



GSA COUNCIL – MINUTES

Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Ottawa, Ontario

Apr 10, 2024

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Elie

Seconded: Sam

- Bronwyn mentioned that in a couple of council meetings including the April council meeting, she and some other councilors did not receive the updated version of the council agenda. She asked someone from the GSA Executive's will make sure that, next council meeting agenda will be sent to all council members properly.
- Hande mentioned that since VP Operations will be changed in May 1st, she will make sure that the VP operations will be using the updated agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the March council meeting have been distributed to councilors.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF THE DAY:

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

- a. Presentation of the Chief Electoral Officer's Report 2024

- CEO Judy presented the Report for the Elections.

- b. Motion 10.04.2024– 01: 2023 Receipt of the Chief Electoral Officer Report

- Receipt of the CEO Report

Moved: Sam

Seconded: Elie

No oppositions.



c. Motion 10.04.2024 – 02: Ratification of Election Results

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Mover: Elie

Second: Sahil

No oppositions and Election Results ratified: Jayesh Kundu elected as President. Reza Sohrabi elected VP Finance, Jean Peng elected as VP Operations, Shakib Mahamud elected as VP External, Mahsa Abarghouei elected as VP Academic.

d. Motion 10.04.2024 - 03: Election of Graduate Faculty Board and Senate positions

- Election of Naomi and Brownwyn into the position of Senate representatives:

Mover: Robert

Second: Zaina

No oppositions and the nominees were elected.

- Election of GFB Positions

- Elie: explains the criteria for the graduate faculty board.

Robert nominated Hande for the GFB Representative position.

Moved: Elie

Seconded: Brownwyn

No opposition and nominee was elected.

e. Motion 10.04.2024 - 04: Motion to Implement Biweekly Executive Reporting and Accountability Procedures

Mover: Elie

Second: Robert

No oppositions for the motion and the motion was adopted.

f. Motion 10.04.2024 - 05: Motion to increase Travel Grant up to \$500

Mover: Zaina

Second: Sahil

Motivated by Sahil

No oppositions and the motion was adopted.

6. EXECUTIVE REPORT

a. President (Elie):

- There is an approximate price for the Garden project which is approximately \$125,000.
- There is an end of year party on April 18 and Mike's Place
- Raised the problem of no Dean of graduate faculty board that is represented on the senate board at the last senate meeting. Urges that this issue be brought up again at the next senate meeting as nothing was done.
- Is currently working on the onboarding of the new president.

VP Finance (Reza):

- Proposal for the Mike's place to be restructured to a food bank center due to continuous loss. - Recap of the grants disbursed.



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VP Operations (Parisa)

- Discussed meetings had and interview for garden coordinator.
- Onboarding for garden coordinator was discussed.

VP Academic (Sahil)

- Successful graduate caucus meeting had last month and another one taking place this month. - Had a meeting with the ISSO office about collaborating on events with them.

VP External

7. OTHER REPORTS

- Senate & Senate Committees
- Graduate Residence Caucus (GRC)
- Graduate Faculty Board (GFB)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees 4600 (CUPE 4600)
Rep: AGM is on Friday at 2:30pm the elect a new executive board and pass the budget for the year.
- Board of Governors (BOG)
- Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA)
- Questions

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mike's Place Ad-Hoc Financial Review Committee
- Political Advocacy Committee
- Accessibility Committee
- Organizational Review Committee

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Department of English Language and Literature
- Department of French
- Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
- Department of History
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture
- Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies
- School for Studies in Art and Culture
- School of Linguistics and Language Studies
- School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

- Department of Electronics
- Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Department of Systems and Computer Engineering



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- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Industrial Design
- Information Technology
- Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering
- Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs
- Department of Economics
- Department of Law and Legal Studies
- Department of Political Science
- Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies
- Institute of Political Economy
- Norman Paterson School of International Affairs
- School of Journalism and Communication
- School of Public Policy and Administration

Rep: recently had their elections and are transitioning to new executives. The GSA representatives will be elected in the fall, and they will coordinate that with the GSA.

- School of Social Work
- Department of Biology
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department of Health Sciences
- Department of Neuroscience
- Department of Cognitive Science
- Department of Physics
- Department of Migration and Diaspora
- Department of Music & Culture, SSAC
- School of Computer Science
- School of Mathematics and Statistics

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- Emergency resolution for divestment policy

Reza: explains the divestment policy and why it falls under an emergency resolution.

Mover: Reza

Second: Elie

Motion was adopted with no oppositions.

Appendix A:

Chief Electoral Officers' Elections Report 2024 provided to councillors as a separate attachment.

Appendix B: Motion 10.04.2024.– 01: 2024 Receipt of the Chief Electoral Officer Report

Whereas GSA Council has been presented with the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the GSA General Elections; therefore

Be It Resolved That Council receive the Elections 2024 Report of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

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Appendix C: Motion 10.04.2024 – 02: Ratification of Election Results

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Jayesh Kundu to the position of President; and

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Shakib Mahamud to the position of Vice-President (External); and

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Jean Peng to the position of Vice-President (Operations); and

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Reza Sohrabi to the position of Vice-President (Finance); and

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Mahsa Abarghouei to the position of Vice-President (Academic);

BIFRT Council ratify the election, in accordance with the GSA Constitution, of Zahra Esfandiari to the position of Senate Representative.

BIFRT Council order the destruction of the ballots.

APPENDIX D: Motion 10.04.2024 - 03: Election of Graduate Faculty Board; Senate positions

Whereas 5 Graduate Faculty Board positions and 2 Senate Positions were vacant after the general elections.

Be It Further Resolved That Council nominate and appoint 5 GSA members as the GFB and 2 Senate representatives for the upcoming academic year.

APPENDIX E: Motion 10.04.2024 - 04: Motion to Implement Biweekly Executive Reporting and Accountability Procedures



Whereas, the Graduate Students Association (GSA) at Carleton values transparency, accountability, and effective governance among its executive members;

Whereas, executives need to be held accountable for their work to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the Graduate Students Association (GSA) at Carleton;

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Whereas, preserving the GSA's image of working diligently for its students is paramount to maintaining trust and credibility within the student body;

And whereas, it is essential for the Executive Director and the Board of Directors to be informed regularly of the executives' work to ensure the GSA's goals are being met efficiently;

Be it resolved that all executives are required to submit biweekly reports of their work to the Executive Director. These reports can be presented either verbally or in writing, at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Be it further resolved that, the Executive Director shall diligently request these reports and is responsible for reporting back to the Board of Directors when necessary, particularly if there are reasonable grounds to consider issuing a warning to an executive.

Be it further resolved that, in alignment with the Executive Director's contractual obligations, the biweekly reports submitted by the executives shall not only serve as a basis for accountability but also as a tool for the Executive Director to provide targeted advice and suggestions.

Be it further resolved that, upon receipt of a report from the Executive Director suggesting the issuance of a warning, the Board of Directors will convene a meeting that includes all Board members and the Executive Director to evaluate the situation.

Be it further resolved that, the executive in question shall be given an opportunity to provide a concise speech regarding their perspective on the situation. However, they must leave the meeting once the Board begins its discussion.

Be it further resolved that, the Board will then vote to either issue a warning or not to the executive in question.

Be it further resolved that, should an executive receive two warnings, an immediate in-camera meeting with the council will be convened to discuss whether or not to start a petition process to recall the executive through a referendum.



Be it further resolved that, the council reserves the right to choose a date for the by-elections of the executive's position if the executive was voted to cease and desist from their position by the GSA members.

And be it further resolved that these procedures be incorporated into the GSA's governance documents and that all members be notified of these changes through appropriate GSA communication channels.



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APPENDIX F: Motion 10.04.2024 - 05: Motion to increase Travel Grant up to \$500

Whereas GSA Carleton supports graduate students in their academic development by funding eligible travel expenses through the Travel Grant.

Whereas the GSA Travel Grant is specifically designed to support students with research-related travel expenses, such as conferences, symposiums, colloquiums, and research-related costs, including but not limited to registration fees, flight tickets, accommodations, and meal expenses.

Whereas the current grant amount of \$200 does not adequately cover students' travel expenses due to high inflation and the high cost of living.

Be it resolved that the travel grant to be increased up to \$500 for FY24.

Be it further resolved that eligibility criteria will be contingent upon reimbursement following the submission of relevant receipts.

And be it further resolved that the relevant GSA governance documents be updated, and all members notified through appropriate GSA communication channels.