



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2015
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
6:00 p.m.



Attendees: Megan Murphy (Vp, Administration) Manraj Kaur (Vp Internal) Farhad Sadeh (FRC Business), Hadi Eslami (FRC Business), Neha Dewan (FRC Health Science), Tarushika Vasanthan (FRC Science), Shawn Hercules (FRC Science) Robert Morton (Exciting FRC Science), Andrew Kloiber (Newly Appointment FRC Humanities) Mai Yamamoto (International Representative), Vi Dang (International Representative), Anna D'Angela (Board of Governors), Ashley Ravenscroft(DoO)

Regrets: Talena Rambarran (President), Lucia Lee (VP External), Natalie D'Silva (VP Services), Theo Nazy (FRC Social Science)

Absent: Azam Shamsi (CRO), Naby Nikookaran (FRC Engineering), Maleeha Qazi (FRC Health Sciences)

- 1.0 Call to Order- 6:03 pm
- 2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda- Motioned by Megan second by Manraj all in favor, motion carries.
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes from the meeting of October 26th, 2015- Item passed on the conditions that one of the attendee's last names, Tarushika, spelled incorrectly and needed to be change. Also an attendee was noted as sending regrets and also present- this redundancy will be corrected to show they sent regrets only. Motioned by Farhad seconded by Manraj.
- 4.0 Reports from the Board
 - 4.1 President's Report
 - 4.1.1 Update on Payroll for Graduate Students
 - Ashley, DoO, reported that Talena Rambarran was unable to attend the meeting, and as such Ashley would report of Talena's items. She noted that she and Talena went to meeting with Brooke Gordon and Doug Welch from SGS. Doug and Brooke noted that through many discussions with the administration at the university they felt it was widely acknowledged that there have been many problems with MOSAIC, especially Graduate Student issues. As such two solutions were proposed SGS will be hosting workshops to help students navigate the MOSAIC student interface, and to also ease the issues the University has transferred payroll to HR instead of SGS administering it.
 - 4.1.2 Board of Director
 - Ashley noted that the GSA had 2 representatives from the auditing come in to present that audit to the BOD. The audit was passed conditionally until a small edit about the health and dental surplus was made. The previous administration had not transferred the funds

to the account; however, we are now in the process of rectifying it and upon confirmation from KPMG of the total amount of the surplus the audit was finalized. The approval of audit released our fees from the university and as such we were able to pay Ihaveaplan, and students are going to be paid their opt out money. We expect our membership fee shortly as a result of the finalized audit as well.

4.1.3 VP Internal Resolution

- Auysh has stepped down and he has paid the funds we requested of \$ 900, no future action to be taken at this time.

4.1.4 CAGS

- Ashley noted that Talena travelled to Calgary for this CAGS meeting. She noted that Talena used the opportunity to discuss current issues we are facing, such as ancillary fees and rent owed to the University. She did mention that other universities don't pay for their "bar/café" space, and that McMaster Graduate Students do in fact pay fewer fees than other schools.
- SGS contributed \$1000 to the GSA for this trip.

4.2 Senate Report

- There is currently no report, as this committee has not met.

4.3 Board of Governor's Report

- Anna D'Angela reported that she has attended one meeting, and noted that the university has a new inspector for the Ministry of Labor and everyone should be conscientious and ensure their labs are keep update of ministry guidelines. . She also reported that BOG understands that there have been many issues with MOSAIC and they are currently addressing many of the issues; noting that their efforts will have to be ongoing.
- Anna also noted that there is a great deal of discussions surrounding the new budget model, specifically the allocation of tuition. In the future we will see tuition being paid not direct to the faculty that the payee is enrolled in but to the faculty of the actual courses they are talking.
- They recommended meeting monthly, so any question can be included in the agenda and answered during the meeting.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Finance Committee (VP Administration)

- Megan mentioned that they met in November with the bookkeeper and the GSA's bookkeeping firm owner Fabian along with Kevin the GM of the Phoenix
- She noted the take away was that the phoenix is showing a positive position, and all were satisfied by the discussion of the intricacies of the financial situation of the phoenix.
- The gross profit for the first 5 to 6 months of this year is better than even last year at this time.
- Moreover, the committee collected 4 different quotes from auditing firms to present to the BOD for next year; one of which is from KPMG who is our current auditor, they are not the cheapest, however they are more familiar with our books and they are the auditors for the university.
- Megan lastly noted that there would be a meeting with the bookkeeper in January.

5.2 Phoenix Executive Committee (VP Administration)

- Megan mentioned there was no update at this point because students didn't attend the meeting. She urged interested candidates to apply for the committee as there are still a couple of spots available.

5.3 Events and Trips Planning Committee (VP External)

- Lucia sent a report that noted;
 - 1) GSA Trip to Extreme Escape- was going to be held Saturday, November 28th - EOHSS has approved the event and the bus has been confirmed.
 - 2) GSA Movie Night for all graduate students is being held Friday, December 4, 2015- The GSA will be paying for the movie, so there is free entrance and free popcorns/pretzels/beverages.

5.4 Academic Affairs Committee (VP Internal)

- Manraj noted she was catching up on issues from Ayush. As many students showed interest in knowing what occurs to their access when they graduate Manraj has been in contact with the Library on campus and she will report her findings. She is arranging to meet with the FRCs on first Monday or Wednesday from each month and urged all the FRC to respond to emails in a timely fashion.

5.5 International Student Representative Report (International Reps)

- Vi and Mai mentioned that they hosted an immigration seminar last Tuesday approximately 70 students attended. They are planning to arrange for this seminar twice a year, to support youth immigrant in Hamilton.
- They also noted there will be social event in February for international students, and on January 14 they have planned a fair for new international student coming to McMaster

5.6 GSA Summer Leagues Committee (VP Services)

- There is no new development.

5.7 Graduate Student Service Review Committee (VP Services)

- Natalie sent a report mentioning that a GSSRC email was sent out to all graduate students on Nov 23rd 2015 noting the University is asking graduate students to vote to increase their ancillary fee. They GSA and the University will have 4 workshops – 2 in December, 1 in January, and 1 at the General Meeting in January (dates yet to be determined) to discuss what this fee will look like and field any questions from students. Noting that the GSSRC, Sean and Ashley will be present at all the workshops.

5.8 Health & Dental Committee (VP Services)

- Natalie sent a report mentioning that, there has been a new development in the administration of our Health and Dental plan. Noting students usually makes their claim through the Ihaveaplan website or coming into our office and mailing them in, but another convenient option students have is that they can now submit claims via a new app called 'ihaveaplan mobile'. You can download the application on your cell phone and take a picture of your receipts and the application will send it to the insurance company. .
- Anna noted there have been some issues with the MBA claims. MBA expressing there has been some substantial delays. Ashley noted there was a large delay this year due to Mosaic, Mosaic/ the University did not capture many MBA students in the first list sent to the provider for coverage due to when they are billed; however, the issue, to our knowledge has been resolved. Ashley noted if Anna knew of any students that had issues to reach out to the office and we would be more than happy to help.
- Neha inquired about how a student was supposed to know if a drug was covered under the plan, which Ashley informed her that if anyone ever has a problem with a drug or questions about coverage to call ihaveaplan as they have a list of the covered drugs, or you can give the pharmacy your insurance information to check if the medication is covered or not.

Natalie report also mentioned;

- She and Ashley met with the MSU regarding setting up graduate clubs. She noted clubs will have to apply through the MSU and

follow MSU guidelines; and we will have to pay them an administration fee to do so. WE hope to start this process in the New Year and we will start with a pilot of 5 clubs.

- The report noted that both the MSU and the GSA saw the importance of inclusion and will put forward to their respective clubs that of the 4 executive leadership positions 25% of the seats can be held by a member of the opposite constituency IE: 1 Graduates student can hold 25% of the seats in an undergraduates clubs executive and vice versa.
- We are currently waiting on the MSU to provide financial information to support this proposal.

5.9 By-Law Committee (President)

- There is currently no report, as this committee has not met.

6.0 Election of potential FRC Humanities

- Andrew introduced himself and noted he was interested in the GSA because she felt some student voices weren't heard and there is some misunderstanding in the financial issues, some of which Anna had address. Andrew hopes by joining the council he can remedy this situation. And bring answers back to students in Humanities.
- The Council motioned to elect Andrew, motion to accept first by Megan, second by Farhad, all in favor, unanimous, motion carried.

7.0 General Meeting Date

- The next council meeting will be December 16th, 2015 at 6 pm at the board meeting room as per everyone availability.

8.0 Holiday Dinner

- Everyone is invited to the phoenix fora holiday party after the council meeting on the same day; we are sending a constant contact link for registration. Members were asked to register themselves, spouse and children if they are joining the party. Ashley also asked any person with dietary restrictions to send them to Mona in advance.
- Lastly, it was noted that the GSA is collecting donation for Canadian diabetes association on the same day, and they accept gentle used clothing, books and toys.

9.0 New Business

- No new business

10.0 Adjournment - 6:45pm First by Manraj Seconded by Neha, all in favor, unanimous. Motion carried.

Megan, VP

Date

Recorder

Date