



## GSA Council Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, October 26, 2023

**Time:** 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Venue:** MB 14.101

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### Agenda:

1. Attendance sheet verification at 6:05PM

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-01</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to call meeting to order
Moved	Sadath
Seconded	Parth
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

2. Call to order at 6:10PM.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-02</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to adopt the agenda
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Parth
For	Unanimous
Against	None

Adopted	Yes
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4. Fee Levy Dean of Students Presentation

- Fee was implemented years ago to begin a process to engage the GSA and increase the Student Services dues. This is a fee of \$10.26 that every Grad student pays for a list of various services.
- The fee for Grad students hasn't increased in 10 years.
- Undergrad students approved an increase to this fee last year.
- Pays for Student Center and Student Services Office.
- Sadath: Asks Andrew, Dean of Students, if the increase in amount will go to the Students Success Center and its associated organizations.  
Andrew: Dean of Students is one of many different student services. Funds will go to health and psychological services, Dean of Students, and many other services.
- Wade: As a First Nations Student, he sees the Indigenous perspective reflected in the policy. Asks what a fee levy would do for a wider range of international students at the university.
- Andrew: These student services do not target Black or Indigenous students for specific support, instead focuses their support across the entire body of Grad students. Policy is usually made by groups that aren't directly connected to the Dean of Students, but those policies will continue to help them do their work.
- Wade: Indigenous students had a representative from Indigenous Directions, so Wade felt represented. But worries that the rest of the students at Concordia might not be properly represented and had their voices heard.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-03</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to have Dean of Students be a fee levy group for GSA
Moved	Wade
Seconded	Sadath
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

5. Approval of September 29th Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-04</b>
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<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to approve the last GSA meeting minutes
Moved	Tuly
Seconded	Fairuz
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

6. Town hall discussion

- Arbaaz: Town hall happening soon, wants to put together a group in order to have that town hall and design a structure for the town hall.
- Arbaaz: Special requests from the committees will be included in Town Hall.
- GSA General Assembly will likely be in March 2024.

7. Past events

- October – Fall Photography Contest, live now until Oct. 30. Receiving lots of entries.
- Tomorrow morning is Toronto Niagra Trip, come back on Saturday.
- Sports Event – Chess competition happened all one day, had 60 players. Distributed prizes to the top 3 winners.

8. Future events

- Halloween party on November 9th.
- Park Omega one day trip on November 26th.
- No current collaboration with car rental company at Concordia – planning to offer rental services to students and faculty at a discounted rate.
  - Ready to give us flat-market rates.
  - Service would be through GSA, hoping that giving them more business would allow higher discounts for these rental rates.
  - Planning on starting offering this service in November.
  - Will discuss with Student Life Committee first to decide which car company they will stick with.

9. Fee levy discussion: The Link Newspaper

- Have already bought this fee levy group in the past. Taking a vote from the GSA to see if this fee levy group is approved.

**Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-05**

<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to approve The Link fee levy
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Wade
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

10. Approval of the Committee Monthly Reports

a. Healthcare Committee

- No representative to present report.

b. Appointment Committee

- Sudden requirement to appoint two Graduate representatives to Sustainability Special Projects Sub-Committee
  - Had to appoint within one week. Couldn't make announcement, took candidates that already applied for other roles.
- Still working on Student Tribunal Pool

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-06</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to approve Appointment Committee report
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Tuly
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

c. Sustainability Committee

- Already covered previously in the meeting.

d. Budget and Funding Committee

- Main discussion was on Toronto Niagra Trip and French class.
- Toronto Niagra Trip prices – single, double, triple options.
- Free French classes – budget approved by the committee.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-07</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to approve Budget and Funding Committee report
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Tuly
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

e. Student Life Committee

- Meeting happened Oct. 20th, talked about Niagara trip, Fall photography contest, and future events.
- Halloween party will be November 9th at Jet Night Club in Crescent Street, no food will be offered.
- Driving Workshop will be held, hiring a driving instructor, helping students on getting a driving license in Quebec and in Canada.
- In mid-December, we're planning a get-together where people can donate clothes where GSA will offer coffee and snacks.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-08</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to approve Student Life Committee report
Moved	Parth
Seconded	Carlos
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

f. Policy Committee

- No update to share at this time.

11. Approval of the Executive Monthly Reports (EMRs)

a. President

- Spent time designing month's events.
- Meeting with Dean of Grad Students to discuss how Grad school and GSA should collaborate, going to meet two or three times total – will be meeting every two months.
- Carlos: Asks Arbaaz to ask Dean of Grad Students about Graduate funding.
- Meeting with Patrice on NDA.
- Meeting with Dean of Students for all activities in FROSH, since it was managed by DOS.
- Discussion about McGill serviced.
- Large GSA House presence this past month.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-09</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to give full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

b. VP Internal

- Worked on Ideathon to prepare presentations
- Found out how to transfer funds for Summer Funding
  - Updated documents on website
  - Replied to student emails regarding Summer Funding
- ENUF budget discussion
- Worked on Toronto Niagara Trip

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-10</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to give full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

c. VP External

- Had a meeting with service manager about Omega Park and events in October.

- Internal executor meeting – clash between GSA and ECSGA meetings.
  - Meeting with other ECSGA representatives to prevent future event conflict.
- Had in-person meetings with travel agencies for Toronto Niagara trip.
- Meeting with Dean of Students about FROSH event, collecting feedback for event.
  - Meeting with Communication Manager, gave insight about FROSH events.
- Had a plan to do Badminton tournament, but since there was no space available, Akilan went in person to location to have discussion with them.
- Chose two possible places for Halloween party, checked both of those out.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-11</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to give full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

d. VP Academic and Advocacy

- Discussion with School of Graduate Students.
- Meeting with GradProSkills about workshops.
- Discussion among executives about October events.
- Settled issues with suborganizations.
- Started making posters for French courses.
  - Meeting with Rachel about new options to bring in for Winter semester.
- Student Advocacy Request meeting discussing study permit extension request.
- Plan to send online repository for French course materials.
- Nov. 3rd will be attending a meeting with School of Graduate Studies

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-12</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to give full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None

Adopted	Yes
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e. VP Mobilization

- Worked with Arbaaz in designing the CCR credits offered to volunteers.
- Held meetings with Dean of Students, Ideathon and the Toronto Niagara Trip.
- Worked with Comms manager for designing posters.
- Meeting with staff regularly.
- Took part in Town Hall designing.
- Having executive meetings every week and staff executive meetings every two weeks.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-13</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to give full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-14</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to take a break
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Fairus
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-15</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to reconvene meeting
Moved	Sanaz



Seconded	Arnav
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

## 12. New business

- a. Volunteers for Halloween
  - Asking for volunteers for the Halloween party on November 9th.
- b. NDA signatures all the directors
  - Asking all directors to sign the NDA and send it back virtually.
  - Will be emailing the directors with the finalized NDA.
- c. Sustainability investment advisory committee
  - Committee investing in sustainability items at the university. Wanted representation from Grad students. If anyone is interested, we'll be meeting with them on November 6th. GSA Executives can take your name and give it to this committee so you can be a part of the decision making.
- d. Tuition hike issue
  - By Fall 2024, the Grad students will have to pay 30% more than they are right now and Undergrad students will have to pay 50% more than they are right now.
  - Meeting with many colleges in Montreal with two proposals
    - Want to draft an open letter to send to Government of Quebec.
    - Strikes are being organized for Oct. 30th. Plan to Walk Out and meet at Dorchester Square at 1PM – this Walk Out is from McGill and Concordia.
  - Asked Concordia about their action plan. Dean of Students is on the side of students to try and prevent the tuition hike.
  - Arnav: Had meeting with Provost, this is a really serious situation. If this plays out, some Concordia departments could be closed down because they're made almost entirely of International students. Importance to keep people informed about this.
  - Carlos: Asks Arnav to share demographic information with directors so they can help their students more.
  - Arnav: Demographic info request has been approved, but not fully, not all information will be disclosed.
- e. Summer advocacy report
  - If a Graduate student is accused of Academic Misconduct, they can come to the GSA and discuss the issue and receive support through advocacy for the student.
- f. Funding for the conference
  - Having trouble with funding, thinking \$8,000 would be enough.
  - Students did not understand how much money they would be receiving,

- GSA has to rework the budget to make sure the funding will work.
  - Going to have a meeting with the Policy Committee and get funding approved with upcoming Council meeting.
  - Carlos: School of Graduate Studies gives conference funding based on travel distance. Maybe GSA can do something similar.
  - Arbaaz: The policy will have to be arranged in a way that could support all Graduate students equally.
- g. Fee levy groups
- GSA has 15 fee levy groups currently.
  - Question of why we have to pay a fee from Grad students to the fee levy groups.
  - These groups are meant to be fruitful to the Grad students. To spread awareness, we are going to have two fee levy groups attending GSA meetings every month in order to explain to GSA why they should be funded.
  - Bi-election will be held before the end of the semester.

13. Sustainability

- Nothing to share this month.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-16</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to take a break
Moved	Jothi
Seconded	Carlos
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-17</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to reconvene meeting
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

14. Legal

- Patrice presenting as part of the GSA’s Legal Council.
- Came to Council in May during the previous mandate.
- When it came time to implement Collective Agreement, the document was very poorly written and incoherent. Negotiating table corrected lots of this, but the salary scales was something that was very confusing.
- Big disagreement on salary scale was where the growth rate happened.
- New Salary Scale – Salaries will be increased by the higher of the following on June 1st of every year:
  - 2023-2024: 4%
  - 2024-2025: 5% or CPI+2%
  - 2025-2026: 3.5% or CPI+1%
  - 2026-2027: 2% or CPI-0.5%
  - 2027-2028: 2% or CPI-1%
  - 2028-2029: 2% or CPI-1%
- This change has to be agreed on by GSA council and union members.
- Creation of a Labour Relations Committee (CRT) most unions have this but the GSA don’t yet.
  - Demand was left on the side because GSA was able to win 8/9 demands.
  - Problems of hiring will be handled through Labor Relations Committee
- Things to approve now – New Salary Scale and Creation of Labour Relations Committee
- Nilesh: Would like for each of council members to have more time to go through the document thoroughly before voting on it.
- Arbaaz: Patrice has thoroughly gone through the document itself. Continues to explain the context and specifics of the document, the New Salary Scale, and the Creation of Labour Relations Committee.

<b>Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-18</b>	
<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to ratify the Agreement in Principle
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Wade
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

**Motion Number: Motion CO-20230821-19**

<b>Motion Agenda:</b>	BIRT move to adjourn meeting
Moved	Wade
Seconded	Carlos
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

15. Adjournment