



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting Minutes June 29, 2015
GSA Office East Tower Refectory
6:00 pm

Attendance: Megan Murphy (VP Administration), Ayush Ranawade (VP Internal), Hadi Eslami (FRC Business), Maleeka Qazi (FRC Health Science), Theo Nazary (FRC Social Science), Carmina Perez Romero (FRC Science)

Regrets: Talena Rambarran (GSA President), Lucia Lee (VP External), Natalie D'Silva (VP Services), Mai Yamamoto (FRC Science)

Absent: Farhad Sadeh (FRC Business), Neha Dewan (FRC Health Science), Anumeet Toor (FRC Social Science), Darko Ljubic (FRC Engineering), Naby Nikookaran (FRC Engineering), Majid Taghavi (Senate), Asim Soomro (Senate), Vi Dang (IGSA), Mario Jamard (IGSA), Zeeshan Ahmed (BoG)

Quorum not met

- 1.0 Call to order at 6:05
- 2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda –quorum not met
- 3.0 Approval of minutes from meeting of May 19th, 2015 – quorum not met
- 4.0 Discussion and Motion to accept the proposed GSA Anti-discrimination policy- moved to later in the meeting not enough members attending. Quorum not met
- 5.0 Reports from the Board – the Board of Directors met in June. Discussion around employee performance reviews which will commence in July. The Phoenix employee collective agreement is currently under renegotiation. There has been difficulty in contacting the Union Representative to set up a meeting.

5.1 Presidents Report – Natalie and Talena attended the Montreal Student Care Meeting. Natalie will report on the meeting below.

The Executive held a goal setting meeting to set out goals for the year motivated by the strategic mandate. Members are being encouraged to connect with the Executive to find out more about what the GSA plan on accomplishing this year.

Some of the goals this year are; stability and profitability of the Phoenix, resolving challenges facing the ancillary fees, recognition of graduate student clubs, GSA website redesign, facilitate interdisciplinary communication between faculties, and implementing policy for optimal operation of the organization.

5.2 Senate Report – Natalie will take over this report

5.3 Board of Governors Report – no report

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Finance Committee (VP Administration) – audit by KPMG will start July 13th 2015

6.2 Phoenix Executive Committee (VP Administration) - no update to report. There is not enough committee members to form a proper committee. There will be a call out for more members. The email will detail what is expected and responsibilities. The committee will work on ideas for events, decor, menu items, beer selections, entertainment, patio updates, student feedback (positive or negative) and the Phoenix manager will be attending the meetings. There has been no negative feedback lately. The Committee will meet monthly or bi-monthly. Theo has asked to join the committee.

6.3 Events and Trips Planning Committee (VP External) – The GSA hosted a trip to Canada's Wonderland on June 26th. All went well. In July the GSA is looking into hosting a hiking/canoe trip in Cootes Paradise.

Survey update - 235 Graduates have participated in the survey. Lucia will be working with the Students Issues Actions committee to write a publishable report.

Website update - The new GSA/SGS website will be mobile friendly which means there can be a maximum of 5 links across the top and no drop down menu. After analysing the current contents the new links will likely be; Our GSA, Funding Opportunities or Health & Dental, Sports & Recreation and contact us.

Welcome week- Promotional items need to be purchased to hand out. Council was asked any thoughts on water bottles? Please send comments suggestions to Lucia, last year the GSA handed out back packs and pens.

6.4 Academic Affairs Committee (VP Internal) – Committee members are needed. The main focus is on academic clubs for grad students. A proposal is being formed to submit.

Travel awards –have been handed over to SGS for adjudication because of a conflict of interest. There were discussions regarding guidelines, and a new system has been put into place. Award winner should be announced by mid July.

6.5 International Student Representative Report (International Representative)- not present

6.6 GSA Summer Leagues Committee (VP Services) – Pat, the Soccer League Commissioner has brought to the GSAs' attention that he is grossly under compensated for the amount of hours spent and is seeking an increase this year. Natalie is currently working on SOP's for hiring managers and how their stipends are determined.

6.7 Graduate Student Services Review Committee (VP Services/President) The committee met on June 23rd. It was attended by 10 members and Sean Van Koughnett (AVP, Students). The current CAF was summarized and questions from the committee were fielded. A doodle poll will be submitted to determine the next meeting. The Committee has reached out to CUPE but they have not replied yet and therefore will move forward without CUPE.

6.8 Health and Dental committee (VP Services) Talena and Natalie attended the Studentcare stakeholders meeting held in Montreal. The meeting was very informative and a few ideas were formed. Some of the key areas of concern were regarding around mental health and the social stigma, shortage of campus initiatives, and prescription drug abuse. Queens University has a great mental health and wellness strategy and it would be useful for the GSA to review it.

<http://www.queensu.ca/cmh/index/CMHFinalReport.pdf>

Student care has a new website to facilitate access to mental health resources at

<http://ihaveaplan.ca/talkitout/>

Ihaveaplan is also rolling out a "cloud based campus office" which is a kiosk at which students can browse the ihaveaplan site, or video-conference with a staff member of Studentcare. These kiosks will be rented out to Universities and will be placed strategically around campus.

Awards – Brooke from SGS suggested that we do not adjudicate bursaries that are funded by the trust funds ourselves. One of the concerns that were raised by audit was that under the CRA Guide lines, the donor cannot choose the recipients. Since graduate students are members of the GSA, and also recipients, it is imperative that we as the GSA are fully compliant with this requirement. In the new model all applications will be submitted through MOSAIC; applicants will fill out a single form and will be matched with a bursary. This improves administrative efficiencies on the adjudication of awards. Student financial Aid and Scholarships (SFAS) will give the applicants a "needs score" based on their income, and all financial information collected will be on a need to know basis. This protects the GSA under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), since we do not have to ask for financial information of our members, therefore eliminating the need for us to protect this sensitive information.

- 7.0 Next meeting – doodle poll
- 8.0 New business - no new business
- 9.0 Adjournment

VP External



Administrator



Graduate Students Association Council Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory

Present: Naby Nikookaran (FRC Engineering), Mai Yamamoto (FRC Science), Ayush Ranawade (VP Internal), Talena Rambarran (President), Maleeha Qazi (FRC Health Science), Lucia Lee (VP External), Megan Murphy (VP Administration)

Regrets: Natalie D'Silva (VP Services), Farhad Sadeh (FRC Business)

Absent: Megan Murphy (VP Admin), Hadi Eslami (FRC Business), Neha Dewan (FRC Health Science), Anumeet Toor (FRC Social Science), Theo Nazary (FRC Social Science), Carmina Perez Romero (FRC Science), Darko Ljubic (FRC Engineering), Stephanie Marciniak (Senate), Majid Taghavi (Senate), Asim Soomro (Senate), Marion Jamard (International), Zeeshan Ahmed (BoG),

1.0 Call to order at 5:30 p.m.

2.0 Acceptance of the agenda

- 1st by Naby, 2nd by Ayush, **motion carried.**

3.0 Approval of minutes from May 19, 2015

Motion to approve with minor grammatical corrections for points 4 and 6.6. 1st by Naby and 2nd by Mai, **motion carried.**

3.0 Acceptance of the Anti-discriminatory policy

No concerns/questions were posed. 1st by Mai and 2nd by Ayush, 7 in favour and 1 abstention. **Motion carried.**

4.0 New business

Ayush – The McMaster Academic Accommodation Policy is being reviewed at the moment. He will distribute the document to all council members for their comments and concerns.

5.0 Adjournment

1st by Naby and 2nd Ayush, all in favour, **motion carried.**

VP External

Administrator