



**MINUTES OF THE
The Sixth Council Meeting
OF THE
2025/2026 Graduate Student Association of
Carleton University
30th April 2026
Time: 2:10 pm - 2:51 pm
Location:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/TevWwVepIUnnu2EKmxJ19rA_DxrJuR2Q9kVX70pS1Bo8YUz6ZCpUc8EtSwdMDsG.OJ9xtgmdx0juBCyq

Prepared by:
Office Administrator 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	
Chief Electoral Officer	Hrides Kapur	
Senate committees		
GRC		
GFB		
CUPE 4600		
BOG		
CUSA		
RRRA		
Departmental Representatives		
Communication	Kate Ellis	
Sociology and Anthropology	Fayssal Yatim	
Economics	Oladapo Odumosu	
Music and Culture	Sara Beth Lyons	
Biology (BGSA)	Bailey Laforest	
NPSIA	Rezda Rezal	
Sustainable Energy	Oluwadamilola Omotuyi	
History (HGSA)	Kegan Rumig	
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Diana Tutkishbayeva	

*Non-voting members in *Italics*.



Agenda:

1. Call to order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Quorum was confirmed, and the meeting proceeded. The Chair provided a land acknowledgment from Toronto, noting that he was speaking from the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and the Anishinaabe. The Chair also encouraged members to use resources such as native-land.ca to learn more about the lands from which they attend meetings.

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

Members were asked to complete the online attendance form. The agenda and attendance links were shared in the meeting chat. Quorum was confirmed by the Chair.

a. Determination of Quorum

With 14 people present, and a quorum of nine, the meeting could proceed.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Kate requested that a fourth announcement be added under Item 6 regarding a brief update about the Executive Director.

Dapo noted that he would send the VPO a written copy of his report to be included as an appendix to the minutes.

Moved: Fayssal Yatim

Seconded: Kegan Rumig

Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

[March council meeting minutes](#)

5. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No updates from the previous meeting were presented.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A new round of GSA elections was announced to fill vacant positions, including positions on the GSA Board, FPGA Faculty, and Senate. Nominations were open until May 3, 2026, and instructions were available on the GSA website.
- The GSA offices were closed due to building maintenance outside the control of the GSA. The offices were expected to reopen on May 7, 2026.
- The ONCA committee continued working toward compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Incoming executive members, if ratified, would continue



this work beginning in May. Members with relevant expertise were invited to contact the Executive Director if interested in supporting the process.

- The Executive Director, Zeina, completed her probationary period and became a permanent employee of the GSA.

Question from Rezda Rezal: *Rezda asked for clarification on whether nomination forms for Senate or Graduate Council required ten graduate signatures plus two additional nominators, or ten signatures total.*

Response from the CEO: *The CEO clarified that ten graduate students are required in total, and one of those graduate students can serve as the seconder; twelve signatures are not required.*

ORDER OF THE DAY:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Report from the Chief Electoral Officer

The Chief Electoral Officer, Ritesh Kapoor, presented the official certified report of the 2026 GSA general elections.

- There were 19 candidates across executive and board positions.
- The nomination period ran from March 23 to April 1, 2026, at 4:00 pm.
- The all-candidate meeting was held on Zoom on April 2, 2026, at 12:00 pm to review rules, procedures, and the election process.
- The campaign period ran from April 2 to April 12, 2026.
- The all-candidate forum was held on Zoom on April 9, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
- The online voting period ran from April 13 to April 14, 2026, and was conducted through OIRP.
- The appeals deadline was April 20, 2026.
- There were 6,375 eligible voters and 702 valid responses, representing an 11% response rate. The CEO reported that this turnout was within the normal range compared with previous years.
- The electronic voting system functioned without disruption. The results were certified on April 15, 2026, by Marcie Dalman, Manager of Institutional Analysis at OIRP.

The CEO presented the following elected candidates, as stated verbally in the meeting:

Position	Elected Candidate
President	Diana Tutkishbayeva
Vice President Academic	Fatemeh Mohammad Zamani (formerly VP Operations)
Vice President Operations	Sara Beth Lyons
Vice President External	Oluwadamilola Omotuyi (Dami)
Vice President Finance	Oladapo Odumosu (continuing in role)
GSA Board	Kedar Joshi



The CEO also reported that the electoral committee actively monitored proceedings, sent reminders to candidates regarding campus posting rules, issued and documented several warnings, reviewed and ruled on one official appeal, and reviewed and approved reimbursement requests that were being processed. The CEO stated that, despite minor issues, the election was clean and compliant with GSA bylaws.

The CEO thanked the candidates, the electoral committee, the outgoing executives, and the Executive Director for their work during the election period. The CEO also noted that a second round of elections was ongoing for the GSA Board, Graduate Council, University Senate, and FPGS Faculty Board committees, with details available on the GSA website.

7.2 Ratification of the 2026-2027 GSA General Election Results

Motion: Be it resolved that the Council ratifies the results of the 2026-2027 GSA general elections as presented.

Moved: Oladapo Odumosu

Seconded: Kate Ellis

Motion carried unanimously, with no opposition and no abstentions recorded.

8. EXECUTIVE [REPORT](#)

Moved: Kegan Rumig

Seconded: Fayssal Yatim

The executive reports were presented as follows.

President - Hadi Hefzy

- Chaired weekly Executive team meetings and participated in weekly Executive work during the reporting period.
- Served on the grants and scholarship review committee with the Vice President Finance, reviewing applications and completing the winter round of scholarships and grants.
- Participated in collective bargaining discussions related to CUPE part-time employees, in coordination with the Executive Director and the Vice President Finance.
- Participated in coordination meetings with the Executive Director and Chief Electoral Officer regarding elections, including the second round of elections.
- Supported the Executive Director in organizing end-of-year celebrations.
- Attended the last University Senate session with the Vice President Academic.
- Reviewed and supported the renewal of student health benefits.

VP Finance - Oladapo Odumosu

- Thanked Council members for the ratification and for the opportunity to continue serving as Vice President Finance.
- Continued oversight of GSA financial operations, including payment approvals, budget monitoring, and general financial oversight.



- Began year-end financial close in collaboration with the Finance Manager, including account reconciliation and preparation for the summer audit.
- Reported that equipment upgrades at Mike's Place had been completed. Mike's Place closed for the summer on April 17, 2026, and is expected to reopen in the fall semester.
- Reported completion of the Winter 2026 grants and awards cycle, and thanked Omar and President Hadi for their support during the review process.
- Noted that a call for new grants and awards committee members would be issued during the summer after Council approves the next budget.
- Reported that approximately \$188,000 had been disbursed to around 250 students during the academic year, in addition to funding provided to multiple departments for events.
- Reported that the summer grants and awards cycle was successfully administered and showed good engagement.
- Continued participation in CUPE 1281 negotiations alongside the President and Executive Director.
- Reported that the GSA had a good fiscal year overall, with revenues in line with projections and expenditures generally aligned with the approved budget.
- Noted unanticipated legal expenses related to renegotiating union contracts for part-time staff under CUPE 1281 and full-time staff under COPE.
- Identified the accessibility door and IT server upgrades as ongoing projects to be discussed in the next budget cycle.

VP Academic (VPA) - Temuulen Turbat (Elen)

- Attended all weekly GSA Executive meetings and contributed to planning and updates.
- Attended the final University Senate meeting of the term with the President.
- Held monthly check-ins with David Laforte from Graduate Studies regarding graduate student academic and administrative matters.
- Reported that an alumni networking night in collaboration with Graduate Studies is being planned and will be continued by the incoming VPA.
- Met with Vice-Provost Graduate Studies Nadine Dan to discuss student-related issues and strengthen collaboration with Graduate Studies.
- Participated in electoral committee activities and supported related processes.
- Completed transition materials and handover documents.
- Organized a grab-and-go breakfast event during the final week of the term to support students during a high-stress period.
- Distributed resource materials as part of the sexual assault outreach and awareness initiative, including mental health and sexual assault support cards, a mental care checklist activity board, stress balls, and hygiene products.



- Reported that the Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator compiled recommendations and supporting documents for transition materials.
- Provided a summary of the Professional Development Support pilot initiative. The final deadline was April 8, 2026; approximately 18 applications were received, 14 eligible applications were processed, and \$4,800 was distributed in reimbursements.
- Reported that supported professional development activities included project management, CFA Level I, cybersecurity, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, CPA-related training, diplomatic protocol certification, emergency management, crisis management and de-escalation techniques, and advanced international TESOL certification.
- Noted that program feedback and recommendations for future improvement were documented.

VP External (VPX) - Hadi Hefzy

- Continued managing and designing content for the GSA Instagram page to maintain engagement and visibility.
- Updated and maintained the GSA website in preparation for the second round of elections.
- Supported outreach and coordination for the Campus United barbecue event, including discussions related to OSAP and future campaigns.
- Led communication and coordination with academic departments regarding the second round of elections to increase student awareness and participation.
- Prepared transition materials for the incoming Vice President External.
- Partnered with CFS to facilitate access to a free tax-filing resource and led social media outreach to promote student awareness of the opportunity.
- Worked with the Executive Director and Vice President Finance in ongoing CUPE negotiations.

VP Operations (VPO) - Fatemeh Mohammad Zamani

- Participated in weekly Executive team meetings and Board meetings.
- Collaborated with office administrators and staff to address operational challenges, enhance service delivery, and coordinate administrative scheduling.
- Developed a comprehensive transition document to clarify responsibilities and support a smooth handover for the incoming VPO.
- Managed and scheduled Office Administrator shifts for the summer semester, including May, June, July, and August.
- Prepared materials for the Council meeting and supported effective communication with councillors.



- Communicated with councillors regarding Council credits and departmental purchase support.
- Participated in an introductory meeting to clarify executive roles.
- Attended the goodbye party event with other executive members, marking the final event of the year.
- Prepared the full year of Council minutes for sharing with students on the GSA website.

Questions: *No questions were raised regarding the executive reports.*

Motion carried unanimously, with no opposition and no abstentions recorded.

9. OTHER REPORTS

No other reports were presented.

- 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

Call for Electoral Committee Members for Second Round of Elections

The Executive Director, Zeina, announced a call for two Council members to join the Electoral Committee for the second round of elections. The committee may be required to make decisions on short notice regarding election rules, concerns, or appeals. Interested Council members were asked to contact the Executive Director.

Kate asked for clarification regarding the timeline for the second round of elections. Zeina provided the following timeline:

- Nomination Period: April 22 – May 3 at noon
- Campaigning Period: May 4 – May 13
- All-Candidates Meeting: May 4
- Voting Period: May 14 – May 15
- Unofficial Results: May 16
- Appeals Deadline: May 20

Zeina noted that Council members may contact her or the Chief Electoral Officer with any questions.



Kedar asked whether he should email Zeina directly. Zeina confirmed that he should email her and noted that, as a Board member, he is entitled to join the committee; however, two additional Council members were still needed.

Appendix A: *Written Vice President Finance report - to be inserted if received.*

Appendix B: *Detailed CEO election results table - to be inserted if received.*

Appendix C:

Appendix D:

Appendix E:

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

No standing committee reports were presented.

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
- 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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to end the meeting.

Moved: Kate Ellis

Seconded: Fayssal Yatim

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 2:51 pm.