

Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

June 27th, 2019

GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Shawn Hercules (GSA President) Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Mia Zhang (VP Internal), Caroline Seiler (FRC Health Science), Maxwell Lighstone (Senator Engineering), Olive Liang (VP Administration), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Ish Jain (FRC Science)

Regrets: Anita Acai (Senator Science), Unnati Trivedy (VP External)

Absent: Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Rodrigo Narro (BoG member), Julia de Lange (FRC Engineering), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO)

Call to order 5:05

1. President's Remarks

- Next Meeting – tentative date 25th of July 2019 at 5 pm.

2. Call for New Business

- a. **MOTION:** Approval of Agenda moved by Max, seconded by Mohammed, all in favour, motion carried.
- Adding to new business the discussion of Cross representing communication and Graduate Thesis project.

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Tiffany, seconded by Mia, all in favour, motion carried.

- b. **MOTION:** Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting as circulated moved by Anthony, seconded by Mohammad, all in favor, motion carried.

3. President remark:

- Shawn mentioned that last month's main discussion and meetings were regarding student choice initiatives. Mainly the changes in fees will be applied in September and students will have 1 week opt out period.

- There is going to be a change in the HSR grace period starting next year. As of August 21 there is a grace period added to the presto card, however, HSR no longer wants to do grace period, so they will cancel all passes on August 20th and start a new tile on August 21st, the GSA's issue with that is that students paid for the full year, and now they are shortened a week and half. The GSA agreed with concession that the GSA will be back in bargaining for the new contract within the next few weeks.
- There is a team building exercise on July 25th for council members, details will be sent prior to the event.
- The Icent app for all new is updating next week.
- GSA awards are coming up soon, there will be a few changes within the award as we are trying to open more award for students.
- There is a planetarium event tonight at 7 pm.

4. GSA VP Services:

- Wei mentioned that the GSA will change the current server, he was in contact with UTS and offered to borrow a server from them and it will cost \$1000 per year plus one time set up fee which costs \$100 per hour. However, he suggests that the GSA should have its own server, since we don't need a huge space, just a computer. Ashley added that the GSA will have a server with UTS as we pay \$900 per year for maintenance fee.
- We are in the process of hiring a web developer summer student we received approx. 30 resumes and will do interviews next week.
- Max added that in previous meetings Tim has mentioned that one of his vision is to have one server for student's association and clubs, he suggested to contact SGS and ask if they would like to support this initiative. Ashley added that originally the GSA was on SGS server, however, they asked the GSA to move out as they don't need an external on their server. However, she will try to contact the dean of SGS regarding this.
- Wei highlighted that he is currently working on a handbook for all new grad students that covers all information students might need to know about the GSA.

5. DoO's update from AMICCUS

- Ashley mentioned that she traveled to AMMICUS at the end of May, its an association for General Managers and Executive Directors, they meet to discuss students' initiatives. They represent colleges graduate and undergraduate schools.
- The hot topic this year is student initiatives, many people are discussing how they are managing their fees, for instance, Fanshaw has left events as mandatory fees while the GSA put these as non mandatory. The hope is to meet with people who understand what they are doing, and if the government doesn't come down and include practices, it will allow us to use some of our fees.
- There was a lot of talk about what the impacts are and how to deal with it; communication plans, and how to execute on the guidelines. McMaster didn't make us implement this in the summer as many institutions forced their student union to opt out in July, and they didn't have enough time to communicate the process.

- The GSA opt out period will be in September for 1 week. There is an opportunity for some testing to be done around student choice initiative and the opt out, if any member is interested to try the process, they can email Ashley.

6. Clubs approval- Degroote Graduate Finance Club

- Ashley highlighted that the students in DeGroot club need to make sure that they are not inclusive, so in case someone isn't in the finance department, they still can gain access to this club.
- Council agreed to approve with statement of inclusion

Motion to approve this club pending inclusive language moved by Max, seconded by Mohammad, all in favor motion carried.

7. FRC Updates

SciGSA

- There is a meeting next Tuesday with Dr, Saballah to discuss equity and inclusion.
- Organizing a bear and donut event at the Phoenix, they might have a bon fire situation
- They sent a request for event funding to CUPE and are waiting to hear back

Engineering

- Elected new council yesterday.
- CUPE had 2 delegations in recent month
- Update on bargaining TA agreement, and planning bargaining information session for CUPE students.
- Squash tournament is soon

International

- They met a month ago, now IGSA have a new council in place
- Their Bylaws approved last AGM
- On July 19 they are arranging for a hiking day for a celebration with Hamilton international students
- Biggest event is the world cup soccer event for the welcome week; however, this is still under planning, it is open to everyone, it is more like continental, made of both boys and girls.

Health science

- Zarwa and Caroline have been in touch with Health Science Grad student federation, they arranged a meeting next week.
- Ashley added that she hopes FRC HS will be able to talk the federation into falling under the GSA to be able to get GSA funding.

8. Senate / BOG Updates

- Max mentioned that the last senate meeting for the year was 2 weeks ago
- New senate comes next year in September, and new staff on senate.
- Undergrad students' senators made appeal to senate for more resources to host events e.g. team building events.
- Last May the senate committee on academic integrity proposed a new measure; one of the new criteria to be considered as academic integrity, is the violation of not taking all reasonable precautions to protect your Mac ID and password. However, adding these criteria failed in senate as members vote against it. Senate committee might bring back this discussion in the future, so the GSA needs to keep this under the radar.

9. Recommendations for the BoD to appoint

a. Internal director, Michael Kamal

b. External director, Kemar Sobers

- Application and related documents circulated to members for discussion.
- The council agreed to appoint both applicants.

Motion to approve appointing for Michael Kamal and Kemar Sobers to internal and external Board of director position, all in favor, 1 absent, motion carried.

10. New Business

- Cross representing communication
- Max explained that a lot of students sit on multiple boards, like EGS, senate, BoG, ect. Hence a lot of the same information is brought into different places, at least 3 students in each of these meetings takes minutes. He suggested for discussion consideration to create a shared folder to add unofficial minutes in which members from different committees can share.
- Ashley asked who will be in charge of this folder, Max suggested GSA can be in charge and have a shared folder for EGS, SciGSa senate, council...etc. In which whenever students on committees are going to delegate on a committee, they can share the information with each other.
- Ashley added that she is meeting with MSU tomorrow and she will share this information with the MSU in case they have an appetite for such initiative. She suggested to hold on this and take it back to consideration with other different groups to have opinion and idea.
- Graduate Thesis project.

- Jen mentioned that a lot of graduate writing resources is in disperse all over the place. The graduate thesis project group are developing a tool kit to. They are looking for feedback on the fabric they developed, the email will be circulated next week to students.
- The aim is to capture grad student’s experience and highlight their experiences. SGS collaborated and sent the email, the GSA sent it out this morning.
- The group is also interested to know about students who don’t have English as their first language.
- Jen highlighted that the survey results goes back to the group and it is completely anonymous.

11.Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 pm moved by Tiffany, seconded by Max, all in favor, motion carried.

Action Items:

| Item | Action by | Due date |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| NA | | |