

Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

August 30th 2018

GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Tim van Boxtel (GSA President), Julia de Lange (FRC Engineering), Shawn Hercules (VP External), Sara Oikawa (VP Internal), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Cynthia Monaco (FRC Health Science)

Regrets: Aaron Roberts (Senator Humanities), Lily Eskin (FRC Social Science), Rachelle Ho (FRC Science), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Maleeha Qazi (Senator Health Science)

Absent: Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Taylor McKenzie (Senator Social Science), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Xiaomin Huang (FRC International), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Julian Yabut (FRC Health Science)

Guest: Sam Peter (Vp EGS)

Call to order 5:04

1)President remark

- Welcome Week planning used to be in the VP Internal Portfolio, but since it required someone that has strong background and experience planning, this task was assigned to Ashley.
- The GSA needs volunteer to take out and put back the Scavenger hunt signs as the signs are located at the RBG land.
- The BBQ is Friday Sep 7. There is going to be grab and go option during the BBQ at the Phoenix, as the Phoenix will not be able to accommodate the large number of students expected to come.
- Trivia night at the Phoenix is Wednesday Sep 5, will be hosted by Tim.
- On Saturday, Sep 8 is the grad parents' family picnic which is new this year.
- The GSA will cover the bus ticket from Pearson air port to Hamilton and will exchange it with a \$15 Phoenix gift card.
- Tim and Sara attended thinkGrad last month. They are group of grad students' association, meet together to discuss similar problems facing graduate students.
- The GSA finished the financial audit, the auditors noted that this year the books are way better organized compared to previous years, the number of audit adjustments this year is 7 compared to 24 of last year.
- The GSA is currently in the process of signing a contract with UTS, when this is done, all faculty associations and clubs will be able to have their own website, and the GSA will cover the hosting fees.

- The Phoenix vendors are hosting 2 events; big party on mid September, will be streaming live on radio, the other is collective arts. The events will be on Thursday and Friday.

2) Approval of the Agenda

- Sara requesting the addition of Legalization of cannabis to new business.

Motion to approve the amended agenda of August 30th, moved by Sara seconded by Anita, all in favour motion carried.

3) Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting moved by Sara, seconded by Anita, all in favor motion carried.

4) FRC updates

FRC Engineering:

- Welcome Week activity planned after the GSA Welcome Week.
- Travel awards closed at beginning of August, it gets dealt with externally
- Participation in Hamilton GO bus welcome was very quiet, it needs to be more organized as volunteers stayed 4 or 5 hours and only one student showed up. Suggestion is volunteers at Pearson can send a message or call people who will wait at downtown GO, and inform them with the time the student is expected to arrive.

FRC International,

- Bylaws and constitution, they made the final changes.
- FRC international will be elected through IGSA now.
- There will be GSA representative on the Board, he/she will be nominated and not elected.
- The current president is Sebastian Himbert, and Co-President Jean-Christophe
- Preparing a Nature hike and Trivia night for international students.
- Working on orientation events
- Tim will send package to apply for bank account, he was able to negotiate a deal with Scotiabank to have faculty associations and clubs under the GSA to have a free bank account.

FRC health science,

- No new business

FRC science

Rachelle sent the following report:

- SAM has rebranded with a new name (SciGSA) and a new logo. There is a new Twitter handle and Facebook username: @McMasterSciGSA.

- SciGSA will be present at the Graduate Resource Fair.
- A Lab Coat Decorating social event will be taking place on September 12th at 3 pm with prizes from the Campus Store for the best-decorated coat!

5) senate/BOG updates

- No new business

6) Ratification of Kinesiology Graduate Body club

A brief description of the club as mentioned on their registration form;

- The purpose of the club is to improve graduate students' lives within the department. We hold student seminars, which provide opportunities for students to improve their presentation skills and connect with others working on similar research topics. We also hold social events, providing relaxing and entertaining activities to foster a sense of community within the department. We hold student information events to inform undergraduate students of the opportunities in the graduate program and how to become involved in research within the department.
- Sara explained that the budget has a surplus because they use the surplus money to buy cleaning supplies. They are not trying to generate a revenue, the department gives money, and there is left over.

Motion to approve the Kinesiology Graduate Body as a GSA graduate club moved by Julia seconded by Anthony, all in favor motion carried.

7) New business:

- Sara explained that there is a campus initiative regarding legalization of cannabis. The committee met last week, the first edition of the policy is in process, this policy falls under the alcohol policy, the main major turn is identifying the safety and sensitivity of job undergoing, for instant, working in lab, lifting heavy objects, etc.
- If Council members want to contribute, they can email Sara. She will send around the documents she currently has, members can send their comments and she will forward their opinion to the committee.
- Under the current policy, only employees at McMaster can be tested and not students. There is a lot of room to cover the testing language. There are random drug testing but it only for some people. TA and RA students are considered employees.
- They are going to be a lot of training related to this subject. The policy will be similar to the student code of conducts; this will be drafted then forward to senate for approval.
- It is suggested that to part with MSU on this initiative, unless the GSA have a major project to spear head.
- Cannabis will be available in online orders, however, McMaster mail will not accept any mail orders from Ontario Cannabis.

8) Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. moved by Sara, seconded by Julia, all in favor motion carried.

Item	Action by	Due date
N/A		