Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

January 11th , 2023

Teleconference - Zoom

4:00 pm.

**Minutes**

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

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

**Guest non-voting:**

**Regrets:**Dhanyasri Maddiboina, Si Lui, Ankit Ranjan

**Absent:**

**Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met**

**Call to order at 4:06 PM**

**MOTION: Adding the FRC nominations to agenda after the HSR discussion moved by Ghada Sasa, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried.**

1. **MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for the January 2023 Council meeting moved Letizia Dondi, seconded by Shuwen Qian, all in favour, motion carried**.

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

**Motion to approve the minutes of the December 2022 Council Meeting moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried**.

1. **President & VPs remarks:**
* Caroline begins her updates by stating that the GSA hosted Frost week events: chili Tuesday, library resource event, and yoga sessions.
* Caroline adds that the gender-based violence roundtable is being hosted at the GSA office tomorrow and urges Council to attend.
* She explains that Shuwen is hosting an academic affairs committee on Friday, January 13th.
* Caroline states that the GSA is currently planning a winter trip for students in February and are looking for volunteers for that event.
* Caroline adds that the GSA and The Phoenix are holding a collaborative event for Valentine’s day: Romantic Trivia Night.
* Caroline explains that the GSA has met with the Athletics office to discuss holding some graduate-related events.
* Caroline continues her updates by explaining that the bylaws committee has approved The Overtime Relief Fund and The Privacy Policy. She states that both documents will now be sent to the Board.
* Caroline shares that the GSA is hoping to do the first round of Overtime Relief Fund applications near the end of January as the GSA is still hoping for more contributions towards the fund.
* Lastly, Caroline states that the GSA will attend the Graduate Award Day Ceremony hosted at The Phoenix on January 19th for the nominees and successful applicants of the awards.

**VP** **Admin**

* Letizia explains that the GSA is finalizing the HSR contract and getting input on the HSR referenda questions.
* Letizia explains that if the Council Members are CUPE members, can motion to have funds added to the Overtime Relief Fund.

**VP Services**

* + Wei states that he is currently planning the winter trip for students.

**VP Internal**

* + Shuwen begins her updates by stating that the Library workshop was a small but interactive group. The library released contact information for students, and the GSA plans to promote more collaborative events.
	+ Shuwen explains that the SIAC/academic affairs committee is coming up on Friday and urges the Council to fill out the stipends survey to gather more information to show The School of Graduate Studies.

**Phoenix Updates**

* Ashley states that The Phoenix has been doing well and had a profitable December, as they had many party bookings.
* The Phoenix will present financials in the upcoming AGM and the Council AGM materials next month.

**HSR Bus Pass Referenda**

**MOTION: To call a referendum of McMaster graduate students on points 1-5 pending the additions moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Moyo Sogaolu, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Review Standing Resolution**

* Caroline explains that the standing resolution has been updated to include the following changes:
* The executive assistant will oversee communication for club funding/
* Anti-oppression statement language has been updated.
* Updated funding forms.

**MOTION: To approve the standing resolution updates on event, sponsorship, and donation funding moved by Ana Portillo, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried.**

**7. FRC Update:**

Health Science

* No Updates, but they have a meeting in late January.

Social Science

* No updates

Business:

* No updates

Engineering

* No updates

SciGSA

* They are holding events soon; they are waiting for insurance information.

Humanities:

* No Updates

IGSA

* No updates

**8. Senate / BOG Updates:**

* No updates

**9. New Business**

**Motion: To adjourn the January Council Meeting moved by Moyo Sogaolu, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Action Items:**

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