Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

***Council Meeting***

May 31st, 2022

Teleconference - Zoom

4:00 pm.

**Minutes**

**Attendees- voting members:** Caroline Seiler (GSA President), Letizia Dondi (VP Administration), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Zarwa Saqib (FRC Health Science), Shuwen Qian (VP Internal), Moyo Sogaolu (FRC International), Ghada Sasa (FRC Social Science), Megan Li, Xiaobing Li, Sarah Elshaht (VP External),

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

**Guest non-voting:**

**Regrets:**

**Absent:**

**Quorum: 30% of seats (20) – met**

**Call to order at 4:03 PM**

1. **MOTION: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for the May Council meeting moved Wei Zhao, seconded by Zarwa Saqib, all in favour, motion carried**.

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

**Motion to approve the minutes of the April Council Meeting moved by Zarwa Saqib, seconded by Wei Zhao, all in favour, motion carried**.

1. **MOTION: To revise the agenda to include introductions moved by Wei Zhao, seconded by Zarwa Saqib, all in favour, motion carried.**
2. **President & VPs remarks:**
	* Caroline begins the meeting by going over the GSA organizational chart, highlighting every role within the structure.
	* Caroline explains that the GSA met with the student success center to discuss their current initiatives and learn more about their plan and provide some student input.
	* Caroline states that the GSA also had a meeting with our health insurance broker to confirm the fees for the upcoming year, noting a small change.
	* Caroline mentions the onboarding of the GSA’s new VP administration, having appointments to get her up to speed.
	* Caroline highlights that the GSA is also beginning discussions with HSR and are sending out a survey to get an idea of how our bus pass compares to universities across the province.
	* She notes that discussions with VP internal have begun surrounding welcome week, and the GSA is waiting for feedback about the University’s regulations. However, a combination of both in-person and online activities will be expected.
	* Caroline explains that the GSA’s bank Scotiabank has reached out about working on a joint initiative to benefit the Hamilton McMaster community members.
	* She continues to explain that Scotiabank has collaborated with The University of Waterloo before and invested 1.4 million dollars to provide awards for women Latin American students, and black and indigenous students in STEM.
	* Caroline states that at McMaster, we have also had this opportunity and are looking for ideas to help the graduate student body such as scholarships to directly disadvantaged students
	* Caroline encourages people to email with ideas that they may have.
	* Caroline explains that the Phoenix has been up in sales with the summer months, and there are a few weddings planned.
	* Caroline mentions that the rent waiver is expiring, and the Phoenix will be paying full rent at first.

**VP External**

* Sarah began discussions to partner with the Hamilton Victory gardens again, as the students last year enjoyed it.

**VP Services**

* + Wei states that the main update he has for the council is that he is going to propagate an email to all the new incoming international students. The content is all prepared, however, the email list is not ready.
	+ The next update Wei explains is the GSA website still poses some issues but is working on fixing bugs. Wei urges that the ‘our people’ document on the website should be updated.
	+ Wei explains that once the email list is provided, he would like to collaborate with clubs to introduce the incoming international students.
	+ Additionally, he expresses that he would like to prepare incoming international students for the school year through airport pickup.
	+ Wei is writing a proposal to start the GSA ukulele music lesson to provide more interesting events for the student body.
	+ Wei brings up the idea of a scavenger hunt for welcome week to allow students to explore the campus.

**VP Internal**

* + Shuwen states that her main update is that she has been working on the GSA awards and setting up the GSA application deadlines and forms.
	+ Shuwen encourages the council to email her with any ideas concerning workshops they’d love to see for the upcoming year.
	+ For welcome week, she is reaching out to SGS and MSU as the events are mostly going to be in person.
	+ Shuwen explains that some of the events include a BBQ and social event at the Phoenix. And she is going to collaborate with clubs and campus resources fair.

**7. FRC Update:**

Health Science

* No updates

Social Science

* They are looking forward to introduce ideas for welcome week.

Business:

* No new business

Engineering

* No updates

SciGSA

* Looking forward to planning welcome week events.
* They have also been looking into pitching compost bins across campus.

Humanities:

* No Updates

IGSA

* No updates but hoping to collaborate with other groups for welcome week events.

**8.Senate / BOG Updates:**

* No new business

**9. New Business**

**Motion: To adjourn the May 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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