
Minutes of GSA Council Meeting held on 25th August 2009 at GSA House
(3rd Council Meeting, 2009-10)

Members Present:	Mahboubeh Khani	(President)
	Mohammad Faisal Uddin	(VP - Services)
	Manu Jain	(VP - Advocacy)
	Altayeb Qasem	(VP - Finance)
	Zafar Ullah Khan	(VP - External)
	Nadia Hausfather	(Director - Arts)
	Mathew Tziritas	(Director - Science)
	Natheer Alatawneh	(Director - ENCS)
	Peipei Shi	(Director - ENCS)
	Shikui Wu	(Director - JMSB)
	Sussan Dolatshahi	(Director - JMSB)
	Erik Chevrier	(Director - IS/SIP)
Members Absent:	Svetla Turnin	(Director - Arts)
	Roddy Doucet	(Director - Arts)
	Zachary Kenny	(Director - Fine Arts)

Agenda of the Meeting:

1. Call to order
 - 1.1 Chair's remarks
 - 1.2 Approval of the Agenda
 - 1.3 Approval of the minutes
2. Presentation by CJLO radio member
3. Discussion on Orientation Events and GSA upcoming trips
4. Report on auditor hiring process and deciding on the date of GA
5. Discussion on the proposed survey
6. Report of the GSA Hiring Committee for holding zero-cost classes
7. Appointment of the GSA Reps to Senate standing Committees
8. Reports of the Executives
9. Other businesses
10. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes tabled till next meeting with the deadline for submitting minutes of previous meetings till 1st September.

4. Presentation by CJLO radio member

CJLO, 1690 am - Katie, CJLO Program Manager

- Want to reach out to as many student clubs as possible
- Have won various awards
- Are a voice for Concordia, and are a community and campus radio station
- Offer free broadcasting and sound engineering training, and other training
- Provide free advertising and support for Concordia organizations (for example, Natheer suggested that CJLO can advertise GSA lower tuition campaign meetings)
- CJLO can help to DJ at events and assist with event planning
- A grad student who also volunteers at CJLO spoke about the benefits of being involved, including that CJLO let him use the studio for his psychological experiences with sound stimuli, and journalism students could do a stage there to build their resume.
- CJLO wants to be more involved than before
- 'The Concordian' newspaper has a show in which they present Concordia news
- Also if any student has an idea for a show there are spaces especially in the afternoons for new radio shows
- Get their funding from the undergraduate student levy as well as some advertising, but don't usually advertise big businesses as try to keep it grassroots.
- Nadia will forward CJLO info from Katie to everyone on council, and Nadia's friend has a show on CJLO so we can promote GSA activities there too

5. Discussion on Orientation Events:

Faisal and Manu presented the outline of planned events and expenditures involved for GSA's Graduate Students Orientation Week (11-18 Sept'09). It is planned to have one party on 11 Sept after the Concordia's graduate student orientation from 5-11 pm at GSA house where alcohol will be served free, one BBQ party where alcohol will be paid, free breakfast for whole week and three movie nights. Funding will be from COI allocated funds except alcohol. In further discussions, issues of timing of party, alcohol and expenditure were argued. It was suggested to look for external sponsors for the events.

MOTION - Natheer - BIRT to have no alcohol at the GSA orientation party. Zafar seconded, 5 people in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion FAILED.

MOTION - Zafar - BIRT to have a time period between 7 - 9 pm with no alcohol at the party. Altayeb seconded, 3 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 abstained. Motion FAILED.

MOTION - Nadia - BIRT have two parties, one on Thursday 7-10 pm for information drop-in and party without alcohol to respect all ethnic backgrounds, and another with alcohol, Friday 5-11pm, with tickets to buy alcohol, and to cancel the Monday movie night and promote the Cinema Politica movie instead. Erik amended the motion, saying instead of charging at the party, we can charge undergrads extra at the BBQ 3\$ for beer (1\$ for grads). Mat seconded the amendment. Zafar seconded the motion. 8 people in favor of amendment. 9 people in favor of motion with amendment, 2 abstained, 1 opposed. Motion with amendment PASSED.

MOTION - Faisal - Allocate \$14,000 (\$10,500 from COI; \$3,500 from GSA) for September Orientation Week. Mathew seconded, 8 people approved, 4 abstained. Motion PASSED.

6. Report on Auditor hiring process and deciding on date of General Assembly

Altayeb looked at the financial statement of last year and informed that they were just reviews and not complete audit. It is just verifying the statements and not checking fraud etc. Mah explained that complete audit is very expensive and will be out of GSA budget. So, it is better that VP-finance prepares a financial report and that report is checked by the external auditor. For next step Altayeb should meet the auditor and make a contract to start auditing last years' accounts.

Mah informed that we have to decide the General Assembly date which should be within four months of mandate. Also, we need to start campaigning 2 weeks before so as to have sufficient attendance for GA to pass.

MOTION - Zafar - BIRT to conduct a General Assembly on Monday September 28th from 12:00-14:00 hrs in the amphitheatre with snacks (pizza and soft drinks), to be advertised in orientation pamphlet and allocate \$1000 for the event. Altayeb seconded, everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

7. Discussion on the proposed survey for graduate students

In the last council meeting, it was decided to have a survey of graduate students' opinions so as to help us figure out how much money to allocate to each activity in our budget. Erik explained the survey that he designed, which had both personal questions and questions

about GSA activities so as to check background of surveyor and prevent any bias. Council discussed which questions to be included and suggested that the question about activities should be first in the survey rather than personal questions.

MOTION - Erik - BIRT a survey committee to be formed comprising Erik, Zafar and Shikui to come to a consensus about the survey for 8th September and for GSA to administer it at orientation, etc. and gather the results by September 28th, with up to \$300 of prizes for filling out survey. Mathew seconded, everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

8. GSA Hiring Committee report for the holding zero-cost classes

The hiring committee comprised of Mah, Manu & Natheer had a meeting last week in which the resumes received by the GSA were sorted based on teaching interest. Manu informed that many people didn't send resumes with email and many were vague queries only, without specifying what they want to teach. So, he proposed to have another precise online form where people can specifically point out the courses that they want to teach. He also informed that to conduct these classes we don't have enough classrooms in GSA. Right now GSA house has only one classroom in basement with maximum seating capacity of 20. To overcome this situation he proposed to turn one of the computer labs into classroom so that GSA can have simultaneous classes.

Until now the GSA has received around 30 resumes, out of which French, English, Spanish, Russian, Greek teachers were interviewed and 4 French teachers and 2 English teachers were short-listed by Manu and Roddy respectively. It was decided to start these classes after orientation week. Manu also informed that it is difficult to conduct these classes at zero cost as there are some ancillary expenses like photocopying, buying books etc. So we should have at least \$1000 allocated in budget for these classes. Mathew suggested that instead from GSA this buffer should be taken as extra fees from students attending the classes. The decision was tabled till next meeting.

9. Report of the Executives

Advocacy Centre: Manu explained that Mah & Manu had a meeting with Dean of Students, Elizabeth Moorey alongwith CSU representatives to explore the possibilities of joint advocacy centre with CSU and funding options. Beth informed that University doesn't have enough funds to sponsor us but recommended to explore community service legal clinics and write a joint proposal for Special CCSL Project for funding for Legal Clinic.

Director's Liability: Faisal met university co-ordinator for liability insurance of GSA Directors. He informed that current insurance is not so comprehensive and does not cover the organizations registered with GSA. So he advised to go for better insurance cover for some extra cost. It was discussed that this extra cost should be cut from departmental allocation as it is for them. Zafar has to follow up with amount and nature of insurance.

10. Other Businesses

CFS-Q Loan: Adrian informed the GSA council about CFS-Q situation and requested loan from GSA till their budget is approved. There would be a legal contract to protect the money.

MOTION - Mathew - to lend the money to CFS-Q with the constraint that if the amount can be transferred from the internal account and having a contract with lawyer. Altayeb seconded, 10 people approved, 2 abstain. Motion PASSED.

Nadia informed about zero cost audit by Sustainable Concordia in order to improve environmental practices of GSA House.

MOTION - Nadia - to have Sustainable Concordia audit of GSA House's environmental and community practices at zero cost. Manu seconded, everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.