

GSA Council Meeting  
January 27, 2010  
5:00pm at GSA House

Present – Svetla, Sussan, Nadia, Natheer, Zach, Al-Tayeb, Mah, Mat, Roddy, Shikui, Erik, Faisal  
Absent – Manu, PeiPei

Agenda – approved unanimously  
Approval of minutes – approved once Manu formats appropriately.

### **QPIRG Presentation – Jaggi, Youssef, Tasha**

Historical perspective – involved in series of campaigns and 20% of users are graduate students. These include students working on projects, summer grants, and community outreach. Board includes two graduate students and the Community University Research Exchange (CURE) has many graduate students involved. QPIRG asking for money to continue building and expanding this relationship. The GSA and QPIRG have a good relationship with GSA members including participation in orientation week and a recent walking tour. Future projects include working with Engineers Without Borders and the Sustainable Business Conference with JMSB students. Youssef indicates it allows him to meet with other researchers, graduate students, and other activists to further his research. Jaggi states that the amount they are asking for is reasonable (1\$ per member per year) as they are aware of the considerable financial difficulties graduate students face.

### **Discussion –**

Erik – This just a referendum thus I propose the following:

***BIRT, we grant QPIRG the ability to ask graduate students to vote on their fee levy question in our next election as presented to council. Zach seconds.***

### ***Resolution passes unanimously.***

Nadia – Forum against Police Violence and Impunity will occur for first time in Montreal January 29-31 and marks the first time communities, students, and community groups will get together to discuss these issues. This is an important event as it gives our members who study police violence and/or minority communities who often face increased levels of police surveillance and violence.

Zach – Are the organizers students at Concordia?

Nadia – Yes, some of them are.

Mah – Did they receive funding from any other sources.

Faisal – You should apply for a SIP – as it is project based and students are involved

Erik – A graduate student involved can apply for a SIP

Mah – We have already give 1000\$ for sponsorships – 500\$ to Social Science Conference and JMSB MBA competition.

Shikui – Students are involved?

Nadia – yes, there are graduate students involved

Nadia proposes

***BIRT that the GSA sponsors 100\$ to the Forum against Police Violence and Impunity. Erik seconds.***

***Motion passes 8 in favour, 1 against (Mat) and 2 abstentions (Mah, Sussan)***

Erik – A psychology student has approached me to ask for support for an event to raise money for Haiti.

Roddy – I am against contributions to faith-based organizations.

Svetla – Some of these organizations do wonderful things.

Roddy – It is personal, council can vote as it sees fit.

Erik proposes the following

***BIRT the GSA support A special night event: Haiti's rebirth Project: Love for Humanity Quebec  
Nobody seconds – motion fails.***

Mah – we should make a donation to Haiti, can we discuss now?

Assent provided.

Mah – Svetla can you provide information about Partners in Health

Svetla – Yes, this organization provides direct care to organizations on the ground, providing direct medical aid through a central hospital in Port au Prince and a dozen satellite clinics in the earthquake zones.

Shikui – Is there any way we can directly donate to students?

Svetla – Haitian Student Association is doing a lot of work – collecting clothes etc. however they are donating to Oxfam, who are already well-funded and bureaucratic and the money will take a lot of time to get to those who need it. Cinema Politica decided to donate to a smaller organization.

Faisal – We have already advertised this event as free booze and food – we do not wish to ask people to pay, even a donation, after we have already advertised as free.

Shikui – Did we approve the budget for orientation?

Svetla – But then if we provide three free beers we are still satisfying the free element.

Zach proposes

***BIRT that GSA council member collects suggested donations to go to Haiti disaster relief effort during the GSA orientation party. Sussan seconds.***

***Motion passes 9 members for and 2 against (Mat and Faisal)***

Svetla further proposes

***BIRT all funds raised from party and 500\$ from GSA go to Partners in Health.***

***Motion passes 7 for, 3 against (Mat, Faisal, Al-Tayeb) one abstention (Shikui)***

Mah – we must strike a committee to hire CRO – who wishes to be part of committee.

***Roddy proposes***

***BIRT that Mah, Al-Tayeb, and Svetla form the committee to find CRO candidates for the upcoming election and recommend a minimum two candidates for February council meeting. Erik seconds.***

***Passed unanimously***

Mah – we must also have the new by-laws in place for member consideration – Roddy where do we stand.

Roddy – By-Law committee will meet next week

Mah proposes the following

***BIRT that the new by-laws be presented to council 7 days before our next council meeting. Erik seconds.***

***Passed unanimously.***

Mah – We must also set the date for the General Assembly. Thus I propose:

***BIRT that the 2009-10 General Assembly will be held March 4, 2010 at 2pm. Members will be notified of this seven days in advance and new by-laws will be provided at that time as well. Zach seconds.***

***Passed unanimously***

Al-Tayeb – Budget committee resolved the CFS-Q and CFS-N issues and departmental allocations are paid. Third quarter report will come as outstanding issues with ASEQ are resolved. They indicate we have a deficit and owe them money.

Erik – this has been going on for some time

Mah – over ten years...

Al-Tayeb – Student accounts cannot figure out total deficit amount.

Erik – Once you receive word from student accounts can we talk so we can settle this?

Al-Tayeb – Yes.

Mah – if we are to have the General Assembly, we must hire an auditor to look over our expenditures.

Svetla – yes, this is important

Mah proposes:

***BIRT that we empower the Budget Committee to locate and engage the lowest-cost accredited auditing company to perform our annual financial review as soon as possible. Shikui seconds***

***Passed unanimously***

Faisal – Report of VP external hiring committee

Erik leaves room.

17 applications for VP External

1 application for SIP

3 applications for both

Faisal will distribute CV's to committee and they will propose a minimum of 2 candidates for February council meeting.

Erik renters room.

Zach – Sustainability Committees – reviewed audit and requires 50\$ for light bulbs.

Erik – I can introduce Zach to people who are working on a green month for Concordia.

Zach – I have 500\$ to spend and can allocate to different environmental initiatives on campus or improve GSA house.

Erik – No need for a resolution as it is a budget item and Zach is responsible for expenditures.

Erik – MSATI – Link coverage and President will participate in a public consultation. CFS-Q provided 4,000\$ for tuition actions.

Erik proposes the following

***The CFS-Q money (4000\$) will be managed by the GSA under the budget line Campaigning and only be used for tuition campaign expenses any surplus existing as of May 31, 2010 will only be earmarked for future tuition campaign expenses. Roddy seconds.***

***Motion passes unanimously***

Other business –

Faisal - What is happening with co-op bookstore?

Mah – The money was not collected as was not ratified at Board of Governors.

Svetla – This is wrong, we must do something for them as they have budgeted for the year assuming they will have this money.

Al-Tayeb – It is possible we will have some surplus from other areas

Svetla – Can we take a loan for the amount?

Faisal – Then we will be in a constant state of debt to the University.

Mah – It is an item to be discussed at the next Board of Governors meeting, I will see if there are any alternatives.

***BIRT Pending outcome of BOG meeting ratification of previous year's referendum question concerning the co-op bookstore, council will explore methods to remedy GSA contribution to co-op bookstore in the February meeting. Zach seconds.***

***Motion passes 7 for 2 against and 3 abstentions.***

Roddy moves to adjourn – Zach seconds  
Passes unanimously.