



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

October 26, 2021

Teleconference - Zoom

5:00 pm.

Minutes

Attendees- voting members: Caroline Seiler (GSA President), Spencer Naylor (VP Administration), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Zarwa Saqib (FRC Health Science), Newton Meng (FRC Business), Ce Ji (FRC business), Ana Portillo (FRC Health Science), Sudeshna Dhar (FRC International), Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis (FRC Humanities), Ying Dong (GSA CRO), Alyaa Abdelhalim (Senator Business-non voting)

Attendees- non-voting members:

Guest non-voting: NA

Regrets: Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO- non-voting), Mona Mohamed (Executive Secretary-non voting), Sarah Elshaht (VP External), Shuwen Qian (VP Internal)

Absent: Sahand Sephehrvand (Senator Engineering- non-voting), Lucas Klein (FRC Science), Dina Hansen (FRC Social Science), Paramita Bhattacharyya (FRC Engineering), Nicole Areias (Senator Humanities-non voting), Moyo Sogaolu (FRC International), Dhanyasri Maddiboina (FRC Engineering), Ghada Sasa (FRC Social Science)

Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met

Call to order 5:06

1. MOTION: Approval of Agenda

Adding to new business:

A statement regarding the violence that happened during the Durga Puja in Bangladesh

Motion to approve the amended agenda for October meeting moved Seraphina, seconded by Wei, all in favour, motion carried.

2. MOTION: Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of September meeting moved by Seraphina, seconded by Spencer, all in favour, motion carried.

3. President & VPs remarks:

- Caroline mentioned that 2022 is going to be in-person as per the university announcement
- Next week there is an online conference for CAGS. If any are interested, feel free to email Caroline.
- The GSA is now evaluating awards, and we are in the process of finalizing it if anyone who didn't apply for GSA awards can volunteer to adjudicate.
- We met with the MBA president, and they are interested in being part of the GSA membership. They are planning to vote during the coming months.
- The Dialogue program is ongoing, and we will have a referendum in February if students wish to continue using it.
- They is going to be a student census for grad and undergrad.
- We are meeting with the sustainability office for a focus group on what Grad students are concerned about for learning sustainability. If you're interested in sustainability, would like to give your input on this, then let Caroline know.

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 years. This proposal will go to the Bylaws and Board meeting for further discussion.
- The last numbers we received regarding the Phoenix are very good and show the Phoenix is in a good position.
- We will have a finance meeting in mid-November. If anyone is interested in attending to add to the investment policy, they are welcome.

VP Services

- There was a discussion about refunding students who missed cashing their refund cheques. The suggestion came is to reissue old cheques that in dated no more than 1 fiscal-year-old as our financial statements are audited.

Motion to allow reimbursement for health and dental claims and opt outs to only go back one fiscal year, and refunds will come out of the H&D reserve moved by Spencer seconded by Seraphina.

4.FRC Update:

Health Science

- Events in November were talking about the world of publishing.
- They had a yoga session in October, with good attendance.

Business:

- The issue regarding H&D fees paying for the finance program is solved.
- Newton asked if it is possible to have a bank account for clubs? And is it possible to post on the GSA website? Caroline explained about advertising. He can email Sarah the VP External. For the bank account, she can take the conversation offline, with herself and Wei.

Engineering

- No new business

SciGSA

- No new business

Humanities:

- No new business

IGSA

- They had 2 successful events, one to promote people's English capacity.
- Month-long writing prompt series was very well attended
- The welcome event in late September
- Game night late October
- Now preparing immigration seminar

5. Senate / BOG Updates:

- No new business

6. New business:

A statement regarding the violence that happened during the Durga Puja in Bangladesh

- CUPE sent a statement to condemn the events that happened, and a student reached out to the GSA in the same regard.
- The statement was forwarded to SIAC and now to the council.

Motion to endorse the statement approved by CUPE during the Durga Puja in Bangladesh moved by Sudeshna seconded by Zarwa, all in favour motion carried.



7. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 pm, moved by Seraphina, seconded by Wei all in favour, motion carried.

Action Items:

Item	Action by	Due date