



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

January 28, 2021

Teleconference - Zoom

12:00 pm.

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Shawn Hercules (GSA President), Caroline Seiler (VP Internal), Anthony Quarshie (VP Administration), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Dhanyasri Maddiboina (FRC Engineering), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Sarah Elshaht (FRC Social Science), Rida Mohsen (FRC Social Science), Zarwa Saqib (FRC Health Science), Shemar Williams (FRC International), Michelle Ragany (FRC Engineering)

**Guest:** Brock Bodo, Alexander Mouripoulos, Jennifer Williams, Muhammad Rashid

**Regrets:** Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Sydney Valentino (VP External)

**Absent:** Sahand Sepehrvand (Senator Engineering), Mona Nasry (FRC Business), Alyaa Abdelhalim (Senator Business), Shuwen Qian (FRC Health Science), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Pritpal Matharu (FRC Science), Ghada Sasa (BoG)

**Call to order 4:05**

**1. Call for New Business**

**MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

- CRO application
- Rudy Heinz award
- Minimum wage campaign

**Motion to approve the amended January meeting agenda moved by Wei, seconded by Zarwa all in favour, motion carried.**

**2. MOTION: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of November meeting moved by Zarwa, seconded by Wei, all in favour, motion carried.**

### 3. President & VPs remarks:

- Shawn mentioned that the GSA is trying to keep the Phoenix operational, so the Phoenix opened UberEat and DoorDash accounts. The Board will discuss next week if the Phoenix should remain open based on the revenues from these platforms.
- The GSA is yet to finalize an agreement with HSR. However, we were offered prorated fee for new students starting in January. There will be a meeting with HSR to discuss increasing the conditions under which members can opt out.
- Working on the new proposed budget for 2021-2022, if any member is interested in attending the finance meeting, it is tomorrow at 1 pm. Members can email Mona, and she will send the meeting link.
- Students who are doing research during the lockdown on campus will receive information that labs have to be reduced to 50% at any given time between 9 am -2 pm.
- Report from Sydney: many virtual events are happening. It is a great time for student groups and the GSA to be engaged, working through a brilliant communicator social media swagger as usual. She is working with Anthony to make it easier to approve funding and stay on track with our budget.
- The SIAC is preparing the communications standard operating procedure, and the proper steps are being taken so that student issues are brought forward to the committee. The social events and trips committee had a successful trivia and welcome event last week. They are interested in having more virtual events, including another Canada-wide university collaborative event in summer, similar to the candidate graduate student trivia the first semester.
- Anthony added that the finance meeting is tomorrow. The main discussion is regarding the fee schedule and GSA budget.
- Wei added that he is still working on the collaboration between studentcare and SWC. There will be a synergy meeting in February.

### 4. Approval to GPA club

- Wei & Sydney have met with them to assist in adjusting the budget. Their application was circulated to members for comments.

**Motion to approve the GPA as a GSA club moved by Anthony seconded by Zarwa, all in favor motion carried.**

### 5. McMaster OSA-SPIE Student Chapter club approval

- Application for this club was circulated for review and comments.
- Wei asked if there is enough funding for this club events and seed money. Mona responded that there is enough for seed money, especially this year due to COVID19, as not all clubs have their seed money claimed and there have been few club events this year.

- Anthony suggested to reach out to them as their budget has bank fees, and if they open a bank account through the GSA, they can get the account for free.

**Motion to approve the OSA=SPIE student chapter as a GSA club, moved by Anthony seconded by Wei all in favor motion carried.**

## **6.FRC Update:**

### Social Science

Sarah mentioned that:

- The Social Sciences FRC, Rida and Sarah, had organized an event for today from 6pm to 7:30 pm: "Faculty Trivia and Mentorship session," and will offer prizes to the winning teams. Based on the previous day's numbers, more than 10 students are expected.
- It was discussed to have Amazon gift cards worth \$80. The receipts of the cards will be sent to Mona for reimbursement.
- Another event has been scheduled for mid-Feb in collaboration with CUPE "Social Science Steward Meet & Greet". Confirmatory emails will be sent out in February.

### Engineering

Michelle & Dhany mentioned:

- Recently, EGS worked on understanding the implications 50% lab capacity.
- The EGS circulated a survey on behalf of the faculty of engineering.
- EGS held several events in the past weeks, 2 by Kate Walker Hammond and funded by the GSA.
- The EGS is organizing its first science communication workshop that will be hosted with SciGSA. The plan is to make the recording of this event available on MAC video database.
- A successful welcome week event was held and Skip-the-dishes gift cards were given to the students who joined EGS social media.
- The EGS website had been down for a long time. Thus, Dhany will reach out to Wei to host EGS website under the GSA.

### SciGSA

- Tiffany mentioned that she and Pip had a SciGSA monthly meeting with the Dean's office and clarified the rules surrounding research at McMaster. The 50% working capacity mandate is NOT in effect at McMaster. This 50% rule was put forth as a way for the university to show the provincial government that McMaster is committed to keeping its community safe, and after review by the government, the University was told that the

schools health practises are in line with current government rules (and therefore 50% rule is not required). Research groups can continue to use their previously approved return to research outlines - talk to your supervisors if you have questions surrounding what your return to research looks like as it will be different for each group depending on the type of research you do.

- Partnering with EGS for workshop events.
- Planning an alumni event.

#### Health Science:

- Zarwa mentioned that they are hosting a mentorship workshop this month
- Working on the mentorship program to have an avenue course to help mentors.
- Working on the plenary research event which will have students research presentations and awards at the end of the event.

#### IGSA:

- No new business.

#### **7. Senate / BOG Updates:**

- Ghada report: For Ghada, she put forward a motion to end union-busting for out of province TAs in December. However, the Board did not approve it to be on the agenda and she is looking to put it on the next Board of governors meeting.

#### **8. New business:**

##### Minimum wage campaign:

- Brad mentioned that he is involved with the Hamilton district Labor Council. This is a political organization for unions of the city of Hamilton. They are working on a campaign to convince the city of Hamilton to pay its summer student workers a wage of \$16.45 per hour.
- The summer jobs are mandated for students and it usually means outdoor works in parks, cemeteries etc.
- They are having a big budget delegation and students from different wards in Hamilton are speaking on this issue to the City council.
- Shawn suggested moving this discussion to the SIAC.

##### CRO application:

- Council doesn't have quorum to vote on the CRO application.
- Shawn suggested to move this discussion to Board next week.



Rudy Heinz Award:

- Shawn mentioned members interested in joining the review panel can email Mona.
- He suggested to add this on the Council's Teams channel.

## 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm

Action Items:

Item	Action by	Due date
NA		