

President's Report

It's my pleasure to serve as the President of Graduate Students' Association (GSA) for the year 2017-18 with wonderful team of executives and directors. Our goals are to structure the GSA and build the trust together in the hearts of our fellow graduate students of Concordia and to make unforgettable achievements. Following sections summarize 2017-18 team accomplishments:

Office-related projects:

1. *GSA Agenda*
The GSA agenda books are made available to all graduate students in the GSA house since September and distributed during fall and winter orientation events.
2. *Office restructuring*
Organizing and cleaning the GSA house with the help of executives and staff. Restructuring of GSA lounge is in progress where students can feel it as their home.
3. *Collective agreement (CA) negotiations*
The goal of these negotiations is establishing a solid agreement that guarantees the continuity of the GSA as a professional association that delivers appropriate services to its' members. As previous CA expired, we are following up with union to have new agreement, finally, they came forward and will be meeting in April for the negotiations.

GSA Services:

1. *French classes*
GSA offers French classes for different levels with low prices. Our team worked hard and enhanced the quality and could get highest number of registrations in the history of GSA
2. *Free GSA Lounge booking*
GSA offers free booking for its lounge for studying/meetings/events.
3. *Subsidized Printing and Copying*
GSA continues to offer subsidized printing and copying project with an objective of minimizing the graduate student printing/copying expenses.
4. *Ikea Toolbox Rental*
GSA offers free IKEA toolbox rental for all the graduate students.
5. *PS4*
GSA lounge is equipped with PS4. Don't lose the opportunity and give it a try.

Academic-related projects:

1. *Conference Subsidy Program*
The conference subsidy program opts at subsidizing numerous students for presenting in world-wide conferences. GSA has allocated \$20,000 budget for subsidizing as much students as it could throughout the whole academic year.
2. *Academic Project Funding*
The academic projects' funding is intended to help members and departmental or faculty student associations in a specific project or event related to their area of studies. GSA has allocated \$7,500 for academic projects to encourage graduates to carry out special projects/events of academic nature.
3. *Special Project Funding*
The Special project funding goal is to help members and departmental or faculty student associations in a specific project or event designed to contribute to the quality of life, environmental

or social or cultural awareness of members of the GSA. GSA has allocated \$7,500 for special projects to encourage graduates to carry out special projects/events that directly contributes to the quality of life, environmental or social or cultural awareness.

4. Revising the Clubs Policy

Clubs policy is being reviewed for better access to our students.

Events and Fall Orientation:

1. GSA Iftar Party

The team has executed Iftar dinner for the graduate students in the month of June. Had great response from students

2. GSA Aqua park

The team has organized and Super Aqua park event for graduates in July

3. Fall Orientation

The team, both executives and directors, have been altogether working to maintain successful fall orientation events for welcoming the new students and providing them with all the necessary information about the university and the GSA. This year, 12 events have been carried out to cover all faculties and university campuses/buildings; where diversity and teamwork are considered to be the unique success qualities of this team.

4. Apple picking event

Organized apple picking trip to Domaine de Dunham Orchard

5. Halloween

Halloween pumpkin carving and usual clubbing event was organized

Winter Orientation:

1. *GSA Laser Quest*

2. *GSA Movie Night – Insidious The last key*

3. *GSA Movie Night – The Commuter*

4. *GSA Winter Trip – Super Glissades*

5. *GSA Ice Skating – Atrium Le 1000*

6. ***GSA Opening Reception: Stack Effect 9*** (First event in the history of GSA, supporting our fellow Fine Arts students with this art exhibition show (Vernissage))

7. *GSA Clubbing Event*

Some of the key highlights in the mandate (2017-2018):

1. The total Academic funds for the year 2017-2018 has been increased by 29.58% for 2017-2018
2. Highest number of students registered for GSA French class in the history of GSA (a total of 464 students registered).
3. Represented GSA in ASEC Student Health Care Conference
4. Promotion of the GSA Advocacy Centre
5. Advised & Guided several GSA members regarding Legal & Advocacy issues
6. Represented GSA in meetings regarding changes to C & F rule
7. Hosted conference in collaboration with IEEE
8. GSA represented its members in FRS and PCT Exam issue
9. Collaborated with CAPS for hosting Fall & Winter Career fairs, Career panels and different workshops
10. Collaborated with Refugee centre for Career fair hosting (Hackathon)

11. Career fair for Computer Science graduates in which two were selected out of 5 short listed candidates.
12. Career day and Networking cocktail for all the graduates in collaboration with Refugee centre and ECA.
13. Represented GSA at Inter university level by attending caucus of different universities.
14. Represented GSA at Provincial level by being observing member of Quebec Students Union
15. Represented GSA at Federal level with the help of Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and Quebec Students Union (QSU).
16. Lounge meetings with various Members of Parliament in the name of GSA.
17. Increased overall image of GSA among other student associations around the country.

Transparency:

1. Budget and financial statements are available in the website.
2. Audit reports will be published soon
3. The lists of students or groups who received financial support from GSA, related to their conferences, academic projects, special projects or extra-curricular project are also published in the website.

Advocacy Centre:

The advocacy center is committed to the promotion and preservation of graduate students' rights at Concordia University through helping students in difficult situations by accurately identifying their needs and determining and executing the necessary course of action. We have our advocacy centre in the basement of GSA house to solve student problems. We have one advocacy manager post vacant and we are looking into the candidates' CVs to hire for that graduate advocacy manager post. We made sure that our graduate student's queries will never be left unanswered.

Remarks in the end:

GSA 2017-18 team is wishing you all the best throughout your studies. We are looking forward to cooperatively experiencing a successful academic year full of achievements. If you have any issues/suggestions, please feel free to stop by the GSA house or directly contact me via email at president@gsaconcordia.ca.