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**GSA Council Meeting**  
**Friday, August 15, from 5:00PM-8:00PM**  
**OLD Location: GSA House**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business
  - 3.1 Chair's Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet (3 mins)
  - 3.2 Council Attendance (Jon Summers)
4. Approval of Minutes from July 9 Council meeting: <http://gsaconcordia.ca/minutes-varia/councilminutes/>
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I – Page 2 (50 mins)
  - 5.1 VP Mobilization
  - 5.2 Councillor Appointments
  - 5.3 Accreditation Update
  - 5.4 Budget Update
  - 5.5 Retreat Update
6. New Business, Appendix I - Page 3 (20 mins)
  - 6.1 Motion regarding the Israeli offensive in Gaza (Jon Summers)
  - 6.2 GSA T-shirts (Jon Summers)
7. Reports, Appendix II - Page 4 (20 mins)
  - 7.1 Advocacy Manager
  - 7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
  - 7.3 Service Manager
  - 7.4 Finance Manager
  - 7.5 President
  - 7.6 VP External
  - 7.7 VP Internal
  - 7.8 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, etc.)
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
  - 8.1 Communications Committee (Jon Summers)
  - 8.2 Academic Committee (Suryadipta Majumdar)
9. Other Business (5 mins)
10. Adjournment

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## Appendix I – Motions

### *Council Business*

#### 3.2 Council Attendance (Jon Summers)

**Whereas** Vivek Kumar, Councillor for ENCS, has been absent without notice from the last 2 council meetings

**Whereas** repeated absences harm the council's ability to attain quorum, perform business, and fulfill its responsibilities to the GSA membership

**Whereas** Article XVII, Section 2 of the bylaws states that "A director may be dismissed by the council in the event of two (2) unaccounted absences from council meetings"

**Be it resolved that** Vivek Kumar be dismissed by the council

### *Business Arising*

#### 5.1 VP Mobilization

Need to clarify the councillor's intention with this tabled item.

*Be It Resolved That the Council hire a temporary staff to do the VP mobilization job until next council.*

*Moved by: Firas / Seconded by: Harkirat*

*Motion to table Motion CO-20140709-05 until July 30.*

*Moved by: Firas / Seconded by: Jonathan*

*Motion carries*

#### 5.2 Councillor Appointments

#### 5.3 Accreditation Update

#### 5.4 Budget Update

#### 5.5 Retreat Update

Draft Agenda for GSA Council Retreat (August 2014)

#### 9:30am Welcome

With coffee/tea/muffins & Icebreaker (fun activity)

#### 10:00am-12:00pm Team Building

Part 1: Solidarity/Sensitivity Training (QPIRG Concordia)

How to be respectful in working together and building a more inclusive GSA.

Part 2: Collective Well Being

How many people around us burn out, are depressed, or completely overwhelmed by everyday

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struggles and family life? This workshop will be a space to reflect on collective well-being, emotional labor and self-care, to share stories, ideas and practices to create accountable and sustainable communities. It will be a moment to think about what are our needs surrounding those issues, and to take charge of the strategies that are already in place or could be implemented regarding collective well-being and self-care.

12:00-12:30pm Break for Lunch

12:30-2:15pm Capacity Building

Part 1: How to read the GSA budget/financial statements (Roxana, GSA Finance Manager)

Part 2: How to approach non-profit financial decision making (David McNeil-Chairman of the Board of the Pop Montreal Festival, Treasurer of CKUT Radio and of Santropol Roulant)

2:15-2:30pm Break for coffee/tea/cookies

2:15-3:45pm Representation & Engagement

Part 1: How to be a student representative (an interactive roundtable on best practices with former Execs and Councillors)

Part 2: Break out in to working groups for step-by-step planning (how to go from an idea to engaging students)

3:45-4:00pm Closing (fun activity)

*New Business*

6.1 Motion regarding the Israeli offensive in Gaza (Jon Summers)

Whereas the State of Israel has been widely recognized by the global community as a colonialist, apartheid state that contravenes international law in its treatment of the Palestinian people;

Whereas the State of Israel has, since July 8, been launching an offensive against the people of the Gaza Strip that has killed over 700 and injured more than 4,500, many of whom are children and other civilians, in addition to destroying homes, schools, hospitals, and key infrastructure;

Whereas Prime Minister Stephen Harper of the Conservative Party of Canada has been unrelenting in his support of the State of Israel, as have Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and NDP leader Thomas Mulcair;

Whereas the GSA has an existing mandate from the General Assembly to support the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel;

BIRT the GSA reassert its support for the BDS campaign against the State of Israel;

BIFRT the GSA denounce in the strongest possible terms the colonialism and the segregationism of the

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State of Israel as well as its ongoing assault on the Gaza Strip;

BIFRT the GSA also denounce those political leaders who support the actions of the State of Israel;

BIFRT the VP External and the Campaigns Committee work with other groups to organize events and mobilize GSA members on this issue.

**6.2 GSA T-shirts**

Whereas the GSA requires greater visibility among the student population, especially considering its upcoming accreditation drive;

BIRT the VP Internal have GSA t-shirts produced for councillors, executive, and staff by September 2, 2014;

BIFRT these t-shirts be made from organic cotton in sweatshop-free conditions.

**Appendix II – Reports**

**7.1 Advocacy Manager**

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**7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate**

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**7.3 Service Manager**

Hi everyone,

There is not a lot new to report on from my end this past month since I took my vacation in July. Now that I'm back, I've been following up on requests that we've been making for orientation. One thing that I've been working on is finding a better location for the first fall general assembly, as requested at the last council meeting. I contacted Hospitality Concordia and they have put us on a waiting list for H-439 for the same time as our other booking – Thursday October 2nd from 6-9. If there is a class that needs to happen in this room, we won't have access, but if not, we will have priority. Another option is I have submitted a request for the CSU 7th floor lounge space for 2 days earlier, the evening of Tuesday, September 30th. The space is available that evening and our request just needs to be approved by security.

Also, to clarify since I think there was some confusion at the last council meeting when I was away: M100 at the Grey Nun's building where the GA has been booked for originally is not at Loyola – it's downtown on St-Mathieu near Rene Levesque.

I am currently working on getting final approvals for university space bookings for BBQ etc, so that we can soon start to promote and invite community groups and workshop facilitators to get

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involved.

Something of interest to councillors is that there will be a training session provided by the Dean of Students on September 3rd that will help prepare us for orientation. If you want to become SIP certified – meaning that you are allowed to serve alcohol at our events, this is a place where you can receive that certification.

I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you better and to build our skills together as the busy time of the year is fast approaching.

Best, Liz Colford

7.4 Finance Manager

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7.5 President

### **Accreditation committee Report**

Friday July 25th

Attendants: Roddy, Houda, Jawad, Jonathan, Marilou, Korosh

The meeting convened at 11 am and the following action items were decided:

- 1- BIRT amongst other available options, accreditation process will be done by Kokobi as per GSA council resolution.
- 2- BIRT the accreditation will be done under the conditions and framework of the current available signed contract with Kokobi.
- 3- BIRT the original dates proposed in the current contract is the most suitable and convenient time frame to reach the goals of Kokobi accreditation campaign.
- 4- BIRT the GSA will communicate with Kokobi about their campaign staffing needs and ask for the number/percentage of hiring from GSA members.

### **GSA meeting**

2 Executive meeting ==> 2 meetings on (July 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) ,Executive reports were forwarded to all the directors

### **Collective agreement**

The subcommittee meeting was attended by only president and VP external, in order to involve more council an update e mail was sent, Korosh joined the subcommittee.

### **Summer budget**

Attendants: Roddy, Houda, Jawad, date : July 24<sup>th</sup>



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1- Summer budget revised and approved to be presented in the council meeting.

### **Action Plan**

The GSA executive's Visioning and Planning goals for 2014-2015 were set to be approved and updated by the council,

#### **1) Increasing volunteer opportunity:**

We need to improve communication regarding volunteering opportunities at the GSA. Newsletter will be an important medium of communication for this purpose. Besides, advertisement of GSA shall be placed at different places in Concordia campus, and a volunteer appreciation process will be developed. VP mobilization and Xiao will be in charge of community awareness campaign for this purpose.

#### **2) Student Engagement:**

Increase communication with departmental associations and the department or Faculty administrations to promote GSA initiatives. Organizing social events for students with different interests, and serve students from different communities. Scheduling class visits to increase awareness regarding GSA services.

#### **3) Increasing Advocacy Support**

Roddy shall make a report outlining overall advocacy services available at the GSA and his visions regarding additional advocacy support services he feels necessary for GSA members.

#### **4) Department association Advocacy**

Trevor shall follow up

#### **5) Marketable Skill Building**

A document will be made for GSA council members outlining the nature of their involvement required by the association. This will also describe how they can develop certain skills along the way.

#### **6) Making GSA Less "Bro" (Women in GSA)**

Organizing more women friendly events at GSA and making sure to make an environment that encourages women involvement at the GSA.

#### **7) Tuition Hike Awareness**

Creating awareness among grad students through different means. Translating documents, exploring different similar issues in other universities.

#### **8) Social + Environmental awareness**

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Sustainability efforts. Trevor should follow up.

### **9) Strengthening communication with department and Faculty**

GSA shall increase communication with the departments and faculty to get information regarding various events.

#### 7.6 VP External

1) Met with John Molson Graduate student association:

Met with JMGSA executives in GSA house and discussed how both the associations can work together in the common areas of interest. Guided JMGSA's VP communications about how to fetch the email contact list of their members. The president of JMGSA assured to support GSA in its accreditation drive.

2) First Executive meeting (16th July):

In the meeting, Updates were given, committee work and committee steering, Executive visioning and planning (Action plan) was formulated. Please refer the minutes for more details.

3) Graduate student support program (GSSP):

Had a meeting with Catherine Mulligan (Associate dean of school of graduate studies) discussed the issues and difficulties faced by grad students because of the delayed payments and asked her to look into the matter more precisely and take the needful actions such as provide respective departments graduate advisors the needful training and ask the professors to give matching money to students equivalent to GSSP fund.

4) Met with ENCS students regarding GSSP:

Updated the students as well as got feedback with the concern students about the GSSP.

5) Second Executive meeting (23rd July):

Please refer the minutes for more details.

6) Met with ECSGA president:

Discussed how GSA and ECSGA can strengthen their relationship and on which endeavors both the associations are on the same page and can work together for example promoting GSA's advocacy service.

7) Met with VP internal of The Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ):

Analyzed how GSA can seek the opportunities while working with FEUQ as non-member as well as a member. Following are the FEUQ's objectives:

- Represent Quebec's university student associations and their members on all relevant bodies and in every pertinent venue, in order to assert their positions.
- Bring concrete improvements to the passage of Quebec's university students throughout their studies by working on issues capable of improving the quality of teaching, supervision, and

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support provided to them.

-Provide the most complete information possible to Quebec's university student associations and their members about the dossiers treated and the means to improve the living conditions of Quebec's students.

-Favor unity within the Quebec student movement.

**8) General assembly:**

According to the mandate given by GSA Council to locate a room for Fall GA in SGW campus,  
Asked Liz to look into it.

**9) Budget Committee:**

Attended the budget committee meeting and drafted the summer budget.

**10) Accreditation Committee:**

Attended the accreditation committee meeting where committee decided to go as per the norms mentioned in the contract and further details will be followed up in the committee report.

**7.7 VP Internal**

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**7.8 Other reports**

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