Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

April 24th , 2023

Teleconference - Zoom

2:15 pm.

**Minutes**

**Attendees- voting members:** Caroline Seiler (GSA President), Letizia Dondi (VP Administration), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Shuwen Qian (VP Internal), Ghada Sasa (FRC Social Science), Xiaobing Li (FRC Sciences), Sarah Elshahat (VP External), Ana Portillo (FRC Health Science), Zahra Tootonsab (FRC Humanities), Ruchini Abayakoon (FRC Humanities), Beyza Hatun (FRC Social Sciences) Moyo Sogaolu (FRC International),

**Attendees- Staff:** Samantha Sada (Executive Secretary-non voting), Ashley Ravenscroft (Director of Operations- non voting)

**Guest non-voting:**

**Regrets:** Megan Li (FRC SciGSA), Si Lui (FRC Business),

**Absent:**

**Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met**

**Call to order at 2:15PM**

1. **MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for the April 2023 Council meeting moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Ana Portillo, all in favour, motion carried**.

1. **MOTION**: **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2023 Council Meeting moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried**.

**President & VP Remarks**

* Caroline begins her updates by stating that the GSA has been working with the new executives to help the transition go smoother. They have been attending transition meetings to support the new executives in being able to serve their terms.
* Caroline explains that there has been some discussion of the CAP (Compulsory ancillary fee) agreement that the GSA has with the University.
* Caroline mentions that the GSA has received a draft from student affairs about the agreement, and the GSA has provided some comments so far but is getting additional feedback from the executive team.
* Caroline states that the GSA has been asking the University for the updated email list as it has been a longstanding issue. She explains that the EDL allows the GSA to contact the current membership to communicate the resources the GSA provides.
* Caroline explains the GSA has also been in discussion with the University about the delayed response of getting dental reimbursements for CUPE members. The University has privacy concerns, so they have not provided the list of CUPE winter members.
* Caroline mentions that Sam has planned two GSA trips that are sold out.

**VP** **Admin**

* Letizia explains that the GSA is finalizing the report for the Overtime Relief Fund. She states that they had 27 out of 33 eligible applicants.
* Letizia mentions that those who did not reply to the numerous reminders will be eligible for the fund in the second round.
* Letizia explains that, in total, the level of funding seen was higher than what was seen during the COVID relief fund. However, seven students hadn’t received any funding at all.
* Letizia attended Grad Council on Tuesday, and they have not reported anything about having a task force or AI.
* She continues by stating that there were some concerns from professors and students alike about using AI specifically for plagiarism and other things in this manner and how it will change the research landscape that we live in now.
* Letizia attended the Board of Governors on Thursday, and they are creating an AI task force, which will review how the University can use AI and teach students how to use it effectively in teaching and learning.

**VP Services**

* + Wei states that he has shown the team how to use the website and has completed the SOP document for the next team.

**VP Internals**

* + Shuwen states that she has been aiding Kusum with the transition to VP internal and has uploaded all relevant documents on Seafile.

**VP External**

* Sarah explains that she has been helping Ana transition to the external role and sent an SOP report to aid her in her term.

**Executive and FRC Nomination Review**

* **MOTION To appoint Ghana Sasa as FRC Social Sciences for the GSA for the May 2023 - April 2024 academic year moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Shuwen Qian, all in favour, motion carried.**
* **MOTION To appoint Jing Zheng as VP Administration for the GSA for the May 2023 - April 2024 academic year moved by Shuwen Qian, seconded by Letizia Dondi, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Club Application Review**

* **MOTION To approve the Microscopical Society of Canada Club Application moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried.**

**7. FRC Updates:**

Health Science

* Ana explains that they are holding elections for the new representatives.

Social Science

* No updates

Business:

* No updates

Engineering

* No updates

SciGSA

* No updates

Humanities:

* Zahra mentions that they are going to have their ethics workshop in May.
* Additionally, Zahra explains that she is going to talk to the Dean of the department about how much funding can be given to them.

IGSA

* Getting a new team as the elections are soon, and then we will be working to transition them.

**8. Senate / BOG Updates:**

* No updates

**9. New Business**

**Motion: To adjourn the April Council Meeting moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Ana Portillo, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Action Items:**

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