



CD-0324

**GSA Monthly Council Meeting (MCM) -- Monday, March 24, 6:00PM to 9:00PM,
PLACE: Hall Building H-769 / **PLEASE PRINT YOUR OWN COPY****

DRAFT AGENDA

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm
1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business (5 mins)
 - 3.1 Chair's report (see Action Items and motion over ruled by chair)
 - 3.2 Update from Bylaws Committee (see draft bylaws for discussion at April MCM)
4. Approval of March 6th & 9th Council meeting minutes (attached)
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I (90 mins)
 - 5.1 Elections campaigning and the GSA FaceBook Page
 - 5.2 GSA rep on external bodies getting honorarium
 - 5.3 Exec/staff reports due 48 hours before Council agenda
 - 5.4 GA anti-mobilization investigation and report
6. New Business (40mins)
 - 6.1 Re-opening the Call for Applications for a Finance Manager (Isabelle)
7. Reports, Appendix II (15mins)
 - 7.1 Service Manager
 - 7.2 Advocacy Manager
 - 7.3 President
 - 7.4 VP Mobilization
 - 7.5 VP External
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
 - 8.1 GA Planning
 - 8.2 Equity Retreat
 - 8.3 Student Life
 - 8.4 election judicial committee
9. Other Business (5 mins)
10. Adjournment



CD-0324

3. Council Business

3.1 Chair's Report

ACTION ITEMS: [Link to Google Sheet: http://tinyurl.com/k2qgray](http://tinyurl.com/k2qgray)

COUNCIL ARCHIVE: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r9jkozt2yvj9u3w/AAA5BP6yK2uXsOApNcOxQ4vda?dl=0>

I received a request to add the following motion to the agenda:

*I want to add one motion for 9th march council meeting about Election Eligibility criteria. "Article XIV-Elections (Section 10) and Article XVIII-Eligibility for Office"
I want this By Law must be follow for all candidates who wants to go for the election this year. Candidate who will complete his/her degree before summer (term-1) 2016 will not go for the election this time.*

Article XVIII regarding Eligibility for Office reads:

A person is eligible to sit on the G.S.A. Council or become a member of the Executive if she or he is a G.S.A. member in good standing (as per the criteria laid forth in Article III) for the full duration of her/his term in office.

I understand this bylaw already fulfills the motion being presented. **If councilors wish to overturn my ruling that this is a frivolous motion, then please motion during the adoption of the agenda to move this motion into the agenda. A simple majority vote will add this item to the agenda.**

3.2 Bylaws Committee Update

Last fall, Council struck a committee to overhaul the bylaws. After an initial restructuring, the committee went through each section and revised for clarity or made changes to enhance democratic practices at the GSA. Some sections have suggestions that are presented in tables, and a couple of sections have words or clauses in red because there were concerns raised, but no consensus on how to move forward. We are asking council to review this document and add your comments before the April Monthly Council Meeting. We hope to announce this consultation period at the AGM so please inform your constituents about these redrafted bylaws. Thanks to everyone who helped with the drafting process: Caitlyn, Megan, Isabelle, Jon, Keroles, Trevor and David.

REVISED BYLAWS ([link](#) & attached)

Appendix I – Motions

Business Arising

5.1 Elections campaigning and the GSA FaceBook Page

BIRT Electoral candidates running for any position at the GSA are barred from campaigning on the GSA FaceBook page.

5.2 GSA rep on external bodies getting honorarium

5.3 Exec/staff reports due 48 hours before Council agenda

Whereas staff/exec reports are received with the council packet, after the deadline for council motions;

Whereas having these reports beforehand would give council the opportunity to provide better input and make better more informed decisions on behalf of all GSA members;

BIRT Exec/staff reports shall henceforth be submitted via gsaconcordia@lists.resist.ca a minimum of 48 hours before council motions are due so that motions can address items in reports.

5.4 GA anti-mobilization investigation and report

Whereas the GSA has failed to meet quorum at the last two General Assemblies;
Whereas some GSA members have reportedly been actively encouraging members not to attend GSA General Assemblies;

BIRT the VP Mobilization be mandated to investigate the motivations behind this anti-mobilization campaign;

BIFRT that the VP Mobilization shall investigate the other reasons why quorum has not been met at the last two General Assemblies;

BIFRT that the VP Mobilization shall include his findings in his next report to council along with his proposed solutions to these issues.



CD-0324

New Business

6.1 Re-opening the Call for Applications for a Finance Manager (Isabelle)

Whereas the GSA is funded by its members and is therefore accountable to its members;

Whereas the GSA can best serve its members through responsible spending, sharing budgets and financial reports with its members in a timely manner in accordance with our bylaws, and being as transparent as possible about its finances;

Whereas the Finance Manager plays an important role in carrying out the aforementioned practices and therefore requires a person with the competence, knowledge, and integrity necessary to perform these functions, and furthermore, as per article 11.1 of the GSA bylaws "staff positions shall be made available exclusively to members of the G.S.A.";

Whereas the call for Finance Manager went unnoticed by many of our members;

BIRT the call for Finance Manager shall be re-opened for a period of 5 days;

BIFRT the call for Finance Manager shall be sent out in a separate email with the subject line "The GSA is Hiring a Finance Manager";

BIFRT this call shall be posted on social media in order to better reach members who may not be on our email list;

BIFRT the Hiring committee shall meet and select a candidate before the April council meeting.

Appendix II – Reports

7.1 Service Manager

Hi everyone,

Since reading week the two main things I've been working on have been planning for the general assembly and for the tubing trip that happened on March 14th. I continue to work on preparing for the general assembly and I imagine that we will all be in the thick of it when we meet on Monday. I am taking care of finding staff and booking space for mobilizers, as well as all the room booking details with hospitality as usual.

Since Roxana's departure, I have also taken on cheque-signing duties on an interim basis and I am also helping out with other financial duties in this in-between time. It's a steep learning curve for me and I'm excited to be developing new skills in the financial realm.

So you can come to me for now if you have any financial needs.

I'd also like to take this moment to congratulate other members of the team on organizing the arts & science congress. Great initiative, guys. If anyone wants some support to organize something similar for departments under-served by GSA, I'd happy to support these kinds of efforts.

Best,

Liz

7.2 Advocacy Manager

Hi everybody,

It has been a busy month as we went down to the wire with the CFS case, which I am happy to say was finally resolved and is now marked with a giant "Closed". Onto other things now, advocacy cases take up much of my time at this time of year as there is a confluence of students who are being notified they cannot register due to non-payment and do not know where to turn and the usual few who find themselves in contravention of the academic code of conduct. The latter though is dropping thanks to a more proactive approach by several departments brought on by a 2,5 year campaign to convince them to formalize their approach.

Our newsletter open rates continue to be very good, even for an organization with strict membership criteria and they regularly come in at a close to 40% open rate. If I am late by a day or two, I sometimes receive e-mails wondering where it is, so that is encouraging. Our Facebook group recently surpassed 4,000 members that, considering

CD-0324

the CSU has 6,700 and are 5 times, would indicate our presence is quite healthy.

As we move towards exams, I wish all of you well. I will leave you with several other issues I believe that Council could engage with, these are but a few ideas that it seems we could take action upon, but there are of course many others.

1. A response to Alan Shepherd's strategic document. The language used within their everyday conversation places the onus on the individual and is placing a Concordia degree more as a personal investment as opposed to a societal enterprise. This is very dangerous step as the next sentences to emerge from the President's office will likely be student should "pay for value" which opens the door for tuition and fee hikes. The GSA should not cede this important early battleground. We should work assiduously to position a different, more inclusive, view of education.
2. Recruiting for next year. Elections. They are important. Help out.
3. Planning an academic event, likely too late, but maybe something in May? Last year we had the PQ Charter of Values - what can we do this year? What issue can we address - Austerity is staring us in the face - I am sure we could get the PQ, Quebec Solidaire and likely Projet Montreal to come in and talk about Austerity along with a professor to debate the role of corporate taxation in our society - <http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/quebec-liberals-expand-tax-breaks-for-big-investors-1.2230336>
4. A GSA Code of Conduct. We have bounced this around for a couple of years and it has never gained traction. What does it mean to act with respect in a learning environment?
5. Solidarity with striking workers in Toronto – our TA colleagues at York and UofT are on the picket lines, it would be a great gesture to send them a letter of support or better yet a video if all of us chanting "SOLIDARITY, NO CONTRACT NO WORK!"

As always, do not hesitate to contact or refer students to me should you encounter any who are experiencing problems. I am also always on the lookout for things to add into our weekly newsletter so if you come across anything you feel other graduate students



CD-0324

should know please send them along.

514-969-6163 and advocacy@gsaconcordia.ca

Roddy

7.3 President

President's Report February and March

Prepared by Houda Madnourne for Presentation to GSA Council of Directors' Meeting

March 9th 2015

1. Human Resource Management:

- 1- The finance Manager resigned on the 2nd week of February, the signing authorities were changed, and call out was sent to hire a Finance managers with QuickBooks skills and finance management experience , meanwhile, Liz is in charge of providing the actuals , signing the cheques
- 2- The collective agreement document was translated in French for 0, 22 \$ / per word for a total of 10 841 words.
- 3- E.chavrier was appointed by CSU as the CFS case manager for both GSA and CSU according to the agreement of 75/25 I negotiated with CSU President.
- 4- I requested Roddy to work on all the documents required by the lawyers, and coordinate with E.CHAVRIER during the month of February to prepare all the evidence needed.
- 5- A call out was sent for CRO , the hiring committee should meet early this week, the only problem is 5 people are needed to reach quorum and we are only 3 in the hiring committee who are not running for the next elections. Council should appoint 2 people to join the hiring committee for this matter.
- 6- The CRO was hired by the hiring committee on Friday March 13th ,
- 7- All the contract for CRO and DRO are signed.

2. Accreditation Appeal

- 8- Met with P.Blais to cover all the point of the appeal, and the documents that we need to gather for the hearing.
- 9- Met with the dean of student , and explain how we conducted the process of Yes campaign,
- 10- Worked with D. Clos-Sasseville to respond to all the point of the appeal.
- 11- Attended with D. Clos-Sasseville the hearing and provided responses and evidences to all the questions asked by the committee

CD-0324

- 12- The accreditation appeal induced extra 1 to 1.5 K dollars (I have not received the invoice yet) that we need to pay to KoKObI, because the contract did not cover the appeal.
 - 13- KOKOBI send an invoice of 1400 for the accreditation appeal.
 - 14- The hearing committee have not reported, they will report by March 22nd
3. CFS Case (March)
- 15- Met with the lawyers Roddy and Eric to review the numbers that Roddy found and compare them to the CFS numbers, and decide on the amount that the lawyers will use for the settlement.
 - 16- Called all the councillors for the urgent council meeting held on 06th March.
 - 17- Negotiated with Concordia CFO the possibility to get a loan with 2% interest over 3 to 4 years , the contract will be signed on March 9th ,more details will provided in the next report.
 - 18- Signed the CFS settlement on Friday 6th March.
 - 19- Signed the contracts the loan contract with university on March 8th, the settlement took place on March 11th, and we are officially not a member of CFS.
 - 20- Met with the president of Concordia regarding Concordia`s strategic plan for 2016 ,
 - 21- Will meet with the dean of student on March 19th regarding the strike mandates.

7.4 VP Mobilization

Congress for Arts & Science and Fine Arts:

After a successful Arts and Science congress now I am focusing to organize a Fine Arts congress. In order to make it happen I have approached Fine Arts Councilor, unlikely she has refused as she is not a councilor anymore. So I made calls to all Fine Arts departmental execs but only few have responded. I have asked David to send an email to all departments of Fine Arts faculty and see whether they are interested or not.

Executive Committee Meeting:

Discussed about the action plan for the rest of the semester and reported about the progress of upcoming GA and congresses.

GA Planning:

Currently, I am extensively focusing on the mobilization strategy of upcoming GA. After



CD-0324

the failure of 1st GA I came up with some different plan of mobilization to get people into the GA and their engagement. Regardless of hiring people for calling campaign I have hired people and trained them for the mobilization of GA. I have made the schedule and designed in a way that the GA message could be reached to almost every graduate. From 20th March till 26th March I will be doing class announcements and tabling at Hall building and EV building to interact with people and let them know about the importance of GA. I am targeting to cover almost every faculty and stressing to mobilize graduates about the importance of Anti-Austerity and a brief GA procedure kit including links to important documents like agenda and bylaws (how to vote, propose motions, etc).

Posters have been posted all over the university, and flyers will be distributed in the following week. David will send targeted emails to department association representatives asking them to share the information with members, as well as targeted emails directly to members.

BDS Committee Meeting:

BDS committee meeting has been called twice and discussed on some effective ideas for creating a momentum again in BDS campaigning. GSA has endorsed Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) 2015, and allocated \$500 to support this initiative. GSA Logo was on the flyers and GSA name was included in callouts.

Survey for GSA:

Survey concerning about GSA feedback from their members is still in progress, It was supposed to be started from March 18th but it has been prolonged due to the reformation of questions in order to get more precise and meaningful data. Hopefully, it would be sent out in April. It is a simple survey to check what GSA members think about our services and what exactly they feel and how much they know about GSA.

As some councilors have already given their suggestions and if anyone else want to join and have any suggestions regarding this survey so he/she is most welcome.

7.5 VP External

A. *GSA day to day:*

1. Executive committee meeting:

Reported on the progress of my endeavors and discussed things relevant to my action plan!

CD-0324

2. GA planning committee:

Involved in the GA planning committee, working in parallel with VP mobilization on it, and also will become a part of mobilization for this upcoming GA, more information about the GA planning can be found in VP mobilization's report.

3. BDS committee:

After facilitating 2 consecutive meetings with the committee and carefully reviewing the GSA's BDS mandate, a formal motion to endorse Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) 2015, and to support this initiative by funding it with \$500 was passed. The conditions put forward by the executives about having GSA Logo and GSA name on promotion material was respected.

B. Core Work related to action plan (External):

Campaign against Opus card age discrimination:

Finally we got an acknowledgement from STM that they are reviewing the petition!!! The opus age discrimination campaign is moving smoothly, As I mentioned in my last report a letter was drafted to forward to STM, so after meeting with the externals of different student associations and discussing the scope of this campaign we got them on board, up till now we have PGSS, CSU and Polytechnic, (SSMU still not confirmed) on board. A Co signed letter was forwarded to the main actors of STM, of which we got an acknowledgement stating that they are reviewing the petition and will let us know the availability of the actors, in order to discuss further.

Invigilation opportunity in Mc gill faculty of law:

After discussing with Student Affairs Coordinator at McGill Faculty of Law, we were fortunate that they agreed to make invigilation job opportunity available for Concordia Graduate students. She did not give me the exact number of Concordia graduates they are going to recruit, but hopefully, I am expecting it to be more than 10 students!

Anti-Austerity:

Wine-beer and politics:

We have scheduled an event "wine beer and politics", (probably on April 2 or 3 depending on when we get the alcohol permit), the theme of the event will be to give information about the structure of GSA, and also we are planning to call few guest speakers to speak about the Austerity.