



**GSA Council Meeting
CO-20240923**

GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, September 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Venue: MB14.250

Chair: Enmanuel De Jesus

Minute Taker: Umair Hussain

Agenda:

1. Attendance sheet verification

Present:

Directors:

1. Mahimur Rahman Khan
2. Narayana Vedula
3. Sanjana Farial Oishee
4. Shahul Hameed Pichhi Thameenansari Syedmeeran
5. Sujith Kumar Kumaravel
6. Varda Nisar
7. Zoya Ahmed
8. Claire Begbie
9. Shuvanidhi Suresh

Non Voting Members:

1. Vijayaagavan Vijayathirupathi
2. Aditya Deepak Thakkar
3. Duraipaandian Anbunami Poogothai
4. Venkata Sai Pavan Kumar Maniyambakam
5. Umair Hussain
6. Enmanuel De Jesus

Absent:

Excused:

1. Sai Abhinav Tadepalli
2. Sania Zain Roshan
3. Vijaya Chandra Yesupogu
4. Gopal Jain
5. Chidamar Joshi



6. Pragya Jain

2. 30 minutes Q&A session

No Questions or concerns were raised during the 30 minutes Q&A session.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-01	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to call the meeting to order
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	All
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Meeting called to order at 2:17 PM

3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-02	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to remove point 8 from the agenda
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Varda
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None



Adopted	Yes
---------	-----

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-03	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to add a point for the support of Arts and Faculty
Moved	Claire
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-04	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Vice President moved change point 12 to a point of information
Moved	Duraipaandian
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-05	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to call the meeting to order
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Varda



For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

4. LIC Discussion and approval for referendum

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-06	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to LIC Discussion and approval for referendum
Moved	Varda
Seconded	Vijay
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Vijay discussed the history of the Legal Information Clinic (LIC) and student care services, including the \$2.75 per term fee levy for services offered by the CSU Legal Information Clinic (LIC), which provides legal consultations and representation.
- ii. Patrice provided background on the LIC referendum, mentioning that a similar referendum took place a few months ago and there were allegations against last year's GSA team.
- iii. Patrice explained that early in 2024, the GSA service was to close, and a review by CSU Council took place in February 2024. There has been less communication since then, although the LIC continues to handle cases costing \$1600 per file for graduate students and up to \$3500 for undergraduates.
- iv. A vote occurred to discontinue the LIC service, but concerns were raised by the LIC about participation in the referendum campaign, and the union's involvement. The results were not contested, and the fees expired after a Board of Governors' vote.
- v. Patrice mentioned that during the transition period, a revised report was requested and received in mid-October. There have been movements to bring the



referendum question back, but dissatisfaction was noted due to a lack of updates from CSU.

vi. **Patrice's Proposal:**

Step 1: Clarify the status of the LIC with CSU.

Step 2: Hold a meeting between LIC and CSU to discuss the return of the service, with clear terms on service offerings and reporting.

Any future referendum on LIC should respect previous student decisions.

- vii. Varda stated that CSU voted to replace the LIC with external services provided by Student Care. The LIC was reportedly shocked by this decision, which seemed sudden and unexpected.
- viii. Varda highlighted that the LIC plays an integral role in CSU services such as HOJO and advocacy, with law students assisting in settling legal cases.
- ix. Varda explained that the Student Care plan from SSMU charges \$30 per year but does not cover legal cases for international students and their families. She urged CSU to review the value of the LIC before removing the fee levy.
- x. Patrice clarified that the LIC and external legal services are different. LIC offers legal information through law students, while external services (e.g., Student Care) provide more expensive services through lawyers. These services should not be conflated.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240830-07	
Motion Agenda:	BRIT Council Member moved to the approval of referendum for the daycare levy
Moved	Patrice
Seconded	Narayana
For	5
Against	4
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

5. StudentCare Discussion and approval for referendum



Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-08	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to StudentCare Discussion and approval for refferendum
Moved	Mahimur
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Aditya mentioned that the legal essentials service could cost up to 36 CAD per full term, depending on the transition period. Lawyers will be providing actual legal consultation services as part of this.
- ii. Aditya asked if the GSA agrees to join Student Care Legal Essentials, which provides legal consultation in Quebec. He noted that students can opt out of this service.
- iii. Contradictory Referendum Questions: Aditya pointed out that both referendum questions regarding LIC and Student Care are contradictory and suggested asking students directly if they want Student Care. The process is ambiguous, and clarity is needed on how to proceed.
- iv. Aditya reiterated that it is contradictory to approve both referendum questions. Both will go to a special GA (General Assembly), and today, the council needs to decide whether to pass the referendum or not. A vote from students will ultimately determine the outcome.
- v. Mahimur asked whether the service is opt-out or if students must choose to opt out.
- vi. Aditya clarified that students are automatically enrolled but can opt out if they wish.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-09	
Motion Agenda:	Send the referendum to the special GA



Moved	Shahul
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	2
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

6. Approval of Funding Policy Changes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-10	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Approval of funding policy changes
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Shuvanidhi
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Aditya provided a review of the funding policy changes, highlighting several major updates:
 - b. The definition page has been restructured and made more explanatory of the goals of the GSA.
 - c. General eligibility for funding has been clarified, and some redundant points have been removed.
 - d. The funding procedure now specifies that the budget committee will approve funding within 4 weeks and provide a decision to students within 6 weeks of the application deadline.



- i. Application Requirements: Conference funding has been added, which was not available previously. There are now four different types of funds:
 - e. Special Project Fund
 - f. Extra-curricular Fund (merged into Special Project)
 - g. Conference Fund
 - h. Skill-Up Bursary: This bursary, originally capped at 75 CAD, has been increased to 200 CAD, with a maximum amount of 400 CAD (200 CAD x 2 per application cycle).
 - i. Aditya emphasized that the revised policy is more readable and easier to understand but will need proofreading. Any further necessary changes will be made before finalization.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-11	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved Approve the funding policy
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Vijay
For	8
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

7. Approval of By-law & Director's Bursary Changes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-12	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Approval of funding policy changes
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Shahul
For	7



Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Aditya highlighted changes aimed at improving transparency and fairness, specifically around executive roles. Directors on the Council of Directors must now attend mandatory meetings and submit reports on faculty-related issues. Newly elected directors and executives are also required to attend the final council meeting of their term. Council meetings will primarily be conducted in person, with a hybrid option allowed during December and summer sessions, or under special circumstances as confirmed in response to Mahimur’s inquiry.
- ii. Aditya provided clarity on the responsibilities of the council chair and minute taker. He noted that the VP Internal now leads both the Handbook and Sustainability Committees, previously under the VP Mobilization. General sections were created within standing committees to streamline functions, and duplicate bylaw points were removed, except for the AJC and Academic Committees. Additionally, the VP Internal, now a non-voting member in these committees, will chair the Healthcare Committee.
- iii. Aditya proposed adjustments to streamline election and financial processes. The financial signing limit was increased from \$750 to \$1050, and the election timeline is set to conclude by March 31 each year. The union’s name was changed from TRAC to CREW, and honorariums will see a 20% increase.
- iv. Patrice added that the committee approved these changes on Friday, with further review to occur at the next meeting if needed.
- v. Motion to approve the bylaws in principle passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention.
- vi. Bylaws were approved in principle, with any further changes to be presented at the next meeting.
- vii. Mahimur inquired if meetings could be made hybrid under special circumstances. It was confirmed that hybrid meetings could be allowed in such cases.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-13	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved approve the bylaws and Director’s policy changes
Moved	Naraya



Seconded	Varda
For	8
Against	1
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

8. Point of Information: Election Timeline

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-14	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Point of Information: Election Timeline
Moved	Mahimur
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Vijay announced key dates for the by-election period, with nominations running from October 7 to 20, followed by the candidate list release on October 22, and campaigning from October 23 to 30. Elections will take place on November 4 and 5, with results expected by November 10.
- ii. Any election contestations are scheduled for November 25, concluding the by-election process for the academic year.

9. Point of information: Frosh Update

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-15



Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Frosh Update
Moved	Mahimur
Seconded	Varda
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Sai Pavan reported that Frosh events are progressing well, with GSA tabling currently set up at the EV Library. Upcoming events include the Loyola Lush event scheduled for tomorrow, as well as several information sessions about the GSA. So far, Frosh activities have featured two library tours, a laser tag outing, a Mont Royal hike, campus tours of both downtown and Loyola campuses, and an ongoing kayak event. All members are encouraged to attend these events.
- ii. In response to a question about the furniture swap, Aditya clarified that the swap will be conducted online, with items listed on the website for easy access.

10. Point of Information: Fine Arts

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-16	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Point of Information: Fine Arts
Moved	Varda
Seconded	Narayana



For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Claire discussed with the VP External about the lack of resources in the Fine Arts faculty and proposed establishing a cross-faculty committee to address these issues. She suggested organizing an initial event through the Student Life Committee to foster collaboration across faculties, potentially making it a recurring event. The goal is to gather feedback from students and bring their input back to the GSA.
- ii. A student from the Fine Arts department mentioned that Fine Arts and other departments are located in separate buildings (e.g., EV, JMSB, ER), making it challenging for students to connect outside their own departments. Establishing cross-departmental events could be an effective way to meet and collaborate on projects.
- iii. Aditya asked about organizing specific events for Fine Arts students and suggested an event to collect feedback from students. He also encouraged circulating a newsletter or survey among departments to gather input and provide updates.
- iv. Aditya confirmed that the survey is available on the website and asked Claire about the number of departments within Fine Arts to facilitate communication and outreach.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-17	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to put Fine Arts issue into student life committee
Moved	Varda
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	None



Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

11. Point of Information: Mural Art Project Update

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-18	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Point of Information: Mural Art Project Update
Moved	Varda
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Aditya provided an update on the ongoing mural project at the GSA house, noting that while artist availability has been limited, the sketch is complete, and coloring has begun. He encouraged members to visit the GSA house to view the progress. Although the original timeline aimed to complete the mural before Frosh activities, adjustments were necessary. Aditya proposed a video competition to the Student Life Committee where students would capture this mural along with others across Montreal, with the most-liked and commented video winning.
- ii. A suggestion was made to post an update on Instagram showing the mural's coloring progress to engage the community.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-19	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to take a 10 minutes break



Moved	Mahimiur
Seconded	Varda
For	9
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Meeting resumed at 3:38 pm

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-20	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to take a 10 minutes break
Moved	Shahul
Seconded	Narayana
For	7
Against	2
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

12. Point of Information : French classes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-21	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Point of Information: French classes
Moved	Mahimur
Seconded	Shahul
For	7



Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Duraipaandian announced that this year’s French classes will commence on October 4 and will be held every Friday. The classes are offered in two levels, basic and advanced, across 8 sections, and are taught by the same instructor as last year. The total cost for the program is \$2400 (40 students at \$60 CAD each). Students pay an initial commitment fee of \$25, which is refunded upon successful completion. This service is free for students, but only two excused absences are allowed, as unrefunded leaves apply beyond this. Participants will receive a GSA certificate upon completion. The class has a maximum capacity of 50 students, with 37 spots already filled. Council members are also invited to join.
- ii. Level 2 still has 39 open slots. Aditya encouraged council members to promote the program, emphasizing its benefits for both beginners and those looking to advance their French skills. If there are remaining spots, undergraduate students may be offered seats, but graduate students will receive priority.

13. Point of Information : Quarter 1 Expense Report

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-22	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved change the agenda point to Quarter 1 Report
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes



- i. Vijay presented the first-quarter expense report, highlighting key areas of spending:
- ii. \$125 CAD allocated, with most conference-related expenses occurring in September. An increase of 20-30% is anticipated in the next quarter.
- iii. Collaboration event costs were noted, but executive salaries remain unspent due to technical issues with the Unity Portal.
- iv. Business insurance was a notable expense, alongside the fall orientation, which totaled \$12,000 CAD. This orientation cost is expected to decrease as some funds will be reimbursed.
- v. First-quarter expenses reached \$22,000 CAD, which represents 3.2% of the total annual budget.

14. Approval of Committee Monthly Reports

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-23	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to change the agenda point to Approval of Committee Monthly Reports
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	Unanonomous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

a. Hiring Committee

- i. Vijay reported that the hiring committee focused on selecting a council chair and minute taker, with Claire and six other candidates considered for these roles. Interviews were conducted by Vijay, including hiring for CROs and DROs. The committee discussed implementing new strategies, aiming to complete hiring by the end of the week.

b. Budget Committee

- i. Vijay shared that two budget committee meetings were held in August, during which all Frosh events were approved. The committee discussed specific allocations for event items, finalizing



budget amounts. At the next budget and funding committee meeting, they will address summer funding applications, including a new emergency conference funding point of interest.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-24	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve Hiring Committee Monthly Report
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	Unanonomous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

c. General Assembly Committee

- i. Vijay provided an update on the initial discussions about by-election timelines and referendum questions on advocacy and daycare. The daycare referendum question will be included in the upcoming by-elections and will take effect from January 2025, with two questions prepared for the next General Assembly (GA).
- ii.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-25	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve General Assembly Committee Monthly Report
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	Unanonomous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

d. HealthCare Committee



- i. Vijay reported that the committee signed an NDA concerning student care discussions and reviewed the core aspects of StudentCare services.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-26	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve Healthcare Committee Monthly Report
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	Unanonomous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

e. Handbook Committee

- i. Vijay shared that three committee meetings were held to review feedback on the previous handbook. Suggestions included enlarging the campus map and adjusting advertisement and empty page layouts. Julia presented updates on sponsor progress, with funding decisions pending based on sponsor confirmations. Due to budget constraints, the handbook will initially be digital, with potential printing options if additional funding is obtained. Options for printing an academic calendar and working with a vendor for direct ordering and discounts were also discussed. The full handbook may be released by winter term.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-27	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve Handbook Committee Monthly Report
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Varda
For	Unanonomous
Against	None
Abstain	None



Adopted	Yes
---------	-----

f. Policy Committee

- i. Vijay reported on discussions around potential bylaw changes and funding committee adjustments. Directors provided input on proposed bylaw modifications and honorary changes.

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-28	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve Policy Committee Monthly Report
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	Unananimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

15. Approval of Emergency Council meeting minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-29	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve Emergency Council meeting minutes
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes



16. Approval of the 2024.08.02 council meeting minutes

- i. Varda indicated that people misbehaved to her during this meeting and requested to add this detail into the minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-30	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve 2024.08.02 meeting minutes
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

17. Approval of the 2024.08.30 council meeting minutes

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-31	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve 2024.08.30 meeting minutes
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Varda
For	
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

18. Approval of Executive's Fall Semester Action Plan

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-32	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to change the agenda point to Approval of Executive's Fall Semester Action plan



Moved	Narayna
Seconded	Varda
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

- i. Since the Action plan are publicly available, it was decided by Vijay to go through them and take the votes
- ii. Since the President was excused, Vijay went through his Action plan for the semester.

b. President

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-33	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve President's Fall Semester Action Plan
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	Unanionymous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

c. VP-Internal

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-34	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve VP-Internal's Fall Semester Action Plan
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Varda
For	Unanionymous



Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

d. VP-External

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-35	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve VP-External's Fall Semester Action Plan
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Narayana
For	Unanionymous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

e. VP-Academic and Advocacy

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-36	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Council Chair moved to approve VP-Academic and Advocacy Fall Semester Action Plan
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	Unanionymous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

f. VP-Mobilization

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-37



Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to approve VP-Mobilization's Fall Semester Action Plan
Moved	Enmanuel
Seconded	Shahul
For	Unanionimous
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

19. New Business

No new business was discussed

20. Adjournment

Motion Number: Motion CO-20240923-38	
Motion Agenda:	BIRT Director moved to adjourn the meeting
Moved	Narayana
Seconded	Shahul
For	7
Against	None
Abstain	None
Adopted	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm