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AGENDA (*GSA Regular Council Meeting*, Monday, February 25th, from 1:00PM-4:00PM)

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business (3 mins)
 - 3.1 Chair Report
 - 3.2 Appointment of Secretary
4. Approval of Minutes (5 mins) [See Attached]
5. Business Arising from the Minutes (40 mins) [See APPENDIX II: MOTIONS on Pgs 9-10]
 - 5.1 Presentation on 2012 Election Budget (Roddy)
 - 5.2 Libyan conflict in the city of Bani-Walid (Zouhair Briqech)
 - 5.3 Scheduling of Winter Council Meetings
 - 5.4 Ratification of GSA Directors' honorarium
 - 5.5 Post-General Meeting Discussion (Annelise Grube-Cavers)
 - 5.6 BDS Committee (VP-External)
 - 5.7 CSBC/CJLO Audit (Ahmed Atia)
6. Reports (25 mins) [See APPENDIX I: REPORTS on Pgs 2-8]
 - 6.1 President
 - 6.2 VP Internal
 - 6.3 VP External
 - 6.4 Finance Manager
 - 6.5 Advocacy Manager
 - 6.6 Service Manager
 - 6.7 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning Committee)
7. Motions (20 mins) [See APPENDIX II: MOTIONS on Pgs 9-10]
 - 5.8 HoJo fee levy question (Katherine Rossy)
 - 5.9 GSA elections (President)
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment



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APPENDIX I: REPORTS

6.1 PRESIDENT REPORT

Montréal, Métropole Universitaire

On February 4, I attended a forum entitled Montréal, Métropole Universitaire, co-organized by Montreal's nine universities and the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal. The forum was organized in preparation for the upcoming Summit on Higher Education, and brought together various leaders from the university, business, and political communities for a conversation about the important contributions universities make to the socio-economic and cultural development of the city. Most of the presentations were centered on how the high number of universities in the city contribute to the prosperity of the local economy because they provide many of the resources needed (research facilities, new graduates) to allow businesses to innovate and remain competitive in the international market. The overarching message for the day was that universities need more funding and support in order for the city to continue to prosper.

Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign

As a follow-up to a motion passed at our last GA regarding the GSA's adoption of more sustainable practices, I took part in a preliminary discussion about initiating a campaign to divest from the use of fossil fuel technology at Concordia. One of the goals for now is to begin a discussion between CSU, GSA, faculty and department associations, and special interest groups on campus such as Sustainable Concordia and the John Molson Sustainable Business Group, in order to begin a campus-wide coordination effort. The campaign may begin as early as March, but will most likely take full effect next fall.

CSBC

I've been in touch with the CSBC President regarding the motion passed at our last GSA council meeting. In response to our motion, they've made their financial statements dating back to 2009 available on their website. The statements can be found here: <http://www.concordiastudentbroadcasting.com/annual-reports/> The CSBC Board has also begun discussing ways they can proactively reach out to students, and plan to continue this discussion at their upcoming board meeting. They've also been in discussions with the University to see if they can be given access to information that would allow them to grant automatic membership to all students, while still respecting article 21 of the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporation Act.

Senate Meeting of February 15, 2013

President's remarks

-Bell Canada donated \$500,000 to the mental health clinic, which provides good support to graduate students working in clinical psychology. More info here: <http://www.concordia.ca/alumni-giving/giving/reasons-to-give/news/2013/02/bells-500000-donation-betters-access-to-mental-health-therapy.php>

-Update on search for new Provost: A motion has been presented to the Board of Governors asking that the final candidates for Provost be interviewed in camera. Normally, the top candidates in the search are required to give a public speech to the Concordia community as part of their application process, how-



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ever Dr. Shepard is asking for a one-time exemption to the rule because he believes such a requirement may potentially put the candidates' current jobs on the line, which may in turn lead some applicants to withdraw their candidacy. Dr. Shepard believes that the Board's decision on the motion will ultimately determine the final pool of candidates.

-Update on Summit: A press conference from CREPUQ was held the morning of the Senate meeting. They stated their strong opposition to the budget cuts and continue to lobby the government to advocate their position on satisfactory financing and funding for research. The public statement can be found here: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1115309/declaration-des-chefs-d-etablissement-universitaire-les-universites-quebecoises-a-la-croisee-des-chemins>

-A new study from SECOR shows that Concordia's contribution to the local economy is \$1.3 billion per year. More info here: <http://www.concordia.ca/now/university-affairs/governance/20120207/concordia-major-contributor-to-economy.php>

E-learning presentation by the Provost:

- currently 15% of enrollment is in eConcordia courses
- 53 courses offered in winter 2013
- 45 faculty members and a substantial # of TA's supporting the courses
- faculty e-learning Fellow in place (Saul Carliner)
- spring conference being organized (April 3-5)

What is needed?

- academic framework for pursuing e-learning
- senate discussion and support
- faculty and department engagement
- careful assessment of results and progress

Next steps:

- starting March 15 meeting of senate
- validate e-learning principles (being developed by APPC)
- discuss priorities and roadmap

Possible directions for e-learning:

- Increase use of blended learning
- Accelerate development of online certificates
- develop and test some MOOCS

*During the Q&A period after the presentation, several Senators raised concerns about whether e-learning could really be considered a viable substitute for an in-class learning experience. They argued that the social and interactive aspects of a student's university experience are a key element to university education.

Advisory Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President Academic Affairs



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The committee has met four times so far and we have just received the long list of candidates. We are currently reviewing their CV's and will be meeting this week to determine the short list. We plan to interview the short-listed candidates in mid-March.

6.2 VP-INTERNAL REPORT

The past month was mostly spent on Departmental associations issues and conference subsidies and social events.

Departmental associations, (A lot of work done by David- department advocate)

- Meeting with strategic planning committee to review submitted bylaws
- Weekly meetings with David to go over the departmental allocations, meetings and website.
- Seven associations have already received their funding. Five associations have been approved for funding. Two associations approached the strategic planning committee for an advance of 50\$ on their allocations to be able to hold GAs.
- Helping with the departmental newsletter to go out soon
- Organizing a departmental meeting and a after party mid March

Student life committee

- Had a student committee meeting.
- Thanks to Katherine, Hassanain and the rest of the committee members, we held a successful valentine's party.
- The committee started preliminary planning on the Pecha Kucha event, for which we got funding from the CCSL (Concordia council on student life- dean of students).
 - Contact email created
 - Two call outs for abstracts and the review committee on the GSA's weekly newsletter

Conference subsidies,

- Reviewed the applications submitted for conference subsidies
- Checks will be ready for five applicants to receive 75\$ each
- The rest of applicants were contacted to provide us with missing documents.

Internal matters

- Attended an exec meeting
- Staff meetings:



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- Called two staff meetings
- Took minutes in one of them
- Newsletter:
 - Helped writing and creating one of the weekly newsletters
 - Providing news for and reviewing draft versions of the rest.

Other matters

- Had a meeting with Leane from HOJO to discuss extending the HOJO services to GSA members, the HOJO fee levy either as a separate service provider from the GSA or a fee levy service within the GSA like advocacy centres. The CSU lawyer will be writing the agreement to be approved by the GSA.
- Corresponded with GSA members on individual questions regarding bookings, funding options offered by the GSA and organizing events.
- Submitting waivers for the GSA's events.
- Trained Liz to act as the new GSA booking officer.

6.3 VP-EXTERNAL REPORT

Meeting/discussions with other associations or VP-Externals

-Met with PGSS and SSMU VP-Externals: We discussed what is happening in our respective campuses, the possibility of writing an op-ed together (this has not happened yet), as well as the possibility of creating a coalition for anglophone campuses (also has not happened yet). We scheduled another meeting for this month to start talking about concretizing these discussions.

-Referred Geography Undergrads to information about Summit written for the GSA, for their own general assembly

GSA Volunteer Outreach:

-With emails from orientation, I started volunteer outreach sheet on a google document sheet (inputting new names, organizing the document according to which event students were recruited at, or what committee they are interested in)

-Meeting with Xiao (GSA Outreach coordinator) and Daria to plan general outreach, including Volunteer Outreach event, and showing Xiao how to use the document

-Planned agenda with execs for the Volunteer Outreach event on Feb. 8 (huge success, many came, asked questions, signed up for committees), chaired and participated in it

Preparation for February 14 Big Hug against International student tuition:

-Meeting with International Student Advocate



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- Finalizing lay-out and printing of the International Student general information flyer
- Holding various international student committee meetings with GSA/ECSCG International Student Advocate's help
- Making 3 banners, posters and big heart costumes with international students
- Drafting back-of-flyer for Feb. 14th event
- Revising and printing posters
- Revising, translating and sending out media advisory
- Writing, translating (with David's help) and sending out full press release
- Doing and coordinating class visits with international students
- Tabling with international students
- Calling media early in the morning, with other volunteers from the International Student Committee
- Coordinating to-do and to-buy list before and during the event
- Organizing and presenting media and legal training for international students (to call and speak to media, and addressing legal concerns about protesting)
- Preparation for press conference on Feb. 14th
- Preparation for radio interview following the event
- Sending Roddy information for the website

Preparing for Free Education Demonstration 26

- Meeting with Concordia mobilization squad about the free education demonstration
- Poster for the free education demonstration
- Translating the subtitles for the free education demonstration video, posting it on Facebook
- Sending information for Roddy to put on GSA website

By-law committee:

- Coordinating times for first by-law committee meeting, attending first by-law committee meeting

Meeting with HoJo and execs about HoJo fee levy

Regular weekly or bi-weekly tasks/meetings

- Meeting between execs and Liz
- GSA Exec/Staff meetings
- Revision of newsletter
- Meeting with ECSCG about International advocate position
- Meetings with Campaigns Coordinator David



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6.4 FINANCE MANAGER REPORT

I officially took over Roddy’s duties as Finance Manager beginning February 1, 2013. I now have signing authority for Concordia payroll, and for cheques with our TD bank account. I have been maintaining our accounting records, and recording transactions in our Quickbooks software.

As per David’s analysis, I have written some department allocation cheques for those departments that meet our allocation criteria. Not all departments have received their allocation yet, as they have either not applied for allocation, or their application is pending approval.

I have also written five cheques in the amount of \$75 for conference subsidies. Several more subsidies will be given out once applications are approved by Roya. Our total conference subsidy budget for the year is \$10,375, so we are currently well within our budget.

Over all, the transition from Roddy to me as finance manager has been smooth. It has been beneficial to all staff and executives that I am now working at the GSA, and focusing all my efforts on finances.

6.5 ADVOCACY MANAGER REPORT

The month Of February saw a steady stream of students looking for advocacy help, including several international students facing problems with overseas transfers. Unfortunately, to date there has been no resolution of this issue although we are continuing to pursue all avenues to help these students. I will be spending the month of March working on an Advocacy guide compiling the knowledge and contacts I have made over the past two years.

Advocacy Contacts Sheet			
Type of Query	Number	Origin	Resolution
Tuition issues	11	International (8), Unknown (1), Canadian (2)	Fee payment issues\Late charge contestation\dropped classes after deadline
Personal\Relational Issues	2	Unknown	Help with domestic issues
Academic Advising	2	2 Unknown	Switching Programs
Financial\overseas	4	International	Talking through financial issues overseas
Tribunal Advocate	7	N\A	Lost 2, Won 2, 2 In-Progress, 1 to Graduate Academic Appeal Tribunal
Immigration	7	International (7)	Helping with process.
Total Contacts	33		



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As always please do not hesitate in contacting me or referring students to me should you encounter any problems.

514-969-6163 and advocacy@gsaconcordia.ca

6.6 SERVICE MANAGER REPORT

This past month I have been mostly helping with logistics for events as well as continuing to train and meet and take on my role as service manager on a more day-to-day basis.

Some events I helped with:

- Volunteer luncheon
- Valentine's party
- "Hug an international student" action

I received training to become a new booking officer for the GSA, which means that I can now help you to book university space for your events.

I met with the student life committee to look ahead for future events such as Pecha Kucha, an event to share research across disciplines.

Right now I am working on researching deals for trips for skiing and the US.

Feel free to ask me any more questions you may have,

6.7 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning Committee)



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APPENDIX II: MOTIONS

5.1 Presentation on 2012 Election Budget (Roddy)

5.2 Libyan conflict in the city of Bani-Walid (Zouhair Briqech)

5.3 Scheduling of Winter Council Meetings

According to Article 5.7 of the GSA bylaws – Council is required to set the schedule for council meetings 10 days before the semester. Based on the doodle circulated before the break, the following winter schedule for GSA Council meetings circulated on Dec. 31, 2012:

Tues, Jan. 29th 1-4pm and subsequent Tuesdays from 1-4pm
on Feb. 26, March 26, April 23, May 14, & June 11.

5.4 Ratification of GSA Directors' honorarium

GSA Bylaws, Article 5.16 - Council will determine annually the honorarium Directors will be entitled to receive per meeting attended. *This amount must be ratified by 2\3 of all council members.*

5.5 Post-General Meeting Discussion (Annelise Grube-Cavers)

5.6 BDS Committee (VP-External)

5.7 CSBC/CJLO Audit (Ahmed Atia)

Whereas Graduate Students are fee paying members of CJLO, for which the Concordia Student Broadcast Corporation (CSBC) is collecting and managing the fees;

Whereas student fee paying members are not automatically eligible to vote in CSBC general assemblies;

Whereas the prevailing principle of "no taxation without representation" is not applied when it comes to the CSBC's governing structures;

Whereas the CSBC's overall budget is over 400,000\$ per year, an amount significantly higher than the GSA's own budget;

Whereas, since at least the last three years, the CSBC has not conducted a full financial audit;



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Whereas full financial audits ensure transparency and financial accountability surrounding the spending of organizations;

Whereas, over the past years, several allegations of financial mismanagement and misspending have been levied by some CSBC board members and staff concerning the financial records of the organization;

Be it resolved that this GSA Council of Directors requests that the CSBC produce full audited statements of its financial records going back to at least the last three years;

BIFRT this Council mandates the GSA executive and council committee to take all appropriate steps, including but not limited to requesting that the University withhold the disbursement of the fees paid by graduate students until such time as a full financial audit for the CSBC is produced;

BIFRT this full financial audit go back to at least the last three years;

BIFRT, once produced, the CSBC financial audit be made available and public to all its (CJLO's) fee paying members;

BIFRT, once produced and as of now, CSBC audits be required to be presented and made public at all upcoming GSA annual general meetings;

7.1 HoJo fee levy question (Katherine Rossy)

7.2 GSA elections (President)