

President's Report

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It's my pleasure to serve as the President of Graduate Students' Association (GSA) for the year 2018-19 with wonderful team of executives and directors. Our goals are to structure the GSA and re-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:

Initiative works:

Working with CSU for renewal of insurance of international students:

International Concordia students pay the highest fee in Canada for the insurance and we are looking for better negotiation with the existing plan of finding and alternative one.

Negotiation with Dean of Graduate Studies for Scaling McGill grades to Concordia:

The grade of course student got from McGill which is out of 4 is not scaled to that of Concordia which is out of 4.3.

Negotiation with Dean of Graduate Studies for the late payment of engineering students:

The bursary of M.Sc. and Ph.D. student is not paid during summer and most of them have difficulty to afford their living especially ones who come at winter semester.

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 orientation events. Feel free to pick up yours if you haven't already got one.

2. *Office restructuring*

Organizing and cleaning the GSA house with the help of executives and staff.

3. *Hiring of Faculty Manager and Advocacy Manager*

We had a M.Sc. student for our vacant faculty manager position and we renewed our contract with CSU advocacy center for their service while hiring a M.Sc. student to be in our office.

GSA Services:

1. *French classes*

GSA offers French classes for different levels with low prices. Our team is working 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, especially given the fact that winter is coming.

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 \$15,000 (previously \$20,000) budget for subsidizing as much students as it could throughout the whole academic year. In this year the amount of conference funding is decreased as most of our members are non-attending students and this funding is mostly benefits Ph.D. Students who are more involved with conferences.

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 \$10,000 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 \$15,000 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. In this revision we are allowing country based clubs to be registered as it allows to have a better communication between the students and would be of great help for GSA for orientation events and they can collaborate with GSA for their specific orientation workshops.

Events and Fall Orientation:

1. *GSA Live Screening FIFA 2018 Final*

GSA house was welcoming student to watch FFIFA events and we had the final game at amphitheater in July

2. *GSA Calypso Water Park*

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

3. *GSA 3 Days Gaspé Trip*

GSA organized a three days trip to Gaspé in August

4. *Free Pizza Night*

The team organized a free pizza night in August



5. Water Rafting

A one day water rafting was organized in September

7. 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, 10 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.

8. Halloween

Halloween party event at Concordia Reggies bar in November

9. Smart Grid Workshop

A half of a day workshop in collaboration with IEEE Young Professional of Montreal in November

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 center 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 2018-19 team is wishing you all the best of luck 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.