



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2015
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
6:00 p.m.



Minutes

- 1.0 Call to Order 6:03
- 2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda – 1st by Natalie, 2nd by Mai, all in favor, unanimous, **motion carried**
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes from the meeting of August 25th, 2015
- 4.0 Reports from the Board
 - 4.1 President's Report
 - 4.1.1 McMaster to host the summer GU15 meeting of 2016 – there will be GSA Groups from all over, one of the nicer rooms will be booked and we will be able to show off our University
 - 4.1.2 Discussion of Payroll for Graduate Students – a lot of confusion again this year. Files weren't loaded and pay was late. Communication has been extremely poor, mosaic is hard to navigate and instructions are not very clear. There has been a lot of meetings regarding mosaic. SGS is flooded with emails, and few people are getting responses. A very strongly worded letter was sent to the President and Provost and SGS by Talena. There was a response from Doug. Doug at the Provost Council meeting next week will bring the concerns forward. There is no transparency and information is very contradictory. Tuition deduction information is different depending on the person. There are a lot of students that are upset and there hasn't been one person that isn't confused and happy about the system. SGS explained there was a 3 digit pin to load files and there was one number that didn't work and the file didn't load properly. The testing of the system on a few Grad Students before it went live never happened. Developers of the system didn't contact anyone. Talena met with the President and he is not pleased either. One of the major problems is students' budgeting ability. Workshops are needed. Natalie will go with the Talena to meet with Doug the Dean of Grad Studies. Naby, Lucia, Mai and Hadi also offered to attend the meeting. Hadi suggested that the GSA should come up with a solution and be very clear of what we want. Communication needs to be clear, students need to have an outline of what is being paid, when it's being paid, and the deductions. The system makes it difficult to identify errors. Distribution of funds is problematic. Before your Administrator of the Department had the information but now the Department doesn't have the information either. Coding on the line items can't be identified. Maleeha says her Department is very comfortable with the system. Maybe SGS is not comfortable with the system, or they don't have enough staff. Talena will send a doodle to those that volunteered to go to the meeting.

- 4.1.3 Board of Director – met yesterday, The Board approved a new POS system for the Phoenix which will improve turn around for customers and servers. The new system uses ipad's. A server inputs the order on the ipad as given by the customers and the order goes directly to the kitchen, billing will also occur from the original entry. The old system looked like it might die soon. The new system will be implemented soon. A loan was approved for the soft ball league to purchase a golf cart to groom the field. The loan will be paid back in the spring. The GSA has received a draft financial statement. In 2013-14 the Phoenix lost \$189,00 and the GSA over spent \$150,000 we have done a complete rebound .
- 4.2 Senate Report – nothing to report, The Senate had their 1st meeting and there were some appointments to office.
- 4.3 Board of Governor's Report – nothing to report they are looking for students to sit on the Board.

5.0 Committee Reports

- 5.1 Finance Committee (VP Administration) – no meeting yet. There will be a meeting in October as there are enough members now. The Audit is just wrapping up. KPMG will present the audit statements and management letter. Good news – there may be a small reduction in the audit invoice but not as low as it should be. We will be reaching out to audit firms for quotes. The GSA would like to see more cost savings. Paolo is still cleaning up the Phoenix. It is about 99% cleaned up.
- 5.2 Phoenix Executive Committee (VP Administration) – meeting in Sept. in which the POS system was discussed. Preliminary statements have been received there is a healthy income showing. There is a net profit of \$20,000 but no amortization applied yet. We usually loose over the summer but we made some profit. September is looking at being a great month. If it continues we are looking at a possible automatic discount for Grad Students, but we don't have a way of identifying Grad Students. The HSR pass didn't get distributed properly. Right now a list is required to verify Grad Students for discount cards etc. A possible resolution could be a Grad Student sticker placed on the HSR card.
- 5.3 Events and Trips Planning Committee (VP External) - September event was a planetarium night. Drink tickets were given for the Phoenix after the event. October event will be Hanes Corn Maze. November and December, Natalie and the Curling organizers will have a learn to curl night. Natalie asked for 2 sessions because it was so popular last year. There will possibly be a skating night. The Board agreed to make a donation to Mac Bread Bin of \$1000.00. It is part of the good food box. For \$10.00 you get a box of local produce. Mac Bread Bin reached out to us because 11% of Grad Students are using the service. Pick up is at the base of the Phoenix building. You can pay on line or pay at the student centre.
- 5.4 Academic Affairs Committee (VP Internal) no report
- 5.5 International Student Representative Report (International Reps) – had an event during Welcome Week with SGS. 300 students attended. October social event will be with CUPE and, November there will be an Immigration Seminar.
- 5.6 GSA Summer Leagues Committee (VP Services) no report
- 5.7 Graduate Student Services Review Committee (VP Services/President) A proposal has been sent to Sean. There are 3 separate proposals 1/ Base level which is what we have now. \$40.00 per term which would increase to 84.00 per term, 2/ Base level plus Careers councilor would be \$100.00 per term and the 3/ would also add Mental Health

for \$113.00 per term. Proposals will be presented to the Committee if they agree then there will be a general meeting. There will be a month and half of advertising and then the general meeting. If the vote is no the Grads will lose services. The Executive's position will be to support the vote. Mental Health services of campus costs approximately \$300.00 per appt. The FRC's will have information sessions as part of the advertising prior to the general meeting.

5.8 Health & Dental Committee (VP Services) UHIP/CUPE/Ihaveaplan meeting went really well. There are 3 more sessions coming up next meeting October 20th. CUPE and GSA dental can't be combined together. Spouses follow the student plan.

6.0 Discussion and **Motion** to recognize SAM as the Science Faculty Association – bylaws and constitution have been handed out. Questions regarding membership – what happens if you are cross appointed? SAM is following the bylaws electing FRC's will be appointed to the GSA and will follow the GSA bylaws. Motion to accept SAM , 1st by Natalie 2nd by Naby all in favor, unanimous, **motion carried**.

7.0 Next Meeting – doodle for last week of month m t w t 6:00 pm

8.0 New Business – no new business

9.0 Pictures of GSA representatives on campus (for the website!) – to dark and rainy will bring camera next meeting at the beginning.

10.0 Adjournment – 1st by Lucia, 2nd by Natalie, all in favor, unanimous, **motion carried at 7:06**