

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Students Association Council Meeting
 Monday, February 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
 GSA Office, East Tower Refectory



Present: Aaron Maxwell (VP Services), Megan Murphy (FRC Business), Carla Abarca (FRC Engineering), Adhithya Ravichandran (FRC Engineering), Jeffrey Wyngaarden (FRC Humanities), Spencer Savoie (Senate Rep), Geoff Callaghan (CRO), Vi Dang (International Student Rep), Ashley Ravenscroft (General Manager), Margaret Jackel (Office Assistant)

Regrets: Frances Lasowski (GSA President), Stephen Hanson (VP Administration), Talena Rambarran (VP External), Jennifer Nicholl (FRC Health Sciences), Sarah Kanji (FRC Health Sciences), Priscilla Medeiros (FRC Social Science), Zack Batist (FRC Social Science), D’Andra Parker (Senate Rep), Marion Jamard (International Student Rep)

Absent: Maryam Ghasemaghahi (FRC Business), Ashley Marshall (FRC Humanities), Stephanie Jones (FRC Science), Rostyslav Zvanych (FRC Science), Murray Wilson (BoG Representative), Majid Taghavi (Senate Rep), Ahmed El Ganzouri (Senate Rep), Cassel Busse (Senate Rep), Stephanie Marciniak (Senate Rep)

Item	Motion	
1.	Call to Order	6:20 PM
2.	Acceptance of the Agenda	Did not meet quorum.
3.	Approval of the Minutes from meetings of January 28, 2014	Did not meet quorum. Tabled to next meeting.
4.	Reports from Board a. President’s Report	<p>Ivana has stepped down from her role as the VP Internal. We thank her for her work with the organization. Given that there are elections pending, we will not be filling the role in the interim.</p> <p>I also received a note from Allison Sekuler about an Ontario Productivity and Innovation Fund project McMaster is leading in collaboration with the other 6 research intensive Universities in the province, focusing on Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) training. The idea is to have a series of online modules graduate students can access on topics such as Teaching & Learning, Community Engaged Scholarship, Entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property, Mental Health, Academic and Research Integrity, Career Planning, and more. Different Universities will use these general modules in different ways, so, for example, we may add on additional McMaster-specific on-line modules for areas like Academic and Research Integrity, and hold in person workshops to build on the basic concepts introduced in the on-line modules (e.g., career planning more targeted for STEM, SSHRC areas, etc.).</p> <p>SGS is looking for input now on the logo for the Ontario Consortium, as</p>

		<p>distributed. They are looking for the one that best visually represents the goals of the GPS program: helping students find their way through graduate school, developing the skills needed (in addition to those provided from programs) to succeed in their career of choice. Can we have a quick show of hands who likes each one!</p> <p>Option 1 – 4 Option 2 – 3</p>
	b. Senate Report	<p>Spencer Savoie stated that senate met two weeks ago. There is a new scholarship, the Fo Guang Shan Award, established, to foster more humanistic Buddhism. McMaster is signing the Berlin document for Open Access. They are saying that McMaster will try to post to Open Access prior to putting them on non-open access areas. There is currently some debate on this subject, but it will be further discussed at a later point.</p>
	c. Board of Governor's Report	<p>Representative was not available to report.</p>
	d. Fees Committee Report	<p>Representative was not available to report.</p>
5.	Committee Reports a. Finance Committee (VP Admin)	<p>We are creating a new budget for the coming year. We are looking at slightly increasing our fees to adjust for the compensation with our new full time employee and to match the executive positions to the equivalent of a TA position. We expect many of our other costs to be similar to this year. We are basing these calculations on a constant number of members, which would be consistent with previous years.</p>
	b. Phoenix Executive Committee (VP Admin)	<p>The appeal for the liquor license has been dropped, so there are now no outstanding issues with this. There is a PEC meeting scheduled for Friday where the financials and new menu will be discussed. As well, we are in the process of incorporating the Phoenix so it will be its own company. We expect that this increased separation between the two entities will encourage more responsibility and accountability. This is being done on the advice of our lawyer.</p> <p>Adithiya Ravichandran inquired how the relationship would change. Ashley Ravenscroft indicated that the GSA will sell the costs associated with the Phoenix so the Phoenix, so they will still owe the GSA. The GSA will still play an active role, as the VP Administration position will still chair the PEC committee. This will result in less liability for the GSA overall.</p>
	c. Events and Trips Planning Committee (VP External)	<p>This Thursday is the planetarium visit. It is fully booked. There will be a ski trip for March 21 to Snow Valley. \$30 includes the transportation, lift pass and a lesson and ski rentals. Leaving Hamilton at 7:30 am and arriving back around 6 pm.</p>
	d. Student Issues Action Committee (VP External)	<p>This group will meet in mid-March.</p>
	e. Academic Affairs Committee (VP)	<p>The travel awards are almost finished- the winners will be notified shortly. Thank you to everyone who was able to help out and evaluate some of the forms.</p>

	Internal)	<p>Sarah Kanji indicated via email that she and Jen are moving forward with creation of faculty councils (based on the initiative set forth by Ivana) - a faculty wide e-mail was sent out and Jen and Sarah have received interest from several individuals representing different health science programs. Therefore we will soon move forward with an introductory meeting with these individuals.</p> <p>Adhithiya Ravichandran indicated that individuals in engineering are providing feedback to what is important and that they are trying to get more participants, people who may not be interested in the committee itself, but the topics. Lynn Stewart did an outreach as they are also interested in what had been discussed. The Engineering council has not been formed yet, but faculty may help out.</p>
	f. International Student Representative Report (International Reps)	<p>Vi Dang indicated that there was an event held last Thursday in collaboration with International CUPE. There was low attendance due to the weather, and there were about 15 attendees. CUPE sent an email out two weeks beforehand, but some individuals indicated that they didn't receive the first correspondence when a reminder was sent out a few days ago. Ms. Dang indicated that for future events, that they will plan the advertising better.</p>
	g. By-laws Committee (President)	<p>We are working with our governance consultant, Sara Morton, to establish the new structure of the Board for the GSA. This will be circulated prior to the AGM. The structure we are currently examining will likely eliminate the Executive Council in lieu of just a Board of Directors, where the Board will be comprised of the Executive, Directors at Large and Community Experts. This will help us make it more clear which body should make certain decisions, as well as streamline meetings.</p> <p>We will also have some changes to the bylaws overall to stream line them (as they are very long) and to bring them into compliance with the new not-for-profit legislation. While we expect these changes to be somewhat minor and bringing us in line with current practices, they are important to make. There will also be some changes to account for the pending incorporation of the Phoenix.</p>
	h. GSA Summer Leagues(VP Services)	<p>Aaron Maxwell indicated that the committee met regarding the softball leagues. We are still writing the MOU regarding the ownership of the fields specifically. The GSA has invested time and money into the fields and thus we want certainty, and the first right of refusal etc. as well as some ownership of the fields. It has taken us a solid year to be comfortable with the agreement to be signed on both sides with facility services.</p> <p>Mr. Maxwell indicated that regarding soccer that we are looking for teams and extra players for the coming season. This will be advertised on the website.</p>
	i. Graduate Student Services Review(VP Services)	<p>Aaron Maxwell indicated that this is not a one year plan and requires significant work. Some notes are on the board. This is something that was given to us by the old Dean of Students. Everyone in administration is under the impression that the GSA should match what the undergrads pay, as we currently only pay a third of what they do. The difference would go into back filling and we would not get anything in addition. The problem is, there is no simple quick solution. The plan for the pilots unfortunately fell through with the red suit scandal etc. as that took up a lot of time for SGS and student affairs. Our health provider will does a survey each year, and we can piggy back on to it to add additional questions to garner</p>

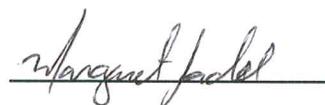
		whatever we want for health and wellness. The fee change will need to be ratified at the AGM. This will require another year of work at least. There was not enough time this year to flesh this project out. The GSA will not have to depend on SGS to disseminate this information. Our primary focus will be on health and dental, but we can include additional topics, such as how much more would students be willing to spend, and how should that money to be spent. As these changes will be in at least a year, this will likely need to be ratified at the AGM 2015.
	j. Health & Dental Committee (VP Services)	Aaron Maxwell indicated that the committee voted unanimously to not to go with a different insurance company. All of the providers are competitive. Nothing significantly different out there. Other perks that we are currently getting from our current provider. We will be resigning the proposal for 5 yrs. Spencer Savoie inquired as to how the biologics were being dealt with. Mr. Maxwell responded that we will be setting a cap, and we will do so at the AGM. This will affect fees, so we will know what the cap will look like then.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Business • Election Update 	Ashley Ravenscroft reminded everyone that they are coming up. If anyone is interested in transitioning from FRC to Executive. She also asked that members encourage people to run if they have interest as sometimes emails get sifted. Geoff Callaghan indicated that there is a one-time fee to segment the elections to relevant jurisdictions of \$600 that has to be paid each time for a fully managed election. Simply Voting does what UTS used to do. If it's not worthwhile, then we won't utilize it. The one time is \$400, then \$750 for multiple elections. Carla Abarca inquired if she would have to reapply for her position of FRC Engineering. Ms. Ravenscroft confirmed that all positions have to be reapplied for annually. Ms. Abaraca inquired if the position of VP Internal would be continuing. Ms. Ravenscroft indicated that it would be. Ms. Abaraca inquired if the compensation notice has been made public yet. Ms. Ravenscroft indicated that it has to be ratified at the AGM before that can happen.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM Reminder 	It will be on Tuesday, March 25 th at 9:30 AM. There will be breakfast and we are working with SGS to push out email blasts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Safety Rounds 	This group, led by Cathy Macdonald, is trying to gather information and implement a plan to address safety concerns from various stakeholders. We are looking for a rep for graduate students. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19 @ 3:00 PM.
7.	Adjournment	7:00 P.M.



Talena Rambaraan
VP External

March 26, 14

Date



Margaret Jackel
Office Assistant

March 26/14

Date