



Graduate Students' Association

Concordia University · 2030 Mackay · Montreal QC H3G 1N1 · 514.848.2424 x.7900 · gsaconcordia.ca

CD-1109

Minutes

GSA regular Council Meeting

September 13, 2013, GSA House

Attendance

Chair: Gretchen King

Secretary: Alex Matak

Voting Directors: Tariqul Amin (ENCS), Claude Fachkha (ENCS), Karthikeya Nadendla (ENCS), Paramveer Singh Mann (ENCS), Vinoth Ramaiah (ENCS), MJF Rupom (ENCS), Nishant Walia (ENCS), Malapati Arundeeep (ENCS), Holly Nazar (Arts and Science), Audrey Dahl (Arts and Science), Trevor Smith (Arts and Science), Sara Breitreutz (Arts and Science), Biagina-Carla Farnesi (Individual/Humanities), Genevieve Moisan (Fine Arts), Elliott Rajnovic (Fine Arts), Monique Boudreau (JMSB), Vivek Wadhwana (JMSB), Stavros Athanasoalias (JMSB)

Non-Voting Directors: Mohit Kumar (President), Vignesh Shankar (Vice-President External), Nasim Changizi (Vice-President Internal)

Observers: Jamie Goodman (Finance), David Clos-Sasseville (Campaigns/Dept. Advocate)

Absent: Poya Saffari (Arts and Science)

Documents

GSA Council Meeting 13 September 2013 Agenda

Draft Minutes of council meeting on August 20, 2013

Appendix I: Reports

President Report

VP External Report

Finance Manager Report

Advocacy Manager Report

Department and Campaigns Advocacy Report

Service Manager Report

Board of Governors Representative Report

Academic Planning Committee Representative Report

Appendix III

Motions:

Others:

Summary of proposed GSA bylaw changes

Response from Lawyer

Association Registration Summary

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am

2. Adoption of agenda

- **Motion** to accept agenda **Passed** Unanimously

Mover: Sara, Seconder: Biagina-Carla

- **Motion** add point about Quebec charter of values **Passed** via consensus (Added as 6.5)

Mover: Holly, Seconded: Trevor

- **Motion** to switch 6.4 and 6.3 **Passed** via consensus (added to “other business” council meeting transparency)

- **Motion** to switch 6.0 motions to be 6.0, and 6.0 reports to be 6.0 **Passed** via consensus

- **Motion** to move Eric's (BOG rep) report to 3.2 **Passed** via consensus



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- **Motion** to move “reports” to end of meeting because of time sensitive agenda items
Passed via consensus

3. Council Business

3.2 BOG report given. Themes: Raised rent in dorms/other problems with housing, raised salary of president, and deregulation of tuition for certain programs.

- **Motion:** BIRT this report be given to the campaigns committee for review to determine whether campaigns can be developed around arising housing issues and the deregulation of tuition for certain programs **Passed:** Unanimously

Mover: Sara, seconded: Claude

- NOTE: BOG meeting next Thursday at 5:30 pm

3.3 Motion: BIRT that Elliot resigns from GSA Council, as of 11:30 am September 13, 2013.

Passed: unanimously

- Elliot will talk with fellow fine arts councillor and try to recruit a new GSA rep to be elected at the upcoming GSA GA.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion:** BIRT a sentence be added into minutes better describing Poya's leave of absence. ‘Poya appealed to council to allow him to miss upwards of 3-4 council meetings and still be able to return, given his commitment to participate in the committee he is part of. Council seemed to find this reasonable.’ **Passed** via consensus

- Two committees need to be established based on the last meeting:

i. Advocacy committee: needs to be on the agenda somewhere

ii. GA committee: needs to be on the committee today

- Advocacy will be added to business arising for the October 2013 council meeting, GA committee will be added to/discussed in 6.1 (because of the time sensitive nature of the GA)

- **Motion** from chair: BIRT the GSA council adopts minutes with changes. **Passed** 11-0-1 (Holly Nazar abstained based on absence)

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Lawyer has said that only council can actually put into legal effect a bylaw change. However, the motivation for such changes can come from the GA.

- **Motion** Mover: Bylaw committee **Passed** 9-1-2 (opposed Audrey, Abstentions Holly and Trevor)

1) Notice of Motion

Any proposed bylaw change must be either:

- a. Submitted to council by a committee made for that purpose,
- b. Submitted to council by any GSA member, or
- c. Submitted to council with a minimum of seven (7) days before GA by any GSA member, provided the member has collected 40 signatures supporting the proposal from four faculties (10 signatures from each faculty). Proposals submitted in this way will proceed directly to the GA decision

Amendment for original motion to read: **Failed** 3- 7- 2 (abstentions Trevor and Karthikeya)

- a. Submitted to council by a committee made for that purpose, later to be ratified, if approved by the Council, by a meeting of the GA
- b. Submitted to council by any GSA member, later to be ratified, if approved by the Council, by a meeting of the GA
- c. Submitted to council with a minimum of seven (7) days before GA by any GSA member, provided the member has collected 40 signatures supporting the proposal from four faculties, with no one faculty representing petition and then submit the



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bylaw change to the GA for debate; if approved by the GA, council shall subsequently ratify the decision.

Mover: Sara, Seconded:

Seconded Amendment for motion to read: **Failed: 5-7-1**

c. Submitted to council with a minimum of seven (7) days before GA by any GSA member, provided the member has collected 25 signatures supporting the proposal from two faculties, with no one faculty representing petition and then submit the bylaw change to the GA for debate; if approved by the GA, council shall subsequently meet to ratify the decision.

Mover: Audrey, Seconder: Holly

- Sentiment is expressed that we must make sure that we are staying true to the will of the GSA GA, while respecting the law via the companies act (i.e. Pending lawyer go-ahead legally).

- Clarification needed about when council can or cannot block a change. In the first two options the council can block a bylaw change, in the 3rd option council cannot block, this option was added at the last GA to give members an option to change bylaws without council.

- Sara wishes to note that because the council is the legal board of the GSA, they are legally liable so any bylaw change that would be radically detrimental to the GSA (ie. Something that would bankrupt the GSA, etc) could still be struck down by council.

- Note: Original motion from bylaw committee was accepted

5.2 Motion Article XIX - General Meetings 1.1 be amended to read as followed:

1.1 At least one (1) general assembly be held per semester, excluding the summer
Passed 8-5-0 (opposition Audrey, Holly, Trevor)

Mover: the last GA (tabled)

- note that the regulations on calling a GA require a petition from 5% of the membership (which is around 300 people)

5.3 Motion to have council meetings Fridays 10-1pm **Passed 8-3-3**

Next two meetings: Oct 11th, Nov 8

5.4 Motion for a bylaw change to be added to the next General Assembly that reads:

BIRT that subject of councillor honorarium be decided annually by the GA (because it is a conflict of interest for councillors to decide their own honorarium)

BIFRT if the GA accepts this responsibility, that the GA set the honorarium for the council at this GA

Failed 7-8-1 (abstention by Vivek)

Mover: Holly, Seconder: Audrey

- **Motion** the honorarium for councillors be set at \$300/meeting Failed: 0-11-1 (abstention from Claude)

Mover: Audrey, Seconder: Trevor

Motion to call to question **passed** 7-5-0

- **Motion** to maintain \$50/meeting for this current meeting, but to reconsider this (including the issue of deciding this at the GA) at the next council meeting. **Passed** 7-3-1 (opposition Audrey, Trevor; abstentions Vinoth)

Mover: Vivek, Seconder:

Motion to call to question **Passed** 11-1-1

- **Motion** to revisit the vote from the motion regarding deciding the honorarium at the GA and attach a role-call to this vote (noting names along with votes) **Failed:** 8-8-1

Mover: Holly, Seconder: Mohit



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- Clarification from Holly that this is so that in the minutes it is noted who voted for this so that people are directly held accountable. With the problem of conflict of interest involved in this vote it is important to be held accountable.

Motion from chair to move 5.5 and 5.6 to after “motions” **Passed** via consensus

5.6 Cricket club update: They would like to remain part of the GSA clubs

6.0 Motions

6.1 Motion to adopt the GA meeting agenda (see attachment booklet), including slight changes such as moving announcements to the beginning, and reformat the agenda to be on one page, and otherwise to read as followed:

0. Announcements

1. Call to order (once quorum is reached)

2. Adoption of agenda

3. Appointment of chair, secretary, mood-watcher

4. Report from president

5. Financial statement review

6. Approval of budgets

6. Business arising from last GA

8. New business

9. Elections

10. Other business

Passed: unanimously

-Motion to add “elections” to the agenda (including empty VP and Councillor seats)

Passed 12-0-1

Mover: Sara, Seconder: Holly

Motion: Call to question 11-0-2

-Motion to ratify petition delivered regarding Bylaw changes **Passed** unanimously

Mover: trevor, seconded: alex

- Time/Place/Date: there has been confusion about the place because several rooms are not available due to construction. Other rooms were agreed on but then did not work out. The 7th floor hall building lounge has been booked but not yet approved.

- **Motion** BIRT this council mandates the mobilization and logistics of the upcoming September GA to the GA committee

BIFRT the GA vote to do a bylaw change to officially mandate the GA committee to include both logistics and mobilization

Passed 14-0-0

Mover: Audrey, seconder: Sara

6.2 Student life committee

Motion BIRT all GSA events information be sent out to all councillors and departmental associations 2-3 weeks in advance of being publicly announced, when possible.

Passed 10-0-0

Mover: Monique, Seconder: Vivek

6.3 Motion BIRT the GSA suspends sponsorship funding until the adoption of a clear funding policy for clubs and groups



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BIFRT the funding and subsidies committee is in charge of writing this funding policy and present it to council before the end of the Fall semester 2013

Passed 13-0-0

Mover: David, Seconder: Audrey

6.4 Motion BIRT GSA council increase funding for departmental associations who don't collect their own fees by \$2 per person

BIFRT the GSA council secure a minimum funding of \$400 for small associations with 30 members and less

Passed 12-0-0

Mover: Audrey, Seconder: Sara

Motion to call to question **Passed** 14-0-0

6.5 Motion BIRT the GSA believe in freedom of expression for all regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion save those statements that perpetuate false stereotypes or incite hatred. As such, we cannot support the Quebec Charter that the Partie Quebecois Government of Pauline Marois is foisting upon Quebec society.

BIFRT the GSA write a letter to Premier Marois strongly condemning this policy and asking for its immediate repeal

BIFRT the GSA work to convene a demonstration or work with other organizations to convene a demonstration against this policy

Mover: Mohit, Seconder: Holly 6-0-3 (abstentions from Audrey)

Motion to call to question **Passed** 7-2-0 (opposition from Audrey)

7.0 Reports

- General discussion over hiring of a new manager to share responsibility with Roddy, both for immediate logistical reasons and for long term knowledge retention.

- The committee elected at the next council meeting will look into this issue

7.4 What is the \$14 000 allocated to JMSB?

- JMSB submitted an application before the deadline, but they did not comply with all of the rules necessary. They were told the application was pending until all things were met, they now want to meet this criteria, the check will be withheld until they do so. This \$ is from last year's departmental allocation

- Question: how long can this money be held in limbo.

- Vivek: Internal spending is good, however external spending is really low (around 30%). I think we need to speak with the financial manager about this and determine how we can adjust spending accordingly.
- The question goes to the finance manager and relevant committees to figure out clarification in bylaws if money like this roles over each year or not.

8.0 GSA Committee Appointments

8.1 Motion ratify 3 positions for university appointment committee

Tribunal: vignesh, Mohit and Trevor

SAF- Dan parker, ?

Fine arts council: Erika Cuoto

Passes 8-1-2 (opposition Audrey)

- Note: If anyone else wants to apply for these positions Vignesh will be taken off

9.0 Other Business

Motion To allow Ali (external GSA member) to speak as per his concern and to consider this as a motion at the next GSA meeting:



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“Does the GSA want to take an advocacy role in ensuring that Concordia students be given teaching experience and financial support in getting this experience?”

Passed 12-0-0

Notes from presentation:

In some departments at Concordia, there are opportunities for PHD students to teach because it gives them necessary experience in the field for future jobs. GSA can pressure the university to allow this. This might come up against part time faculty but it is worth it. GSA should push university to prepare departments to give students this opportunity.

Questions:

- Does it reflect badly on the school (for future students) if PHD students are used to teach?

No, I am talking about entry-level courses (not specialized ones). This is normal at most universities

- Have you checked with CUPFA? Normally this is regulated by the collective agreement for faculty

Response from chair (part of CUPFA) there are regulations for this. Someone has to look into this for next meeting to make informed decisions.

*Holly will volunteer to talk to CUPFA

10. **Motion** to adjourn 2:04 pm