



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

November 27th, 2019

GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Shawn Hercules (GSA President), Caroline Seiler (FRC Health Science), Maxwell Lighstone (Senator Engineering), Olive Liang (VP Administration), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Ish Jain (FRC Science), Mia Zhang (VP Internal), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Zarwa Saquip (FRC Health Science), Man You (FRC International), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Sahand Sepehrvand (Senator Engineering)

Regrets: Anita Acai (Senator Science)

Absent: Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Rodrigo Narro (BoG),

Call to order 5:07

1. Call for New Business

- a. **MOTION:** Approval of Agenda
- Moving HS federation discussion to the top of the agenda
 - Adding discussion of Chemistry grad students club

Motion to approve the agenda with amendments moved by Mia, seconded by Max, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **MOTION:** Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting as circulated moved by Tiffany, seconded by Caroline, all in favor, motion carried.

2. President remark:

- Next Meeting – tentative date 29th of January 2020 at 5 pm.
- Shawn mentioned that the Board decided that the VP Position wasn't advertised widely, so they opened the nomination period for 2 extra weeks.
- The GSA is currently negotiating HSR for the next few years, Shawn will bring any updates to next council.

- Ashley will send some preliminary documents around regarding HSR for comments or questions.
- The GSA is running a new website and a server, Wei met last week with Tim, Shawn and Ashley regarding the new website, they decided to buy a new server, and have the current website under it. Wei is planning to build the website and transfer it to the new server next month.
- Shawn mentioned that the GSA will start with EGS website first.

3. Health Science Grad Students Federation.

- Caroline mentioned that people involved are from the largest grad federation of Health Sciences. The federation will have an infrastructure, the co president must meet with the head of the faculty every month. Ashley is concerned that the GSA might lose connection with this association, she asked how the GSA would build a mechanism for continue to reach the association. Caroline explained that there is one GSA member on the committee. Shawn suggested that to have 2 GSA representative to sit on their committee. Caroline added the 2 HS FRC can attend the meetings that will help with the connections. Ashley added the HS association will no longer have their election externally it will be done internally.
- Max asked regarding the club structure, as they only allowed to have PhD students to socialize with each other and not Master students? Caroline mentioned that is a mistake and it will be amended.
- Max mentioned the set of the association acts more like a club and not an association. Quorum is a typical club quorum which is 20%, it's almost impossible to have this quorum. Max offered to help the HS team to correct their constitution. Caroline added that they used a template for clubs, the main contact for the association Steve Hana, she will try to get him involved and make it official.
- Max added a note that job description shouldn't be added in a constitution it should be in a standing resolution so you can easily change and update them.
- Shawn suggested that Caroline works with Max and do the necessary update and then bring it back to next council.

Motion to update the Health Science constitution and bring it back to council after amendments moved by Caroline seconded by Max, all in favor motion carries.

4. FRC update:

- Health Science: a bunch of clubs in Health Science will be having an event at faculty lounge.
- Communication series workshop was last week.
- Winter social is coming up, they will be advertising 1 week before event
- SciGSA: recently had a communication event, people were interested in more the ethics of their own image rather than the ethics of the work.

- There are 2 couple of vacancies on SciGSA council
- Working on creating a Wikipage.
- Erica and Chelsie will have a meeting with Dean of Science next week to have an update on the budget.
- A wise orientated alumni event in December
- Dodge ball event on Jan.

- iGSA: seminar meeting next week
- Meeting next week to discuss international students concerns.
- EGS, pumpkin event last month
- MATLAB workshop last week,
- Had elections last month to fill couple of seats in EGS council from different departments.
- Bi-annual AGM, they have approval the new budget. 40k including travel awards, operational budget is 18k
- Hot wings event coming up at the Phoenix.

- Senate,

Anita sent the following report;

1-The following new scholarships for graduate students were approved:

- **NAME OF FUND:** MTEK Sciences Scholarship
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FUND: Established by Dr. Edward Mills, Ph.D., Health Sciences (Class of '06) and Dr. Kristian Thorlund, Ph.D., Health Sciences (Class of '11). To be awarded by the School of Graduate Studies, upon the recommendation of the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, to full time master's or doctoral students in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact who are studying innovative clinical trial design. Preference will be given to students conducting clinical trials that will benefit low income countries.

- **NAME OF FUND:** Faculty of Science Graduate Scholarship
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FUND: Established in 2019 by a Ph.D. graduate from the Class of '95.
To be awarded by the School of Graduate Studies to full-time students enrolled in a Master of Science or Ph.D. program in the Faculty of Science who demonstrates excellence in academic achievement. **FUNDING AVAILABLE:** \$3,600 total
SPENDING CRITERIA: One award of \$1,200 annually for three years from 2020/21 to 2022/23

- **NAME OF FUND:** The Gordon Bruce Bursary
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FUND: Established in 2018 by Gordon Bruce BSc. (Class of '86) & MBA. To be granted by the School of Graduate Studies to students

enrolled in a Master of Financial Mathematics program who demonstrates financial need.

- **FUNDING AVAILABLE:** \$25,000 total
SPENDING CRITERIA: One award of \$2,500 annually for ten years from 2019/20 to 2028/29
- **NAME OF FUND:** The Yi MFM International Scholarship
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FUND: Established in 2019 by Chuang Yi MSc (Class of '05) & PhD (Class of '08) to bridge the gap between domestic and international tuition. To be awarded by the School of Graduate Studies, to full-time international students in the Master of Financial Mathematics (MFM) program who, on the recommendation of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, demonstrates excellence in academic achievement. **FUNDING AVAILABLE:** \$6,000 total
SPENDING CRITERIA: One award of \$2,000 annually for 3 years from 2019/20 to 2021/22

2- Renaming of the School of Geography & Earth Sciences

Senate approved a name change to the school. Effective July 1, 2020, it will be known as the School of Earth, Environment, & Society.

The new name better reflects the core research focus of faculty within the School and is part of a broader alignment with the School's vision and mission statements. This change is also consistent with the importance of environmental science and environmental studies within the BA and BSc undergraduate academic programs offered by the School. The new name will provide a clearer statement of the School's focus in research and teaching to current and future students, the University community and those outside of McMaster.

- Grad council,
- Max mentioned that curriculum changes for humanities was approved, however, curriculum changes for social science was sent back for revision.
- Approval of the policy of the plagiarism software was sent back because they had some questions.

5. New business

- Tiffany asked if the GSA has a list with all the departments and if they have associations where they support clubs. Ashley explained that we have a master sheet of what they support but not updated.
- Max mentioned that we need to encourage communications between clubs and associations. They have a Chem Eng. Graduate club, however, it doesn't report to EGS.

- Ashley suggested that FRCs can communicate with their association and grad secretaries to bring club list to the table.
- Ashley explained that the GSA houses clubs and not the associations as they don't have formal info structure to house clubs. She added however, we have 3 different criteria pieces for clubs to be acknowledged, one of that is uniqueness. E.g computer science has its own club even though they are under the umbrella of engineering and not the GSA. The GSA asked for a 5k more from SGS, so be spent on clubs' events.
- Wei asked if departments can sponsor some of clubs' events, Ashley explained that they can do that however they are not obligated.

Motion to approve the McMaster Chemistry Graduate Students Society moved by Wei, seconded by Tiffany, all in favor motion carried.

Committee for the president award for community engage research;

- Volunteers receive a package with several nominations and they just read rank if the nomination should go through, it is approximately 5 hours of work. The deadline is Dec 20th, they will send practice to people by Jan 21st, and they will take a decision by the end of February. Anyone interested to volunteer can email Shawn.
- Tiffany mentioned updates about the McMaster university federation association, they are specifically looking at teaching evaluation. They worked through 8 months, going through some of the common literature and had biweekly meeting with people from different sections. Now they have a report and finished focus group from both faculty and students, the report will be circulated by mid Dec, before the meeting in January.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:51 pm moved by Max, seconded by Wei, all in favor, motion carried.

Action Items:

Item	Action by	Due date
NA		