



CD-0731

**GSA Regular Council Meeting -- Friday, July 31, 6:00PM to 9:00PM,
PLACE: GSA House / **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 Appointment of Chair

4. Approval of June 29th Council meeting minutes

5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I (90 mins)

5.1 Summer Budget

5.2 Health and dental insurance update

5.3 Advocacy Center Resource Allocation

5.4 Vacant Advocacy Manager Position

5.5 Vacant Service Manager Position

5.6 New Filing System

5.7 CFS case conclusion briefing (Closed session)*

5.8 Appointment of Chair and Secretary (Closed session)*

5.9 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)*

5.10 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)*

6. New Business (60mins)

6.1 Fall 2015 General Assembly

6.2 Research Committee

6.3 Repeal FB Campaign Ban

6.4 Recording Minority Votes

6.5 Monthly Council Meetings

6.6 Council Tasks

7. Reports, COUNCIL ARCHIVE¹ (30mins)

7.1 Department/Campaigns Manager

7.2 Finance Manager

7.3 President ([LINK](#))

7.4 VP Academic Advocacy

7.5 VP Internal

7.6 VP External

7.7 VP Mobilization

8. GSA Committee Appointments (20 mins)

8.1 Appointments/academic committee

¹ https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uj8qqgbxwvn22kr/AAAqFGPwkimd_5ZaDhhv5wIWa?dl=0

CD-0731

- 8.2 Funding
- 8.3 Bylaws
- 8.4 Research
- 8.5 BUDGET committee
- 8.6 Insurance committee
- 8.7 Communication committee
- 9. Other Business (5 mins)
- 10. Adjournment

Appendix I – Motions

Business Arising

5.1 Summer Budget

See LINK: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/kq72aqugjt9ilg/Finance Manager July Report.docx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/kq72aqugjt9ilg/Finance%20Manager%20July%20Report.docx?dl=0)

5.2 Health and dental insurance update

There was supposed to be a motion for GSA to bear the cost of the increase in the health and dental insurance I the last council meeting. This was not passed because of insufficient information. This should be on the agenda though it is not possible.

5.3 Advocacy Center Resource Allocation

5.4 Vacant Advocacy Manager Position

5.5 Vacant Service Manager Position

5.6 New Filing System

5.7 CFS case conclusion briefing (Closed session)*

5.8 Appointment of Chair and Secretary (Closed session)*

5.9 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)*

5.10 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)*



CD-0731

New Business

6.1 Fall 2015 General Assembly

6.2 Research Committee Motion

Whereas council has the authority to create committees and delegate unto them the powers and tasks that it chooses to.

Whereas it will be in the interest of the GSA to conduct a research to assess the overall impact of the current cuts on graduate students and graduate studies at Concordia.

Be it resolved that a Research committee be struck composed of a minimum of 5 Graduate students at large involved in similar studies.

Be it further resolved that the hiring committee be mandated to appoint qualified students to this committee, and a supervisor to supervise the research.

Be it further resolved that a honorarium be paid to the researchers on the acceptance of a report, which should be submitted at the conclusion of the research within a 2 month period.

6.3 Repeal FB Campaign Ban

Whereas GSA follows the direct democracy model where the emphasis is on the idea that everyone has an influencing voice, freedom of speech is crucial and the idea that we can tell members what it is they can and cannot say within the GSA community cannot be reconciled with. Just as crucial is students' informed and effective engagement that can best be facilitated via access to information and transparency.

BIRT Motions CO-20150216-06 (Facebook policy) and CO20150324-04 (fb campaigning ban) be repealed.

BIFRT the following text “

a. All campaign materials prior to distribution shall be approved by the C.R.O. This includes any and all:

i. Printed materials

ii. Electronic communications, including e-mail, personal websites and other external websites.

iii. Any other form of communication not outlined within.

”

be stricken from election regulation and replaced with “Slander, false allegations and name calling are grounds for disciplinary measures up to disqualification at the discretion of a non-prejudiced judicial committee that has to be convened within two business days of a complaint

CD-0731

filed within a maximum of three business days of the alleged offense. Lack of due process negate all consequences of the complaint”

BIFRT Council meetings and GAs be live tweeted and live streamed as arranged by VP mobilization. A twitter account is maintained by VP mobilization (1-2 tweets/day).

BIFRT motion CO-20141022-09 (old live tweeting motion) be stricken.

Addendums

Motion (CO-20150216-06) As amended

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council approves the following policy statement:

Welcome to the Facebook group of Concordia’s Graduate Student Association (GSA)! We encourage the active participation of all grad students in our community. In order to keep this a friendly and respectful space for our members, the following rules have been put in place:

- no racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory comments
- no slanderous accusations against anyone in our community
- no advertising for large, for-profit businesses, for those not managed by GSA members, **or for those not in line with GSA mandates**
- no **“spamming”** or frequent posting of the same thing

FIRST OFFENSE: the offending post will be deleted. SECOND OFFENSE: post deleted and the user will be removed from the group. THIRD OFFENSE: post deleted and the user will be permanently blocked. The offenders will be messaged each time a post made by them is deleted explaining the reason.

(This policy was approved by the GSA Council of Directors on _____.)

Motion CO-20150324-04

BIRT the GSA prevent students from campaigning for elections on the GSA’s official facebook group’s page

Motion CO-20141022-09

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

Be It Resolved That 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.

6.4 Recording Minority Votes



CD-0731

WHEREAS GSA membership have the right to know how their representatives on council vote to keep them accountable.

BIFT Minority votes in council must be recorded

6.5 Monthly Council Meetings

WHEREAS bylaw article (V-8) states “. Council meetings shall be called at least once per month. One half (1/2) of the sitting directors shall constitute quorum. Meeting dates for each semester will be established within ten days of the of the start of the semester save summer, when the new council will establish summer meeting dates ten days after assuming office”

BIRT All future monthly council meetings are the last Saturday of every month.

BIFRT VP internal be mandated of booking a conference room for those councils.

BIFRT monthly council meetings dates and room are indicated in GSA agenda, website, newsletters and social media.

6.6 Council Tasks

WHEREAS each council meeting costs over \$1000, efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting must be prioritized as well as a follow up mechanism on its decisions must be established.

BIRT a task list, a living document, be established of executives' action plan, council motions of actions along with the leading executive/staff responsible for the action, a deadline and the deciding motion number. This task list is an Excel file maintained by Council's chair.

BIFRT Each executive and staff's report must include a progress update on each action the respective person is responsible for.

BIFRT an oversight committee of a minimum of 5 councilors from each group (ENCS, A&S, FA, JMSB and INDI) be formed to review executives and staff's reports and task list at least 10 days before each council meeting and make a recommendation to council with respect to their bursaries.

BIFRT Executives and staff's reports as well as the task list must be updated on the website the day following the oversight committee's meeting and included in council's package.

BIFRT older task list motion CO-20141009-04 (older task list motion) be stricken.

Addendums

Motion CO-20141009-04

That an action item list be created from council minutes and followed up on under council business at each meeting.

CD-0731

Reports

See COUNCIL ARCHIVE²

7.3 President

President's July 2015 report

During the month of June we started the planning process for our activities we plan to undertake and projects we wish to execute. Some of the committees which were struck by council during the June regular council meeting are now assisting us in the planning process and in the performance our duties. Our main focus has been on the fall 2015 Orientation. We are also working towards restoring services that will be beneficial to our members and improving the quality of our language classes. Other projects we wish to complete are the GSA advocacy center, the GSA Café, an upgrade of the GSA website and a GSA job bank the will help our members find opportunities. We have been focused on our objectives despite some minor distractions which we encountered. Some of my activities during the month and my contributions towards our goals are listed below.

Canada Day Event – Completed

We hosted an event to celebrate Canada day at the GSA house on June 30, 2015. Between 80 and 90 students attended this event.

Eid Celebration – Completed

We hosted an event to celebrate the Eid at the GSA house on July 30, 2015. More than 230 students attended this event.

Fall 2015 Orientation – In progress

I had several brainstorming session with other executives on the orientation. We made a list of activities and their respective dates, which was proposed to the student life committee. We also agreed on a draft orientation budget, which was presented to the committee. I booked the spaces for our Orientation events.

July 15, 2015 – Meeting with Laura at the Dean of Student's office. The VP Internal was in attendance.

July 30, 2015 – Meeting with Yuliya at the International Students Office (ISO)

GSA Lounge Renovation – In Progress

I have given authorization for the commencement of the renovation of the GSA lounge. The renovation works will start on August 3, 2015 and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

July 9, 2015 – Meeting with Property Manager (Concordia Facilities Management), Interior Designer (Concordia Facilities Planning and Development), and the Contractor (Etoile Construction).

July 20, 2015 – Meeting with the Interior Designer (Concordia Facilities Planning and Development). The VP External and VP mobilization were present at the meeting.

New Filing System – In Progress

Last month I stressed the importance of a new indexed filing system. I will be proposing the appointment of a graduate student to help facilitate the implementation of the new filing system.

² https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uj8qqgbxwvn22kr/AAAqFGPwkimd_5ZaDhhv5wIWa?dl=0

CD-0731

I had a meeting with the coordinator of the work study program on July 15, 2015. I made an application for a work study project which was approved. This provide an opportunity for an international student to gain some experience.

Internal Controls – In progress

The planning process to strengthen and improve the internal controls of the GSA is in progress. The internal controls were discussed during the budget committee meeting.

GSA Café – In progress

I am currently compiling the requirements for the operation of a GSA Café. The Café will provide free coffee to our members as well as make sales which will generate additional revenue.

GSA Advocacy Center – In progress

I am working with the VP Academic towards the establishment of the GSA advocacy center. This is a service which students voted for in a referendum. This service will be able to commence after the suspension of the appointment of an advocacy manager, allocation of resources for the advocacy center and the appointment of a coordinator for the center. I will continue to ensure that students receive advocacy services in the meanwhile.

July 3, 2015 – Meeting with the coordinator, CSU Legal Information Clinic. The Vice President Academic and Advocacy was in attendance.

GSA French classes – In Progress

I worked with the VP Academic on a Survey which will be used to get feedback from students who have taken GSA French classes in the past. This will help us identify all we need to improve.

Printing and Copying Service – In Progress

I had phone conversations and meetings with two representatives from Xerox to get additional quotations to purchase a better copier which will provide subsidized printing and copying services to our members. We also plan to purchase an A3 colour printer to reduce our costs of printing posters and flyers by producing them in house.

GSA Senate Caucus - Planned

We plan to hold a senate caucus meeting in the coming week with all graduate student senators.

Committee Meetings

I attended meetings of the committees listed below.

Executive Committee – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

Student Life Committee – July 6, 2015 and July 30, 2015.

Campaigns Committee meeting – July 9, 2015.

Budget Committee – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

Hiring Committee – July 23, 2015 and July 31, 2015(to hold).

Other Activities:

GSA Newsletter – produced and distributed GSA newsletters during the month of July.

GSA staff meeting – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

June 30 – Meeting with the President CUPE local 4512. The VP Internal was present at the meeting.

July 15, 2015 – Meeting with the Alumni Officer, Students & Young Alumni of the Concordia University Alumni Association. The VP External was in attendance.