

---

**Minutes of GSA Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at GSA House**  
**(4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, 2009-10)**

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

**Agenda of the Meeting:**

1. Call to Order
  - 1.1. Chair's remarks
  - 1.2. Approval of the Agenda
  - 1.3. Approval of Minutes
2. Report of the Survey Committee
3. Conference Subsidy Approval (*added later*)
4. Creating By-Law Committee
5. Report on English and French classes
6. Discussion on Sustainable Audit of the GSA
7. Discussion on Executive Work Hours
8. Mobilization for CFS (*added later*)
9. Reports of the Executives.
10. Other businesses.
11. Adjournment.

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm. Chair praised the good work done by Orientation Committee and Tuition Fee Freeze Campaign.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was unanimously approved after adding following additional points: CFS referendum petition, and Approval of Conference Subsidies.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*MOTION - Manu - BIRT the Council approves the Minutes for first three council meetings with suggestions included from Faisal, Svetla, Erik and Shikui. Zafar seconded. All in favor. Motion PASSED.*

**4. Report of Survey Committee and Budget Committee**

Zafar informed that the Survey Committee completed the final survey format and a Questionnaire was already sent out to graduate students with declaration to give out prizes worth \$300. It is in the form of excel sheet which students need to fill out with their preferences and email back to GSA.

Mah suggested having Budget Committee meeting in two weeks to amend the budget based on the results of Survey. There were discussions whether the current year budget should be based on the survey or not.

*MOTION - Erik - BIRT the GSA sends a reminder to students about the survey in 10 days and gather the results in 20 days. Budget Committee shall analyze the results and present the Budget to Council in next meeting. Faisal seconded. All in favor. Motion PASSED.*

**5. Conference Subsidies**

Faisal informed that there are about 8 approved applications from previous mandate and 16 approved during this summer term. So, he requested to approve \$2500 for these subsidies. Manu suggested that we can approve previous approvals and allocate some budget amount for this year term. Altayeb said that we could approve the whole budget instead of bits and pieces to overcome such problems.

*MOTION - Faisal - BIRT the Council approves \$2500 for conference subsidies of previous year and this year. Zak seconded. All in favor. Motion PASSED.*

**6. By-law Committee**

Mah suggested making a new By-Law Committee to amend the current By-Laws. Altayeb asked why the current By-Laws need to be changed and what is wrong with them. Erik, Svetla and Roddy explained that the current By-Laws were last modified in 1992 and after that there has been no revision. From that time Concordia University has changed a lot and

there were structural issues with the By-Laws. These problems were recognized in last year mandate and a By-Law Committee was formed which worked very hard for 6 months to come up with revised By-Laws. However, these by-laws were not circulated among all graduate students for their feedback and were not approved by last year's council because of lack of time.

Thereafter, there was lot of discussion about the modified by-laws, last year's committee, and how to proceed forward from here in the most efficient manner.

***MOTION - Erik - BIRT last years by-law committee should come to the next council meeting and present the by-laws to council. Council can suggest changes and then it shall be sent to students for feedback.***

***AMENDMENT - Svetla- BIRT the by-law committee simultaneously send the latest modified by-laws to students and executives together to expedite the process. Mat seconded the amendment. 8 favored, 4 against, 1 abstain. Amendment PASSED.***

***Faisal seconded motion with amendment. 9 in favor, 4 against, 1 abstain. Motion with amendment PASSED***

***MOTION - Manu - BIRT the Council creates a new By-Law Committee comprising of Altayeb, Erik, Mah, Roddy, Svetla, Manu and Faisal. Roddy shall be chair of this committee. Mat seconded. All in favor. Motion PASSED.***

Deadline to send mail to students is next Friday.

## **7. Report on English and French Class**

Manu informed that we had very successful French classes in Summer and Fall Classes will start next Monday with 8 groups which have not been completely filled. Also, there are some expenditures related to photocopy and office supplies.

For English classes interviews with candidates have been conducted and teachers have been finalized. Classes shall commence in two weeks time after finalizing the course content and fee for the course.

***MOTION - Manu - BIRT the Council approves \$1000 for French and English classes for whole year. Faisal seconded. 10 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstain. Motion PASSED.***

## **8. Sustainable Audit of GSA**

Nadia arrived to council meeting and explained about the report of sustainable audit of GSA. She requested in order to implement the changes suggested by the report we need to create a separate committee. Nadia left after the motion.

***MOTION - Zac - BIRT the Council creates a GSA environmental sustainable comprising of Zafar, Nadia & Zac and send email to all students for the meeting. Faisal seconded. Everyone in favor. Motion PASSED.***

**9. Discussion on executive work hours**

There were a lot of discussions about executive work hours and reporting to council.

***MOTION - Svetla – BIRT executives give weekly reports to the president, Monthly report at GSA council meetings and 6 hours of office hours in a week. Roddy seconded. 4 in favor, 8 against, 1 abstain. Motion FAILED***

***Amendment 1 – Faisal – BIRT executives work 3 hours per week in the GSA House and give written monthly reports to council. Mat seconded. 10 favor, 2 against, 1 abstain. Amendment 1 PASSED.***

***Amendment 2 – Erik – Executives give weekly reports to Council. Zac seconded. 8 in favor, 5 against. Amendment 2 FAILED.***

***MOTION - Faisal - BIRT executives submit monthly reports one week before council meetings and work for 3 hours per week in GSA House as office hours. Mat seconded. 11 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstain. Motion PASSED.***

**10. Mobilization for CFS**

***MOTION - Erik - BIRT to have council support the circulation of a petition which requests the Canadian Federation of Students to hold a referendum with the GSA membership to evaluate whether Concordia graduate students want to continue their membership in the organization. Zafar seconded. All in favor. Motion UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.***

Erik informed that in order to have referendum, GSA requires 10% of its membership to sign. He requested support from all the directors to get these signatures.

**11. Executive Reports**

Because of lack of time it was agreed that all the executives to provide written monthly report for September to the Council within week.

***MOTION - Svetla - BIRT executives to provide monthly report for September within a week. All in favor. Motion PASSED.***

**12. Other Businesses**

***MOTION - Svetla - BIRT salary of counselors to be provided within a week after the meeting. Everybody in favor. Motion PASSED.***

**13. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.**