



Minutes

GSA Regular Council Meeting

6 September 2011

MB-14.250, 1450 Guy, Montreal

Attendance

Voting Directors: Adnan Abueid (ENCS), Natheer Alatawneh (ENCS), Vinith Anand (ENCS), Zouhair Briqech (ENCS), Roxanne Desforges (Arts and Science), Mohammed Khader (ENCS), Daria Saryan (Arts and Science), Eric Martineau (JMSB), Nadia Hausfather (Independent), Nathan Williams (JMSB), Hossain Maleki (JMSB), Manu Jain (ENCS), Emily Paige (Fine Arts), Erik Chevrier (Arts and Science), Edyta Niemyjska (Arts and Science).

Non-Voting Directors: Phalpinder Singh Gill (Vice-President Internal), Holly Nazar (Vice-President External), Robert Sonin (President, Acting Chair)

Observers: Anna Chigogidze (Service Manager), Mark Schilling (Service Manager), Andy Yuen (Finance Manager), Roddy Doucet (Advocacy Manager), Golam M. Aurup (Secretary)

Regrets: Mohammad Nurujjaman Beajon (ENCS), Richard Hinton (Arts and Science), Matthew MacDonald (Arts and Science)

Absent: Fred Giard (JMSB)

Documents

CD-110906-01 Notice of Meeting

CD-110906-02 Agenda

CD-110906-03 Agenda (long form)

CD-110906-04 Report of the President

CD-110906-05 General Assembly Agenda

CD-110906-06 Report of the Advocacy Manager

CD-110906-07 Clarification of the Mandate

CD-110906-08 Policy on Supporting Labour Unions

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Fall Orientation report was moved. It was also suggested that Council discuss the International Students' issue with university accounts.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nathan, Nadia), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110906-01 The Agenda (CD-110906-02) be adopted as amended.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 August 2011

Tabled.



4. Council Business

4.1 Appointment of Chair

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nadia, Vinith), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110906-02 Nico Contreras is appointed Chair of GSA Council.

4.2 Student Account Problems

The tuition increase of international students was discussed as an urgent problem that needs to be resolved. It was suggested that the GSA form a committee to negotiate with the university on behalf of students affected. It was also suggested that these students send the GSA an email presenting their issue on an individual basis. Campaigns committee

A. Abueid, N. Alatawneh, H. Maleki, N. Hausfather, R. Doucet, and H. Nazar will make up an informal committee to discuss the issue further.

4.3 Orientation Report

An Orientation Program was distributed and there was a general discussion of upcoming Orientation activities. R. Doucet, E. Chevrier, H. Nazar, R. Desforges, A. Chigogidze, and A. Abueid will organize an event that raises awareness about tuition hikes.

4.4 Interpretation of GSA Objectives

The VP External presented Document CD-110906-07 Clarification of the Mandate of the GSA.

It was the generally agreed that more time was needed to consider the content of the document.

4.5 Policy on Support for Labour Unions

The VP External presented Document CD-110906-08 *Policy on Supporting Labour Unions*. A discussion ensued concerning upcoming and current labour strikes taking place both at Concordia and McGill University.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Nadia, Erik), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110906-03 WHEREAS the Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University (GSA) is a dues-paying organization tasked with safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of its members, playing a similar role among students as labour unions do among workers;

WHEREAS it is essential for the safeguarding of the rights and wellbeing of students and workers that their respective associations support one another whenever possible;

WHEREAS the budgetary problems of universities, public services and private enterprises are extremely rarely the result of overpaid workers or overly good working conditions, and the pay and benefits of upper administrators and executives continues to increase;

The GSA supports the rights of workers to negotiate collectively and to strike, and in particular to negotiate and strike for the protection and improvement of wages, working conditions, pensions and benefits;

The Executive Committee of the GSA issue statements of support conforming to this policy.

5. Executive Reports

5.1 President

See document CD-110906-04.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Eric, Roxanne), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110906-04 The Graduate Students Association finds Concordia University's classification of recently unionized eConcordia employees unacceptable, and demands that the University treat all its employees in a fair and equitable manner.



5.2 VP Internal

Nothing to present.

5.3 VP External

See document CD-110906-05.

There was a discussion of all points in the VP External's report.

5.4 Advocacy Manager

See document CD-110906-06.

5.5 Finance Manager

Nothing to present.

5.6 Services Manager

Nothing to present.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Orientation Committee

See Item 4.3

6.2 CUTV Negotiation Committee

The committee has offered a counter-proposal to CUTV within the budget of the GSA and has formulated a report that will be available to council members shortly. A discussion ensued concerning current CUTV practices and the viability of filming GSA council meetings. The harassment that was suffered by one of the council members was discussed in depth. An ENCS representative stated that their department would not stand behind any contract with CUTV. It was also suggested that the GSA suspend any further negotiations until these issues can be satisfactorily resolved.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Hausfather, Jain), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

CD-110906-05 The GSA mandates the VP External to report on the options of the GSA with regards to a conflict resolution/human relations committee.

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

CD-110906-06 The GSA will demand a formal apology from CUTV regarding past harassment and not move forward with any further negotiation.

7. Appointments

7.1 University Bodies

Council members discussed reforming the Board of Governors as well as university bodies representation. It was proposed to bring more attention to the reduction in student representation and overall governance policies.

7.2 GSA Committees

Nothing to report.

8. Other Business

There were no other issues to be discussed.

9. Next Meeting

A survey will be done to determine to most convenient time for the next council meeting.



10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Maya Hajdu
Secretary