



**MINUTES OF THE
The Fifth Council Meeting
OF THE
2025/2026 Graduate Student Association of
Carleton University
1St April 2026
Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Location:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86927762138?pwd=sXaiR0jpZNRHybl0HXeYQnJgDX1MwI.1>

Prepared by:
Vice - President Operations of GSA



ATTENDANCE RECORD:

Position	Member	Signature
President	Hadi Hefzy	
Vice President Finance	Oladapo Odumosu	
Vice President Academic	Temuulen Turbat (Elen)	
Vice President External	Hadi Hefzy	
Vice President Operations	Fatemeh Mohammad Zamani	
Chair	Ashley D'Souza	
Senate committees		
GRC		
GFB		
CUPE 4600		
BOG		
CUSA		
RRRA		
Departmental Representatives		
PSGSA	Vincenzo Poti	
SAGSC	Fayssal Yatim	
NPSIA	Robert Lee	
	Omar Hassan	
History	Kegan Rumig	
	Alan Jones	
Communication	Kate Ellis	
English	Dana Mitchell	
MPM	Lukas Redmond	
Social Work	Jaya Venasse	



injustices through action and furthering the education of ourselves and others.

2. Asking everyone to fill the attendance form by this [link](#).

a. Announcement of Proxies

With 17 people present (15 could vote), and a quorum of nine, the meeting could proceed.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved: Kegan

Seconded: Saphira B.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

[January council meeting minutes](#)

5. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 These updates based on raised issues in previous meeting:

5.1.1 Update on the next elections for the Board and Executives that will be on April 13th and 14th (Presented by the chair of the board)

· Elections for Board, Executives, Senate and FPGA Council will take place. Nomination is due by

April 1st 4pm and the nomination form is available on gsacarleton.ca.

· Campaign will start on April 2nd till April 12th, and voting will take place during April 13th and 14th.

· Any questions, please reach out to the GSA executives.

5.1.2 Update on the Executive Director role. (Presented by the chair of the board)

· Former GSA President Zeina Al Attar has been appointed as the Executive Director, effective already.

5.1.3 Update on the president role. (Presented by the chair of the board)

· Hadi Hefzy, the former VP External of GSA, has been voted by the executives as the President of GSA for the remaining portion of the academic year prior to the upcoming elections.

5.1.4 Update on working on ONCA. (Presented by the chair of the board)



· Board and Executive, GSA and legal team are working on the update of our bylaws and other documents to be in compliance with ONCA.

· More robust update about the changes and how they are going to impact the operations of GSA is expected at the next council meeting at the end of April.

5.1.5

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF THE DAY:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair said No new business

8. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Moved: Kate Ellis

Seconded: Kegan Rumig

Motion carried unanimously.

President - Hadi Hefzy

- Chaired weekly Executive team meetings and participated in monthly Board meetings.
- Attended monthly lunch meetings with senior university leaders.
- Attended Dedicated Access Fund Committee meetings.
- Worked on the compliance to ONCA.
- Attended Ancillary Fee Committee meetings.
- Participated in multiple coordination and meetings with the Executive Director and Chief Electoral Office to support the planning for the upcoming elections.
- Attend the university Senate Orientation sessions

VP Finance - Oladapo Odumosu

- Continued the administration and disbursement of grants & awards, sending out over \$100,000 to over 120 students in the Fall cycle.
- Will be able to do an additional \$18,000 for winter 2026 grants & awards, which is in addition to the \$31,000 done over the summer. This brings the total to approximately \$150,000 to about 200 students.
- Expanded support where possible in light of the ongoing conflicts affecting students from several regions around the world.
- Attended the CFS Black Caucus Standalone meetings.
- Attended CFS National Graduate Caucus, providing an opportunity for constructive discussions with CFS.
- Collaborated with university's Equity Diversity, an inclusion program, for Black History Month events.



- Participated in the hiring committee for the executive director.
- Participated in the hiring process of office administrator.
- Participated in the negotiation of collective agreement with CUPE.
- Participating in the process of finalizing new health plan for the upcoming year.

VP Academic (VPA) - Temuulen Turbat (Elen)

- Attended all GSA executive meetings.
- Contributed to planning and updates.
- Held monthly check-ins with the Graduate Studies team regarding graduate student academic and administration-related matters, working as a team on ONCA compliance.
- Participated in the hiring process for the executive director and chief electoral officer.
- Worked with sexual assault outreach coordinator to create resource card for mental health and sexual assault support.
- Drafted recommendations for the next term and next executives.
- Working on the intake of Professional Development Support program of the academic year. Deadline of application - April 8th.
- Planning the last event of the year in terms of the outreach initiative which is a breakfast session in the GSA lounge on April 8th.
- Connected with Graduate Studies/registration office regarding concern from students such as temporarily waiving or taking additional consideration of expired IELTS scores from Iranian students due to the ongoing situation in Iran.
- Attended the student government lunch today which was the final session for this academic term.
- Continuing preparing handover documents for the incoming VP Academic

VP External (VPX) - Hadi Hefzy

- Collaborated with CUSA and other student associates on the end-of-year breakfast event, supporting planning, outreach, and student engagement.
- Supported advocacy efforts related to the Bill 33 by reviewing materials, contributing to discussion and sending comments/concerns to the Ministry.
- Worked with CUSA, the Student Mobilization Committee Ottawa and all the campus partners on the OSAP advocacy.
- Organized Persian Noruz event and supported several GSA events during this period.
- Worked with VP Finance and some campus partners to support on the planning the delivery of the social events.
- Reviewed and proceeded applications of Professional Development Support program with VP Academic and former President.
- Worked with VP Finance on reviewing grants and scholarship applications.



- Coordinating an OSAP tabling event to inform student about funding changes and support advocacy.
- Supported election communications by coordinating with the university department; promoting elections through the Graduate Newsletter and updating the GSA website.
- Conducted outreach and distributed merchandise to winter intake students.
- Participated in the meeting related to the student health insurance to help address ongoing challenges.
- Attended in the 2026 National Graduate Student Caucus meeting in Toronto.
- Managed GSA Instagram account and designed most of the content to increase visibility and engagement.
- Participated CUPE meeting related to the bargain on the collective agreement.
- Continued contributing in ONCA-related committee meeting to support the governance compliance.
- Joined a meeting with the University Communications to request more media support for GSA and discuss communication challenges.

VP Operations (VPO) - Fatemeh Mohammad Zamani

- Attended weekly executive meetings and monthly board meeting.
- Worked with office administrators and staff to resolve operational challenges.
- Attended monthly meeting with Carlton Graduate Studies to support effective communication and ongoing collaboration.
- Contributed in the ONCA committee for the GSA legislation.
- Planned Holi celebration and Ramadan dinner; supported Norus and Lunar New Year event.
- Trained newly hired staff; prepared documents related to the council meeting.
- Met and encouraged students from the Sustainable Energy Department to participate in the council meeting as councilors.
- Participated in the government's meetings discussing the university legislation and raising key issues affecting graduate students.

Vote: Approved

9. 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

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix A:

Appendix B:

Appendix C:

Appendix D:

Appendix E:

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Grants and awards committee
 - The deadline to apply for grants and awards of the current term is April 8th. Application form can be found on gsacarleton.ca in the student services session.

12. 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
 - The Sociology Anthropology Graduate Student Conference was successfully held.
- 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
- 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
- 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