

GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, June 28, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Venue: MB14.250

Chair: Sai Abhinav Tadepalli (President - GSA)

Minute Taker: Enmanuel De Jesus, Alba Clevenger

Agenda:

1. Attendance sheet verification

Present:

Directors:

1. Chidambar Joshi
2. Mahimur Rahman Khan
3. Narayana Vedula
4. Sania Zain Roshan
5. Sanjana Farial Oishee
6. Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran
7. Shuvanidhi Suresh
8. Sujith Kumar Kumaravel
9. Varda Nisar
10. Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
11. Zoya Ahmed

Non Voting Members:

12. Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
13. Vijayraagavan Vijayathirupathi
14. Aditya Deepak Thakkar
15. Duraipaandian Anbunami Poogothai
16. Venkata Sai Pavan Kumar Maniyambakam
17. Alba Clevenger
18. Enmanuel De Jesus

Absent:

1. Gopal Jain
2. Pragya Jain
3. Sovit Singh
4. Rozhin Saebi

Excused:

1. Clair Begbie

2. Call to order

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-01	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to call the meeting to order
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Narayana Vedula
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Meeting called to order at 2:05PM

3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-02	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to adopt the agenda
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Sanjana Farial Oishee
Amendment #1	Directors proposed a motion for the Executives to present their vision.
Moved	Varda Nisar
Seconded	Mahimur Rahman Khan
For	5
Against	4
Abstain	2
Adopted	Yes

4. Approval of the May 20th council meeting minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-03	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to approve May 20th Council Meeting Minutes
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Narayana
For	None
Against	None
Adopted	Yes

- a. Since there are no repeating directors, minutes from last year cannot be contested hence approved by defacto.

5. **Executive Team 2024 -2025 Vision**

- i. Sai Abhinav Tadepalli (President) highlighted the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, noting the current absence of Arts & Science (A&S) and Independent (INDI) Directors. He emphasized the importance of organizing academic events and requested assistance from the Directors to address this issue.
- ii. Vijayraagavan Vijayathirupathi (VP Internal) proposed conducting an audit for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to enhance operational transparency. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on sustainability by leveraging upcoming events to promote sustainable practices.
- iii. Venkata Sai Pavan Kumar Maniyambakam (VP External) emphasized the importance of organizing academic events. He stressed the need for a balanced approach between external and internal events, aiming to create engaging and professionally beneficial experiences for participants.
- iv. Aditya Deepak Thakkar (VP Mobilization) aims to raise awareness of Concordia University's services and increase engagement within the Graduate Student community.
- v. Duraipaandian Anbunami Poogothai (VP Academics & Advocacy) intends to raise awareness about the funding program and enhance the transparency of the Co-Op program. Also stresses on improving awareness regarding advocacy.

- a. Varda requests the executives to ensure that their plans are adequately reflected in the budget and seeks strategies implemented to address the budget cuts imposed by the university.
 - b. Abhinav stated that the budget has been drafted in consideration of these cuts but requires approval from the Budget and Funding Committee.
6. Upcoming GA

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-04	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to table this discussion to the GA committee
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran
Amendment #1	Director proposed setting a timeline for the discussion on the General Assembly (GA). They suggested that this discussion take place before the start of the fall semester or during the first week of September. Alternatively, a town hall meeting could be held during the summer.
Moved	Varda Nisar
Seconded	Sania Zain Roshan
For	9
Against	1
Abstain	1
Adopted	Yes
Amendment #2	BIRT Chair moved to refer the matter to the GA Committee for formulating the agenda, after which it will be presented to the Council.
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Mahimur Rahman Khan
For	10
Against	1
Adopted	Yes

- a. Varda mentioned that there was a debacle regarding this topic at the General Assembly (GA), and tabling the discussion could further alienate students from the Graduate Student Association (GSA).
- b. Varda emphasizes that the General Assembly (GA) should occur before the start of the Fall Semester or during the first week of September. Alternatively, if a GA is not scheduled, a town hall meeting should be arranged during the summer to ensure students have a platform to voice their opinions.
- c. Abhinav stated that the previous GA in May 2024 was not a legal GA. We are not bound by it yet it will be taken as an advice.

7. Q4 and Year End Financials

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-05	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to approve Q4 and Year-End Financials
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Chidambar Joshi
For	10
Against	0
Abstain	1
Adopted	Yes

- a. Vijayraagavan Vijayathirupathi (VP Internal) presented the report covering the period from March 1st to May 31st. He noted that staff salaries were inaccurately reflected due to a technical error originating from the internal finance department at Concordia.
- b. He also mentioned for the Annual Report, the Gaspé trip has been included. Additionally, the total funds remaining from the previous year will be added to this year's budget.
- c. Varda inquired about the increase in extracurricular funding. Abhinav explained that it was a workshop organized by the previous mandate.

8. By-Elections Fall Semester

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-06	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to hold by-elections in fall and delegate to GA Committee
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli

Seconded	Narayana Vedula
Amendment #1	Director proposed a motion for the immediate formation of the Elections Joint Committee (EJC) to facilitate elections at the earliest opportunity.
Moved	Varda Nisar
Seconded	Zoya Ahmed
For	2
Against	6
Abstain	3
Adopted	No
Amendment #2	Director moved a motion to schedule elections for the first month of the Fall semester (September).
Moved	Mahimur Rahman Khan
Seconded	Sanjana Farial Oishee
For	4
Against	3
Abstain	4
Adopted	Yes

- a. Mahimur inquired about the timing of the elections, Abhinav proposed either October or November.
- b. Varda raised a concern that the timeline is too distant. Abhinav responded by suggesting that allowing time for students to acclimate to Concordia could be beneficial.
- c. Mahimur pointed out that holding elections during the summer would be impractical due to low student participation. However, holding them closer to the end of September would be more suitable.
- d. Shahul suggested that the elections should be scheduled for a month and a half after the start of the semester.
- e. Alba referred to By-law Article XII, Section 9.1, which states that in the event of three vacant council positions or if the Independent (Indi) faculty lacks representation, "the council may temporarily appoint a member until elections are held."

9. Fee-levy increase for Advocacy Centre

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-07	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to publish the referendum question in the next by-election.
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Mahimur Rahman Khan
For	7
Against	0
Abstain	4
Adopted	Yes

- a. Abhinav noted that the fee levy question was approved but could not be presented in the election due to timing constraints..
- b. Varda requested clarification on whether the fee levy question had already been presented. Abhinav clarified that while it was approved by the Council, it was not included in the elections due to timing constraints.

10. Legal Information Clinic Briefing

Abinav notified that LIC has been withdrawn, but payments have been made for the summer semester. Services will be provided to students until August 31, 2024.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-08	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director proposed a motion to include a referendum question regarding reinstating the LIC Fee Levy.
Moved	Varda Nisar
Seconded	Sanjana Farial Oishee
For	8
Against	1
Abstain	2

Adopted	Yes
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- a. Varda clarified that misinformation was presented to the Council. She explained that the question regarding LIC was not properly presented to the Council, and directors were not provided with accurate information regarding the services and their implications for international students, including their management of immigration and police cases involving targeted individuals.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-09	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Executive moved to take 15 minute break (return 3:25 pm)
Moved	Aditya Deepak Thakkar
Seconded	Narayana Vedula
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-10	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to call meeting to order at 3:24PM
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Narayana Vedula
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

11. Creation of Committees

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-11	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to remove the Academic Cabinet from the committees listed on the agenda, noting that directors are not part of this committee.
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
For	Unanimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- a. Abhinav mentioned that currently, we do not have any Arts & Science, INDI, or JMSB directors available. Only Gina Cody and Fine Arts directors are currently available.

a. Hiring Committee

Chair	President
Minute Taker	VP External
Non-Voting Member	GSA Staff
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Narayana Vedula (Votes: Narayana 6 ; Mahim 3)
Fine Arts	Claire

b. Policy committee

Chair	President
Minute Taker	GSA Staff

Non-Voting Member	VP Academic & VP Internal
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
Fine Arts	Varda Nisar

c. Budget & Funding committee

Chair	VP Internal
Minute Taker	GSA Staff
Non-Voting Member	VP Academic & President
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Shuvanidhi Suresh (Shuvanidhi 9 ; Zoya 0)
Fine Arts	Varda

d. Appointments committee

Chair	VP Academic
Minute Taker	One of the voting members
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Chidambar Joshi (Sanjana 1 ; Sujith 3 ; Chidambur 4)
Fine Arts	Claire Begbie

e. Sustainability committee

Chair	VP Internal
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Minute Taker	GSA Staff
Non-Voting Member	VP Academic & VP External
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Sujith Kumar Kumaravel (Sanjana 0 ; Sujith 6 ; Sania 2)
Fine Arts	Varda Nisar

f. Student Life committee

Chair	VP External
Minute Taker	GSA Staff
Non-Voting Member	VP Mobilization & VP Internal
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran (Sanjana 1 ; Shahul 7 ; Zoya 0)
Fine Arts	Claire Begbie

g. Student Handbook committee

Chair	VP Internal
Minute Taker	President
Directors	Anyone who is interested may join the committee.
Gina Cody	Sujith Kumar Kumaravel
	Mahimur Rahman Khan
	Zoya Ahmed
	Sanjana Farial Oishee

h. Healthcare committee

Chair	President
Minute Taker	GSA Staff
Directors	Anyone who is interested but is bound by a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) due to the sensitive nature of the topic may still join the committee.
Gina Cody	Sujith Kumar Kumaravel
	Mahimur Rahman Khan
	Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
	Sanjana Farial Oishee
	Shuvanidhi Suresh
	Narayana Vedula
	Sania Zain Roshan
	Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran
Fine Arts	Varda Nisar
	Claire Begbie

i. General Assembly committee

Chair	VP Mobilization & President
Minute Taker	GSA Staff
Directors	Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties , as appointed by the Council.
Gina Cody	Sania Zain Roshan
Fine Arts	Claire Begbie

12. New business

a. Directors should send or bring the bylaws signed by the next meeting

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-12	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to hold future council meetings online.
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Narayana Vedula
Amendment #1	Director moves make it hybrid only during the summer instead.
Moved	Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran
Seconded	Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
Amendment #2	Director moves to have the meetings hybrid over the summer 2024.
Moved	Mahimur Rahman Khan
Seconded	Sania Zain Roshan
For	10
Against	0
Abstain	1
Adopted	Yes

a. Varda inquires about the rationale, while Abhinav asserts that implementing the change would be beneficial for both students and council members.

13. Adjournment

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240628-13	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT chair moved to adjourn the meeting
Moved	Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
Seconded	Mahimur Rahman Khan
For	10

Against	0
Abstain	1
Adopted	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 4:11PM