

General Assembly May 2 2012 – Minutes

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Call to order and appointments: Appointment of secretary and chair: Roxanne Desforges, Daniel Simeone
Motion by David

Seconded: Annelise

Motion carries

Daniel: Opening explanation of Robert's Rules and general procedure.

Gabrielle Bouchard: mood watcher

2. Adoption of the agenda
Simon moves motion approval of the agenda
Aude seconded
All in favor: motion carries
3. Update from the CLASSE negotiation committeePhilip Lapointe, bargaining committee of CLASSE, gives update on negotiations with government.Last Monday CLASSE was invited to Quebec city to negotiate with the government (Line Beauchamp was present).
They were given an opportunity to speak freely on their position.
CLASSE explained that they are willing (as a compromise) to accept the tuition level of 2007.
Line Beauchamp left and the negotiating team (3 individuals) remained to discuss with the students. This discussion lasted for 7 hours– the government reps had not been given the power to offer anything. They all also discussed university management — the government reps were not mandated to make any offers.
Government negotiators returned with an offer of increasing government bursaries for undergraduate students. This reflected that the students discussions had not been heard.
CLASSE refused the offer.
CLASSE demanded an offer on tuition fees.
Government returned with an explanation as to why they need to increase tuition.Philippe fields questions.
4. Update from the GSA executiveHolly: motion to move item to “other business”
Seconded by Erik
Motion carries
5. Plenary discussion of the strike so far and next stepsHolly: Motion to move into the committee of the whole for 15 minutes
Seconded by Annelise
Motion carriesEnter into plenary committee of the whole (more informal discussion session)Proposal: To ask class to use peaceful rhetoric and to encourage students to avoid the night protests
Proposed by JonathanProposal: Ask the CLASSE and the student associations to not close down other institutions
Proposal by JonathanProposal: to encourage people to take a leave of absence from their university activities
Proposed by ErikProposal: expand the definition of the GSA strike mandate to reflect the summer semester
Proposed by Allison

Proposal: Alt strike actions: Government workers cuts

Camp-out picnic in front of the CBC

Collaborative boycott of the purchase of alcohol and cigarettes

Proposed by Ricky-Lee

Proposal: That the GSA calls the opposition parties that the auditor general reviews the management of the universities

Motion: proposals from plenary session will be discussed in other business

proposed by: Alison

seconded by: Erik

Motion carries

6. Vote on continuation of the strike in light of new government proposals

Be it resolved that the GSA shall remain on strike as voted at the General Assembly of 6 March 2012 and continue to hold General Assemblies every week for the duration of the strike.

Moved by Erik

Seconded by Catherine

Amendment: by Erik to meet two weeks rather than every Monday

Seconded by Tian

Motion carries

Amendment: by Holly "or at the discretion of the executive committee with at least 3 days notice."

Seconded by Erik

Motion carries (unanimous)

Amendment by Nathan: Change "open-ended" to "two-week renewable"

Seconded by

Motion fails

Amendment by Allison: By strike we include not attending summer classes, not submitting coursework, and/or withdrawals from class registration for the current and next semester; we encourage students, who are concerned about continuation fees due to strike-related extensions of study, to consider leaves of absence so long as they do not jeopardize their funding. The GSA does not consider the strike a consumer boycott, and continues to encourage and support picket line actions and other peaceful forms of collective and visible protest.

Final motion:

Be it resolved that the GSA shall remain on strike as voted at the General Assembly of 6 March 2012 and continue to hold General Assemblies every two weeks for the duration of the strike or at the discretion of the executive committee with at least 3 days notice.

By strike we include not attending summer classes, not submitting coursework, and/or withdrawals from class registration for the current and next semester; we encourage students, who are concerned about continuation fees due to strike-related extensions of study, to consider leaves of absence so long as they do not jeopardize their funding. The GSA does not consider the strike a consumer boycott, and continues to encourage and support picket line actions and other peaceful forms of collective and visible protest.

Request to vote by secret ballot

Chair explains secret ballot procedure

Request withdrawn in favour of a blind vote

Motion carries

Break (15min)

7. Mandates for CLASSE delegates

1) Counter-offer

Considering that the counter-offer put forth by FECQ and FEUQ does not guarantee a tuition fee freeze as laid out in the GSA strike mandate;

Be It Resolved That the GSA refuses the counter-offer as proposed by FECQ and FEUQ.

Proposed by Johanna

Seconded by Karla

Amendment:because this proposal does not include the tuition freeze as voted on by the GSA

Proposed by Rushdia;

Seconded by Ryan;

Motion to table the amendment until Other Business

Proposed by Holly;

Seconded by: Bob

Motion tabled.

2) Hydro and health fees

Considering that the tuition hike is part of a neoliberal project to increasingly privatize public services by the current Liberal government;

Considering that user-based fees are regressive and affects low-income populations, single mothers and racialized minorities;

Considering that public services should remain public and be funded through progressive taxation;

Be It Resolved That the GSA opposes the proposed health tax of \$200 per year and increases in hydro-electricity rates.

Be It Further Resolved That the GSA supports the May 4th demonstration organised by Coalition Against the Privatization and User-fee based model of public services to oppose the Provincial Liberal General Council.

Moved by Nadia

Seconded by Dominic;

Motion passes unanimously;

Amendment: remove "and increases in hydro-electricity rates"

Proposed by: Chris

Seconded by: Rickie Lee

Motion fails

Call to question:

Carries

Call for Quorum: Fails;

Adjourn at 3:05pm

Approved by:

Secretary – Roxanne Desforges

GSA Executive Committee