**Minutes**

Graduate Students Association

**Board of Directors Meeting**

October 26th, 2022

3:00 pm

Teleconference Meeting

**Attendees:** Caroline Seiler (President), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Shuwen Qian (VP Internal), Letizia Dondi (VP Admin), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Samantha Sada (Executive Assistant), Sarah Elshahat (VP External) David Moore (Director, Community Member at Large)

**Regret:** Yue Xi (Director, Community Member at Larger), Jing Zheng (Director, Community Member at Large),

**Absent:**

Call to order: 3:07 pm

* 1. **MOTION: To add to the discussion of The Graduate Initiative fund to the October Board agenda moved by Sarah Elshahat, seconded by Letizia Dondi, all in favour motion carried.**
  2. **MOTION**: **Approval of the September 2022 minutes**

**Motion to approve the September 2022 Minutes moved by Sarah Elshahat, seconded by Letizia Dondi all in favour motion carried.**

**Chair's remarks and updates (10-min)**

* Caroline begins her updates by stating that the GSA has paid Studentcare and opened a few GICs with ScotiaBank.
* She explains that the GSA has not begun directly investing yet as they are looking into safer investment funds.
* Caroline mentions that the GSA executive team and staff conducted EDI (equity diversity inclusion) training from The Equity and Inclusion office at McMaster
* Caroline explains that The GSA had a chat with co-op students from the faculty of engineering to see which fees are beneficial to them and are waiting to hear back.
* Caroline continues her updates by stating that the GSA is meeting with the organizers of the Graduate Residence soon and will be speaking about the proposal and how the GSA can advocate for students.
* Caroline mentions that the GSA had a meeting with HSR recently. HSR proposed a 3.7 percent increase in the transit pass, however, this is only the starting negotiation. And the GSA will continue to negotiate and will have more updates for the December meeting.
* Caroline moves onto the discussion of The graduate initiative fund proposal. She explains the idea of the initiative is to have a pool of money available to students to apply for to put on different initiatives. For this initiative funding, the application would require specific information, descriptions, expected goal, and detailed funding requests. And will be reviewed by the GSA.
* David asks why SGS is not doing the SPICES funding, Caroline states she has not heard any updates about SPICES. However, The Graduate Student initiative isn’t a replacement for SPICES, but is an additional resource for students.
* David asks how much funding will be put into the initiative, Caroline explains that the GSA will have about upper limit of $50,000 per year.
* Ashley explains that as the GSA has the capital build fund coming in, it will fund this project.

**MOTION: To approve the creation of the Graduate Student Initiative fund which will be effective as of the 2022-2023 academic year moved by Sarah Elshahat, seconded by Wei Zhao all in favour motion carried.**

**The Phoenix Updates**

* Ashley states that The Phoenix is seeing pre pandemic numbers. And that the numbers for the month of September have come in and they are at $150 000 dollars for profit.
* She mentions that The Phoenix is also booked into December for holiday parties.
* Additionally, Ashley explains that The Phoenix has decided to reopen on December 6th to be available to faculty members on campus.

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting moved by David Moore, seconded by Sarah Elshahat, all in favour motion carried.**

**Action items:**

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