

Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 2014
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
6:00pm
Minutes

Present: Talen Rambarran (GSA President), Rachel Kelly (GSA VP Services), Lucia Lee (GSA VP External), Megan Murphy (GSA VP Admin), Mai Yamamoto, Carla Abarca (Engineering), Adhi Ravichandran (Engineering), Igor Osowski (Humanities), Hadi, Ali Vaezi (Business), Neha Dewan (Health Sciences), Debbie Ritskes (Administrator), Fran Lasowski (Past President), Charles Burke (BOD)

Regrets: Jeff Price (CRO)

Absent: Alireza Taibakhsh (Business), Ayush Ranawade (Science), Zeeshan Ahmed (BoG), Majid Taghavi (Senate/Science), Cassel Busse (Senate/Humanities), Stephanie Marciniak (Senate/Social Sciences), Stephanie Butler (BOD), Hytham Afifi (BOD), Marion Jamard (International), Vi Dang (International), Asim Soomro (Senate/Health Sciences)

- 1.0 Call to order at 6:17 pm
- 2.0 Acceptance of the agenda, amend agenda to move elections as the first item: **motion carried**
- 3.0 Approval of minutes from November 27, amend as highlighted, change spelling of Adi to Adhi
Take out the and replace with "something we can discuss with I Have A Plan"
Motion to approve with changes; 1st by Adhi, 2nd by Megan, **motion carried**

4.0 Reports from the board

4.1 Presidents report: The financial report for The Phoenix from Sept – Nov 2014 was all positive. The Phoenix has been profitable every month. A motion was approved to give Kevin discretionary bonus of \$500 by the BOD. Myself, Rachel and Debbie met with Sean VanKoughnett (AVP Student Affairs) regarding ancillary fees. A proposal of ancillary fee change will be discussed more at the end of the agenda.

I met with SGS regarding graduate student housing; they are looking at the possibility of building a graduate students' residence. A survey was reviewed of what students were looking for in housing. One outcome was an 11 month lease was preferable, which would give 1 month to do repairs. The types of apartments were surveyed also. There will be a special meeting at the next council meeting in January to get feedback regarding erecting a new building. The GSA would like to start a focus group regarding housing and bring others that would also like to give feedback.

A GSA meeting in Waterloo was held in December in which operations were discussed. Waterloo may also be reorganizing their Board of Directors to have to include community members, moving in the same direction as we have.

Rudy Heinzl award; we need a candidate to sit on the selection committee - Lucia has volunteered, and Manraj has also volunteered to go if Lucia can't attend.

- 4.2 Senate report - absent
- 4.3 Board of governors report - absent
- 5.0 Committee reports
 - 5.1 The finance committee meeting with the bookkeeper will be in the beginning of January.
 - 5.2 Phoenix executive committee – the updated financial statements are looking very good. A plan is in place to pay the final outstanding vendor. Reports are now 95-98% accurate.
 - 5.3 Events and trips planning committee – no events have been planned this month. Bowling was cancelled this month for lack of interest. I am looking into planning a Ski trip for January. I recently joined NCCP to engage students in the Community, they are receiving a lot of funding for events. I also attended the GSA Waterloo meeting with Talena.
 - 5.4 Academic affairs committee - no report.
 - 5.5 International student representative report – An email was sent to share that airways transit was giving a discount during the holiday season. Reservations must be made online, price includes luggage and door-to-door service. The special pricing might continue depending on how many students use the service over the holidays.
 - 5.6 By laws committee meet quarterly. They have not met.
 - 5.7 GSA summer leagues committee – A winter curling league is starting at the end of January, it will run for 8 weeks with 8 teams. There will be a ‘learn to curl’ night which will be free. The posters and advertisements have been sent out. Team registration costs \$375.
The Online health and dental survey is going out soon.
 - 5.8 Graduate student services review committee – student code of conduct has been updated to have online actions. Ancillary fee will be discussed later.
 - 5.9 Health and dental committee - no report
 - 6.0 Council Appointment of VP Internal and FRC positions for the remainder of the term;
 - 6.1 Presentation of the Candidates, VP Internal candidates spoke first; Mai gave a speech, Manraj gave speech, Hadi gave a speech, Ayush is in Germany and has sent a letter which Talena read, Natalie is running for FRC Science
 - 6.2 Council Vote for VP Internal - outcome Manraj has received the most votes.
 - 6.3 Appointment of the successful Candidates – Manraj Kaur (VP Internal), and Natalie D’Silva (FRC Science)
- 7.0 Next meeting – send out doodle to determine date in January

8.0 Adjournment: Carried



Lucia Lee, VP External

Feb 5, 15
Date



Debbie Ritskes, Recorder (Office Assistant)

Feb 4/15
Date