

## GENERAL ASSMBLY 29-01-2016

**GSA GA – Friday, January 29, 2016, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM in room MB 2.210, John Molson School of Business Building, 1450 Guy Street.**

### AGENDA

*Adopted by the GSA Council on October 25, 2015.*

0. Plenary to explain/ask questions about agenda items
1. GA business
  - 1.1 Call to Order
  - 1.2 Appointment of Chair and Secretary (Chair's report on procedure)
  - 1.3 Approval of the Agenda
  - 1.4 Approval of the past GA minutes ([LINK to April 4, 2014, and October 23, 2014](#))
2. Business arising
  - 2.1 Bylaw changes (20 mins)
    - a) BYLAW CHANGE: Compulsory audit
    - b) BYLAW CHANGE: By-elections by ballot
    - c) BYLAW CHANGE: Member-at-large on Budget Committee
  - 2.2 President's report (10 mins)
  - 2.3 Budget (20 mins)
  - 2.4 Auditor Appointment (10 mins)
  - 2.5 Financial Statement (20 mins)
  - 2.6 Elections (30 mins)
3. New business
  - 3.1 Austerity (30 mins or more)
4. Other business
  - 4.1 Announcement of election results (5 mins)
5. Adjournment

### 1.1 Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 5:25 pm

## 1.2 Appointment of Chair and Secretary (Chair's report on procedure)

Be it resolved that the Chair and Secretary of the General Assembly of the January 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 will be Audrey Dahl (Chair) and Colby Briggs (Secretary)

**Moved by:** Jawld

**Seconded by:** Stephi

**Adopted**

## 1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Be It Resolved That the following agenda be adopted for today's General Assembly:

### 1. GA business

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Appointment of Chair and Secretary (Chair's report on procedure)

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

1.4 Approval of the past GA minutes ([LINK to April 4, 2014, and October 23, 2014](#))

### 2. Business arising

2.1 Bylaw changes (20 mins)

a) BYLAW CHANGE: Compulsory audit

b) BYLAW CHANGE: By-elections by ballot

c) BYLAW CHANGE: Member-at-large on Budget Committee

2.2 President's report (10 mins)

2.3 Budget (20 mins)

2.4 Auditor Appointment (10 mins)

2.5 Financial Statement (20 mins)

2.6 Elections (30 mins)

### 3. New business

3.1 Austerity (30 mins or more)

### 4. Other business

4.1 Announcement of election results (5 mins)

### 5. Adjournment

Moved by: Stephi

Seconded by: Korosh

### *Amendment 01*

To move item 2.6 (elections) to immediately after 1.4 (minute approval).

**Moved By:** Stephi

**Seconded By:** Alex

**Approved**

*Motion approve as amended:*

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  - 2.1 Elections
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  - 2.2 President's report (10 mins)
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  - 2.4 Auditor Appointment (10 mins)
  - 2.5 Financial Statement (20 mins)
3. New business
  - 3.1 Austerity (30 mins or more)
4. Other business
  - 4.1 Announcement of election results (5 mins)
5. Adjournment

#### **1.4 Approval of the past GA minutes**

Be It Resolved That the {insert DATE} General Assembly minutes be adopted.

**Moved by:** Stephi

**Seconded by:** Alex

#### **2.1 Elections**

##### **2.1.1**

BIRTH Korosh be acclaimed to the posting of ENCS Director

**Moved by:** Ridan

**Seconded by:** Gounash

**Approved**

2.1.2 BIRTH Ashley be acclaimed to the posting of JMSB Director

**Moved by:** Stephi  
**Seconded by:** Korosh  
**Approved**

**2.2 Bylaw changes (20 mins)**

Whereas the following council motions for bylaw changes remain pending from previous General Assemblies.

BIRT

**2.2.a Bylaw Change: compulsory audit**

*Proposal to amend ARTICLE XIII of the GSA bylaws, previously tabled motion-GA-20140404-10 – Members Petition – Moved by Alex Ocheoha*

ARTICLE XIII - FINANCES	
Current bylaws	Proposed changes
9. All G.S.A. accounts shall be reviewed by an external auditor annually. The external auditor shall be approved by a General Assembly as per the recommendations of the Budget Committee.	9. All G.S.A. accounts shall be audited by an external auditor annually. The external auditor shall be approved by a General Assembly as per the recommendations of the Budget Committee.
	10. The audited financial statements shall be received by council at the end of the financial year and made available to members.

Be It Resolved that the GSA Bylaws Article XIII – 9 be amended and Article XIII – 10 be added:

**Moved by:** Ribal  
**Seconded by:** Stephi

**Approved**

**2.1.b BYLAW CHANGE: By-elections by ballot**

ARTICLE XIV - ELECTIONS	
Current bylaws	Proposed changes
8. By-elections can be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of this article and the Electoral By-Laws of the G.S.A., or through a General Assembly, during which a secret ballot can take place if the members present vote for this option.	8. By-elections shall be conducted by secret ballot [...] or through a General Assembly, during which a secret ballot shall take place, unless unanimously adopted otherwise.

*Moved by the Bylaw Committee to Council where approved by two-thirds or a super majority: see [Motion CO-20141118-15](#)*

Be It Resolved that the GSA Bylaws Article XIV – 8 be amended and replaced with the proposed changes.

**Moved by:** Stephi  
**Seconded by:** Jawad  
**Approved**

**2.1.c Member-at-large on Budget Committee**

ARTICLE XII – BUDGET COMMITTEE	
Current bylaws	Proposed changes (additions)
<p>2. The Budget Committee shall be composed of:</p> <p>2.1. The President – who will be chair.</p> <p>2.2. The Vice-President Internal.</p> <p>2.3. The Vice-President External.</p> <p>2.4. Four current council directors representing separate faculties and appointed by Council</p> <p>2.5. The Finance Manager shall be the secretary of the Budget Committee. The Finance Manager will have ex-officio status (non-voting member) at Budget Committee meetings.</p> <p>2.6. The secretary shall attend all open meetings of the</p>	<p>2.7 One member-at-large elected annually by the General Assembly.</p>

Be It Resolved that Article XII - 2.7 should be added to the GSA Bylaws as proposed above.

**Moved by:** Jawad  
**Seconded by:** Abby  
**Rejected**

## **BIRTH**

Item 2.2c be modified to read (article 2.7) *One member-at-large elected annually by the General Assembly as a non-voting member, excluded from Quorum.*

**Moved by:** Alex  
**Seconded by:** Stanley  
**Rejected**

## **2.2 President's report (10 mins)**

GSA President's address to the January 29, 2016 General Assembly

It has been my pleasure and honor serving as President for 2015-2016. I have been privileged working with a motivated and dedicated team of executives and directors. We have experiencing several challenges but have persevered to perform the duties we were elected to perform, with the best interest of students at heart.

I am looking forward to the elections in the GA today and will be happy to welcome a new VP Academic/Advocacy and new directors to our team.

Successful winter 2016 Orientation

This semester we had a successful winter 2016 orientation. We had 11 orientation events over a one week duration. We had a good attendance for the events and thank all students that attended. I greatly appreciated the efforts of the other members of my executive team, GSA directors, GSA staff and volunteers who helped make this a success. A post event report will be made available to students at a later date.

## Renovation of the GSA lounge

This summer we renovated the GSA lounge to make it more welcoming and improve the experience of students. All graduate students are welcome to use the lounge which serves as a central meeting space for relaxation and study.

## GSA Services

This year we have been working towards improving the services that we provide and introducing new ones. We reviewed and improved our French and English language classes using the feedback we received. We are working towards maximizing the utilization of our classrooms.

We have hosted several events from June 2015 to date and will be hosting so many other exciting events during the year. We will be happy to welcome GSA members to our student life committee.

## GSA 2015-2016 Projects

This year we are working towards establishing an advocacy center in the GSA house. The center will provide students with resources and information to help them make informed decisions. The center will also provide general advising and help in defending the rights of students. The center was set up in the fall 2015 semester, but requires the approval of the council for the new staff positions.

We will be reintroducing subsidized printing and copying services this semester. The low priced prints will help reduce the printing costs for graduate students.

We have included funding for clubs in our budget this year. We will be encouraging graduate students to form clubs during the course of the year.

## Anti-Austerity

We will be hoping to consider and pass a motion against Austerity today. The GSA will work with other groups on campus to reject austerity and advocate for an increased funding for education. I strongly encourage all graduate students to support this campaign.

I also encourage all graduate students to who wish to get involved in any of our campaigns to join our campaigns committee.

This year we will ensure that we are transparent and accountable to all members. We will be appointing an auditor who will conduct an audit for the 2015-16 financial year. We update our state of finances on a regular basis and welcome questions from our members. The minutes of our council meeting are uploaded on the GSA website on a regular basis.

We are hoping that this will be a great semester for all of us. I am looking forward to meeting as many students as possible during the year at our events or at the GSA house. I hope that you all have a wonderful semester.

**Moved by:** Korosh

**Seconded by:** Gounasa

## **2.4 Budget (20 mins)**

Be It Resolved that the GSA members received the 2015-2016 budget.

**Moved By:** Gounash

**Seconded By:** Korosh

BIRT the GA require council put on its agenda a bylaw obliging the GSA to seek GA approval of the budget

**Moved By:** Gounash

**Seconded By:** Oslavi

**Approved**

## **2.5 Auditor Appointment (10 mins)**

BIRT that the GSA members appoint Frank Santillo as Auditor for the financial year 2015-2016.

**Moved by:** Alex

**Seconded by:** Stanley

**Approved**

Ribal opposed

## **2.6 Financial Statement (20 mins)**

### **3.1 Austerity (30 mins or more)**

Whereas the Quebec governments has implemented repeatedly austerity measures over the past years;

Whereas Quebec's universities have lost about \$400 million in provincial grants, representing a drop of nearly 15% of their operating budget;

Whereas Concordia University has been forced to absorb \$36.6 million in cuts since the 2012-13 academic year;



Whereas as the result of the above, Concordia University is running an \$8.2 million deficit, has left an uncommunicated number of positions vacant or closed them altogether, and has since implemented a Voluntary Departure Program with 90 voluntary departures, resulting in 65 positions being cut;

Whereas as the result of the above, Concordia University has implemented an undisclosed reduction in courses selection, has increased the class size, and has reduced faculty resources for students;

Whereas student associations and unions across Quebec representing workers from the health, the education, and the public sectors at large, have enforced and declared strike actions for the fall 2015,

Whereas student associations are holding strike general assemblies throughout Quebec;

Whereas the Graduate Students Association (GSA) recognizes the need for transparent and open discussions around austerity measures and budget cuts, alongside standing in solidarity with faculty, workers, and other student associations who suffer austerity measures and budget cuts within the education sector.

Whereas the GSA acknowledges the right to education and the importance in taking steps including but not limited to strike mandates, open discussion, mediation and solidarity to resist budget cuts to their education.

Be It Resolved That the GSA denounce the prevailing government discourse of austerity and “budgetary compressions,” and advocate for more just and sustainable economic solutions (such as progressive taxation, addressing tax evasion and corruption, and making corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share)

Be It Further Resolved That the GSA support the group Solidarity 2015 Concordia (including TRAC) and other anti-austerity initiatives at Concordia and elsewhere, with the aim of halting government budget cuts to public services, through an escalation of tactics over the coming months while respecting the community’s rights and safety

BIFRT the GSA campaigns committee and campaigns budget be charged with event planning, mobilization, education, the production of materials and other activities associated with its commitment to the anti-austerity movement.

**Approved**

Ribal abstaining

**4.1 Announcement of election results (5 mins)**

Quorum lost at 7:10PM.

## **5. Adjournment**

**7:10 pm**

Moved by:  
Seconded by: