

Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

October 25, 2018

GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory

5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Tim van Boxtel (GSA President), Julia de Lange (FRC Engineering), Sara Oikawa (VP Internal), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Rachele Ho (FRC Science), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Sanyia Mansuri (FRC Health Science), Yi Wang (FRC Health Science), sasha Kovalchuk (FRC Social Science)

Regrets: Fran Lasowski (VP Administration), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Lily Eskin (FRC Social Science), Shawn Hercules (VP External), Xiaomin Huang (FRC International)

Absent: Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Taylor McKenzie (Senator Social Science), Maleeha Qazi (Senator Health Science), Aaron Roberts (Senator Humanities)

Call to order 5:36

1)President's Remarks

- Next Meeting – Thursday, Nov 29 at 5:30 pm
- No meeting in December; the GSA will arrange for holiday dinner at Phoenix for council members.
- Sara is working with Graduate council to increase minimum graduate student funding. The current amount is \$17500 that number was set in 2003 and has not changed since then even with the inflation. Now the base funding and the tuition are split and the new number is \$13500 plus tuition.
- Sara requested from other council members if they can provide her with the minimum funding number in each department (*Domestic PhD Students, and how much is paid through TA), with the name of the person for accountability purposes also.
- Other news, Thanksgiving dinner was hosted at the Phoenix last month, the event was very well executed, and the registration list filled up very quickly; however, only 1/3 of people showed up. Going forward for future events there will be no registration and food will be served on first come first serve basis.
- Sushi and cider event was very well attended.

2. Call for New Business

- Addition of 3 clubs: DDSA, CGSC and MPSGSA.
- HSR and CUPE update

MOTION: Approval of Agenda moved by Julia, second by sasha, all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Approval of Minutes of last meeting moved by Sara, seconded by Anthony, all in favor, motion carried.

3. FRC Updates

International,

- Anthony said that they hosted a contest “CUPE photo shoot” it was very well attended.
- Trivia night on November 8, Co-organized with SciGSA
- Next Monday is the immigration seminar hosted by immigration lawyer
- IGSA council noted they had one new executive representative join from Health Science, they have representation from different faculties but they still missing social science representation.

SciGSA

- Tiffany mentioned that they are planning a workshop to help students who are having issues with their supervisors. Ashley suggested to conduct a conflict resolution workshop, SGS doesn’t deal with this issue now. However, U of T has a model where they have students who provide conflict resolution seminar to other students, but they have to be fully trained to do it. In addition, the GSA could pair with SciGSA to find someone who can teach conflict resolution concepts.
- The Faculty of Science Associate Dean met with the chair of each department to discuss what each department is lacking and trying to propose something new, for instant, the website is quiet old, so they are discussing website renovation.
- “Exercise is Medicine” new club running an event during November.

Health science,

- Saniya mentioned that they met last week to discuss the next steps and new initiatives for Health Science. She and Yi are thinking to create the Faculty of Health Sciences Association. They are currently emailing a couple of people to get the mailing list, and they will set up a meeting with Catherine Haywards the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Health Sciences to discuss the imitative.
- Ashley added that there was no formal body for Faculty of Health Science, she suggested to start new group on social media to connect with students.

Social science,

- sasha mentioned that he met with Lily the other FRC Social Science to discuss planning their next step. Currently no new business.

EGS,

- Mohammed mentioned that ECCS (Engineering Co-op and Career Services) brought different recruiters and companies to meet with grad and undergrad students, however, there was not great attendance from the grad students side, so they communicated with EGS to discuss how to have more grad representation. In addition, recruiters didn’t have much information regarding grad students’ opportunities.
- Faculty of Engineering will be giving credits for students who attends workshops outside campus. First latex workshop on November 10, however, they are still looking for instructor.

- They have a Pumpkin carving event on Oct 31st.
- Planning ski trip in the winter.
- Still working on Bylaws changes.
- Meeting for METRIC conference soon. Current discussion is to have this conference every other year instead of every year.

4. Senate / BOG Updates

- Senate; report circulated.
- BOD Rodrigo mentioned that McMaster's newly appointed a new Associate Vice President Equity & Inclusion, to look at diversity and equity issues. For instant, a study came out of University of Alberta regarding equity and diversity, McMaster placed last in almost every category. Despite the fact that McMaster has a large diverse students' body, however, it still continues to have predominately white teachers. So the new VPE will be working to change that.

5. New Business

a. CGSA club

- The documentation was circulated.

Motion to ratify the CGSC as new Graduate students club moved by Julia, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried.

b. MPSGSA

- There is deficit in the budget, this needed to be corrected. Sasha explained that the deficit is because they are looking for funding. Tim added that the budget should include the \$300 income seed money from the GSA.
- In the bylaws, there is a very strict member removal, sasha explained that this shall be under the discretion of the chair, reasonable absence and regrets is considered allowable.

Motion to approve the MPGSA as a new graduate students club moved by Sara, seconded by Rachelle, 1 abstention, 11 in favour motion carried.

c. DDSA

- Budget in deficit.
- Ashley suggested to motion to approve with a condition to send the revised budget by next meeting or motion will be revoked.

Motion to approve DDSA as a Graduate students club conditional on sending the revised budget plan by next council meeting moved by Tiffany, seconded by Sara, all in favour, motion carried.

d. HSR and CUPE update

- HSR: Ashley mentioned that she was approached by the MBA director, they are requesting to allow MBA to opt in the GSA HSR contract. HSR agreed to an opt in system for MBA conditioned on paying the GSA fees. This will be approximate of 10K of income to the GSA if it comes to fruition.
- Ashley was able to negotiate an opt out system for grad students, however, it is very tight, and only help students who live remotely (not in GTA) to opt out. Hence, very few cases will be allowed to opt out.
- CUPE: The University wasn't able to provide a certain list for students who will be TAing in winter. The GSA is trying to work for agreeable way to opt out winter TA students.
- The GSA will continue with the current procedure which is; TA students who are identified by the university will receive the opt out money in full, however, if they aren't identified yet, they will be covered under the GSA dental from September to December and refunded 2/3 of the plan.
- **6. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. moved by Mohammed, seconded by sasha, all in favor motion carried.

Item	Action by	Due date
Follow up with DDSA club	Shawn	By next meeting