



CD-1022

**GSA Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 6:00-9:00PM
Location: GSA House**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business (10 mins)
 - 3.1 Chair's report (see Action Items) & Attendance Sheet
4. Approval of Minutes from October 9th Council meeting: Attached
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I – Page 2 (30 mins)
 - 5.1 Increased representation for marginalized groups (with amendment from Marilou)
 - 5.2 Bylaw changes: Composition of the Council of Directors & BoG reporting
 - 5.3 Connecting with Faculties
 - 5.4 Golden Key International Honour Society
 - 5.5 GSA Twitter
 - 5.6 Budget Committee (report and budget)
 - 5.7 Students Against Pipelines
6. New Business, Appendix II - Page 11 (55 mins)
 - 6.1 Apology (Korosh)
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
9. Other Business (5 mins)
10. Adjournment

Appendix I – Motions

Council Business

3.1 Chair's Report

ACTION ITEMS

Gretchen will implement the action list and follow up with Roxana on presenting updates to council on the requests made at the retreat.

Sean will provide motion to AGM on Council Honorarium (?)

Trevor will provide motion for AGM on Endorsing the Student Against the Pipelines (ECO)

Bylaw committee will discuss BOG representative, their independence, who should fulfill this role.

GSA Committees: 1) Chair of each committee announce to committee members the date and time of each meeting at least 3 days in advance and submits committee meeting minutes; 2) Communications Director announces publicly committee meetings that are open to the GSA membership; 3) SOMEONE (?) will make a Google drive account be made and shared among all the council members, to have access to all the ongoing committee endeavors as well as previous meeting minutes. *See full motion (CO-20141009-19) for details.*

Dept Manager and GSA President will support the inclusion of DOEIGSA members in the DESC Space Committee and monitor the situation to ensure that the Faubourg building is renovated to meet students' needs.

SOMEONE will circulate the proposed GSA budget.

Business Arising

5.1 Increased representation for marginalized groups (with amendment from Marilou)

Whereas the GSA is committed to securing equity for members of marginalized groups disproportionately excluded from full participation in the academy, in the university bodies, in the GSA board of Governors, in the GSA internal committee and the GSA staff;

Whereas the GSA recognized that such marginalized group include but are not limited to Aboriginal people, women, visible minorities, person whose first language is neither English or

CD-1022

French, person with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and 2-spirited persons, Francophones at Concordia University;

Whereas the GSA is supporting the goal of equity which is to achieve inclusiveness and social and economic justice through recognition, respect, numerical representation, accountability, responsibility and the development of balanced, healthy and harmonious working and social environments;

BIRT that the GSA will collaborate with other equity groups and offices on campus to achieve the goal of equity;

BIFRT that the GSA will organize a Special Council Retreat on Equity and Diversity to be held in January 2015 and that the Council will invite all GSA members, equity groups and offices on campus to participate to the retreat;

BIFRT that GSA Bylaws committee will revise and create new bylaws according to the propositions that are going to be voted during the Equity and Diversity Special Retreat General Assembly;

BIFRT that the Equity Special Retreat is accountable to the Event Budget and that the Budget committee will allocate found no later than November 28th 2014.

AMENDMENT:

Be It Further Resolved That The Equality Retreat Committee Meeting is open to the GSA membership at large and be announced publicly by the Communications Director, where possible, through Facebook, the website, Twitter, and the newsletter.

Notes:

1. SCHEDULE for the Special Retreat on Equity and Diversity

MORNING: Round table with groups and offices representatives + Brainstorming of ideas on how equity and diversity should be function into the GSA governance structure.

The councilors and participants will discussed on how inside the GSA governance structure, equity and diversity representation could be formulated within the different structures of GSA such as the board of governors, the executive, the staff, the external and internal committee appointment, etc., ...

AFTERNOON: Special Retreat General Assembly.

CD-1022

For better efficiency during the day-retreat, participants will send motions one week in advance though a list of participant.

Each equity groups and offices from Concordia campus will have one vote, each councillors and executive will have one vote. We will need to hire a chair and a secretary. Note that only participants registered in advance will attend the Special Retreat).

2. Note about systemic discrimination

The systemic discrimination results from normative practices and the commitment to equity begin with the acknowledgement of inequity and demands proactive redress. Equity guarantee all people the freedom to realize and fulfil their potential, free from restrictions:

See more about the Canadian Association of University Teacher policy and statement about equity: <http://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-equity>

See more about the Post Graduate Student`s Society at McGill University policy on equity and diversity: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/equity-committee>

5.2 Bylaw change: Composition of the Council of Directors & BoG reporting

5.2.A Council Composition

Whereas the GSA acknowledges that the Council of Directors is subordinate to the General Assembly;

Whereas the GSA recognizes that the composition of the Council of Directors must reflect that of its membership, but that larger faculties should be prevented from dominating the Council and that smaller faculties should be afforded a greater voice, in order to encourage the participation of members from those faculties;

Whereas the GSA, recently and in the past, has had some difficulty filling all the seats on its Council of Directors and achieving quorum at Council meetings, which reflects poorly on the association and hinders its ability to serve its members;

Whereas a smaller Council will run more effectively and efficiently, and be able to provide a closer oversight of the work of the Executives and Staff, although there must remain enough Directors to adequately represent the GSA membership;

CD-1022

Whereas the number of students in each faculty has shifted in the past few years, while the number of Council seats designated for each faculty has remained the same;

Be It Resolved That Article V, Section 5 of the Bylaws be amended prior to the 2015 general election to state that -

The allotted seats shall be distributed on a basis of proportional representation according to the following formula:

**1-500 students, 1 Director;
501-1200 students, 2 Directors;
1201-2100 students, 3 Directors;
2101-4200 students, 4 Directors;
and so on**

Using the numbers from the winter semester, this would give 4 ENCS; 3 A&S; 2 JMSB; 2 FA; and 1 indi (for a total of 12 Directors).

Be It Further Resolved That all clauses in the Bylaws that require four (4) Directors from different faculties be amended to three (3) Directors from different faculties, considering the smaller overall number of Directors;

Be It Further Resolved That the 2015 GSA Council of Directors respect this new formula and be composed of 4 ENCS Directors, 3 Arts & Science Directors, 2 JMSB Directors, 2 Fine Arts Directors, and 1 SIP/Interdisciplinary Director (for a total of 12 Directors).

5.2.B Board of Governors Reporting

Whereas the bylaws committee has met and approved the following bylaws changes;

BIRT section IX.1.6 is amended by shifting the responsibility for BOG report to BOG rep

5.3 Connecting with Faculties

Whereas graduate students in Arts & Science and Fine Arts are not currently represented by faculty associations, and are dramatically underrepresented on Council;

CD-1022

Whereas the GSA wishes to support and empower the smaller departmental associations that represent students in Arts & Science and Fine Arts;

Whereas the GSA seeks increased dialogue and closer collaboration with and between the departmental associations, which will ultimately lead to their improved representation and participation in the GSA;

BIRT the VP Mobilization and Departments Manager organize a GSA Arts & Science Congress and Fine Arts Congress in collaboration with Directors from each of these faculties;

BIFRT the Congress bring together elected representatives from all departmental associations within a faculty, with each association receiving one vote;

BIFRT motions passed at the Congress be non-binding on the GSA, but that Directors from the respective faculties be obligated to attend and use these motions to orient their work on Council;

BIFRT a Congress be held for each faculty at least once during the Fall semester and once during the Winter semester, and at least 14 days before or after any General Assembly.

5.4 Golden Key International Honour Society

Whereas many students have received an invitation to pay \$90 to join the Golden Key International Honour Society, in an envelope from the Dean of Students' Office;

Whereas the Dean of Students has reported that invitations to this supposedly exclusive society have been sent to as many as 2344 graduate students this year;

Whereas the Dean of Students has also reported that the mail-out is not handled by his office but by a third party;

Whereas GSA members have expressed concern about the legitimacy of this society, as well as about their privacy and the confidentiality of their personal information;

BIRT the GSA request that the university stop distributing students' personal information to outside parties without their explicit consent;

BIFRT the VP Academic/Advocacy and Advocacy Manager follow up to ensure a prompt resolution to this issue.

CD-1022

5.5 GSA Twitter

Whereas transparency, engagement and accountability are high priorities in GSA;

BIRT the communication manager hours be increased by 5 hours a month to manage the GSA official twitter account according to the following strategy.

- 1) *Aim for 1 or 2 tweets a day. (Acknowledging that 2 tweets could be rare)*
- 2) *Ensure that councilors active on twitter about GSA have some more exposure by retweeting GSA related posts (obviously councilors should tweet mentioning the GSA official account to get that exposure more efficiently than asking the communication manager to fetch)*
- 3) *Posting policy and principles have to follow the principles of facebook use (in terms of politeness... etc)*
- 4) *Council to be live tweeted. Motions, motives for and against (and who said what= accountability) and humor.*

5.6 Budget Committee (report and budget)

Report attached.

Budget (*coming soon*)

5.7 Demands of the Students against the Pipelines (ECO: Etudiant(e)s contre les oleoducs)

Be it resolved that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) of Concordia University endorse the following statements:

We, the Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University, call for the following:

- *That pipeline projects in Québec be blocked, notably with the intention of stopping the extraction and movement of tar sands and bitumen;*
- *That fossil fuel exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Québec be terminated;*
- *That indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, be recognized;*

CD-1022

- *That the emission of greenhouse gases contributing to dangerous greenhouse concentrations into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity;*
- *That our society transitions towards a fossil fuel free society by 2050;*
- *That our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-carbon economy.*

Be it Further Resolved that the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) of Concordia University join Students Against the Pipelines/Étudiant(e)s contre les oléoducs.

Demands of the Students Against the Pipelines

We, the Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University, call for the following:

- That pipeline projects in Québec be blocked, notably with the intention of stopping the extraction and movement of tar sands and bitumen;

That pipeline projects in Québec be blocked, notably with the intention of stopping the extraction and movement of tar sands and bitumen, because there is a clear and direct link between the development of pipeline projects and the development of the fossil fuel industry. More pipelines simply mean more oil and gas output,¹ and not reduced transport by truck, train or boats, as the fossil fuel industry would have us believe. We cannot let the fossil fuel industry produce even more: already, in 2011, the Canadian emissions from the oil and gas sector was 163 Mt CO₂ eq per year, and they are projected to account for over a quarter of Canada's emission in 2030.² Worse, most of this increase can be blamed on the tar sands.³ The development of the tar sands in particular is shocking: Environment Canada estimates that their emissions will “nearly triple between 2005 and 2020, growing from 34 Mt in 2005 to 101 Mt in 2020.”⁴ Tar sands producers also plan to nearly triple their production between 2012 to 2030.⁵ We cannot let this happen: blocking their pipelines projects is imperative.

¹ Erin Flanagan and Clare Demerse, “Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline: A Preliminary Assessment”, Pembina Institute, 2014. <<http://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-east-climate-implications.pdf>>

² Canada, “Canada’s Sixth National Report on Climate Change: 2014”, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

² ~~Canada and Canada's Sixth National Report on Climate Change submitted 2014 to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.~~
<http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/can_nc6_br1_eng_rev.pdf>

³ Erin Flanagan and Clare Demerse, “Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline: A Preliminary Assessment”, Pembina Institute, 2014. <<http://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-east-climate-implications.pdf>>

⁴ Environment Canada, “Canada’s Emissions Trends: October 2013”. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/985F05FB-4744-4269-8C1A-D443F8A86814/1001-Canada's%20Emissions%20Trends%202013_e.pdf>

⁵ Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, “2013 Crude Oil Forecast, Markets & Transportation”, (2013), i.<<http://www.capp.ca/getdoc.aspx?DocId=227308>>

CD-1022

- That fossil fuels exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Québec be terminated;

We demand that oil and gas exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Québec be terminated, because we recognize the warning of the International Energy Agency that “no more than one-third of proven reserves of fossil fuels can be consumed prior to 2050 if the world is to achieve the 2 °C goal”,⁶ and do not want Québec to be complicit in the destruction of our climate. The same report assesses that, because of infrastructural inertia, we only have until 2017 to cease development of new fossil fuel infrastructure if we are to stay below the global-warming guardrail of 2°C. We have to stop developing fossil fuel now, or else it will be too late. Putting the economy before the well-being of our world and of the population is short-sighted, ill-advised, and criminally negligent.

- That indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, be recognized;

We demand that indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, be recognized, because it is both a legal and moral obligation. The rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples is entrenched in section 35(1) of the Canadian Constitution. The courts have reiterated this obligation many times,⁷ and has reminded us “that governments and others seeking to use the land must obtain the consent of the Aboriginal title holders”. A Nation to Nation trust has to prevail, which is dependent on the respect of the rights of those whose land we are colonially occupying.

- That the emission of greenhouse gases contributing to dangerous greenhouse concentrations into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity;

That the emission of greenhouse gases contributing to dangerous greenhouse concentrations into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity because it directly harms human health and the environment of our planet. The decisions of shortsighted politicians and industrialists that cause the deadly consequences of climate change should be interpreted as crimes under the law and not go as it currently stands without legal repercussions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of a plethora of direct consequences of climate change, including natural disasters, damage to infrastructures and settlements, destruction of fragile ecosystems, disruption and destruction of food and water supplies, causing thirst and famine, displacement of people, increased risks of violent conflicts,

⁶ International Energy Agency, “World Energy Outlook 2012”.
<<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/publications/weo-2012/>>

⁷ *R. v. Sparrow*, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 1075; *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, [1997] 3 S.C.R. 1010; *Tsilhqot’in Nation v. British Columbia*, 2014 SCC 44.

CD-1022

and morbidity and mortality, all especially prevalent for already at-risk populations and areas, usually the poorest.⁸ Causing any of these would be a grave crime, and rightfully denounced by the international community. The people and corporations responsible for the emissions which cause climate change need to be held accountable for their actions. Already a growing number of countries, amongst them Kenya, Ethiopia, and Ecuador, have constitutionalized the environment as a human right, or even granted the environment rights of its own. Their example is one to follow.

- That our society transitions towards a fossil fuel free society by 2050;

We demand that our society transitions towards a fossil fuel free society by 2050, because it is the only responsible way to address the current climate crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that “continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.”⁹ We hear their call, and recognise the need to follow suit in a timely fashion. This is not an unattainable goal: Denmark is already well on its way,¹⁰ and pathways to do so have been prepared for Canada.¹¹ We simply have to muster the political will to do what is right, what is needed.

- That our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-carbon economy.

We demand that our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-carbon economy, because as students, we know these institutions to be vectors of change. Universities are unique places where research and teaching meet, and where the limits of knowledge are expanded, independent from the governments, self-governed. Already at the forefront of the work done on climate change, universities can easily be empowered to help ourselves shed off our dependence to carbon. Rather than trying to create new structures, we believe that enabling the ones already in place to do more would be most beneficial to our chances of effectively tackling climate change, and change the world we live in.

⁸ Working Group II, “Summary for Policymakers”, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects*, Fifth Assessment Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/>>

⁹ Working Group I, “Summary for Policymakers”, *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*, Fifth Assessment Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, p. 19. <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>>

¹⁰ Denmark, “Independent from Fossil Fuels by 2050”. <<http://denmark.dk/en/green-living/strategies-and-policies/independent-from-fossil-fuels-by-2050/>>

¹¹ Chris Bataille, Jacqueline Chan, Dave Sawyer and Richard Adamson, “Canada Chapter”, *Pathways to Deep Decarbonization: Interim 2014 Report*, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations. <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/DDPP_interim_2014_report_Canada_chapter1.pdf>



CD-1022

New Business

6.1 Apology (Korosh)

Whereas promotion of our night club activities included the phrase "free for ladies," leading to complaints about it being sexist and insulting;

BIRT the GSA apologize and promise to be more selective with where we host events as to make sure we do not participate nor promote discriminatory policies;

BIFRT the GSA team (council and exec) issue this apology in the GSA in the newsletter.