



GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, September 29th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Venue: MB14.250

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Final Agenda:

1. Attendance Sheet verification at 06:25 pm.
2. Call to Order

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-01	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to call meeting to order
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Parth

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-02	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to adopt the agenda
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Melisa

4. Presentation by The Link

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-03	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to have The Link speak
Moved	Carlos

Seconded	Parth
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- The Link clauses used to say Grad students were not allowed to join and be staff – Representative Adam changed that.
- The Link wants to become a fee levy group for the graduate students. By asking a fee of \$1 through the GSA, The Link plan to become a fuller paper at Concordia.
- Haven't had funding increase since 2001. Lost most of budget due to inflation. Had external funding elsewhere and have started a freelance fund this year to be able to pay editors.
- Taking on a financial risk this year to try and revitalize The Link.
- Has been one of the few papers that is printed in Montreal (one of ten papers!).
- Been covering graduate students issues such as the reaffiliation with CREW union.
- Asking a fee of \$1 from all Grad students – if the council agrees, they will ask the Grad students if they agree, and if they do, they'll require all Grad students to pay this amount.
- The Link is a contribution-based paper. Its up to them to make the contribution themselves, the content fluctuates depending on who is making the contribution.
- What does The Link guarantee for Grad students? Arbaaz: GSA wants a column for advertising all their events in The Link.
- The Link is printed bi-weekly, online posting is weekly.
- The previous GSA recommended them to ask for \$1. Many media organizations at Concordia receive funding from GSA and external sources.

5. Approval of the August 21st council meeting minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-04	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve the August 21st council meeting minutes
Moved	Parth
Seconded	Sanaz

6. TRAC

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-05	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to have TRAC speak

Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Shraman

- Arbaaz: The GSA wants to always very remain neutral on this – has issued a statement that they will remain neutral. It’s their conflict and they should resolve it themselves.
- Durai Chelvan: States that TRAC is still the TA/RA union. Has been a TRAC delegate since 2015. Was part of the bargaining committee when Collective Bargaining happened in 2015.
- Durai: At the last GSA GA, CREW asked GSA for an endorsement.
- Carlos: Points out that CREW is made of TAs and RAs, who are grad students, and therefore can propose a motion. A graduate student raised the motion, so the motion was accepted at the time.
- Durai: TRAC did not deem it necessary to be present at the last GSA GA.
- Durai shares a video about what the CREW union has been doing since it formed.
 - Court decreed for TAs and RAs to vote through secret ballot. The vote will choose who will be the union going forward – TRAC-PSAC or CREW-CSN.
- Ruthwik: PSAC has not supported the previous TRAC executives in helping get a pay raise for TAs and RAs.
- Durai: To get a pay raise, TRAC needs to make a bargaining document comparing Collective Agreements and pay rates with other universities, a process that takes a long time.
- Mya: Introduces themselves as a former TRAC exec and current CREW exec. Says there are bargaining demands that have been approved by the general membership. The preparatory work has been done and approved by the general membership. This was open to membership and available via email and were communicated to the membership.
- Mya: If TRAC wanted to change the rules internally, they don’t have a choice as long as PSAC is in control as parent union. With PSAC, the union doesn’t have control over monetary demand (pay raise, sick leave, etc.)
- Mya: Over the last 14 years being with PSAC, there’s been no substantial changes in the Collective Agreement.
- Mya: CREW filed a majority of the union cards in the Spring 2023, but since TRAC’s Collective Agreement wasn’t filed at the time, this put the TAs and RAs at Concordia in a vulnerable position.
- Mya: The result has led to the secret ballot where the TAs and RAs will choose their union going forward.
- Carlos: Asks when TRAC will release the minutes from the TRAC GA. No response to this question is provided.
- TRAC representative Bree says that dues are still taken from people who resign from TRAC.
- Basak: Worked in TRAC for 3 years, now a CREW representative. Asks TRAC why they prevented members from joining the TRAC GA on August 22nd and why they continued the meeting when they no longer had quorum.

- TRAC representative Bree says that, since they resigned from TRAC, they don't have to be invited into the GA. Additionally, when the meeting fell below quorum, quorum was not challenged, so they continued.
- Sanaz: Asks Arbaaz whether or not the GSA will be remaining neutral.
- Arbaaz: GSA will continue to remain neutral in this conflict until after the ballot decides the union going forward.

7. Past Events

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-06	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to go over past events
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Parth

8. Upcoming Events

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-07	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to cover upcoming events
Moved	Shraman
Seconded	Jyothi

- Badminton and Chess planned for Fall events
- In talks about travel costs and quotes for the upcoming Toronto trip to Niagara Falls on Oct. 27th-28th.
- French workshops are thought of to be started on October 24th or 26th. Will be an Introductory workshop (30 sessions) might be 3 days a week for 10 weeks.
 - This initiative is put forward as Bill 96 has caused some trouble lately for non-French speaking students, and this initiative can help non-French speaking students to sustain over it.
- October 20th – Niagra Falls trip (1 night, 2 day trip)

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-08	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to go over Committee Monthly reports

Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Melisa

9. Approval of the Committee Monthly Reports
a. Healthcare Committee

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-09	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Healthcare Committee report
Moved	Prateek
Seconded	Mahnoor

- The aim is to take over the program and the health insurance plan reserves by Fall 2024. The big project for the year is to transition the health insurance plan to the GSA.
- The government is due to give a letter of support to the GSA. This letter of support would be reminding the University of a law that protects student associations in Quebec.

- b. Appointment Committee

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-10	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Appointment Committee report
Moved	Anika
Seconded	Parth

- Selected the GSA Representative for Concordia University's Council on Student Life (CCSL).
- Currently working on appointments of graduate students to the Student Tribunal Pool.
 - Students appointed to the Student Tribunal Pool will be called upon to serve on the various hearing panels.

- c. Sustainability Committee

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-11	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Sustainability Committee report
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Melisa

- New updated version of Sustainability Policy currently being drafted.

d. Budget and Funding Committee

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-12	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Budget and Funding Committee report
Moved	Jyothi
Seconded	Sadath

- Q3 Budget, Q4 Budget, Last Mandate Annual Budget, and Annual Budget 2023-2024 were all approved.
- Discussion was held on Summer Fundings.

e. Student Life Committee

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-14	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Student Life Committee report
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Anika

- Discussion of itinerary and cost for Toronto Niagara Trip on Oct. 27th-28th.
- Chess and Badminton will be offered as Fall Sports Events on Oct. 12th-14th.
- Fall Photography Contest for students starting Oct. 19th.
- French classes offered through GSA will begin October 24th or 26th.

f. Policy Committee Report – certification policy

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-15

Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Policy Committee report
Moved	Melisa
Seconded	Jyothi

- Documents which are being reviewed are from the old mandate after the GA, which was corrected and was brought to the discussion to the policy committee.
- Policy committee was given these documents to review for any other corrections.
- Sustainability policy, General By-Laws, Funding policy documents were all reviewed and approved by committee members.
- Only document that was not approved was the NDA, which is to be updated and presented at a later date.

10. NDA discussion

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-16	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve NDA
Moved	Parth
Seconded	Shraman
Adopted	Yes

11. Approval of the Executive Monthly Reports (EMRs)

- President
- VP Internal
- VP External
- VP Academic and Advocacy
- VP Mobilization

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-17	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to present Executive Monthly Reports
Moved	Shraman
Seconded	Jyothi

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-18	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve President EMR
Moved	Unanimous
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-19	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP Internal EMR
Moved	Unanimous
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-20	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP External EMR
Moved	Unanimous
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-21	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP Academic and Advocacy EMR
Moved	Unanimous
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-22	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP Mobilization EMR
Moved	Unanimous

Adopted	Yes
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12. CREW motion

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-23	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to move to CREW motion
Moved	Anika
Seconded	Wade
Adopted	Yes

- Carlos: Reads the GSA Council Motion to Affirm a Neutral Position on Upcoming Secret Ballot. Motion includes the GSA publicly encouraging people to vote, regardless of what side they vote for.
- Arbaaz: Let the TAs and RAs decide who they want to be represented by, but GSA will accept the motion to remain neutral and not side with any specific union during the ballot.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-24	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve CREW motion
Moved	Parth
Seconded	Tuly
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

- The GSA has agreed to strike out the bulk of the GSA Council description. **The GSA Council of Directors has resolved to publicly manifest a neutral position in the upcoming Secret Ballot.** The GSA will refrain from publishing or circulating any materials that promote either CREW-CSN or PSAC-TRAC both before and during the Secret Ballot period. However, the GSA will publicly encourage members, eligible to vote, to do so freely.

13. Budget (Q3, Q4, and Annual Budget)

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-25	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to discuss annual budget
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Shraman
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-26	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve annual budget
Moved	Shraman
Seconded	Arnav
Adopted	Yes

14. Summer Funding

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-27	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to adopt Summer Funding
Moved	Jyothi
Seconded	Carlos
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-28	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Summer Funding
Moved	Jyothi
Seconded	Shraman
Adopted	Yes

- Arbaaz presented the funding needs for the summer, discussing the approach based on the budget and the number of applications received. He elaborated on setting a maximum limit and explained that the total available funds would be divided by the number of applications. Following an in-depth discussion, a unanimous motion was made to approve the allocation of funds for the summer initiatives.

15. New Business

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-29	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve new business
Moved	Jyothi
Seconded	Shraman
Adopted	Yes

- No New Business was presented during the meeting.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20230929-30	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to adjourn meeting
Moved	Shraman
Seconded	Tuly
Adopted	Yes

16. Adjournment