

GSA General Assembly

Friday November 8th, 2013

4pm De Sève Cinema, L B Building

1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd O., Montreal, QC

Notes:

- a) All names are probably spelt wrong, apologies from the secretary
- b) Minutes from April 30th GA were not approved, as this was never added to the agenda by a member.
- c) meeting lost quorum and was adjourned early

Chair: Gretchen King

Secretary: Alex Matak

Mood Watcher: Yoana Turnin

FINAL AGENDA:

0. Announcements
1. Call to order
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Appointment of Chair, Secretary, and Mood-Watcher
4. Appointment of Auditor
5. Approval of GSA Projected Budget 2013-2014
6. Business arising from last GA
 - 6.1 Motion to have GSA follow more sustainable meeting practices and pressure the University to move away from fossil fuel technology and infrastructure (Divest Concordia) (not discussed by the GA on April 30, 2013 due to loss of quorum and early adjournment)
 - 6.2 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Articles XIX and V regarding frequency of General Assembly meetings (tabled by the GA on April 30, 2013 to be reviewed at the next meeting of the GA)
 - 6.2.a. Proposed amendments to above Motion (Bylaws Committee, approved by Council)
 - 6.3 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article XXI regarding procedures for bylaw amendments (approved by the GA pending lawyer's comments on April 30, 2013)
 - 6.3.a. Report on lawyer's response (GSA President)
 - 6.3.b. Proposed amendments to the Motion (see below)
7. New Business
 - 7.2 Council Honorariums
 - 7.1 Ratification of Referendum result on Advocacy fee
 - 7.3 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article VIII.2 and Articles IX.4 and IX.5 regarding the makeup and responsibilities of the GSA Executive (submitted by Council)
- o. Elections
 - a.1 Election of Arts & Science Council Director
 - b.2 Election of Fine Arts Council Director
 - c.3 Election of VP-Mobilization (pending outcome of 8.1)
 - d.4 Election of VP-Academic/Advocacy (pending outcome of 8.1)

- 7.4 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Articles V, XII and XIII to increase the transparency and accountability of Council (submitted by members' petition)
- 7.5 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article XIX.3 regarding roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly Committee (submitted by Council)
- 7.6 Motion concerning GSA stance towards university revoking support for student journals

- 8. Report From President
- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

1.Call to order

Meeting reached quorum at 4:40pm

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion GA-131008-01

Be It Resolved That the Following agenda be adopted:

- 0. Announcements
 - 1. Call to order (once quorum is reached)
 - 2. Adoption of agenda
 - 3. Appointment of chair, secretary, mood-watcher
 - 4. Report from president
 - 5. Financial statement review
 - 6. Approval of budgets
 - 6.1 Motion to have GSA follow more sustainable meeting practices and pressure the University to move away from fossil fuel technology and infrastructure (Divest Concordia) (not discussed by the GA on April 30, 2013 due to loss of quorum and early adjournment)
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7.5 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article XIX.3 regarding roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly Committee (submitted by Council)

8. Debate on new Executive Positions

9. New business

10. Elections

10.1 Election of Arts & Science Council Director

10.2 Election of Fine Arts Council Director

10.3 Election of VP-Mobilization (pending outcome of 8.1)

10.4 Election of VP-Academic/Advocacy (pending outcome of 8.1)

11. Other business

Moved – Audrey, arts and science moving

Seconded- Trevor, arts and science

Amendment - 01

Be It Resolved That the Agenda be amended to switch #9 elections occur between 8.3 and 8.4

Moved – Sara, Arts and Science

Amendment - 02

Be It Resolved That the Agenda be amended to 8.1 and 8.2

Moved – Bob, Arts and Science

Amendment - 03

Be It Resolved That the Agenda be amended to move # 4 between elections and new business

Moved – Alex, ENCS

Amendment - 04

Be It Resolved That the Agenda be amended to switch 7.3 and 7.1

Moved – Trevor, Arts and Science

Amendment - 05

Be It Resolved That the Agenda be amended to add something to New Business, 8.6 Motion concerning GSA stance towards university revoking support for student journals

Moved – Kristoffer, Arts and Science

Motion GA-131008-01 as amended

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8. Report From President
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

3.0 Adoption of chair, secretary, mood-watcher

Motion GA-131008-02

Be It Resolved That the following person be nominated at the designated positions:

Chair: Gretchen King
Secretary: Alex Matak

Mood Watcher: Yoana Turnin

Moved -

Seconded -

Passed unanimously

4.0 Appointment of Auditor

Sofio has been the GSA auditor for years, there is some discussion about whether to change, Finance Manager suggests it is best to stick with someone who is familiar with the GSA

Motion GA-131008-03

Be It Resolved That we adopt Sofio Ouellet as auditor for the GSA

Moved - ENCS

Seconded - Arts and Science

Passed with 2 abstentions

5.0 Approval of GSA Budget 2013-2014

Presentation of Budget.

Request to add details about the “other overhead expenses” and the budget for fall orientation

For more specific break down of Orientation events you can email

General comments that the budget is not clear

Motion GA-131008-04

Be It Resolved That GSA cancel cable TV subscription

Moved – Trevor, Arts and Science

Seconded- Audrey, Arts and Science

General comments: Seems like a frivolous expense. One member believes it's a service for students who cannot pay for their own cable

Passed by simple majority

Opposed: Farass ENCS, Vinoth ENCS, Ali ENCS, Mark Arts and Science

Motion GA-131008-05

Be It Resolved That the GA direct the Budget committee to present a more detailed budget to be circulated at least 10 days among the members before it's approval at the annual GA

Moved – Sara, Arts and Science

Seconded - Ali, ENCS

Passed by large majority

Motion GA-131008-06

Be It Resolved That the GA direct budget committee to limit managers and executive salary to 30% of GSA revenues pending union contract negotiations

Moved – Alex, ENCS
Seconded - Ali, ENCS

General Comments: Several members feel very frustrated with the budget and the process of the GA. Distinction made by Nadia that the managers have a contract and we cannot just cut salary, we must simply talk about executive. Executive salaries are currently 8% of revenue. Eric believes we should continue this discussion after a more detailed budget is sent out.

Motion to Table the motion (GA-131008-06)

Moved – Alex, ENCS
Seconded - Ali, ENCS
Failed by a large majority

Back to the Motion GA-131008-06

Failed by an overwhelming majority
Opposed: Trevor Arts and Science, Monish ENCS, Vignesh ENCS
Abstentions: David Arts and Science

Motion GA-131008-07

Be It Resolved That the money saved from the cut to cable be moved to the HIV Aids project

Moved by David
Seconded by Monish ENCS
9-6-Many Abstentions: Dan parker, trevor

Motion GA-131008-08

Be It Resolved That the GSA General Assembly approve the budget

Moved – Arts and Science
Seconded - Bob, Arts and Science
Passed by large majority
Abstentions: Nadia,

6.0 Business arising from past GA

6.1 Motion to have GSA follow more sustainable meeting practices and pressure the University to move away from fossil fuel technology and infrastructure (Divest Concordia) (not discussed by the GA on April 30, 2013 due to loss of quorum and early adjournment)

Motion GA-131008-09

Be It Resolved That GSA follow more sustainable meeting practices and pressure the University to move away from fossil fuel technology and infrastructure

Moved – Trevor, Arts and Science
Seconded - Roddy, Arts and Science

Question: How much money is currently invested? A: about \$11.5 Million
Q: what is the goal of this campaign? A: to educate people on what dirty investments are.
Q: what is a sustainable alternative? A: we need to create a working group mandated to decide what is a more sustainable investment to make.

Motion to call the question
Passed with 6 opposed

The *Motion (GA-131008-09) goes straight to a vote*
Passed by large majority

6.2 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Articles XIX and V regarding frequency of General Assembly meetings (tabled by the GA on April 30, 2013 to be reviewed at the next meeting of the GA)

Motion GA-131008-10

Be It Resolved that the text of Article XIX be changed for the following: At least two general assemblies per semester – excluding the summer- shall be held

Be It Further Resolved that the text of Article V be changed for the following: Three graduate student senators, and one graduate student representatives for the Board of Governors representative, shall be elected at a General Assembly at latest in First week of September

Motion to separate the Motion (GA-131008-10) into two individual Motions

Moved - Roddy
Seconded - Bob
Passed by simple Majority

Motion GA-131008-10a

Be It Resolved that the text of Article XIX be changed for the following: At least two general assemblies per semester – excluding the summer- shall be held

Amendment - 01

BIRT that article XIX – General Meetings be amended to read as follows:
At least one general assembly per semester -excluding the summer – shall be held.

Comments: it seems that the idea behind having two GA's a semester is about changing the culture of general assemblies. Council believes it would be too

difficult to hold a second GA this semester, but that by having 1 we can still have more than 1.

Failed by simple majority
Opposed: Trevor

Motion GA-131008-10a Unamended

Be It Resolved that the text of Article XIX be changed for the following: At least two general assemblies per semester – excluding the summer- shall be held

Passed 49-6-4

Motion GA-131008-10b

Be It Resolved that the text of Article V be changed for the following: Three graduate student senators, and one graduate student representatives for the Board of Governors representative, shall be elected at a General Assembly at latest in First week of September

Amendment - 01

Be It Resolved That BOG and Senator representatives elections be held in the full GSA elections held annually in April

Moved – Roddy, Arts and Science
Seconded - Vignesh ENCS
Passed by simple majority

Motion GA-131008-10b as Amended

Be It Resolved that the text of Article V be changed for the following: BOG and Senator representatives elections be held in the full GSA elections held annually in April

Passed 47-7-3 Opposition: audrey Art and science, Alex ENCS

The **Quorum** is called, the count is 67. The Quorum is recognized.

6.3 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article XXI regarding procedures for bylaw amendments (approved by the GA pending lawyer's comments on April 30, 2013)

Context: A motion was passed at a prior GA regarding the bylaws pending a lawyers consent, however the lawyer replied that the change would not work. Thus, based on the lawyers response, the following change to the original motion should be made:

Motion GA-131008-11

Be It Resolved That Article XXI.1 — Amendments of the GSA Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Article XXI – Amendments

1. Notice of Motion

Any proposed By-Law change must be either

- a. submitted to Council by a committee made for that purpose, later to be ratified, if approved by Council, by a meeting of the General Assembly,
- b. submitted to Council by any GSA member, later to be ratified, if approved by Council, by a meeting of the General Assembly, or
- c. submitted to Council within a minimum of seven (7) days before the General Assembly by any GSA member, provided the member has collected 40 signatures, 10 from each faculty. Council shall verify the petition and then submit the bylaw change to the GA for debate; if approved by the GA, Council shall subsequently meet to ratify the decision

Comments: seems like 40 – 10 from each faculty is too much and we should move it to 25. Counter, 25 could concentrate power into one faculty. Questioning if its a bad idea to eliminate the possibility for a member to make a bylaw change during a GA when it seems relevant, seems to limit member participation. Seems to be a good idea to have a mechanism (the council) to prevent too many radical changes to be made at GA's.

Motion to call the question

Moved - Nadia

Passed by large majority

The Motion (GA-131008-11) goes straight to a vote

Passed 45-4-4

6.3.a. Report on lawyer's response (GSA President)

6.3.b. Proposed amendments to the Motion (see below)

Motion GA-131008-12

Be It Resolved that the actual point be tabled in order to entertain point 7 New business

The **Quorum** is called, the count is 58. The Quorum is lost the and meeting is adjourned officially at 7:05 pm. The meeting will continue informally.

Motion to amend agenda to move up by-law decisions to entertain them first in New Business

call for Quorum: 58/60 quorum is lost and meeting is adjourned officially at 7:05 pm. Meeting will continue informally.

The following item are tabled Until Next GA:

7. New Business

7.2 Council Honorariums

7.1 Ratification of Referendum result on Advocacy fee

7.3 Motion to amend GSA Bylaws Article VIII.2 and Articles IX.4 and IX.5 regarding the

makeup and responsibilities of the GSA Executive (submitted by Council)

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8. Report From President

9. Other Business