



Graduate Student Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2015-05-19
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
5:30 pm
Agenda

Attendance: Talena Rambarran (President), Megan Murphy (VP Administrator), Farhad Sadeh, (FRC Business), Hadi Eslami (FRC Business), Maleeha Qazi (FRC Health Science), Mai Yamamoto (FRC Science), Naby Nikookaran (FRC Engineering), Vi Dang (International)

Absent: Darko Ljubic (FRC Engineering)

Regrets: Lucia Lee (VP External), Ayush Ranawade (VP Internal), Neha Dewan (FRC Health Science), Theo Nazary (FRC Social Science), Carmina Perez Romero (FRC Science), Natalie D'Silva (VP Services)

- 1.0 Call to order @ 5:33 pm
- 2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda – Megan 1st, Naby 2nd, all in favor , motion carried
- 3.0 Approval of meeting minutes from April 15, 2015 - Megan 1st, Mai 2nd, 1 abstention, motion carried
- 4.0 Review of meeting conduct and Robert's Rules of Order – Robert's rules will be put into practice going forward. A cheat sheet has been created and handed out. A few points; anyone one wishing to speak has to raise their hand, and all comments and questions have to be raised to the chair. No members can speak more than once on any motion and no one shall have the floor for more than 3 minutes. Cross debate is not allowed and personal remarks are always out of order. Only one person has the floor at a time. This process will help stream line the meetings.
A power point presentation will be sent out to everyone for review.
- 5.0 Reports from the Board
 - 5.1 Presidents Report – An email was sent out to students regarding the Graduate Students Review Committee. The proposal for increased fees was rejected at the AGM and students wanted to have more of a voice, hence a committee being formed. A Committee was established a couple of years ago but there wasn't enough interest. The previous CAF agreement was in 2004, and the current fees are not enough to support the services anymore and there is a deficit in service department. The focus is on finding an acceptable solution and gaining an understanding of the current situation. The GSA

is not lobbying the administration. The Committee will act as a group to brainstorm, and will meet every 2-3 weeks. Talena or Natalie will be chairing the meetings.

Naby asked if this is a joint committee. Of note the GSA Committee will take the information to the Administration. Naby will ask about the website to see who is named from the GSA on the University's Fees Committee, the website hasn't been updated since 2013. It was suggested that the person on the University's Fees Committee should also be on the GSA Committee.

Talena noted that the proposal was made in conjunction with Sean, Talena and Rachel and presented to the GSA before proposed to the membership.

Report on Admin Con – Is a presentation meeting between student groups and the University's Administration. There are changes coming to the provincial funding. The new funding formula will move from numbers of students at a school to outcome measures such as dropout rate, and employment outcomes. The new formula won't be available for a couple of more years.

Campus plan –there is a RFP for a Grad Student residence. The GSA will be involved in the process.

- 5.2 Senate Report – no report
- 5.3 Board of Governor's Report – no report

6.0 Committee Reports

- 6.1 Finance Committee (VP Administrator)- The budget was passed at the AGM. Megan is looking at the function of the committee going forward. There are only a handful of members on the committee.
- 6.2 Phoenix Executive Committee (VP Administrator)- everything is going well. The Union agreement expires at the end of May 2015. Renegotiations will begin at the beginning of June. There may be an update at the next council meeting.
- 6.3 Events and Trips Planning Committee (VP External) – Ripley's Aquarium is May 29 and a trip to Wonderland is being planned for June.
- 6.4 Academic Affairs Committee (VP Internal) – no report
- 6.5 International Students Representative Report - no report
- 6.6 GSA Summer Leagues Committee (VP Services) - parking passes are available at the Phoenix, there are 20 visits on each card. Lot Q is available for the players going to the Phoenix after the games. Hadi asked if the pass was free? Passes are \$25.00 for their specific parking lots. Softball fields will be overhauled this year. A&R is contributing \$3,000 and the Softball league is contributing \$5000.00 for the repairs.
- 6.7 Graduate Student Services Review Committee (VP Services/President)- the Committee hasn't met yet. CUPE has had their meeting. The GSA is reaching out to CUPE to see if we can work together.

Student Issues Action – The survey has been sent out. So far there are 130 responses. A report will be sent to council.

Web page maintenance –the GSA will be getting a new site in the next couple of months. Mai had a request that there are concerns when updating the website, you can

see others folders. Access should be limited so folders can't be changed from another dept.

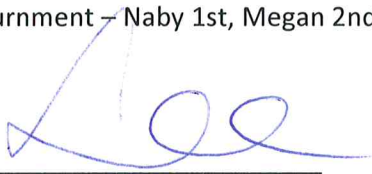
6.8 Health & Dental Committee (VP Services) – no updates since we added the extra benefits at the last meeting.

Arrive and Thrive program – GSA is a partner of the program but their focus is more on undergrads. Natalie is going to meet with them to build initiatives for Grad Students as well.

7.0 Next Meeting – doodle for end of June meeting

8.0 New Business – no new business

9.0 Adjournment – Naby 1st, Megan 2nd, all in favor, motion carried



Lucia Lee (VP External)



Debbie Ritskes (Recorder)