Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

May 16th 2023

Teleconference - Zoom

3:00 pm.

**Minutes**

**Attendees- voting members:** Letizia Dondi (President), Jing Zheng (VP Admin), Ana Portillo (VP External), Zahra Tootonsab (FRC Humanities), Xiaobing Li (FRC Sciences), Forough Passyar (FRC Humanities)

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

**Guest non-voting:**

**Regrets:**

**Absent:**Kusum Bhatta (VP Internal), Wei Zhao (Temp- VP Services), Ghada Sasa (FRC Humanities)

**Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met**

**Call to order at 3:06 PM**

1. **MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for the May 2023 Council meeting moved by Ana Portillo, seconded by Jing Zheng all in favour, motion carried**.

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

**Motion to approve the minutes of the April 2023 Council Meeting moved by Ana Portillo, seconded by Jing Zheng all in favour, motion carried**.

**Remarks**

* Letizia explains the function of the GSA Council and that the Council will be meeting on a monthly basis
* Letizia asks the Vice-Presidents to introduce themselves to the Council
* Letizia mentions that the GSA has been dealing with Winter 2023 GSA Dental refunds for students who were TA/RAs. The university has not provided the list of students for reimbursement to Studentcare therefore were unable to process refunds. The list has still not been confirmed to Studentcare but we are in contact with the HR department to obtain the list.
* She mentions that the GSA has had a very successful Wonderland trip which was well attended by 86 students, and we hope to be able to host more fun social events in the future

**The Phoenix Update**

* Ashley explains that the Phoenix is in a very healthy position.
* Ashley explains that the Phoenix is looking forward to their patio season as they are booking more events.
* Ashley states that the Phoenix is also preparing for the audit.

**Executive and FRC Nomination Review**

**MOTION: To appoint Wenjuan Yang as VP Services for The GSA for the May 2023- April 2024 academic year moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Ana Portillo, all in favour, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To appoint Si Liu as an Internal Board Director for The GSA for the May 2023- April 2024 academic year moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Ana Portillo, all in favour, motion carried.**

**The Overtime Relief Fund Review**

* Letizia explains that the GSA has finalized the report for the Overtime Relief Fund. She states that they had 27 recipients out of 33 eligible applicants.
* She states that 17 applicants received $3000 and 10 applicants received $1500, using up a total of $66,000.
* Letizia mentions that The GSA found that although this aided students with a short-term solution, students required much more funding for living expenses.
* The GSA found that there should be an urge for School of Graduate Studies and the six facilities to establish a more consistent funding model for overtime students.

 **FRC Update:**

Humanities

* Zahra discusses the Graduate Funding task force roundtables and urges the GSA council members to get involved with the “Raise the floor” campaign to further discuss graduate funding

Social Science

* Forough would like to work with the GSA to set-up a Social Sciences association

SciGSA

* Xiaobing mentions that the SciGSA is hosting its elections soon therefore there may be a change in leadership

Business:

* No updates

Engineering

* No updates

Humanities:

* No Updates

IGSA

* No Updates

**8.Senate / BOG Updates:**

* No updates

**9. New Business**

**Motion: To adjourn the May Council Meeting moved by Letizia Dondi, seconded by Jing Zheng, all in favour, motion carried.**

**Action Items:**

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