Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

August 10, 2021

Teleconference - Zoom

4:00 pm.

**Minutes**

**Attendees- voting members:** Caroline Seiler (GSA President), Spencer Naylor (VP Administration), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Shuwen Qian (VP Internal), Dhanyasri Maddiboina (FRC Engineering), Zarwa Saqib (FRC Health Science), Newton Meng (FRC Business), Ce Ji (FRC business), Ana Portillo (FRC Health Science), Sudeshna Dhar (FRC International), Moyo Sogaolu (FRC International), Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis (FRC Humanities), Ying Dong (GSA CRO), Ghada Sasa (FRC Social Science), Paramita Bhattacharyya (FRC Engineering)

**Attendees- non-voting members:** Mona Mohamed (Executive Secretary-non voting)

**Guest non-voting:** NA

**Regrets:** Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO- non-voting), Nicole Areias (Senator Humanities-non voting), Sarah Elshaht (VP External)

**Absent:** Sahand Sepehrvand (Senator Engineering- non-voting), Alyaa Abdelhalim (Senator Business-non voting), Lucas Klein (FRC Science), Dina Hansen (FRC Social Science),

**Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met**

**Call to order 1:06**

1. **MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for August meeting moved Seraphina, seconded by Spencer, all in favour, motion carried**.

1. **MOTION**: Approval of Minutes

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

1. **President & VPs remarks:**

* Caroline met with the sustainability to the office to discuss sustainability initiatives for grad students. A survey from the university will be sent out in September.
* The GSA met with the MBA president to discuss possibilities for MBA students joining the GSA health and dental plan and HSR bus pass.
* Discussion with the university regarding conflict resolution protocols to cover GSA staff under the university policy.
* She was working on a proposal for COVID19 relief funds for students who went overtime due to COVID.

VP internal

* Shuwen is collaborating with IGSA for summer orientation
* Followed up with local restaurant and cinema to get some swaps for welcome week
* Contacted someone to host some welcome week events, including personal campers
* Teaching and learning committee members confirmed that masks would be mandatory for all indoor activities.

VP Admin

* Spencer is working on a proposal to allow students to access COVID relief funds. The funds will be used from the surplus of the previous year. This proposal will go to the Bylaws and Board meeting for further discussion.
* KPMG is now auditing the GSA and Phoenix books.

VP Services

* The past month we met with studentcare and SGS to verify visiting students and enroll them into the GSA health plan and student assistant program. In addition, to the health fee, they will be charged the GSA operation fee and $100 admin fee
* A new program offered for the GSA members to try called Dialogue, information was circulated regarding this. The program is a healthcare platform that allows students to reach out to medical doctors virtually and quickly, it is a 24/7 service. In addition, prescription medication can be delivered for free to students' address.
* Studentcare offered Dialogue for the GSA members for free this year, and if the GSA membership wants to continue, they can pay the Dialogue fee ($40) starting Sept 2022, with an opt-out option. The GSA will have a referendum to approve if we will proceed.
* Wei mentioned that the GSA should compare Dialogue with SWC. Shuwen added that SWC offers MD visits and remotely by appointment only, and it is a few days later, and they can renew prescriptions remotely. However, you need to do a personal visit to have the prescriptions in the first place. The biggest advantage of Dialogue is that it is 24/7 option.

**Motion to approve the use of the free trial for the Dialogue for 2021-2022 recognizing that this contingent on a referendum by the end of 2021 moved by Wei, seconded by Zarwa, all in favour motion carried.**

1. **FRC Update:**

Social Science

* All classes are moved online
* Working on having a faculty social

Business:

* Not much to report
* Few students from his faculty reached out regarding the quarantine procedures when they arrived. He suggested adding some links or instructions on the website to assist international students when they come to Canada.
* Caroline added that Wei is working with Sarah to address those questions

Engineering

Dhany mentioned:

* Organizing idea time, they have 57 participants. It is a 5 day event
* Planning game night for the welcome week

SciGSA

* No new business

Humanities:

* No new business

Health Science:

* They had a meeting in July with the association
* The association has a mentorship program, and they are working on Welcome Week events

IGSA

* The most recent event is the Canada photo submission contest. It was very successful. They had 25 participants and 2 winners and will post the photos on social media
* Collaborating with SGS for 2Welcome Week events
* Arranging a game night and the first day of the school photo contest
* Collaborating with model, it is a language based group.
* They would like to have a section on GSA website to include IGSA staff.

1. **Senate / BOG Updates:**

* No new business

1. **New business:**

* No new business

1. **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm, moved by Ghada, seconded by Seraphina all in favour, motion carried.**

**Action Items:**

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| **Item** | **Action by** | **Due date** |
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