



Graduate Students' Association

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CD-1109

Minutes

GSA Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 7th, from 1:00PM-4:00PM

School of Community and Public Affairs (basement - 2149 Mackay)

Attendance

Chair: Gretchen King

Secretary: Kiley Goyette

Voting Directors: Kavian Abhari (ENCS), Gul Pervez (ENCS), Tareq Shawan (ENCS), Simon Vickers (Arts and Science), Audrey Dahl (Arts and Science), Katherine Rossy (Arts and Science), Poya Saffari (Arts and Science), Mahmood Salehi (JMSB), Tara Walker (JMSB), Nirajan Bhakare (JMSB), Syed Abis Hassan Zaidi (ENCS),

Non-Voting Directors: Daria Saryan (President), Nadia Hausfather (Vice-President External), Roya Azarm (Vice-President Internal)

Observers: Jamie Goodman (Finance Manager), Elizabeth Colford (Services Manager), David Clos-Sasseville (Department and Campaigns Advocate)

Absent: Ahmed Atia (ENCS), Hasanain Al-rubaye (ENCS), Faisal Al-Saqqar (ENCS), Rachel Banton (JMSB), Patrick Leonard (Fine Arts), Zouhair Briqech (ENCS), Erik Chevrier (Independent / interdisciplinary Studies), Roddy Doucet (Advocacy and Finance Manager),

Documents

Appendix I, April Council Meeting Minutes

Appendix II, Reports

Appendix III, Motions

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:12pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Moved by Poya
- Seconded: Simon



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- Motion to Add: Short Announcement at 3.2
 - Proposed by Liz
- Motion passes (no opposition, no abstentions)

3. Council Business

1. Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
2. Announcement
 - 2.1. Trip planned for this weekend to Parc National Megantic; Talk to Liz if you want to sign up

4. Approval of Minutes [See APPENDIX I: April Minutes, pp. 2-6]

- Move: Simon
- Second: Audrey
- Changes: Motion to change the quorum of executive committee meetings from five to four in the by-laws, in point 5.3 from bylaw proposals, was passed but was not in the minutes, so this should be added.
 - Moved by Nadia
- Motion carries (no opposition/abstention)

5. Business Arising from the Minutes [See APPENDIX III: Motions, pp. 14-16]

1. *ASEQ health plan fee (President)*
 - 1.1. Presentation by Jamie (info packet sent out on list-serv)
 - Cost of plan will be going up next year by 13%; plan fee increase 7%;
 - Previously we had been charging students more to build a reserve fund to mitigate a sharp increase such as this
 - To decide: how much to dip into reserve, how much to increase the plan fee
 - Suggested to raise fee ~3%-4% and use the reserve to make up the difference. By the end of this summer the reserve should be \$150,000.
 - What is ASEQ saying about future increases? What about the next 5 years?
 - Includes inflation, generally they have been trustworthy.



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- As ASEQ is a network, can we inquire about other associations rates?
- Is there a reason/rationale for this increase?
 - Increase costs, decreased enrollment are reason given.
- Who is the insurance company behind this and is there a better company we can use?
 - Desjardins is behind our plan, we pay ASEQ as our broker to get the best plan;
- When do we need to make a decision by?
 - Before September, but the sooner the better
- What is ASEQ's cut in terms of this increase?
 - They get an amount per student. But not sure what that amount is off hand.
- When is the next anticipated increase? Perhaps we arrange an incremental increase over the next 5 years.
- Motion: Request for finance manager to provide at next council meeting with:
 - Increasing costs
 - Projected costs
 - Nature of costs / any broker increase
 - Review of peer institutions contracted with ASEQ
 - A variety scenarios of incremental increases
 - Motion by: Tara
 - Seconded: Nirranjan
 - Motion passes (1 abstention)

2. *Exec Expenditure Motion (External)*

- Tabled until GA point 7.4

3. *May 1st Motion (External)*

- Removed as this date passed and the event did not happen.

4. *Elections Motion (External) (see packet)*



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4.1. Moved by Nadia; Seconded: Tareq

4.2. Discussion:

- Some recommendations to consider to change the future elections;
- This appears to be recommendations rather than a motion; The elections judicial committee is reviewing the election policy;
- Not sure if the committee is really mandated to elections policies, it was looking at specific grievances;
- The bylaws committee could take this on, including recommendations coming out of the elections judicial committee
- **Amendment:** In the third be-it-resolved, strike voting after elections and add "To encourage students in all departments to run for elections"
 - By Liz;
 - Seconded by ____ ;
 - Discussion
 - Concern about GSA campaigning on behalf of students and associated costs when it should be taken care.
 - Concerns about the ability for the by-law committee being able to take care of this. Perhaps striking a new committee specifically focused on elections would be more productive, then make recommendations with regard to by-laws to the bylaw committee.
- **Motion:** To strike an election review committee that works with the judicial committee and report to council on election procedures;
 - Motion by Poya;
 - Seconded by: Audrey;
 - Nomination of committee members: Audrey (chair), Trevor, Katherine;
 - Note the judicial committee is meeting May 15th;
 - Motion carries with 1 opposed

5. *Morocco Motion (External) to endorse letter found in packet;*

- Motion by Nadia
- Seconded by Audrey;
- Motion passes (4 – 1 – 4);



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6. *Motion about April 22 P-6 GSA contingent (External);*

Addition to already existing motion for P-6 in packet

Considering a GSA member was arrested in a brutal fashion by the Montreal police in front of City Hall at the April 22 demonstration against the P-6;

Be It Resolved That the GSA provide legal, financial, media and other needed support to GSA members arrested or fined at demonstrations against the P-6;

Be It Further Resolved that the GSA also donate \$1,000 to the ASSÉ's legal fund, which supports those arrested and supports the judicial contestations against ByLaw P-6.

- Motion: Nadia;
- Seconded by Poya;
- Discussion:
 - This appears to broad; It is as though we are taking responsibility for our members actions which might be completely illegal.
 - Unless we see exactly what happened, don't feel comfortable with this;
 - In the past we had some support for targets of Bill-78, although we didn't take a position on in; Meanwhile we have a position on P-6;
 - This is specifically on P-6, not for other charges. Maybe we can discuss how we will provide support more specifically. Contributing to the ASSE legal fund is a very productive way to do that.
 - GSA should be for the students.
 - Being specific about financial support as opposed to open ended could be useful.
 - One of the metrics of university ratings is ;
 - The problem with P-6 is that it does not take account your behaviour but in fact your existence.
 - It is irresponsible of the GSA to take a position against P-6 and then not back it up with support for its members.
 - **Motion to split the motion,**
 - Motion by Audrey
 - Motion carries (4 – 0 -- 3);
 - Attempt to make the first be it resolved more specific.
 - **Amendment:** to add "In cases where ASSE legal fund and/or legal aid do not support GSA members;"
 - Motion by Nadia;
 - Seconded Audrey;
 - Motion passes 4 – 0 - 4;



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- The people protesting are fighting for all students, and future students, we should support them completely.
- Qualification for legal aid is related to income. Some grants and scholarships make students ineligible.
- **Amendment:** To add a clause to denounce of police brutality;
 - Motion: Tareq;
 - Second: Audrey;
- Where does advocacy manager fit into this?
- Interest in specifically limiting the amount of financial support offered by GSA.
- This type of motion has been made in the past without being abused. This situation is serious. The progressive jurists association made a report on the testimony;
- **Vote on motion on donating to ASSE legal fund;**
- Motion passes (5-2-2)
- Vote on amended versions of initial motion;
- Motion passes: (4 - 0 - 5)
- Vote to denounce police brutality
- Motion passes: (6 - 0 - 2)

Motion to move point 7 ahead of point 6;

- Motion by Kavian
- Seconded by Tareq
- Motion passes (6 - 1 - 0);

6. **Reports** [See **APPENDIX II**: Reports, pp. 6-13 AND note reports were tabled from the April meeting]
 1. President
 2. VP Internal
 3. VP External
 4. Finance Manager
 5. Advocacy Manager
 6. Service Manager
 7. Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 8. Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning Committee)

All reports for April and May are tabled.

7. **Motions** [See **APPENDIX III**: Motions, p. 16-17]



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1. Advocacy Fee

Whereas the successful referendum question requesting an advocacy fee is a change in fees levied from our members;

Whereas this referendum question was never discussed nor ratified by council before being presented on the ballot during the 2013 GSA elections;

Whereas this contravenes GSA by-law article IV point 2.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GSA Council cancel this increase of fees for our members and inform them of this decision.

- Motion by Audrey;
- Seconded by Simon;
- Discussion:
 - o What was the amount?
 - o \$1 per student.
 - o The issue is that a fee increase must pass the council before appearing on the referendum.
 - o If students voted for this, shouldn't we respect the vote?
 - o We put in place a procedure and other associations have to follow these procedures, so we should do the same for ourselves;
 - o Suggest a bylaw change where any GSA member should be able to put a motion on the ballot without going through council.
- **Amendment:** BIFRT that council debate this increase at its next meeting, to move the question for ratification at the next General Assembly
 - o Moved by Audrey
 - o Seconded by Poya;
 - o Motion passes: (9 – 0 – 0)
- What happens next? The fee will not be increased in September and that is assuming the ability to pay the advocacy;
 - o But we can shuffle the budget for the summer to make up for the lack of increase;
- Concerns that this is allowing the bylaws to supersede a referendum vote.
- If there is some recommendation for bylaw changes as an amendment to this;



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- Concern we are conflating ratifying referendum questions and fee increase; People could take issue with paying for a fee that didn't go through process.
- **Voting on 7.1**
 - o Motion carries 8 - 0 - 0

2. *Additional motion about elections (External)*

Be It Resolved That the 2012-2013 GSA Council strongly discourage graduate students and organizations from intimidating other candidates from running in future GSA elections based on their ethnicity, race or gender.

- Motion by Nadia;
- Seconded by Katherine;
- Discussion:
 - o Does no anti-oppression statement exist in the bylaws/ constitution? Seems like a huge omission.
 - o There seems to have been a rhetoric surrounding elections;
 - o **Friendly amendment** to include sexuality and spirituality. (Nadia/Tareq)
 - o It should be noted that the elections review committee should take this statement into consideration.
- Motion passes (7 - 0 - 0);
- Motion to move to Motion 7.7

7.7 *Concordia Food Coalition*

Motion 7.7 Food Coalition motion

Considering the GSA General Assembly recently passed a motion for the GSA to join the Concordia Food Coalition

BIRT that the GSA allocate \$1,000 to the Concordia Food Coalition.

- *Motion by Nadia;*
- *Seconded by Audrey ;*
- Tendering the next food contract. Committee for RFPs under Roger Cote to advise him; First time in 10 years.
- What is the method of allocating these funds? It's not a fee levy, they are not GSA member, we are members of them.
- Feeling that we need a more formalized way to deal with these requests in the future (ie. Discretionary fund with basic application).
- Which budget line is this coming from? Campaigns unless other suggestions.



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- **Motion passes 9 – 0 – 0;**

3. ~~Additional motion about General Assembly spending (External) (combined with 5.2 And moved after 7.4)~~

4. GSA General Assembly be in May (External)

- Because there are two vacant exec position; 1 vacant Arts & Science position since April 11 (so the by-election must be called by May 30th);

Motion:

- To hold a GSA General Assembly to be held in the last 2 weeks of September;

- Motion by : Poya;

- Seconded: Kavian

- Motion carries: 6 – 0 – 1;

- To call for by-elections before May 30th to happen at the September GA;

- Motion by Poya;

- Seconder: Kavian;

- Motion carries: 6 - 0- 1;

- To hold another joint council meeting before May 30th and to give proper notice of appointments if they are made.

o Motion: Kavian;

o Second: Gul;

o Motion passes 4 – 0 -3;

Meeting Adjourned at 4:14 pm;

Tabled motions: 5.2 (with 7.3); 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; 6 (reports from April and May);

Note: The chair forgot to add “CJLO CSBC motion” to the agenda which was requested by a member who was late and it was not added to the agenda. So please consider adding it to the next agenda.