



GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, November 24, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Venue: MB14.250

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Agenda:

1. Attendance sheet verification at 6:15pm

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-01	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to call meeting to order
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Maheshvaran
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

2. Call to order at 6:15pm

3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-02	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve agenda
Moved	Wade
Seconded	Parth
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

4. Approval of the October 26th council meeting minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-03	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve October 26th meeting minutes
Moved	Wade
Seconded	Sindoora
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

5. Updates on elections for Fine Arts (two council members in total)

- a. We have no Fine Arts council members in the GSA, we need to elect some.
- b. Elections schedule was delayed, they should've happened before November.
- c. CRO & DRO applications ended on November 20th.
- d. CRO & DRO will be appointed for the whole duration of the mandate of 2023-2024.
- e. CRO & DRO training with legal council happened on November 23rd.
- f. Nomination period will be from November 27th to December 1st as per the By-laws.
- g. After nomination period, CRO & DRO should select the candidates.
- h. Campaign periods from December 2nd to 4th, Voting is from December 7th to 8th.
- i. GSA needs to vote on selected Fine Arts candidates during this meeting.

6. Votes on selected candidates

- a. Candidates:
 - i. Nelson Rajendran, CRO
 - ii. Shail Shah, DRO
 - iii. Kaluya Yeswanth Purna Chandra Rao, DRO

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-04	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to select as Fine Arts candidates
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Parth

For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-05	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to select Nelson Rajendran, CRO
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-202311-24-06	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to select Shail Shah & Kaluya Yeswanth Purna Chandra Rao, DRO
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

7. Referendum Link and DOS
 - a. Voting on the wording for these referendum questions for The Link and the DOS.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-07	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to accept wording of Referendum Questions 1 & 2
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

8. Updates on privacy law for insurance
 - a. Bill signed into effect that says universities can't give data to third parties.

- b. The GSA has requested data of all students so it can work with insurance companies, but haven't received it.
- c. PIN Solution: Third-party Student Care. University will transfer data to GSA and CSU, GSA needs to give student data to student care. GSA is the ones transferring the data, not the university.
 - i. PIN Solution is a website, generates a PIN for users to use as an ID.
 - ii. Information will come from Student Care, and GSA will publicize the info as soon as they receive it.
- d. PIN Solution is working for us for free this semester. In the Winter 2024 semester, the cost of PIN Solution will be \$3 per student per year.

9. Departmental Allocation approvals

- a. Departmental Allocation
 - i. We only have 14 sub-associations that applied for funding this year.
 - ii. Sociology and Anthropology didn't apply for funding this year.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-08	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve the Departmental Allocation
Moved	Hrushith
Seconded	Ruthwik
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

10. Updates on Israel-Palestine conflict

- a. Departmental emails got hacked a few days ago and were used in phishing scams.
- b. November 8th event
 - i. Arbaaz went to talk to University President Graham Carr who said he was taking a neutral stance on the November 8th conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli parties involved. Carr believes everyone should be welcome here at the University.
 - ii. Arbaaz: I received no email from any sub associations demanding me to take a stance on Israel-Palestine. GSA has not publicized anything to support either side or student group. The CSU isn't saying anything about it. Both student groups are sizable, thinks GSA needs to be neutral on this issue.
 - iii. Carlos: You mean taking a position on what happened on the conflict of November 8th? Graham Carr did send out a message.
 - iv. Arbaaz: After our meeting, Carr sent that email out. No student has emailed Arbaaz about supporting either side of the November 8th

conflict.

- v. Arnav: The Geography Association sent an email regarding taking a stance on this issue.

c. Petition

- i. Carlos: Nobody contacted Arbaaz because grad students have been moving on their own. There is currently a petition for a referendum that is being shared throughout the graduate student body. They wanted to confirm the amount of signatures needed for the referendum to be valid.
 - 1. In order for a referendum to be valid, a petition must be signed by at least 5% of the GSA membership. Since the GSA has 7200 members, this would require 360 signatures.
- ii. Carlos: Referendum is demanding that GSA formerly declare solidarity with Palestine.
- iii. Carlos: I was contacted about this and thought I would bring it up so we could start planning accordingly in advance for this referendum. If they collect the signatures, you have to perform the referendum within ten (10) days. The number of grad student signatures is important so that you the petition will be valid.
- iv. Carlos: There are four points the referendum would have GSA vote on:
 - 1. GSA releases a public statement condemning the genocide in Palestine.
 - 2. GSA commits itself to support members subject to retaliation due to expression of solidarity with Palestine.
 - 3. GSA condemns the conflation of solidarity with Palestine as anti-semitism.
 - 4. GSA reaffirms its endorsement, promotion, and participation in the BDS campaign.
- v. Carlos: GSA supported the BDS campaign in 2013, but its difficult to find records of that. The referendum asks the GSA to commit to all four points.
- vi. Sanaz: GSA can't stand in support of either country, students should not take sides on this because Palestinian students and Israeli students are going to feel slighted either way.
- vii. Sanaz: GSA role and responsibilities is not to condemn a war in another country.
- viii. Arbaaz: We don't know how to support them in this.
- ix. Carlos: By-election allows for a week of campaign where either group presents their case. Members choose their side and the GSA can stand up.
- x. Sanaz: GSA has no relationship to the political situation. How will this help the Palestinian people?
- xi. Carlos: This is just asking that the GSA and its members establish a position. This is not asking to be tied to individuals, it should be the feeling of the majority. The GSA is not the executive and the council, its all graduate students. If they send the referendum, the GSA has to figure out how to hold the referendum.
- xii. Arbaaz: This situation can only create chaos. If we agree on this, the

- Israeli students can come forth and I don't know how to handle this.
- xiii. Carlos: They need 5% (360 students) to approve for the referendum to be sent. Its alot of work to campaign for a referendum, so not every student will come forth with this. Opposition might be to vote against the referendum – I don't know that there will be another counter-referendum.
 - xiv. Carlos: The outcome of the referendum would be a message from the GSA supporting Palestine and Palestinian students.
 - xv. No real decision to make right now. This is coming down the pipeline.
 - xvi. Carlos: Will speak to students organizing to fit it in the by-elections to try and see if the CRO is going to oversee this referendum.
 - xvii. Arbaaz: We're scheduled to send things after meeting tomorrow. Not sure if third referendum is coming up. If third referendum is coming, we have to figure that out.
 - xviii. Carlos: If they sent this on Monday, the ten (10) days would be December the 8th. The executive would have to do it within this time before the elections.
 - xix. Arbaaz: As a graduate student body, our role in any activism is kind of delicate. Issuing a statement without procuring views of everyone is a large step to take. Wants more time to read referendum.
 - xx. Enmanuel: This is coming up, but there is nothing to vote on right now.
 - xxi. Arbaaz: There are 7,200 members of the GSA.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-09	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to take a break
Moved	Sanaz
Seconded	Wade
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-10	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to reconvene the meeting
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Wade

For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

11. Updates on tuition fee hike

- a. Arbaaz: Last meeting, I promised to make an open letter on the fee hike. We're just waiting to get a legal opinion from Patrice. Harley and I have spoken to President Carr on this. Carr has spoken to government officials on this.
- b. They have promised us that the fee will remain the same for current students in coming semesters. If tuition fee hikes do happen, they will be for the Winter 2025 semester.
- c. Believed there was a 30% hike for graduate students and 50% hike for undergraduates, but the graduate student hike will be less than 30%. There will be update about this.
- d. We have a strike coming up this month with the CSU on November 30th. We have to publish this by the day before the strike. We are signing a petition right now, there are about 22,000 signatures. We have to reach 30,000 to have the hearing in the federal government. The petition will come around on Monday, November 27th.
- e. Raghulkanna: This petition has to be done legally for the federal government to hear it.

12. Approval of the Committee Monthly Reports

- a. Healthcare Committee
 - i. Nothing to report at this time.
- b. Appointment Committee
 - i. Regarding Student Tribunal Positions
 - ii. When we publicized announcements and appointments, there were lots of volunteers, but they are all from Engineering. The GSA is supposed to represent all departments and we need more people from other departments to be candidates for these Student Tribunal Positions.
 - iii. Student Tribunal positions are the most important positions at Concordia.
 - iv. Its important to have Student Tribunal representatives throughout the departments so that changes happen across all departments.
 - v. Asks directors to take it seriously when we make announcements about these appointments and motivate people from their respective departments to run as candidates.
 - vi. Arbaaz: Says this was circulated a few times, through email and through social media.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-11

Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve Appointment Committee Report
Moved	Carlos
Seconded	Nilesh
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

- c. Sustainability Committee
 - i. Nothing to report at this time.
 - d. Budget and Funding Committee
 - i. Nothing to report at this time.
 - e. Student Life Committee
 - i. Had a meeting on November 17th
 - ii. Discussed Fall photography contest, Omega Park postpone, Hertz rental service, FROSH events, Driving workshop, and career development workshop
 - iii. Omega Park Postponed to Dec 17 or 20
 - iv. Hertz rental service should launch by December
 - v. Frosh events for Winter 2024 will be ice skating and laser tag
 - vi. Driving workshop still in the works, not sure about date and time for this but probably before Winter Frosh.
 - vii. Nov 21 - LinkedIn workshop
 - viii. Nov 22 - Project management workshop
 - ix. Nov 23 - Resume building workshop
 - f. Policy Committee
 - i. Nothing to report at this time.
13. Approval of the Executive Monthly Reports (EMRs)
- a. President
 - i. Spent time working on the on-campus Israel-Palestine conflict and attending council meetings.
 - ii. Lots of internal problems to solve

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-12	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve President full bursary

For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

b. VP Internal

- i. Collected money from sponsors
- ii. Had discussion on future sustainability for Concordia on Loyola campus
- iii. Halloween Party on Nov. 11, handed cheques to vendors
- iv. Chief Returning Officer (CRO) & Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) Training

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-13	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP Internal full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

c. VP External

- i. Resolving student funding issues.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-14	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP External full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

d. VP Academic and Advocacy

- i. Duties aligned to school of Graduate studies and advocacy requests.
- ii. School of Graduate Studies included discussion of tuition hikes and what to do.
- iii. ACTL Committee is being setup by the University to check evaluation criteria on the Moodle website.
- iv. CRO & DRO applications were held, they have now been appointed.
- v. We have representation from Fine Arts for future elections.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-15	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to approve VP Academic and Advocacy full bursary
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

- e. VP Mobilization
 - i. VP Mobilization did not submit the monthly report.
 - ii. No vote on the bursary because there is no report. The vote will be deferred to a future meeting.

14. New business

- a. Career Fair Event – Venkata
 - i. Call with CAPS from Concordia, they're used to doing career fairs. Talked about doing it around late-Feb or March. Said they could do a networking event for students to connect with alumni from past events.
 - ii. CAPS thought doing a career fair would be hard because they would have to do tons of planning. Career fair is not possible, but GSA and CAPS is in talks of coaching students to help them find jobs.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20231124-16	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT move to adjourn meeting
Moved	Hrushith
Seconded	Ruthwik
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

15. Adjournment