

Minutes

GSA Regular Council Meeting

7 June 2011

CI-104, 2149 Mackay, Montreal

Attendance

<i>Voting Directors:</i>	Adnan Abueid (ENCS), Natheer Alatawneh (ENCS), Vinith Anand (ENCS), Mohammad Nurujjaman Beajon (ENCS), Zouhair Briqech (ENCS), Erik Chevrier (Arts and Science), Roxanne Desforges (Arts and Science), Richard Hinton (Arts and Science), Manu Jain (ENCS), Mohammed Khader (ENCS), Emily Paige (Fine Arts), Daria Saryan (Arts and Science)
<i>Non-Voting Directors:</i>	Phalpinder Singh Gill (Vice-President Internal), Holly Nazar (Vice-President External), Robert Sonin (President, Acting Chair)
<i>Observers:</i>	Anna Chigogidze (Services Manager), Roddy Doucet (Advocacy Manager), Andy Yuen (Finance Manager), Golam M Aurup (Secretary)
<i>Regrets:</i>	Matthew MacDonald (Arts and Science), Edyta Niemyjska (Arts and Science), Eric Martineau (JMSB), Nadia Hausfather (Independent), Nathan Williams (JMSB)
<i>Absent:</i>	Fred Giard (JMSB), Hossain Maleki (JMSB)

Documents

CD-110607-01 Notice of Meeting

CD-110607-02 Agenda

CD-110607-03 Agenda (long form)

CD-110607-04 Summer Budget

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

- 5.6 Hiring Committee
- 5.7 General Assembly Committee
- 8.1 Management of GSA House
- 8.2 Resolution Regarding BOG Transparency
- 8.3 Letter from the GSA in Support of Jaggi Singh
- 8.4 GPS Partnership with the GSA
- 8.5 GSA Free Schools

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Beajon, Khader), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-01 The Agenda (CD-110607-01) be adopted as amended.

3. Council Business

3.1 Chair

There was a discussion regarding appointment of the Chair. Mr. Sonin requested directors to make known their suggestions to the GSA. Mr. Doucet was asked to develop a job description which can be sent out to the students. Mr. Sonin expressed his desire to appoint a permanent Chair at the July Council meeting.

3.2 Secretary

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-02 The GSA appoints Golam M. Aurup as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

3.3 Schedule of Meetings for 2011-12

Noting that the fall and winter schedules of Directors have not been set, the scheduling of the year's meetings was tabled.

3.4 Orientation for New Directors

The Executive Committee will arrange for an orientation session for the incoming Directors to be held during the month of June 2011 with the exact date to accommodate the schedules of Directors.

4. Executive Introductions

4.1 President

Mr. Sonin described his first week at the GSA looking through documents, meeting with GSA Managers, and looking at the finances. An application for the COI has been prepared and submitted. He expressed his desire to have more efficient meetings at the GSA. He informed Council that the GSA finances have been put in good order this year, and Auditors' Reports for the years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 are near completion. He also expressed his intention to continue to improve the financial management of the GSA.

4.2 VP Internal

Mr. Singh Gill informed the meeting about his first week at the GSA, where he was introduced to the GSA and its Managers. He mentioned the importance of an orientation for his position and wished to get to the detailed job requirements as soon as possible.

4.3 VP External

Ms. Nazar presented to the council a report outlining upcoming issues and events. She mentioned the importance of student attendance at the Concordia Board of Governors meeting and urged GSA members to be present. She had meetings with the McGill student unions and the CSU in order to build a stronger relationship among the student unions at Anglophone post-secondary institutions. She informed the meeting that she wishes to have a joint response with the CSU to the Report of the External Governance Review Committee, which is scheduled for release on 15 June. Ms. Nazar informed the council about a project involving Free Education Montreal (FEM) and the Mobilization Committee at McGill which seeks to gather and translate material on tuition in Quebec, and expressed the importance of GSA involvement in this issue. Ms. Nazar also intends to organize a conference on academic integrity and academic freedom this September, to pursue the prayer space issue as a student space problem, to secure special student rates for students over 25 years old for the STM and Bixi, and to engage more Concordia students and faculty in the student movement against tuition hikes. She also requested the Council to ponder the issue of pursuing affiliation with larger student bodies in Quebec, namely ASSE, FEUQ, and TaCEQ.

4.4 Managers

Advocacy Manager

Mr. Doucet presented his report to the council. He mentioned his work for the advocacy center and that the language classes have progressed well. Mr. Abueid requested Mr. Doucet to make a detailed manual for the advocacy center so that it can be run properly in his absence.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Chevrier), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-03 A committee be formed, made up of the VP External, the Advocacy Manager, and Directors Adnan Abueid and Manu Jain, to define the roles and responsibilities of the advocate and the operations of the GSA Advocacy Center, to be reported to Council at the Regular Meeting of August 2011.

[See document CD-110607-05]

Finance Manager

Mr. Yuen reported to Council that the GSA's finances are being recorded with accounting software. He will be working on SIP, Conference Subsidy, and Departmental Allocation applications, and with the Budget Committee to prepare the annual budget. He mentioned that audited financial statements for 2008-2009 are complete and the audited statements for the 2009-2010 would be ready soon.

[See document CD-110607-06]

Services Manager

[See document CD-110607-07]

5. Committees

5.1 Budget Committee

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Anand), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-04 Erik Chevrier and Mohammad Beajon, Directors of the GSA, are appointed to the GSA Budget Committee.

5.2 Orientation Committee

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-05 An Orientation Committee is hereby struck per Article V (12) of the GSA Bylaws, and shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. Composition

The Orientation Committee shall be composed of

- a) The President, ex officio;
- b) The Vice President Internal, ex officio, who shall chair;
- c) The Services Manager, ex officio, non-voting;
- d) A minimum of three and a maximum of five directors, to be appointed by Council.

2. Term

- a) The term of a member of the Orientation Committee shall be coterminous with their term as a member of the Council of Directors.
- b) Notwithstanding 2 (a) an appointed member of the Orientation Committee by virtue of 1 (d) may be removed by a 2/3 vote of Council at a meeting called for that purpose for the following reasons:
 - i) Absence without reason from two meetings of the Orientation Committee;
 - ii) Absence without reason from two meetings of Council;
 - iii) Written request of a majority of the other members of the Orientation Committee.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Orientation Committee is to assist the Vice-President Internal and the Services Manager in organizing the GSA Fall and Winter Orientations and for composing a budget for the same.

4. Powers and Responsibilities

- a) The Orientation Committee shall be provided with access to funds sufficient to its needs, and shall provide a detailed budget for Fall Orientation before 1 August 2011 and for Winter Orientation before 1 January 2012;

- b) The Orientation Committee shall work out the organizational details of Fall and Winter Orientation, and assist the Vice-President Internal and the Services Manager with logistics;
- c) The Orientation Committee shall pursue opportunities it deems appropriate to generate income to cover the costs of orientation;
- d) Hiring for Orientation events shall give precedence to GSA members.
- e) The Orientation Committee shall produce reports for Fall Orientation and Winter Orientation, which shall include details of all events planned and executed as well as a full financial accounting of all income and expenses, to be submitted to the November 2011 and March 2012 meetings of the Council of Directors, respectively.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-06 Vinith Anand, Roxanne Desforges, and Daria Saryan, Directors of the GSA, are appointed to the Orientation Committee.

5.3 Campaigns Committee

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Abueid), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-07 A Campaigns Committee is hereby struck per Article V (12) of the GSA Bylaws, and shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. Composition

The Campaigns Committee shall be composed of

- a) The President, ex officio;
- b) The Vice President External, ex officio, who shall chair;
- c) The Advocacy Manager, ex officio, non-voting;
- d) The Services Manager, ex officio, non-voting;
- e) A minimum of three directors, to be appointed by Council.

2. Term

- a) The term of a member of the Campaigns Committee shall be coterminous with their term as a member of the Council of Directors.
- b) Notwithstanding 2 (a) an appointed member of the Campaigns Committee by virtue of 1 (e) may be removed by a 2/3 vote of Council at a meeting called for that purpose for the following reasons:
 - i) Absence without reason from two meetings of the Campaigns Committee;
 - ii) Absence without reason from two meetings of Council or the annual general meeting;
 - iii) Written request of a majority of the other members of the Campaigns Committee.

3. Purpose

The purposes of the Campaigns Committee are to assist the Vice-President External in the conception, planning, mobilization, and logistics of GSA campaigns.

4. Powers and Responsibilities

- a) The Campaigns Committee shall be provided with access to funds sufficient to its needs, and shall provide budgets for each campaign pursued, amended from time to time as circumstances dictate priorities;
- b) The Campaigns Committee shall pursue research into what campaigns are amenable to the objectives of the GSA as set out in the GSA Bylaws.
- c) The members of the Campaigns Committee shall assist the Vice President External, the Vice President Internal, and the Advocacy Manager with mobilization, logistics, and publicity with respect to GSA campaigns.
- d) The Campaigns Committee shall submit a written report, which shall include details of all campaign activities planned and executed as well as a full financial accounting of all income and expenses, to the December 2011 and the May 2012 meetings of the Council of Directors.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Abueid), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-08 Richard Hinton, Erik Chevrier, and Mohammad Khader, Directors of the GSA, are appointed to the Campaigns Committee.

5.4 *Bylaws and Regulations Committee*

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-09 A Bylaws and Regulations Committee is hereby struck per Article V (12) of the GSA Bylaws and shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. Composition

The Bylaws and Regulations Committee shall be composed of:

- a) The President, *ex officio*, who shall be chair;
- b) The Vice President Internal, *ex officio*;
- c) The Advocacy Manager, *ex officio*, non-voting;
- d) A minimum of three and a maximum of five directors.

2. Term

- a) The term of a member of the Bylaws and Regulations Committee shall be coterminous with their term as a member of the Council of Directors.
- b) Notwithstanding 2 (a) a member of the Bylaws and Regulations Committee by virtue of 1 (d) may be removed by a 2/3 vote of Council at a meeting called for that purpose for the following reasons:
 - i) Absence without reason from two meetings of the Campaigns Committee;
 - ii) Absence without reason from two meetings of Council or the annual general meeting;
 - iii) Written request of a majority of the other members of the Campaigns Committee.

3. Purpose

The purposes of the Bylaws and Regulations Committee are to review and revise the Bylaws and Election Bylaws, and to bring recommendations to the Board of Directors.

4. Powers and Responsibilities

- a) The Bylaws and Regulations Committee shall meet on a regular basis;
- b) The Bylaws and Regulations Committee shall bring written recommendations to the Board of Directors no later than 1 February 2012.
- c) The members of the Bylaws and Regulations Committee shall have full access to the corporate records of the GSA.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-10 Adnan Abueid, Director of the GSA, is appointed to the Bylaws and Regulations Committee.

5.6 *Representative Caucus*

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Khader, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-11 WHEREAS one of the Objectives as set out in the Bylaws of the GSA is to "Provide representation for its members to increase graduate students' influence on decision-making bodies and encourage involvement of its members in political processes, both internal and external to the University;

a Graduate Caucus is hereby created;

all graduate student representatives to the following university bodies and committees thereof shall be invited to participate as members of the Graduate Caucus:

1. Board of Governors;
2. Senate;
3. Concordia Council on Student Life;

4. Council of the School of Graduate Studies;
5. Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science;
6. Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science;
7. Council of the Faculty of Fine Arts;
8. Council of the John Molson School of Business;

the Graduate Caucus shall choose a Chair from among its members;

the Chair of the Graduate Caucus shall call a meeting at least once per month to:

1. Discuss and deliberate upon matters pertaining to student representation;
2. Discuss and deliberate upon matters and to share news and information arising in the course of representing graduate students on University bodies;
3. Coordinate student participation on said bodies in order to advance the Objectives of the GSA as specified in the GSA Bylaws, and in response to Council directives;

the chair of the Graduate Caucus shall report to Council at each regular meeting on the activities of the Graduate Caucus, such reports not to preclude reports upon the business of particular university bodies and committees thereof from their respective graduate student representatives.

5.6 Hiring Committee

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Beajon, Abueid), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-12 Emily Paige, Vinith Anand, and Richard Hinton, Directors of the GSA, are appointed to the Hiring Committee.

5.7 GSA General Assembly Committee

Item tabled.

5.8 Finance Committee

Item tabled.

6. University Body Nominations

6.1 Board of Governors

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Desforges, Hinton), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-13 Eric Chevrier, a graduate student at Concordia University in good standing and Director of the GSA, is nominated as the graduate student representative to the Board of Governors of Concordia University.

6.2 Senate

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Chevrier), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-14 Robert Sonin, Holly Nazar, Phalpinder Jeet Singh Gill, and Mohammad Beajon, all graduate students at Concordia University in good standing, are nominated as the Graduate Student Representatives to the Concordia University Senate.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Desforges, Chevrier), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-15 Robert Sonin is nominated as the graduate student representative to the Senate Steering Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Alatawneh), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-16 Holly Nazar is nominated as the graduate student representative to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee. Motion was seconded by Natheer Alatawneh.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Beajon, Chevrier), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-17 Mohammad Beajon is nominated as the graduate student representative to the Senate Research Committee.

Nominations to the other Committees of Senate tabled.

6.3 Concordia Council on Student Life

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Anand, Abueid), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-18 Holly Nazar, Mohammed Khader and Roddy Doucet are nominated as the graduate student representatives to the Concordia Council on Student Life.

Nominations to the Committees of CCSL tabled.

6.5 Council of the School of Graduate Studies

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Beajon), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-19 Mohammed Khader and Daria Saryan, graduate students at Concordia University in good standing, are nominated as graduate student representatives to the Council of the School of Graduate Studies.

Nominations to the Committees of CSGS tabled.

6.5 Arts and Science faculty Council

Item tabled.

6.6 FAFC

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Paige, Chevrier), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-20 Emily Paige is nominated as the graduate student representatives to the Council of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

7. Summer Budget

7.1 Summer Budget

The President presented the summer budget for the GSA (document 110607-04). Ms. Nazar requested an allocation for the Loyola outreach program event this summer.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Abueid, Desforges), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-21 The GSA Summer Budget 2011 presented as Document 110607-04 is approved as amended by adding \$500 to the line item "Social Events".

[See document CD-110607-04 attached.]

7.2 Authorization to borrow from the University

The President informed Council that the GSA has sufficient funds to cover all GSA summer expenses, but that an advance on Fall fees may be necessary in September.

Item tabled.

8. Other Business

8.1 Management of GSA House

Erik Chevrier informed the council that some time ago the council passed a motion to use fair trade coffee only for the GSA free coffee as well as a resolution to not use styrofoam cups. He requested that this resolution be adhered to. Mr. Abueid informed Council that other than a few exceptions, the coffee at the GSA has been fair trade.

8.2 Resolution Regarding Transparency Board of Governors

The Vice-President External presented the following resolution and expressed importance that the Concordia Board of Governors be open and transparent.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Desforges), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110607-22 WHEREAS Concordia University is a public institution with a duty of transparency and service to its community and society at large;

WHEREAS regular meetings of the Board of Governors of Concordia University are open and public but do not provide sufficient accommodation for interested members of the community who wish to witness the proceeding;

WHEREAS in particular the 'overflow room' currently provided for spectators to observe proceedings via video feed is insufficient for a truly open and public meeting;

The Graduate Student's Association of Concordia asks the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors to approve:

1. A question period of no less than 20 minutes at the end of each regular meeting of the Board of Governors in which members of the university community at large may ask questions or make comments
2. Increase seating in the same room as the Board of Governors meeting with a capacity for spectators of no less than forty seats.
3. Permission for Concordia University Television (CUTV) to video-record regular meetings and post them on the CUTV website.

8.3 Letter from the GSA in Support of Jaggi Singh

Ms. Nazar proposed a letter to be sent in support of the QPIRG activist Jaggi Singh who is facing sentencing after pleading guilty to charges related to the Toronto G20 summit protests.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Chevrier, Desforges), it was RESOLVED:

CD-110607-23 A letter in support of Jaggi Singh shall be issued publicly by the GSA.

8.4 GPS Partnership with the GSA

Ms. Paige informed that the GPS is supporting 22 organizations that help students in professional and skill development with in-kind donations. The GSA was selected as a recipient owing to the high repute of its language courses. The support could be provided this fall, but the GSA needs to finalize the kind of support to request.

8.5 GSA Free Schools

Mr. Chevrier informed Council about free schools and proposed to start a free school at the GSA. The proposal was well received.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Thursday 7 July2011.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm

Golam M. Aurup
Secretary

Robert Sonin
Acting Chair