

April 30th 2013 Minutes

General Assembly MINUTES – April 30, 2013 at 4:00pm in MB 1.210

1. Call to Order: 4:38pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - Motion to adopt: (student from) Engineering
 - Seconded: Engineering
 - Motion Carries
- i. Motion to amend: Humanities
 1. Add the point “Participation in Concordia Food Coalition” to the agenda before By-law changes
 2. Seconded: Arts & Science
 3. Motion Carries
- ii. Motion to amend:
 1. Add announcements at beginning of agenda
 1. Seconded: Arts & Science
 2. Motion Carries
- iii. Motion to add item to agenda about limiting dual elected representation of students in more than one graduate student association
 1. Motion called by Engineering
 2. Seconded by Engineering
 3. Motion: Fails For: 14; against: 18
- iv. Motion to amend agenda: Engineering
 1. Motion to add item on agenda to set priorities for GSA budget
 2. Seconded by Engineering
 3. Motion carries: 26 – 18
- v. Motion to divide
 1. Fine Arts
 2. Seconded Engineering
1. Announcements:
 - Reminder: In January 2013, the GSA passed a motion to engage in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Campaign against Israeli Apartheid passed. Flyers were passed at the GA to invite GSA members to join the GSA BDS committee.
1. Appointment of Chair, Secretary, Mood-watcher
 - Motion to accept: Humanities
- i. Chair: Gretchen; Mood-watcher: Jeremy; Secretary: Kiley;
- ii. Motion carries.
 1. Presentation of newly elected GSA team from April elections!
 - Nadia suggests newly elected council members present themselves, those present presented themselves.
 1. Concordia Food Coalition:
 - Be it resolved that the GSA become an official member of the Concordia Food Coalition;
- i. Motion: A&S
- ii. Seconded: A&S
- iii. Motion passes (3 opposed; 3 abstentions)
 1. Proposed bylaw changes:
 - [5.1 Motion to amend Article XXI regarding Procedures for Bylaw Amendments](#) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/51.pdf>)
- i. Motion: Interdisciplinary

- ii. Second: A&S
 - 1. Amendment: strike “by council” ; replace “should” with “must” or “shall”.
 - 2. Motion by: A&S.
 - 3. Seconded:
 - 4. Motion carries
- iii. Discussion
 - 1. Question: is this legal? (Is it conforming with the Companies Act / has it been checked out by a lawyer?)
 - 1. Response: A&S; Experience in other student associations is that this possible
 - 2. Question: What does the bylaw committee have to say?
 - 1. There was no consensus within the bylaw committee
- iv. Amendment: Motion to approve pending approval by a lawyer and the bylaw committee
 - 1. Motion by: Engineering
 - 2. Second: A&S
 - 3. Discussion:
 - 1. Q: Logistics of bylaw committees?
- i. The bylaw committee will continue with or without the same members
 - 1. Concerns about participatory democracy
 - 2. Concerns about veto power of bylaw committee
 - 3. Complying with the corporation act is important
 - 4. Divide vote on amendment for Lawyer / Bylaw committee
 - 1. Motion carries: 26 – 9 – 8
 - 2. Part 1: sending to Bylaw committee
 - 1. Motion fails: 16 – 33 – 6
 - 3. Part 2: sending to lawyer
 - 1. Motion carries: 44 – 13 – 4
- v. Motion 5.1 as amended
 - 1. Motion carries 46 – 5 – 5;
 - [5.2 Motion to amend Article XIV regarding Election Procedures](#) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsa Concordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/52.pdf>)
- i. Motion by: Interdisciplinary
- ii. Seconded by: A&S
- iii. Discussion:
 - 1. Motion to amend: Add a procedure where there is at least 10 days notice to fill a vacant position.
 - 1. Motion by: Interdisciplinary;
 - 2. Seconded: A&S;
 - 3. Discussion:
- i. Engineering: when will the next GA occur?
- ii. Cost of ballot election: ~\$8000?
- iii. A&S: Is there already a minimum requirement for notification;
- iv. A&S: Wording “Council may appoint someone ‘and’ through a ballot election” is confusing, possibly mutually exclusive;
- v. TABLED UNTIL AFTER 5.3
 - [5.3 Motion to add two new Executive positions, modify Executive Committee Quorum, and modify Roles and Responsibilities of the Executive under Articles IX and X](#) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsa Concordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/53.pdf>)
- i. Motion by : Interdisciplinary

- ii. Seconded: Engineering;
- iii. Discussion
 - 1. Motion to treat the motion in sections: (1) adding new positions; (2) vote on the rest
 - 1. Motion by: Interdisciplinary
 - 2. Seconded by Engineering
 - 3. Discussion:
- i. Why no VP finance proposed?
 - 1. There is a finance manager who is hired with approval of council
- ii. Clarification: why are we creating an empty position and filling it in a separate vote;
 - 1. Motion fails: 17-26-3
 - 2. Engineering: concerns about the timing of creating these positions; also concerns about the funding of these positions;
 - 1. These positions were discussed prior to the elections
 - 2. Engineering: Notes that there already exist 23 GSA positions (3 executives and 20 councillors), will 26 get more done?
 - 3. Engineering: The tasks of existing exists is very weighty;
 - 4. A&S: Personal experience that this is very taxing; new positions make them more accessible, as the workload for executives makes holding another job difficult.
 - 5. Interdisciplinary: Support for the spirit but debate on the actual positions has not occurred so can't support the motion
 - 6. Overlap between VP academic and VP internal; For VP academic but against the other position;
 - 7. Mobilization is very important in order to get more people involved in working on issues,
 - 8. Argument against; adding more people will not change the productivity of the GSA
 - 9. Argument for; For example, VP External mobilizes and coordinate with other student associations, etc.
 - 10. What is the funding for these positions? Is there duplication between these and the management positions?
 - 11. Call to Question
 - 1. Motion by:
 - 2. Second: A&S;
 - 3. Motion passes
- iv. Vote on 5.3 –
 - 1. Amendment: vote on each position separately (called by chair despite call to question);
 - 1. Motion by: ;
 - 2. Second: ;
 - 3. Motion fails.
- v. Vote on 5.3 :
 - 1. Motion passes 36 – 13;
 - Motion: Bring food in and continue meeting while eating
- i. Motion by: Interdisciplinary
- ii. Seconded: Engineering
- iii. Motion carries.
 - Call for quorum: 6:21pm
- i. Total members in room: 67
 - RE-ENTERTAIN 5.2
- i. New version of the bylaw change (motion 5.2)

“7. In the event of an unfilled or vacant Council or Executive position, the Council shall within 45 calendar days call a by-election through ballots in a general assembly to elect members who satisfy the candidacy criteria as outlined in Article XIV, section 6. The council can temporarily appoint a member until the elections. Members shall be provided notice of the vacant positions at least 10 days before the elections.”

1. Motion by: Interdisciplinary;
 2. Seconded: Engineering;
 1. Call to question: motion carries
 2. Motion carries.
 - [5.4 Motion to add two new Manager positions under Article XI](http://gsa Concordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/541.pdf) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsa Concordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/541.pdf>)
- i. Motion by: Interdisciplinary;
 1. These are positions that already exist but are not in the by-laws
 - ii. Seconded: A&S;
 - iii. Discussion:
 1. A&S: For; Student association support, esp. bylaw development;
 2. Interdiscpl: there is definitely work to be done, but perhaps hiring needs basis rather than permanent positions;
 3. A&S: response about salary. Salary is not set in stone, currently a stipend based on expected hours, but this could be adjusted by council.
 4. Engineering: clarification about 5.3
 5. Motion to divide vote on each position
 1. Motion by: A&S
 2. Seconded: Engineering
 3. Motion carries;
 - iv. Treating “Manager Campaigns”
 1. Discussion:
 1. Engineering: Against: new VP positions have already been passed. Agreement with per-need basis rather than permanent positions.
 2. A&S: nothing specified in position about the hours or cost; this could be a per-need position or not;
 3. A&S: Experience in these positions, working on contracts of 8h.
 4. Eng: what is the need for a campaigns manager as opposed to a councilor?
 - i. A&S: was on campaigns committee, the manager directs meetings; esp. at certain times of the year councilors are not available to
 1. ; Appears to be overlap with new VP positions in responsibilities.
 2. Vote on Campaigns Manager:
 1. Motion fails: 26 – 30 – 3;
 - v. Treating Manager Department/Faculty Student Associations
 1. Discussion
 1. A&S: while Campaigns manager can perhaps be taken up by other positions, but this position has been very valuable
 2. A&S: Despite voting against most of the other new positions, navigating bylaws is very difficult and this position is valuable.
 3. Call to question
 1. Motion passes
 4. Vote on adding Manager Department/Faculty Student Associations
 1. Motion carries 32- 17 – 1;

- vi. Treating 5.4 as a whole
 - 1. Discussion
 - 1. Motion to amend: add “as needed” at the end of phrase #2.
- i. Motion by: Eng
- ii. Seconded: Eng
- iii. Motion carries 26 – 1 – 10;
 - 1. Voting on 5.4
 - 1. Motion carries (6 against);
 - [5.5 Motion to amend Articles XIX and V regarding General Meetings](http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/551.pdf) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/551.pdf>)
- i. tabled to later in the meeting
 - Call for Quorum 7:06
- i. 66 members in the room
 - [5.6 Motion to clarify Spending Restrictions and change composition of Budget Committee under Articles XIII and XII](http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/562.pdf) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/562.pdf>)
- i. Motion by: A&S;
- ii. Seconded by: Interdisciplinary;
- iii. Discussion
 - 1. Motion to divide question
 - 1. Moved: A&S;
 - 2. Seconded: Eng;
 - 3. Motion carries;
 - 4. Treating 5.6 Article XIII changes
 - 1. Clarification: is there a section that specifies what spending could be on?
 - i. The stipulation is it is \$750 for a budget line, so it must be something in the budget
 - 1. Vote: motion carries;
 - 2. Treating 5.6 Article XII;
 - 1. Discussion:
 - i. Eng: Clarification: what is the meaning of “override” in the justification
 - 1. A&S: Previously this was composed of executives primarily who already agree, this composition attempts to more broad representation for the drafting stage
 - ii. A&S: For; representation from across faculties is positive
 - 1. Vote:
 - i. Motion carries (2 abstention);
 - [5.7 Motion to clarify Procedures to Dismiss Councilors and Executives under Article XVII](http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/571.pdf) (full details of proposed motion here: <http://gsaconcordia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/571.pdf>)
 - i. Motion by: A&S;
 - ii. Seconded by: A&S;
 - iii. Discussion:
 - 1. For: make team more serious and effective
 - 2. Motion to amend: change from “3 unaccounted absences” to “2 unaccounted absences” from points 1 and 2.
 - 1. Motion: ENG
 - 2. Second: ENG
 - 3. Discussion:
 - i. A&S: agreed this will be motivating
 - 1. Motion carries (1 against, 2 abstentions);

- iv. Motion carries;
 - RE-ENTERTAIN [5.5 Motion to amend Articles XIX and V regarding General Meetings](#)
- i. Motion by: A&S;
- ii. Seconded: A&S;
- iii. Discussion:
 - 1. Motion to divide 1.1 and 1.2.
 - 1. Motion by: Int;
 - 2. Seconded: Eng;
- iv. Call for Quorum: 7:28
 - 1. 49;
 - 2. Motion to adjourn due to lack of quorum.
 - 1. Motion by: A&S;
 - 2. Second: A&S;
 - 3. Motion carries;

– Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm; –

AGENDA ITEMS THAT WERE NOT ADDRESSED:

- 6. Elections (tentative)
 - 6.1 Vice-President Mobilization
 - 6.2 Vice-President Academic/Advocacy
 - 6.3 Director for Arts & Science
- 7. Motion to have the GSA follow more sustainable meeting practices and pressure the University to move away from fossil fuel technologies and infrastructure
- 8. Other Business
 - 8.1 – Set priorities for GSA budget
- 9. Adjournment