

CD-0420

**GSA Monthly Council Meeting (MCM) -- Monday, April 20, 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)
  - 3.2 Decisions of Funding Committee (attached)
  - 3.3 Motions within Advocacy Managers report (Stance against the austerity cuts, Solidarity with the UQAM students, & May 1 Demonstrations)
  - 3.4 Motion from member K. Riad
4. Approval of March 24th Council meeting minutes
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I (90 mins)
  - 5.1 Discussion on draft circulated by the Bylaws Committee (attached)
6. New Business (40mins)
  - 6.1 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Reducing Executive Bursaries (Sapandeeep)
  - 6.2 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Hours Log Book (Sapandeeep)
  - 6.3 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Term in Office (Sapandeeep)
7. Reports, Appendix II (15mins)
  - 7.1 Service Manager
  - 7.2 Advocacy Manager (attached)
  - 7.3 Campaigns/Departments Manager
  - 7.4 President
  - 7.5 VP Mobilization
  - 7.6 VP External
  - 7.7 VP Internal
  - 7.8 Academic Advocacy (attached)
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

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### 3. Council Business

#### 3.1 Chair's Report

*ACTION ITEMS:* [Link to Google Sheet: http://tinyurl.com/k2ggray](http://tinyurl.com/k2ggray)

*COUNCIL ARCHIVE:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r9jkozt2yv9u3w/AAA5BP6yK2uXsOApNcOxQ4vda?dl=0>

This month's packet is available in the council archive.

This motion seemed to be tabled in the last minutes:

*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 over turn 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 Funding Committee Decisions

*See minutes attached.*

#### 3.3 Motions within Advocacy Managers report (Stance against the austerity cuts, Solidarity with the UQAM students, & May 1 Demonstrations)

*See report attached.*

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### **3.4 Motion from member K. Riad**

Whereas election regulation section III-2 states that the judicial board has 48 hours to address appeals

Whereas Keroles Riad's appeal was submitted on Saturday the 4th and as of now, Friday the 10th, a time for the appeal has not been determined despite the fact that 48 hours have already passed including more than 2 business days.

Whereas the regulation clearly outlines a timeline where candidates have 3 days to appeal and the board has 2 days to convene, it is easily predictable that elections timeline must accommodate at least 5 days after the announcement of results for the appeal process. The proximity of Easter holidays to elections was an organizational failure.

Whereas GSA does not even have a complete judicial board in place.

Whereas the candidate has the right to due process and a fair hearing that can NO LONGER be provided as the regulations have already been violated by the board.

**BIRT the appeal be automatically accepted and that the CRO's decision of disqualification be overturned.**

**BIFRT the CRO announces that Keroles Riad has won council's INDI seat by acclamation.**

**BIFRT the CRO announces how many votes the candidate received in the senate race and adjust the results accordingly if necessary.**

## Appendix I – Motions

### *Business Arising*

#### **5.1 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.

**[Link to draft Bylaws from Council Archive](#)**

### *New Business*

#### **6.1 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Reducing Executive Bursaries (Sapandeeep)**

BIRT the bursary provided to the executives of GSA shall be reduced from \$1100 per month to \$900 per month.

BIFRT the saved \$200 per executive shall be used for Graduate student's professional development and accordingly adjusted in next year budget by the budget committee.

#### **6.2 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Hours Log Book (Sapandeeep)**

BIRT the working hours of the executives shall be recorded by keeping a new log book in the GSA office and a weekly e-mail shall be circulated by the office manager to all the graduate students providing information about the working hours.

#### **6.3 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Term in Office (Sapandeeep)**

BIRT Executives cannot take a paid leave from work.

BIFRT Executives will be eligible for bursaries only if they complete a minimum of 20 hours a week in the GSA office. In case of conflict, office manager's weekly report will have the final say.

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BIRT If any Executive leaves his/her position before the end of his/her term in office (1 year), he /she needs to return 25% of the amount earned as bursaries at the time he/she leaves the position.

## Appendix II – Reports

### 7.1 Service Manager

Hi everyone,

March was a busy month so thank you to those of you who helped out, especially with the general assembly. A lot of my energy over the past month went towards GA planning. As well, since I have been taking on financial responsibilities on an interim basis, I've been teaching myself to understand GSA financial systems to make sure that we're up to date on that end.

Now that the general assembly is over, I've had a chance to follow up on other things like making sure the university has all the information needed from us for the end of their fiscal year so that we receive all the funding we had applied for (for orientation). I've also been in touch with ASEQ to settle up with them with our fees.

Now that elections are complete, I'm going to be focusing on giving the new execs and council support and knowledge to take on their new roles.

All the best,

Liz

### 7.2 Advocacy Manager

*See report attached.*

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### 7.3 Campaigns/Departments Manager

Dear Councillors,

With March comes GSA Winter funding. With each funding round, a big part of my work is to receive the applications, make sure they are eligible and meet the basic requirements of the funding policy, prepare the documents for the Funding committee and coordinate the organization of the meeting, then in the meeting I act as minute taker and answer questions regarding the policy. For this round we had 7 application for Academic funding and 3 for Special project for a total of 3200\$ in Academic project and 1500\$ in Special project. There is one group that have yet to meet a requirement but the committee decided that if they manage to meet it the money should be awarded. With the packet you will receive the minutes of the meeting as well as the list of applications.

Regarding the Departmental and Faculty association allocation, most of them have applied and received it. We have experienced some problem with internal transfer with the allocation as well as with the funding, we should consider keeping it to cheques. In the month of March and early April some department contacted me for help with by-laws or the get a chair for their meeting.

An idea that could be interesting to implement would be to gather a list of individual interested in chairing Departmental association GA making it easier for them to find someone. It would be service that GSA could offer and I think it would be appreciated. GSA as also clubs under its umbrella, the rules in the current by-laws are not well defined. I have been in contacted with members that wanted to start clubs and I think it would be interesting to write a guide on how to start a club under GSA. That's something that I could do during the summer.

If you have any questions do not hesitate,

David Clos-Sasseville, [gsa.department.advocate@gmail.com](mailto:gsa.department.advocate@gmail.com)

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## 7.4 President

### 1. Human Resource Management:

- 1- The deadline for finance manager position is on the 24th ,
- 2- A budget assessment meeting is scheduled with Roddy and Liz on the 15th April, will provide council with updates on the council meeting.
- 3- Gave the go to GSA enrollment in ASEQ plan,

### 2. Accreditation Appeal

- 1- Met with the dean of student regarding the accreditation appeal on the 30th march
- 2- Send a follow up e mail to the accreditation appeal committee to get updates about their decision

### 3. Elections

- 1- Observe the election process and collaborate with the CRO to make sure that the elections are successful.
- 2- Working with Gretchen to convene a judicial committee meeting to address K.Riad Appeal.

## 7.5 VP Mobilization

### GA Planning & Mobilization:

Focused on planning and mobilization of 26th March General Assembly. Regardless of hiring people for calling campaign I have hired people and worked along with them for the mobilization of GA. The motive behind hiring 3 people is to cover as much classes as possible for the announcement of GA and to educate people with the impact and the effects of austerity on their education. Class visits were done from 20th March till 25th March and tabling at Hall building to interact with people and explained them the importance of their verdict for the Anti Austerity motion on GA agenda. I targeted to cover almost every faculty and stressing to mobilize graduates about the importance of Anti-Austerity.

### BDS committee:

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BDS Committee meeting with cross campus BDS committees like SPHR Mc Gill, and SPHR Concordia was held at GSA house last week. The core discussion of this meeting was that how to create a BDS momentum again in students in order to get more participation of students in future. The main motive of this meeting was to decided strategies how these on campus groups can work together, what can be the scope. Soon two more meeting will be called and planned about the teach-in programs and speaker series.

**Anti-Austerity:**

GSA endorsing the demonstration against austerity measures in Education, health, childcare, and many other sectors. Students and workers will unite and stand against austerity on 1st May at Norman Bethune square at 5 pm. Mobilizing graduate students by interacting them and letting them know the importance and issues they may face in future in their studies.

**ACT on Climate March:**

GSA endorsed the movement of climate change and participated in the climate march as a part of Concordia contingent and headed to Quebec City on 11th April. Mobilized students and made them aware of the issues that cased by the extraction of unconventional oil from the tar sands. Around 45 students registered but unfortunately not all of them showed up.

## **7.6 VP External**

**A. GSA day to day:**

**1. Executive committee meeting:**

Drafted a motion to participate and rent a GSA bus for “Act on Climate March” which was organized on April 11th in Quebec City. Since it was time sensitive and few executives were having exams during those days the motion was unanimously adopted on the email chain.

**2. GA Mobilization:**

Worked along with mobilizers for 26th march General assembly, Did tabling in Hall building, the intention was to educate the graduate audience about austerity implications on education and explained them the importance of their verdict for the



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Anti Austerity motion on the GA agenda. We distributed flyers as well GSA mugs during tabling. More detailed information about GA mobilization can be found in VP mobilizations report.

**3. BDS committee:**

A cross campus BDS meeting was held at GSA house on April 8th, the participants were GSA BDS Committee, SPHR Mc Gill, and SPHR Concordia. Since this was the very first cross campus meeting, the committee decided to strategies how these on campus groups can work together, what can be the scope, should they organize a combined teach in sessions etc. the intention of the groups were trying to schedule two short meetings, relatively close together, to have the first discussing proposals and ideas to coordinate strategy and specific targets for BDS in Montreal this summer (and beyond).

**4. ACT On Climate March:**

Across Canada the mining and transportation of unconventional oil from the tar sands has become a dominant issue. To the west ferocious opposition has stalled the Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline projects in their tracks, while to the east almost half a million dollars has already been raised by community groups preparing to fight Transcanada's proposed Energy East tar sands pipeline. The act on climate march was organized by a Canada-wide climate coalition spearheaded by Quebec's environmental movement and supported by organized labour, community and citizen groups, student associations, social movements and Indigenous Nations and communities.

GSA participated in the climate march as a part of Concordia contingent and headed to Quebec City with 5 buses, there was a single bus dedicated for GSA membership and almost 45 members registered. It was a family friendly demonstration. The demands were simple no new tar sands pipelines, No Keystone, no Energy East, no Kinder Morgan, No Northern Gateway.

**5. Funding Committee:**

Participated in Funding Committee, more details about the decision made can be found in Departments managers (David) report.

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

Campaign against Opus card age discrimination:

Finally my hard work pay off!! After almost 4 months finally the STM folks want to meet

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the members of Coalition on 17th April to discuss our proposal, more information will be provided soon.

**Anti-Austerity:**

May 1st- Downtown west gathering – student and workers united against austerity (MAY DAY) Solidarity 2015 have organized this demonstration against austerity measures in Education, health, childcare, and many other sectors, on May 1st 2015 at Norman Bethune square (corner of GUY and Maisonneuve) at 5 pm. GSA is endorsing the event and may contribute between \$50-\$100 for food or any needful logistics.

**7.7 VP Internal**

1. Candidates Meet - Upon request of CRO, GSA elections 2015-26, I had communicated with other execs and gave 500\$ to CRO for the event. He organized an event for candidates to present themselves in Caffein.
2. Funding committee meeting - We had funding committee meeting. We had reviewed more than 10 applications. The meeting minutes can be found in Departmental advocate's report.
3. Finance Manager - Council had increased the deadline for the hiring finance manager. But I am looking into the applications GSA received till now.
4. Funding allocation - Most of the associations had got their funding. Some were left and they applied for it. I looked into their bylaws, previous finances and elections and then gave confirmation to departmental advocate to write them cheques.
5. Office Improvement - I told Aurup to change the curtains for office, lab and classroom. It's gonna cost 890\$.
6. Semester End Party - I am working on it. It is planned at the end of this month.

**7.8 Academic Advocacy**

*See report attached.*