elections in November due to nobody being interested
- Unfortunate as Graduate students on residence are being negatively affected by rising fees with nobody to advocate for them

**c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB): Hande, VPA -** GFB notes discussion on SSHRC/NSERC applications, as well as situation in Iran

- Graduate professional updates on David Lafferty, encouraging students to attend virtual workshops

**d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600):** - No report



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e. **Board of Governors (BOG)** : No report.

f. **Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)**: No Report

g. Questions: None.

### **8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. **Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee: Amanda**- We haven't met since the last meeting. No report.

b. **Political Advocacy Committee, Hande VPA**: First meeting to be happening in December, everyone is welcome to attend. As no committee members, we are able to start

c. **Accessibility Committee: Hande VPA**- Analyzing communications soon, GSA main entrance is not accessible, and will be remedying this situation ASAP.

d. **Organizational Review Committee: Faith VPO**, first committee held in November, progress on mandates as the ORC committee

- General review of the honorarium for positions we hold
- Recommendations from the committee for the Exec on next steps to take
- Looking towards next committee meeting, review of the policy manual; bring in any recommended amendments to Council

No Questions

### **9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

● Department of English Language and Literature: No report

● Department of French: No report.

● Department of Geography and Environmental Studies: No report.

● Department of History: Shannon Wong: asked by a History Student to address the concerns of using Shopify in Carleton's E-Commerce system

● Department of Psychology: Anna Stone, nothing to report.

● Department of Sociology and Anthropology: No report.

● Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture: No report.



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- 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.
  
- Department of Political Science: Bronte Wells: No report
  
- Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies: Mengxue Peng - discussion on the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on students who have ties to the region; needing to ensure their financial and emotional wellbeing
  - Specific discussion on the appropriateness of the Institute name EURUS given ongoing conflict in the region and the need to address a decolonial perspective
  
- Institute of Political Economy: No report.
  
- Norman Paterson School of International Affairs: Nathaniel Beauilieu - .question on GSA support towards a Washington Trip, among other opportunities  
Faith VPO: send an email for further discussion





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- School of Journalism and Communication: Tamara Banbury - sharing opportunity about academic conference through this department
- 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: Nothing to 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: Amanda Chafee- Having a year end party, as well as a sweater and t-shirt sale ongoing, but that's it

### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Faith VPO: Reminder to take advantage of Councilor Credits for funds from the Carleton GSA budget, as there is only a single financial budget every year for this and to use them!

- Money does not carry over between financial terms
- Claim the funds as soon as possible, but before April at the latest

Amanda Chafee: Question about returning to in-person meetings

Faith VPO: Yes, plan to return to an in-person/hybrid version, definite plans on how to incorporate more in person meeting in the Winter session - tentatively for the February council meeting

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

At: 6:27PM