



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

April 26 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), Pritpal Matharu (FRC Science), Sarah Elshaht (FRC Social Science), Zarwa Saqib (FRC Health Science), Michelle Ragany (FRC Engineering), Ghada Sasa (BoG), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Shuwen Qian (FRC Health Science), Ying Dong (GSA CRO), Alyaa Abdelhalim (Senator Business)

**Guest:** Spencer Naylor, Kay McCallum, Martha Cassidy-Neumiller, Daniella Silva

**Regrets:** Shemar Williams (FRC International), Sydney Valentino (VP External)

**Absent:** Sahand Sephehrvand (Senator Engineering), Mona Nasry (FRC Business), Sudeshna Dhar (FRC International), Rida Mohsen (FRC Social Science)

**Call to order 4:05**

**1. Call for New Business**

**MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for April meeting moved by Caroline, seconded by Wei, all in favour, motion carried.**

**2. MOTION: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of February meeting moved by Caroline, seconded by Anthony, all in favour, motion carried.**

**3. President & VPs remarks:**

- AGM meeting didn't meet quorum, so agenda items are moved to the council as per the GSA bylaws.

- Phoenix is closed until further notice due to the lockdown. Before the lockdown, the Phoenix was doing well.
- The GSA is continuing to advocate to opt-out students of HSR. HSR is not responsive now; however, the GSA will schedule a meeting soon to discuss opt-outs.
- The current executive team and staff attended EDI training. This training will be conducted from now on every year.
- A discussion is currently going on with the university regarding the sports complex fee. Caroline will take this discussion over starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The new executive team this year will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The elected VP admin Harneet Hothie has stepped down, and now the VP Admin position is vacant.

#### Vp Internal:

- Caroline is part of the return to the campus group. It is a focus group discussing how the return on campus in the fall will look like. It is all going to meet up to what the provincial guideline will say. It is expecting that there will be hybrid education in the fall but not set out yet.
- The student-supervisor workshop had 10 attendees, and they had a speaker from Western University.
- AAC is meeting on Friday, and the discussion will focus on the student-supervisor relationship.
- Update from the Microcredintial meeting: there will be some trials to make an office for the micro credential, the guiding documents is drafted, and the micro academic credential is not going to be at cost. However, the GSA is still waiting for more updates.

#### Vp Admin:

- The GSA went to different insurance brokers this year to compare their quotes with HUB insurance. Nonetheless, the GSA received a quote from HUB insurance that wasn't matched by other insurance companies. And the GSA decided to move forward with HUB for the 2021-2022 year.

#### Vp Services

- The annual maintenance of the website is now due. Wei encountered some problems like broken links and outdated info, and he is now working on fixing any issues.
- Wei is following up for the international students to opt out of the H&D fees.

#### Vp External

- SIAC has been drafting a survey to grad students, asking if they are happy with what the GSA is doing, etc. This survey will be disseminated on Friday. In addition, there will be 4 \$50 gift cards to encourage student participation.

#### **4.AGM Material**

- a. Phoenix Finances
- b. GSA Finances
- c. GSA Fees
- d. GSA proposed budget
  - Shawn mentioned there were no significant changes in the budget, also there is no CEWS for this year.

**Motion to approve the budget for 2021-2022 moved by Anthony seconded by Caroline, all in favour motion carried**

**Motion to approve the GSA fees for 2021-2022 moved by Anthony seconded by Pip, all in favour motion carried**

**Motion to ratify the new Bylaws update as circulated and posted on the GSA website moved by Spencer seconded by Wei, all in favour motion carried.**

**Motion: To approve KPMG as the auditors for the 2021 fiscal year and to approve the auditor's fees of the financial statements of the Graduate Students Association of McMaster University for the year ending May 31, 2021. The quote for the fee range up to \$14,000 (exclusive of HST and support chargers 5%, if applicable) moved by Anthony seconded by Shuwen, all in favour motion carried.**

**Motion: To ratify the election results of the GSA representation for 2021-2022 moved by Pip seconded by Wei, all in favour motion carried.**

**5.VP Internal nomination:**

- The GSA received 2 nominations for this position, this was moved to the board meetings, and the board decided to move this to the council to decide.
- The GSA received 2 nominees for the VP Internal position; Shuwen Qian (current FRC Health Science) & Spencer Naylor (Current Bylaws committee member)

- Both candidates were given 3 minutes each to speak about themselves.
- Shawn created a Microsoft form so everyone can vote. The number of votes was equal for both candidates. As per the bylaws, it is up to the president to decide when there is a tie vote.
- Shawn suggested that Shuwen hold the VP Internal position. Since the GSA still has an opening for the VP Administration, if Spencer is interested, the council can motion to approve him.
- Shawn asked if the council is interested in giving the position to Spencer instead of opening it to all grad students? Council members agreed to give the VP admin position to Spencer.
- Spencer mentioned he is interested and keen to assist through the VP admin role.
- Council members agreed to approve Shuwen for the VP Internal position and Spencer for the VP Administration position.

#### **6.FRC Humanities:**

- The GSA received a nomination for FRC humanities.

**Motion to approve Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis-Hart nomination moved by Anthony seconded by Wei, all in favour motion carried.**

#### **7.Ratification for the Board of director nomination:**

- The GSA received a few nominations for the internal position and the board was comfortable with the following:
  - Micheal Kamal
  - Martha Cassidy-Neumiller
  - Moustafa Abdelmouty

**Motion to approve the Internal Board of Directors moved by Sarah seconded by Anthony all in favour motion carried.**

- The external Board of director nominations:
  - David Moore
  - Zhengchen Luo
  - Yajuan Zhang

**Motion to ratify the External Board of directors moved by Anthony seconded by Wei all in favour motion carried.**

#### **8.FRC Update:**

Social Science

Sarah mentioned that:

- Collaborative event with CUPE that was open for all students had over 300 participants

Engineering

Michelle mentioned:

- Working on different workshops
- Planning a meeting to discuss ways to welcome new grad students
- Planning a developing the METRIC conference

SciGSA

- No new business

Health Science:

- Hosting 2 workshops by the end of April
- Transition to new teams

IGSA

- No new business

**9. Senate / BOG Updates:**

- No new business

**10. New business:**

- No new business

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 pm, moved by Wei, seconded by Anthony, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Action Items:**

Item	Action by	Due date
Mona will send an updated list of the new executive and BOD members	Mona	DONE

