



GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

On Zoom - 6:00 pm – April 28, 2023

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

Proxy for the Chief Electoral Officer: Milan

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mover: Hande

Seconder: Milan

Agenda adopted as presented.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mover: Hande

Seconder: Navya

Minutes adopted as presented.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

5. NEW BUSINESS (Details on motions can be found in the appendix section)

a. Presentation of the Chief Electoral Officer Report

Milan: Introduced as proxy for CEO. Will summarize report on CEO's behalf.

Lists the elected executives for the 2023-2024 year. Seven candidates submissions were accepted. Two candidates submissions not accepted due to late submission. This years election sent to 5014 invitees, with 856 submitting valid responses; 19% participation, with room for participation. Issues during election were dealt with/solved. Recommendations for next year procedures: i.e. eligibility; communication of campaign; expanding email list.

Discussion:

Robert Nelson (SPPA): Suggests better communication for participation. Asserts that notice of the election was sparse and hidden amidst other announcements.



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Voices concern over legitimacy of representation. Further, points to ballot format; specifically, unopposed candidates and the option to 'abstain' on the ballot. Asserts that this may oppose language in the GSA bylaws concerning unopposed candidates. Further concern about voting 'choice' in the election.

Ben: Voices GSA's attempts at furthering communication. Points to pushback of election occurring during the CUPE4600 strike. Agrees that there are communication issues. Asks for clarification on abstention option.

Robert: Suggests that in future elections, there should be an option for "none of the above" on the ballot. Explains that this is due to philosophical concerns on voting choice/democracy.

Ben: Suggests this should be brought to Organizational Review Committee.

Robert: Agrees.

Motion approved as presented.

b. Motion 270401: The Receipt of the Chief Electoral Officer Report

Reading of motion as presented.

Mover: Hande

Seconder: Faith

Discussion: None.

Report is approved as presented.

c. Motion to Ratify Election Results

Reading of results as presented.

Mover: Navya

Seconder: Hande

Election results ratified and ballots to be destroyed.

c. Motion to Elect Graduate Faculty Board Representatives and Senate Representatives

Reading of motion as presented.

Call for nominees.

Discussion:

Robert: Asking for clarification regarding tenure for representatives. Asking for clarification of time commitment of the positions.



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Apoorva: Believes that tenure starts in September and that GFB meets over the summer. Unsure of end of tenure.

Hande: Affirms that GFB meets each month and grad supervisors and representatives will be there. Confirms that meetings continue into summer.

Robert: Asks if meetings follow a particular date during the month.

Hande: Clarifies that GFB normally meets on the third Wednesday at 9:30-11:00am, but adds that this may change.

Ben: Adds that most graduate student decisions are made at GFB meetings. Notes that major and important decisions and student advocacy is done at the meetings. Points out the large platform and voice available at GFB.

GFB Rep Nominees: Apoorva; Robert.

Vacancies will be attempted to be filled at a later date.

Discussion:

Hande: Notes that senate meeting occurs on the last Friday of each month, 2:00-4:00pm. Does not recall meetings during summer. Senators can ask questions that must be answered by Carleton President or Provost. Questions are sent one week before to secretariat. Asserts importance of this role.

Nominees: Apoorva.

Vacancies will be attempted to be filled at a later date.

Reading of election motion as presented.

Positions are elected and accepted.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORT

a. Presentation of reports

Milan:

- Thanks council, board members, and executives for the past year.
- Attended the Senate Executive Meeting. Discussed the impact on graduate students' final grades that were impacted by the strike. Senate voted to move forward in collaboration with FGPA to give compassionate grading: SAT/UNSAT.
- Preparing for transition process with upcoming executives.
- Working to complete due diligence for GSA banking.
- Welcomes questions.

Hande:

- Attended three senate meetings from strike until now



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- Late March senate meeting: Expresses that because CUPE4600 was on strike, she kept senate in touch with strike.
- Emergency senate meeting: Advocated regarding compassionate grading. Brought forth issue of 15 hour pay claw backs; were told that senate does not address labour relations.
- GFB meeting: Claw back payment concerns were brought forth.
- Thanks the meeting for the past year.

Navyashree:

- Notes that biweekly FGPA meetings will be passed on to incoming VPX.
- Working on executive committee report.
- Transitioning to incoming executives.
- Thanks.

Faith:

- Transitioning to incoming executives.
- Organizing minutes transcribing.
- Councillor credit processing.
- Agenda preparation.
- Hiring of the Garden Coordinator
- Attended some senate meetings
- Responding by email to student inquiries
- Attended some board meetings
- Held weekly operations meeting
- Thanks

Evans:

- Reports many problems with his relations with the GSA
- Expresses that he is upset that he did not get to serve students the way he promised he would due to these issues
- Had an original intention to support students with finances and academics
- Expresses that he did not have any support from the GSA staff
- Notes his past student leadership experience and lack of issues in these positions
- Expresses regret that he wasn't able to complete his goals

Bilan: Interrupts to assert regret in allowing Evans to speak, as it does not concern the "Presentation of Executive Reports." States that he will have opportunity to speak during "Other Business."

b. Questions

None

7. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Senate & Senate Committees: nothing to report
- b. Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC): nothing to report
- c. Graduate Faculty Board (GFB): nothing to report
- d. Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600): nothing to report
- e. Board of Governors (BOG): nothing to report
- f. Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA): nothing to report



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- g. Questions: none

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Political Advocacy Committee: nothing to report
- b. Accessibility Committee: nothing to report
- c. Organizational Review Committee: nothing to report

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Department of English Language and Literature: nothing to report
- Department of French: nothing to report
- Department of Geography and Environmental Studies: nothing to report
- Department of History: nothing to report
- Department of Psychology: Announcement of Psychology Wellness Centre. Advises to let students struggling to be referred to this resource.
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology: nothing to report
- Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture: nothing to report
- Migration and Diaspora Studies: nothing to report
- Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies: nothing to report
- Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies: nothing to report
- School for Studies in Art and Culture: nothing to report
- School of Linguistics and Language Studies: nothing to report
- School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies: nothing to report
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: nothing to report
- Department of Electronics: nothing to report
- Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering: nothing to report
- Department of Systems and Computer Engineering: nothing to report
- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism: nothing to report
- Industrial Design: nothing to report
- Information Technology: nothing to report
- Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering: nothing to report
- Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs: nothing to report
- Department of Economics: nothing to report
- Department of Law and Legal Studies: nothing to report
- Department of Political Science: nothing to report
- Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies: nothing to report
- Institute of Political Economy: nothing to report
- Norman Paterson School of International Affairs: nothing to report
- School of Journalism and Communication: nothing to report
- School of Public Policy and Administration: nothing to report
- School of Social Work: nothing to report
- Department of Biology: nothing to report
- Department of Chemistry: nothing to report
- Department of Earth Sciences: nothing to report
- Department of Health Sciences: nothing to report
- Department of Neuroscience: nothing to report



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- Department of Cognitive Science: nothing to report
- Department of Physics: nothing to report
- School of Computer Science: nothing to report
- School of Mathematics and Statistics: nothing to report

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Evans Boadi: Expresses that he did not “get the hand he wanted to support the students.” Asserts that he wanted to create more scholarships for students. Thanked ‘everyone.’ Expresses that no matter what he faced, he still wants to support students. Explains an example of when a student reached out for financial support, there was pushback to give to this student. References when he was charged with misconduct by staff. Expresses feeling that he was left out of decision making and communications. Explains that this led to his suspension. Expresses that “the GSA should be a safe place for graduate students who have the passion to set their service to them, to be of service to them or their passion. Is that not a preliminary opportunity for us?” Expresses hope that, in the future, teaming up on executives because of personal issues will not occur. Expresses feeling that Benjamin had a personal vendetta for him “from day one.” Cites accusations made against him. Thanks ‘everyone.’ Says that his passion is still strong for student leadership. Cites a supposed conversation that he had where he asked to donate his wages to grants and awards. Offers his website for people to donate to his website. Welcomes the new executives. Makes accusations against GSA staff concerning internal fighting. Offers some words of encouragement.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.



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APPENDIX

Appendix A: Motion to amend the GSA Agenda Notification Policy

Whereas the GSA Agenda Notification policy is designed to ensure the timely notification to Council members of the agenda and motions for upcoming meetings.

Whereas GSA councillors would benefit from getting agenda notifications a bit earlier

Whereas the Organizational Review Committee has reviewed and recommended improvements to this policy

BIRT the council agenda and invite be made publicly available

BIRT the Council members with motions to be presented to Council must provide the Vice-President Operations with a complete motion no less than 10 days prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meetings for inclusion in the agenda

BIRT the GSA Council be provided with the Agenda no less than 7 days prior to a scheduled council meeting

BIRT the GSA Agenda Notification Policy be stated as follows:

Preamble

These guidelines are designed to ensure the timely notification to Council members of the agenda and motions for upcoming meetings. The council Agenda and invite would also be made publicly available

1. The Vice-President Operations of the GSA shall produce and distribute a final agenda including complete motions to all Council members no less than seven (7) days prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meeting for inclusion in the agenda.



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2. Council members with motions to be presented to Council must provide the Vice-President Operations with a complete motion no less than (10) days prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meetings for inclusion in the agenda.
3. This policy will in no way prevent any member of Council from presenting a motion from the floor for discussion at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting under the Other Business agenda item.

Appendix B: Motion to amend the GSA Hiring Policy

Whereas the GSA Hiring Policy is designed to guide Hiring Processes at the GSA
Whereas the Organizational Review Committee has reviewed and recommended improvements to this policy

BIRT where two applicants are equally qualified, final selection be made based on merit and a fair process

BIRT the GSA Hiring Policy be stated as follows:

When hiring for staff positions, GSA Council shall:

1. Give preference to members of the Association;
2. Apply the provincial employment equity act in all hiring processes.
3. Make a final selection based on merit and a fair process where two applicants are equally qualified

Appendix C: Motion to amend the Posting GSA Council Minutes to the GSA Website Policy

Whereas the GSA Council Meeting Minutes are made available on the GSA website for easy reference by councillors and GSA members

Whereas the current policy has no clearly stated timeline within which the minutes should be made available on the GSA Website

Whereas the Organizational Review Committee has reviewed and recommended improvements to this policy

BIRT Minutes of GSA Council meetings are made available through the GSA website 7 calendar days after the minutes of a GSA Council meeting have been approved.



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BIRT the following clause be removed from the Posting GSA Council Minutes to the GSA Website policy: “The minutes posted on the GSA website will have discussions removed to avoid having GSA Council meeting participants self-censor their comments during discussion and debate. These minutes will be called: E-Minutes.”

BIRT the Posting of GSA Council Minutes to the GSA Website policy be stated as follows: “Minutes of GSA Council meetings are made available through the GSA website 7 calendar days after the minutes of a GSA Council meeting have been approved.”

Appendix D: Motion to Protect GSA Employees from Bullying and Harassment by some GSA Executives.

Whereas there have been several bullying and harassment incidents of full-time staff members at the GSA by some elected GSA executives.

Whereas GSA elected Executives are elected in their positions for only one year and most of the time they do not have proper Financial, administrative, and organizational management qualifications and experience.

Whereas GSA executives are elected on the basis that they will be serving the needs of their constituents through programming and providing some administrative services.

Whereas GSA hires experienced professional full-time staff members who are experts in delivering administrative duties, financial and organizational management including the Executive Director who provides continuity and retention of institutional memory.

Be it resolved that the GSA elected Executives be not allowed to supervise full-time staff members and that such authority be solely left to the GSA Executive Director who then gets supervised and reports directly to the GSA Board of Directors.

Be it resolved that the contract of the GSA Executive Director be supervised by the GSA Board of Directors and not the GSA elected Executives.

Appendix E: Current GSA Policies for Reference

Passed at Council 2016.08.23

Agenda Notification Policy

Preamble

These guidelines are designed to ensure the timely notification to Council members of the agenda and motions for upcoming meetings.

1. The Vice-President Operations of the GSA shall produce and distribute a final agenda including complete motions to all Council members no less than four (4) days prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meeting for inclusion in the agenda.



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2. Council members with motions to be presented to Council must provide the Vice-President Operations with a complete motion no less than (5) days prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meetings for inclusion in the agenda.
3. This policy will in no way prevent any member of Council from presenting a motion from the floor for discussion at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting under the Other Business agenda item.

Passed at Council 1999.04.09 Amended at Council 2012.07.12 Amended at Council 2015.04.09 Amended at Council 2016.03.17

Posting GSA Council Minutes to the GSA Website

Minutes of GSA Council meetings are made available through the GSA website as expeditiously as possible once the minutes of a GSA Council meeting have been approved.

The minutes posted on the GSA website will have discussions removed to avoid having GSA Council meeting participants self-censor their comments during discussion and debate. These minutes will be called: E-Minutes.

Passed at Council 2007.10.28 Amended at Council 2015.04.09

Hiring Policy

When hiring for staff positions, GSA Council shall:

1. Give preference to members of the Association;
2. Apply a employment equity policy, such that where two applicants are equally qualified, an international student shall have precedence; and,
3. Otherwise, base hiring on merit.

Passed at Council 1993.03.19 Amended at Council 2010.08.18 Amended at Council 2012.07.12