



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

**Council Meeting**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory

5:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Shawn Hercules (GSA President), Caroline Seiler (FRC Health Science), Maxwell Lighstone (Senator Engineering), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Ish Jain (FRC Science), Zarwa Saquip (FRC Health Science), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO)

**Regrets:** Anita Acai (Senator Science), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Sahand Sepehrvand (Senator Engineering), Mia Zhang (VP Internal)

**Absent:** Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Man You (FRC International)

**Call to order 5:36**

**1. Call for New Business**

- a. **MOTION:** Approval of Agenda
  - Max requested to remove the discussion of the club from the agenda as it's missing a lot of information and only 2 people are running the club.

**Motion to remove the discussion of the Technology Club moved by Max seconded Zarwa all in favor motion carried**

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

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

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

**2. President remark:**

- a- Next Meeting – tentative date 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 at 5:30 pm.

**Minute of silence for the students lost in the plane crash**

b- AGM meeting;

- Shawn mentioned that the website information will be ready by next meeting February. The sever will be at the GSA office and we will deal with any maintenance internally
- Shawn mentioned the VP Admin stepped down and the extra work is divided between the GSA staff.
- Election is next month more information will be sent out in the mailer tomorrow.
- Ashley and Shawn will meet with the provost and president next month, council members can email Shawn regarding any issue they feel need to be discussed with them.
- Shawn asked if any council members have some financial experience to review the current AGM documents? Max and Anthony are interested to join the meeting to review GSA financial for the AGM.

### **3.VP reports and Update**

- Shawn mentioned that Wei sent the following report;
  - The new GSA website and GSA wiki has been established. A very comprehensive document has been written, which contains all the steps.
  - During the last board meeting, the funding to purchase a new server has been approved. At the end of this month, we will follow the document to establish the real website and wiki on the new server, and the certificate for the website will be generated.
  - I have told the Man You, the international FRC, about the poker game contest to use \$800. I will do this event at about the middle of February.
  - Last, a newer version of GSA Handbook for New Graduate Students has been made.
  - As for the new club application. I am not agreeing with it. Because there are not enough members.

### **4.FRC reports:**

#### **SCIGSA**

Tiffany sent the following report;

1. Alumni event: due to the construction at faculty club we will be hosting this event at the phoenix, are working on logistics of the event which is planned for Feb 28th.
2. SciGSA Pythagoras cup - looking to start planning another event. Top ideas right now are scavenger hunt and a giant jenga tournament.
3. Various department updates: majority of departments are looking to host a variety of event in the new year

## HS

- Caroline mentioned that they are still working with HCF to get the association documents done, they met yesterday, and they made a significant staff change in the constitution, they will make it ready in February
- Holding a welcome week this semester in February at the phoenix for new health science grad students

## EGS

- Max mentioned that at Grad council they discussed extending the grace period if students didn't submit their thesis in August, they can submit in December without extra fees. This option doesn't exist for January, however there is a black out period till January 10.
- Latex workshop on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, if council members know anyone who is interested to join can sign up on EGS website. Max will send it to Shawn to put in the mailer tomorrow.
- EGS still need more volunteers at council, they will book all Hamilton hall for the meeting.
- Started mac grad connect slack, it is a gsa council channel any one can chat and send comments. Slack has grad council and senate too.

## International

- Have an event next month.
- 2nd week of Feb having a movie night
- Planning of t shirts for all executives
- They currently have 8-executive roles.

## 5. Senate / BOG Updates:

- No new business

## 6. Executives Roll

- Shawn mentioned that 2 people applied for the VP External position, the board approved Caroline nomination and suggested, Shuwen to apply for HS FRC position.
- The VP external role will include;
  - Ensuring the paperwork is up to date
  - Prepare monthly events
  - Being accountable for the students' fees
  - Updating the website, on top of the weekly email and social media
  - As per the bylaws, everything Ashley or the president assign

**Motion to approve appointing Caroline Seiler to the VP external position and encourage Shuwen to FRC HS moved by Max seconded by Anthony all in favor motion carried.**

## **7. HSR Referendum**

- Ashley mentioned that HSR agreed to renegotiate the contract, we are bargaining for the next 3 years, the total bus pass is \$272 they are proposing to have 20% in the first year then 5% every year after.
- The biggest concern is to have increased enrollment, which means more fees towards bus service, means more income. So HSR might continue to increase this multiplier, as there is additional source of income.
- We looked against other 15 institution especially comparable to the GSA, we are the lowest 3 in cost of bus pass.
- This numbers must be taken to a referendum, nonetheless, if students voted no to the increase in bus pass, students would lose the bus pass for 2 years, as we can not get a referendum question back after 11 months.
- Max mentioned that the HSR increase was discussed at EGSA last council, and they will support the referendum. However, he is more concern about the gaps at the need of August, Ashley explained that we will not have the gap at the end of this year, as it is only one time when the system started. For incoming students, it won't be a grace period in August it is Sept 1st start. May start are excluded from the HSR as requested by the university.
- Max asked if the GSA can make a deal with HSR for the paper monthly passes to sell to May students? Ashley explained that HSR take step away from that, there point is, HSR want the institution to do the charges. Max mentioned that the charges can be put on mosaic so the students can pay the bus pass fee on their choice, but for May students only, and be an opt in basis, Ashley explains that mean they are allowing the institution to be assessed this fee but the university refused.
- Ashley mentioned aside of the HSR conversation, the GSA is negotiating a deal with Student accounts, to waive health and dental fees for students who has coverage, instead of opting in then opting out and receiving their money by the end of the year.
- Shawn added that SCI is deemed not legal at this point, so for new students starting in January, there is no opt out of nonessential fee. However, we are still waiting to see what will happen after the PC government appeal.

## **8. New business**

- No new business

## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 6:27 pm moved by Max, seconded by Ish, all in favor, motion carried.**



**Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Due date</b>
NA		