



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Graduate Student Services Review Committee (GSSRC) Meeting

Thursday, August 12th, 2015
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
11:00 a.m.



Minutes

In Attendance: Talena Rambarran, Natalie D'Silva, Naby Nikookaran, Pouya Taatizadeh, Anita Acai, Andrew Kloiber, Rodrigo Narro Perez, Sarah Lade

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda by Andrew: 2nd Sarah, unanimous

3.0 Discuss our options regarding CAFs

3.1 CAFs increase from \$39.88 to \$112.61/ term for FT and \$19.94 to \$29/ term for PT

3.2 Where we currently stand –

3.2.1 No representation on the Student Services Committee (SSC)

3.2.2 Receive equal priority on medical and mental health services

3.2.3 Receive medical and health services for dependants

3.2.4 We do not contribute towards a graduate career strategist, but have one on a 1 yr contract

3.2.5 Receive athletics and rec services

3.3 If we vote yes – we get

3.3.1 Representation on the Student Services Committee (SSC)

3.3.2 Access to mental health counselor

3.3.3 Receive medical and health services for dependants

3.3.4 Permanent career strategist

3.3.5 Maintain status quo on the athletics and rec

3.4 If we vote no –

3.4.1 No representation on the Student Services Committee (SSC)

3.4.2 Receive low priority on medical and mental health services

3.4.3 No medical and health services for dependants

3.4.4 No career strategist

3.4.5 Maintain status quo on the athletics and rec

Q: Do we have the numbers for counsellors and visits?

A: Yes, Graduate Students had 7000 visits to wellness last year of 47000 visits, graduate students do use the services.

Q: Can we have different plan options, one to keep the wellness services, one for extra wellness services and one including wellness and careers.

A: Something we can look into and ask for.

Q: Can we get rid of the Athletics

A: No, the agreements with Athletics are fairly new and are not going to change.

4.0 Decide on a strategy moving forward

4.1 Vote yes/no to move forward with CAFs

Motion to move forward with discussions of increasing CAFs and the potential options (opposed to advocating to the University to pay for them) by Anita: 2nd Naby – unanimous, would like to continue discussion of CAFs.

5.0 Brainstorming potential options

5.1 Proposal to keep current services – what would the costs be?

5.2 Proposal to increase wellness – what would this cost.

5.3 Proposal to increase wellness and career services? What would the cost be. Would like all 3 options.

5.4 Increase over 3 years instead of 2?

5.5 Bill to our health plan? Will we get a savings?

Comment: Services review committee – no graduate representation. We would have a voice to make changes moving forward.

5.6 Representation on pertinent committees related to services needs to be a part of all the proposals.

5.7 Can we get another psychiatrist? Is it possible? Can we have additional psychiatry Residents in the Wellness center to help alleviate the wait times?

6.0 Next Meeting (doodle poll)

7.0 Adjournment 12:02 pm

Note: Would like appendices of the data included with the minutes.