

CD-1101

**Council Meeting November 1, 2015 minutes  
(CO-20151101)**

**Meeting Facilitator:** Ribal Abi Raad

**Minutes Taker:** Gretchen King

**Present**

*Councillors:* Aria Azami (ENCS), Nirmal Desai (ENCS), Vivek Khatri (ENCS), Rahul Kumar (ENCS), Sapandeep Randhawa (ENCS), Ashley Michel (JMSB), Mathilde Ngo Mbom (JMSB), Kerolés Riad (Indi), Pempho Kamwendo (A&S), Carine Ouedraogo (A&S), Jasneet Kaur (ENCS), Abigail Singer (A&S), Caitlin Robinson (A&S),

*Executives:* Surekha Reddy Kolli (VP Internal), Jawad Khan Mohammad (VP External), Bhavreet Gill (VP Mobilization), Alex Ocheoha (President), Rupinder Kaur (VP Academic/Advocacy)

*Staff:* Gretchen King, Vinay Paramanand

*Observers:* Abigail Slinger, Shutong

**Absent**

*Councillors:* Carolina Aponte (FA), Julie Arrowsmith (A&S), Stephi Stavropoulos (A&S), Amandeep Narula (ENCS), Aidan Macdonald (JMSB)

**Final Agenda:**

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm
1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business (20 mins)
  - 3.1 Appointing Minute Taker
  - 3.2 Impeached from Council (reconsideration)
4. Appointments
  - 4.1 Tribunal Pool
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, LINK (50 mins)
  - 5.1 Council Rules
  - 5.2 Bonus
  - 5.3 Oversight Committee (Closed Session)
  - 5.4 GSA Cricket Kit
  - 5.5 Abolishing Directors
  - 5.6 Funds Accumulated from Health and Dental Plan (Request for closed session)
  - 5.7 GSA Website

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- 5.8 GSA Austerity research group
- 5.9 Annual Events Plan and Budget
- 5.10 GSA Logo, Funding and Allocations
- 5.11 Open Facebook
- 6. New Business, [LINK](#) (15mins)
  - 6.1 GISA approval and allocation
- 7. Reports, [LINK](#)
  - 7.1 President
- 8. Other Business (35mins)
  - 8.1 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)
  - 8.2 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)
- 9. Adjournment

**1.1 Call to Order**

Called to order at 6:00pm.

**2.1 Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motion CO-20151101-01*

BIRT the agenda is adopted as amended.

**Moved:** Sapandeep

**Seconded:** Abigail

Motion to remove 5.5 Abolishing Directors

**Moved:** Nirmal

**Seconded:** Jasneet

**For:** Caitlin, Abigailm Aria, Sapandeep, Carine, Ashley, Jasneet, Nirmal

**Abstain:** Keroles, Pempho

**Against:** Rahul, Viviek

**ADOPTED**

Remove 3.2 Impeached from Council

**Moved:** Jasneet

**Seconded:** Caitlin

**For:** Abigal, Nirmal, Jasneet, Caitlin

**Abstain:** Pempho, Ashley, Carine, Sapandeep, Aria, Keroles

**Against:** Viviek, Rahul

**ADOPTED**

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Motion to remove 5.2 Bonus

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Nirmal

**For:** Keroles, Sapandeep, Rahul, Jasneet, Nirmal

**Abstain:** Caitlin, Pempho, Viviek

**Against:** Abigail, Aria, Carine, Ashley

**ADOPTED**

Move Business Arising 6.1 to 5.1

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Aria

**For:** Rahul, Keroles

**Abstain:** Jasneet, Pempho, Carine, aria, Abigail, Caitlin

**Against:** Nirmal, Vivek, Ashley, Spandeep

**FAILED**

*Vote on motion as amended:*

BIRT the agenda is adopted as amended:

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm

1. Call to Order (1 min)

2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)

3. Council Business (20 mins)

3.1 Appointing Minute Taker

4. Appointments

4.1 Tribunal Pool

5. Business Arising from the Minutes, LINK (50 mins)

5.1 Council Rules

5.2 Oversight Committee (Closed Session)

5.3 GSA Cricket Kit

5.4 Funds Accumulated from Health and Dental Plan (Request for closed session)

5.5 GSA Website

5.6 GSA Austerity research group

5.7 Annual Events Plan and Budget

5.8 GSA Logo, Funding and Allocations

5.9 Open Facebook

6. New Business

6.1 GISA approval and allocation

6. Reports, LINK

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7.1 President

7. Other Business (35mins)

7.1 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)

7.2 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)

9. Adjournment

**Moved:** Sapandeeep

**Seconded:** Abigail

**For:** Caitling, Keroles, Abigail, Aria, Sapandeeep, Carine, Ashley, Pempjho, Vivek, Jasneet, Nirmal

**Abstain:** Rahul,

**ADOPTED**

**3.1 Appointing Minute Taker**

*Motion CO-20151101-02*

BIRT Gretchen King be appointed as minute taker.

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Vivek

**For:** Caitling, Keroles, Abigail, Aria, Sapandeeep, Carine, Ashley, Pempjho, Vivek, Jasneet, Nirmal, Rahul

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4.1 Tribunal Pool**

*Motion CO-20151101-03*

BIRT Carla Farnesi be appointed to the Tribunal Pool.

**Moved:** Pempfo

**Seconded:** Rahul

**For:** Nirmal, Rahul, Pempfo, Carine, Sapandeeep, Keroles, Caitlin

**Abstain:** Jasneet, Vivek, Ashley, Aria, Abigail

**ADOPTED**

**5.1 Council Rules**

*Motion CO-20151101-04*

Rules for the First week (early) council meeting:

- a) Pending items from the previous council meeting may be discussed for not more than 50% of the assigned meeting time.
- b) The first part of the meeting should be spent on discussing the future tasks and current council task list to be executed and the responsibilities of the executives as well as the directors for the month.

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- c) Minutes of the discussion must be noted by the minute's taker and the chair does his duty as usual to control the meeting. The outcome would also state the responsibilities of each executive for the month.
- d) In case of disagreements amongst councilors regarding the nature of tasks for the month, there would be voting of the councilors to conclude the discussion further.
- e) The executive members are free to suggest what they plan to do throughout the month; however, the decision of the council should be final for activities planned for the month for team of executives.
- f) In case of any deviations from the plans and tasks suggested in the initial month meeting, the executives should notify all the directors through the email with proper reasons.

BIRT, all the rules mentioned above should be adapted for the council meeting, scheduled to occur in the first week of every month.

**Moved:** Vivek

**Seconded:** Rahul

Call for a vote.

**Moved:** Rahul

**Seconded:** Keroles

**For:** Nirmal, Vivek, Rahul, Pempho, Ashely, Sapanedeeep, Keroles, Caitin

**Absatin:** Jasneet, Carine, Aria

**Against:** Abigail

**ADOPTED**

*Vote on Motion as is:*

**Moved:** Vivek

**Seconded:** Rahul

**For:** Nirmal, Vivek, Rahul, Sapandeeep, keroles

**Abstain:** Jasneet, Pempho, Ashley, Carine, Aria

**Against:** Abigail, Caitlin

**ADOPTED**

Note: Alex expressed dissent against this motion.

*Motion CO-20151101-05*

Motion to go open discussion on future tasks and current council task list at 7pm.

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Vivek

**For:** Jasneet, Vivek, Rahul, Mathilde, Sapandeeep

**Against:** Abigail

**Abstain:** Nirmal, Pempho, Ashley, Carine, Aria, Keroles, Caitlin

*General Questions/Points:*

In your reports, please cite the task list and give an update;

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-Every committee needs to take minutes, need to use the drop box:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Council%20Archive/Committees>

*To VP External:* are you working with Student Life Committee on these events? Please inform the Student Life Committee;

-Request To VP External that sponsors are provided by the end of the month or explain reasons why?

Jawad: Need another member for Funding Policy; CCR updates; STM project (auditing required of financial accounts to get sponsorship, need to work beyond coalition and look at independent solutions); Attending to federation meetings: CFS being replaced by UEQ (Quebec Univ Students, proposing tax credit for intl students and the STM project) and another federation, trying to assist which is the best for GSA members, will organize debates on campus about which group to affiliate, we will need to run a referendum question; will provide more information in the Dec council on how we can get sponsors for the STM project; got events approved at Executive Committee not Student Life Committee;

*To President:* Why have we not filled taxes in the last four years?

-Why is Alex not following the Hiring Committee's decision?

Alex: We discovered GSA has not filled tax returns. There has been no financial review and to file with government and we need that to pay taxes. We finished the first two of the last four years, the auditor we appointed will work on the review of the last two years (to be finished in February or before March); The Hiring Committee did not recommend Ribal to Council, only the opinion of one person and that was brought fwd by the only person with that opinion. The committee did not have quorum when this was raised and the issue was considered a conflict of interests. The other researchers are not hired at this time. Council appointed Ribal and he has started working, but we cannot hire them when there is no quorum; the budget Committee can appoint the auditor to be approved at GA;

Hiring Committee Member: It was a majority, and it does not matter because council appointed Ribal.

*Questions for VP Academic:* We need to advertise to grad members, most grads don't know about HOJO?

-Why merge next year, why not do this now?

-We need to not turn people away who need advocacy, need to give them a number.

-We need to advertise Advocacy Services to grads.

-We need to organize an information session on Academic Advocacy, how to citations, how to avoid problems.

-Will advocacy centre be sustainable? We are missing info on the budget.

-Relations with alumni, what are we doing?

-In the last meeting, we allocated money for students to attend conference?

Rupinder: Setting up advocacy centre this month; Advocacy Coordinator and Assistant negotiations are there; the posting for these positions will be posted as soon as the union negotiations are done, room and office will be set up this month; We have a proposal from CSU

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to merge the advocacy centre in Fall 2016 and they want to extend service to Advocacy Centre? We have said the budget is \$25,000. We had two rounds of meetings with the Alumni and we hope to collaborate with them in January. For the funding for conferences from Concordia Alumni, they are requesting an audit of how the funding was spent. Yes we are planning to fund conf in February. At the senate – class sizes are increasing, we have with the CSU asked the Senate to do a survey on class sizes. Graduate Philosophy is going on strike on Nov and they are saying that GSA is corrupt, so can we talk about this, and they are asking for our support. Can we? YES but we will check the motion in the Council Minutes (Jawad: a GSA mandate is to support depts, stand with them, not to provide financial support)

*To the VP Mobilization:* What happened with the GA?

-How are we going to approve for the next GA?

-What was done different?

-Councillors are also responsible for bringing people to GA, how can we encourage people to attend?

-Do you think it is possible for us to require councillors and depts we fund to attend GA? (Alex: We cannot force people to attend).

-We had 300 people for a party and only 30 for GA, and that is not our main mandate;

-Do you have a list of the dept associations, ask each to send an executive (Alex, we did send emails);

-We need to create more interest on the students to be part of the GA, we approved the agenda at the last minute, and the mobilization cannot create interest on the agenda?

-What is experience at CSU? Food!! At McGill, GA are held immediately after Council and since that change there is no problem with quorum;

-CSU comparison is problematic, they are way more organize than we are, we cannot force 60 people to come to a meeting, need to add dates to the agenda, need to approve the budget before, and the first GA happen right after orientation events, the CSU just gets there stuff done on time that helps it be relevant;

-it is not that we suck, what do we need to do to mobilize people for a business meeting, so what works we need to consult other successful organizations;

Bhavreet: The assistance we hired, no one signed up on time, people had exams, people had attitude that the GA people to not want to be involved. I don't know what the ex-VP mob did. I calculated the peak hours for the libraries and labs, I postured, scheduled the mob assistants, and booked a table in the Hall Building the day before. If all the directors had shown up we would have had quorum.

Alex: We need to start working on the GA dates and to approve the agenda;

*Motion CO-20151101-06*

Motion to go close discussion at 8:18.

**Moved:** Jasneet

**Seconded:** Nirmal

**For:** NIRMAI, Vivek, Jasneet, Pempho, Mthilde, Sapandeep, Aria, Keroles, Caitlin

**Against:** Rahul

**ADOPTED**

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*Motion CO-20151101-07*

Motion to go to 6.1 and then resume to regular agenda.

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Sapandeep,

**For:** Caitin, Keroles, Abigal, Vivek, Keroles, Mathilde, Pempho,

**Abstain:** Aria, Sapandeep, Rahul, Jasneet

**ADOPTED**

## 6.1 GISA approval and allocation

*Motion CO-20151101-08*

BIRT GSA council approves the creation of the new Graduate Individualized Student Association (GISA);

BIFRT GISA's allocation be provided immediately by the Finance Manager.

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Rahul

*Amendment*

BIRT Council strike the second clause.

**Moved:** Caitlin

**Seconded:** Mathilde

**For:** Nirmal, Rahul, Mathilde, Carine, Sapandeep, Caitlin

**Against:** Keroles,

**Abstain:** Jasneet, Vivek, Pempho, Ashley, Aria, Abigail

**ADOPTED**

*Vote on as amended:*

BIRT GSA council approves the creation of the new Graduate Individualized Student Association (GISA);

**Moved:** Keroles

**Seconded:** Rahul

**For:** Caitlin, Keroles, Abigail, Carine, Mathilde, Rahul, Pempho, Vivek, Jasneet, Nirmal

**Abstain:** Aria, Ashley,

**Against:** Sapandeep

**ADOPTED**

Note: President and VP Internal expressed dissent against this motion.

## 5.2 Oversight Committee (Closed Session)



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*Motion CO-20151101-09*

Motion to go into closed session with the Chair and Minute Taker in attendance.

**Moved:** Caitlin

**Seconded:** Mathilde

**For:** Jasneet, Vivek, Rahul, Mathilde, Sapandeep, Abigail, Nirmal, Pempho, Ashley, Carine, Aria, Keroles, Caitlin

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes in the Council Archive, [LINK](#)

- i. Whereas the communication manager is in charge of GSA website and newsletter  
Whereas GSA has not filled that position yet  
Oversight Committee recommends to council that the VP Mob should have full power over the website and newsletter making and distribution  
Oversight Committee also recommends to council that if another executive/president fulfills these tasks without VP Mob consent, that exec will have his bursary be cut by half
- ii. Oversight committee recommends to council to approve full bursaries to each of the executives
- iii. Oversight committee recommends to council to extend oversight committee mandate to include a review of the bursary policy.
- iv. Oversight committee recommends to council to modify committee mandate to meet at least 7 days before monthly council instead of 10 days.
- v. Oversight committee recommends to council to approve full bursaries to each of the executives
- vi. Oversight Committee recommends to Council to have the Finance Manager make variance analysis (up-to-date expenses VS budgeted expenses) when presenting monthly expenses.

*Motion CO-20151101-10*

BIRT Council approve the following Oversight Committee recommendations:

1. Oversight Committee recommends to council that the VP Mob should have full power over the website and newsletter making and distribution
2. Oversight Committee also recommends to council that if another executive fulfills these tasks without VP Mob consent, that exec will have his/her bursary be cut by half
3. Oversight committee recommends to council to extend oversight committee mandate to include a review of the bursary policy.
4. Oversight committee recommends to council to modify committee mandate to meet at least 7 days before monthly council instead of 10 days.
5. Oversight Committee recommends to Council to have the Finance Manager make variance analysis (up-to-date expenses VS budgeted expenses) when presenting monthly expenses.

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**Moved:** Mathilde

**Seconded:** Rahul

**For:** Jasneet, Vivek, Rahul, Mathilde, Sapandeeep, Abigail, Nirmal, Pempho, Ashley, Carine, Aria, Keroles, Caitlin

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Motion CO-20151101-11*

BIRT VP External's bursary for the month of October is approved.

**Moved:** Caitlin

**Seconded:** Sapandeeep

**For:** Rahul, Pempho, Mathilde, Ashley, Carine, Sapandeeep, Aria, Abigail, eroles, Caitlin

**Abstain:** Jasneet

**ADOPTED**

*Motion CO-20151101-12*

BIRT VP Internal's bursary for the month of October is approved.

**Moved:** Caitlin

**Seconded:** Aria

**For:** Jasneet, Rahul, Phempho, Mathilde, Ashley, Carine, Sapandeeep, Aria, Abigail, Caitlin

**Abstain:** Keroles

**ADOPTED**

*Motion CO-20151101-13*

BIRT VP Academic is approved for 50% of the bursary amount for the month of October.

**Moved:** Rahul

**Seconded:** Caitlin

**For:** Jasneet, Rahul, Phempho, Keroles, Sapandeeep

**Against:** Aria, Abigail

**Abstain:** Mathilde, Ashley, Carine, Caitlin

**ADOPTED**

*Motion CO-20151101-14*

BIRT VP Mobilization's bursary is approved for the month of October.

**Moved:** Rahul

**Seconded:** Carine

**For:** Rahul Mathilde, Ashley, Carine, Aria, Sapandeeep, Abigail, Caitlin

**Against:** Keroles

**Abstain:** Pempho, Jasneet

**ADOPTED**

*Motion CO-20151101-15*

BIRT President is approved for 50% of the bursary amount for the month of October.

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**Moved:** Rahul

**Seconded:** Sapandeep

Call for a vote.

**Moved:** Carine

**Seconded:** Pempho

**For:** Caitlin, Sapandeep, Abigail, Carine, Ashley Mathilde, Rahul, Pempho

**Abstain:** Keroles, Jasneet

**Against:** Aria

**ADOPTED**

*Vote on motion as is:*

BIRT President is approved for 50% of the bursary amount for the month of October.

**Moved:** Rahul

**Seconded:** Sapandeep

**For:** Keroles, Sapandeep, Ashley, Mathilde, Rahul,

**Against:** Caitlin, Abigail, Aria, Carine, Pempho

**Abstain:** Jasneet

**FAILS**

*Motion CO-20151101-16*

BIRT President's bursary is approved for the month of October.

**Moved:** Carine

**Seconded:** Aria

**For:** Pempho, Carine, Aria, Abigail, Caitlin

**Against:** Rahul, Keroles

**Abstain:** Jasneet, Ashley, Sapandeep

**ADOPTED**

**QUORUM LOST at 9:30pm, all other items tabled:**

5.3 GSA Cricket Kit

5.4 Funds Accumulated from Health and Dental Plan (Request for closed session)

5.5 GSA Website

5.6 GSA Austerity research group

5.7 Annual Events Plan and Budget

5.8 GSA Logo, Funding and Allocations

5.9 Open Facebook

7.1 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)

7.2 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)