

Council Meeting December 18th 2014 minutes (CO-20141218)

Meeting Facilitator: Gretchen King
Minutes Taker: David Clos-Sasseville

Final Agenda :

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm
1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Councilors appointment
 - 3.1 Chair's report
4. Approval of Nov. 18th Council meeting minutes
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Budget
 - 5.2 Voting on Open Committees
 - 5.3 BYLAW CHANGE: Election Reforms
 - 5.4 BYLAW CHANGE: Changing Bylaw 19.6 to lower Quorum at GA
 - 5.5 Quebec Engineering Competition for GSA Members
 - 5.6 Senate Reporting Policy & Senate Caucus
 - 5.7 Commissioning a Report on GSA Membership
 - 5.8 GSA Career Fair
 - 5.9 GSA Policies
 - 5.10 FB policy
 - 5.11 Health plan
6. New Business
 - 6.1 BYLAW CHANGE: Budget Committee Composition
 - 6.2 Exploratory Committee for an Arts and Science Faculty Association
 - 6.3 Waste and recycling at GSA events
 - 6.4 BYLAW CHANGE: No elections in GA
 - 6.5 Elections campaigning and the GSA FaceBook Page
 - 6.6 GSA rep on external bodies getting honorarium
 - 6.7 GradProSkill
7. Reports
 - 7.1 Service Manager
 - 7.2 Department Manager and Campaigns Advocate
 - 7.3 Report from Arts & Science Faculty Council
 - 7.4 Senator Tweets from K. Riad
 - 7.5 President
 - 7.6 VP External

- 7.7 VP Internal
- 7.8 VP Mobilization
- 7.9 Finance Manager
- 7.10 Academic Advocacy

8. GSA Committee Appointments

- 8.1 GA Planning
- 8.2 Equity Retreat
- 8.3 Student Life

9. Other Business

- 9.1 Oral report SGS council
- 9.2 CCR Update

10. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 6 pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion CO-20141218-01

Be It Resolved That the following agenda be adopted for todays Council meeting:

- 0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm
- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda
- 3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Chair's report
- 4. Approval of Nov. 18th Council meeting minutes
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Budget
 - 5.2 Voting on Open Committees
 - 5.3 BYLAW CHANGE: Election Reforms
 - 5.4 BYLAW CHANGE: Changing Bylaw 19.6 to lower Quorum at GA
 - 5.5 Quebec Engineering Competition for GSA Members
 - 5.6 Senate Reporting Policy & Senate Caucus
 - 5.7 Commissioning a Report on GSA Membership
 - 5.8 GSA Career Fair
 - 5.9 GSA Policies
 - 5.10 FB policy
 - 5.11 Health plan

6. New Business

- 6.1 BYLAW CHANGE: Budget Committee Composition
- 6.2 Exploratory Committee for an Arts and Science Faculty Association
- 6.3 Waste and recycling at GSA events
- 6.4 BYLAW CHANGE: No elections in GA
- 6.5 Elections campaigning and the GSA FaceBook Page

7. Reports

- 7.1 Service Manager
- 7.2 Department Manager and Campaigns Advocate
- 7.3 Report from Arts & Science Faculty Council
- 7.4 Senator Tweets from K. Riad
- 7.5 President
- 7.6 VP External
- 7.7 VP Internal
- 7.8 VP Mobilization
- 7.9 Finance Manager
- 7.10 Academic Advocacy

8. GSA Committee Appointments

- 8.1 GA Planning
- 8.2 Equity Retreat
- 8.3 Student Life

9. Other Business

- 9.1 Oral report SGS council
- 9.2 CCR Update

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Isabelle

Seconded by: Korosh

Amendment-01

Add 6.6 GSA rep on external bodies getting honorarium

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Jon

Amendment-02

Add 6.7 GradProSkill

Moved by: Mathilde

Seconded by: Sindhura

Amendment-03

Add 3.1 Councilors appointment

No objection to adopt the agenda with all the amendments.
As amended

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm
 1. Call to Order
 2. Adoption of the Agenda
 3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Councilors appointment
 - 3.1 Chair's report
 4. Approval of Nov. 18th Council meeting minutes
 5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Budget
 - 5.2 Voting on Open Committees
 - 5.3 BYLAW CHANGE: Election Reforms
 - 5.4 BYLAW CHANGE: Changing Bylaw 19.6 to lower Quorum at GA
 - 5.5 Quebec Engineering Competition for GSA Members
 - 5.6 Senate Reporting Policy & Senate Caucus
 - 5.7 Commissioning a Report on GSA Membership
 - 5.8 GSA Career Fair
 - 5.9 GSA Policies
 - 5.10 FB policy
 - 5.11 Health plan
 6. New Business
 - 6.1 BYLAW CHANGE: Budget Committee Composition
 - 6.2 Exploratory Committee for an Arts and Science Faculty Association
 - 6.3 Waste and recycling at GSA events
 - 6.4 BYLAW CHANGE: No elections in GA
 - 6.5 Elections campaigning and the GSA FaceBook Page
 - 6.6 GSA rep on external bodies getting honorarium
 - 6.7 GradProSkill
 7. Reports
 - 7.1 Service Manager
 - 7.2 Department Manager and Campaigns Advocate
 - 7.3 Report from Arts & Science Faculty Council
 - 7.4 Senator Tweets from K. Riad
 - 7.5 President
 - 7.6 VP External
 - 7.7 VP Internal
 - 7.8 VP Mobilization
 - 7.9 Finance Manager

7.10 Academic Advocacy

8. GSA Committee Appointments

8.1 GA Planning

8.2 Equity Retreat

8.3 Student Life

9. Other Business

9.1 Oral report SGS council

9.2 CCR Update

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Isabelle

Seconded by: Korosh

Unanimous

3. Council Business

3.1 Councillors appointment

Motion CO-20141218-02

Be It Resolved That Shadi, Isabelle, Sean, Mathilde, Keroles and Ribal are appointed to council.

Moved by: Harkirat

Seconded by: Jon

Adopted

Note: A motion to re-appoint Marilou as been adopted under 5.7 (Motion XX)

3.2 Chair's Report

ACTION ITEMS

(BE)FOR NEXT COUNCIL

Korosh with follow-up with missing EN

CS directors and make a motion prior to the next meeting regarding dismissals;

Budget committee will present budget to the January council meeting and Roddy will send an excel version of the budget (with the breakdown requested by Ribal) to the Council before next meeting. [Does this one replace this older action item: *Financial report for GA should include a broad overview of the finances and a report on the Budget committee. Sean will present the Financial report along with Jawad and Rohit at the next GA?*]

Request for Roddy to mention the changes in Bursary in the next Newsletter.

Keroles will make an excel sheet of the timeline.

Council needs to strike a Equity Retreat Committee to organize a Special Council Retreat on Equity and Diversity to be held in January 2015;

IN-PROGRESS

[February Council meeting] Bylaw Committee will discuss possible amendments that would provide a clearer framework for the creation of new staff positions and the filling of these positions in the future, including a provision for emergency situations. Bylaw committee will also discuss BOG representative, their independence, who should fulfill this role;

[Next GA] The President and the Academic/Advocacy represent GSA on graduate class sizes through monitoring, creating awareness, and advocating for a case by case assessment;

[By January Council] Academic/Advocacy and Advocacy Manager will request of the administration to stop sharing students info to third parties without consent;

NO DATE YET

[By January Council] BDS Committee to investigate Concordia's relationship with the State of Israel and its institutions.

[By January Council] VP Mobilization and Departments Manager organize a GSA Arts & Science Congress and Fine Arts Congress in collaboration with Directors from each of these faculties.

[By January Council] Executive Committee will budget for and conduct a financial audit for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

[By January Council] Dept Manager and GSA President will support the inclusion of DOEIGSA members in the DESC Space Committee and monitor the situation to ensure that the Faubourg building is renovated to meet students' needs.

[By January Council] GradProSkills committee, Korosh, Trevor, Rohit and Jawad are mandated to negotiate the cost of GradProSkill French classes.

Houda volunteers to chair the committee.

4. Approval of November 18th Council meeting minutes

Motion CO-20141218-03

Be It Resolved That the Council approves November 18th council meeting minutes.

Moved by: Isabelle
Seconded by: Laura
Unanimously adopted

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Budget

Note: The item is tabled as asked by the committee. The Budget is coming in January.

5.2 Voting on Open Committees

Motion CO-20141218-04

Whereas the Bylaws Committee asks Council for clarification on the voting status of non-appointed members of open committees of the GSA;

Be It Resolved That non-appointed members be given voting status on open committees.

Moved by: Mathilde
Seconded by: Isabelle

Amendment

Add “upon verification by the chair of their membership”

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Keroles
Adopted

Motion (CO-20141218-04) as Amended

Whereas the Bylaws Committee asks Council for clarification on the voting status of non-appointed members of open committees of the GSA;

Be It Resolved That non-appointed members, upon verification by the chair of their membership, be given voting status on open committees.

Moved by: Mathilde
Seconded by: Isabelle
Adopted

5.3 BYLAW CHANGE: Election Reforms

Motion CO-20141218-05

Whereas the GSA is in danger of losing its dignity;

Whereas Engineering students are being accused of not paying enough attention to GSA policies and mandates;

Whereas many come to the GSA applying for vacancies without even knowing what the responsibilities are;

Whereas the GSA is for all graduate student and not a specific group of students;

Whereas the GSA as a non-profit organization is supposed to provide services to all members;

Whereas the following resolutions will make the GSA and Council stronger:

Be It Resolved That eligibility to run for Executive positions shall require at least 4 month volunteering in Concordia or any other university in Canada;

Be It Further Resolved That no more than 2 executives can run for election from the same department;

Be It Further Resolved That the Chief Electoral Officer will convene an Elections Committee (with equal representation among the faculties and previous Councilors) to confirm the candidates' references and qualifications before election;

Be It Further Resolved That GSA members shall have the opportunity to ask candidates questions before voting in regular elections or at the GA.

Moved by: Leili

Seconded by: Mathilde

Amendment

Be It Resolved That the Whereases be removed.

Be It Further Resolved That Clause 2 and 3 are Removed

Be It Further Resolved That Clause 1 will now state: "Shall require 20 hours of volunteer experience recorded in the CCR"

Moved by: Kerolles

Seconded by: Korosh

Motion to commit to a committee

BIRT the motion and the amendment above be committed to the By-law Committee.

Moved by: Jonathan

Seconded by: Isabelle

Adopted

5.4 BYLAW CHANGE: Changing Bylaw 19.6 to lower Quorum at GA

Motion CO-20141218-06

Be It Resolved That Council change the GSA bylaws to lower Quorum required to convene a General Assembly;

Be It Further Resolved That Bylaw 19.6, which reads: "Quorum for all General Assemblies of the G.S.A. shall be one (1) percent of the members" shall be changed to "Quorum for all General Assemblies of the G.S.A. shall be .5 percent of the members."

Moved by: Sean

Seconded by: Mathilde

Requires 2/3 majority

Failed

5.5 Quebec Engineering Competition for GSA Members

Note: The time for this item was sensitive and as already passed so it is removed from the agenda.

5.6 Senate Reporting Policy & Senate Caucus

Motion CO-20141218-07

Be It Resolved That the Council creates a policy on what are council's expectations of the new senators particularly in terms of reporting;

Be It Further Resolved That a senate caucus be established that must meet at least once before senate steering committee and once within two days of the release of senate agenda;

Be It Further Resolved That that VP-Academic be mandated discusses with CSU establishing a joint senate caucus to ensure proper coordination.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Leili

Amendment-01

Remove the first clause.

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Isabelle

Opposition noted: Keroles

Adopted

Amendment-02

Remove the last clause

Moved by: Mathilde

Seconded by: Sean

Adopted

Amendment-03

Add: "BIFRT Senator shall report directly to the Graduate Students that they represent"

Moved by: Isabelle

Seconded by: Keroles

Adopted

Amendment-04

Add: "in the GSA newsletter" to the second clause

Moved by: Sean

Seconded by: Jonathan

Adopted

Amendment-05

Add: "BIFRT the Person responsible for Academic and Advocacy affairs draft, in consultation with Council, guidelines for Senate reporting by January Council meeting."

Moved by: Isabelle

Seconded by: Jonathan

Adopted

Motion (CO-20141218-07) as Amended

Be It Resolved That a senate caucus be established that must meet at least once before senate steering committee and once within two days of the release of senate agenda;

Be It Further Resolved That Senator shall report directly to the Graduate Students that they represent in the GSA newsletter.

Be It Further Resolved That the Person responsible for Academic and Advocacy affairs draft, in consultation with Council, guidelines for Senate reporting by January Council meeting.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Leili

Adopted

5.7 Commissioning a Report on GSA Membership

Motion CO-20141218-08

Be It Resolved That Marilou be re-appointed as Councillor.

Moved by: Jonathan

Seconded by: Keroles

Adopted

Motion CO-20141218-09

Be It Resolved That the Council moves directly to the reports.

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Ribal

Adopted

---- Move to reports ---

7. Reports

Motion CO-20141218-10

Be It Resolved That the council go into close session without the non-voting member.

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Leili

Adopted

--- Closed session---

Motion CO-20141218-11

Be It Resolved That the council go through the executive report one by one.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Leili

Failed

Motion CO-20141218-12

Be It Resolved That all the reports be approved.

Be It Further Resolved That the executive will now be required to list all of the meetings they attend and include regrets for all the meetings missed.

Be It Further Resolved That the executive is reminded Article 3Db of the Bursary policy will be upheld by the Council.

Moved by: Sean

Seconded by: Isabelle

Amendment

Add: BIFRT the mandate adopted by council in the Fall semester be included in the executive January Action Plan.

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Jonathan

Adopted

Motion (CO-20141218-12) as Amended

Be It Resolved That all the reports be approved

Be It Further Resolved That the executive will now be required to list all of the meetings they attend and include regrets for all the meetings missed.

Be It Further Resolved That the executive is reminded Article 3Db of the Bursary policy will be upheld by the Council.

Be It Further Resolved That the mandates adopted by council in the Fall semester be included in the executive January Action Plan.

Moved by: Sean

Seconded by: Isabelle
Adopted

---End of the Closed Session---

Motion CO-20141218-13

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Harkirat

Failed

7.1 Service Manager

7.2 Department Manager and Campaigns Advocate

7.3 Report from Arts & Science Faculty Council

7.4 Senator Tweets from K. Riad

7.5 President

7.6 VP External

7.7 VP Internal

7.8 VP Mobilization

7.9 Finance Manager

7.10 Academic Advocacy

---Back to 5.7 Commissioning a Report on GSA Membership---

Motion CO-20141218-13

Be It Resolved That the GSA Hiring Committee create a job posting to hire an experienced researcher temporarily to produce a report on the demographics of the GSA membership;

Be It Further Resolved That this employee be paid the regular staff wage for 80 hours of work over 4 weeks, and that priority in the hiring process be given to women, immigrants, people of color, and people from other marginalized groups;

Be It Further Resolved That this report include detailed information on the gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, languages, religious beliefs, and dietary practices of the GSA membership according to faculty;

Be It Further Resolved That this report include recommendations on how to make the GSA more inclusive, encourage the participation of all members, and bridge divides between faculties and other key areas;

Be It Further Resolved That the Hiring Committee may choose not to hire anyone should it doubt the qualifications and skills of the applicants.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Ribal

Amendment

Remove “, and that priority in the hiring process be given to women, immigrants, people of color, and people from other marginalized groups;”

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Korosh
Failed

Motion (CO-20141218-13) Unamended

Be It Resolved That the GSA Hiring Committee create a job posting to hire an experienced researcher temporarily to produce a report on the demographics of the GSA membership;

Be It Further Resolved That this employee be paid the regular staff wage for 80 hours of work over 4 weeks, and that priority in the hiring process be given to women, immigrants, people of color, and people from other marginalized groups;

Be It Further Resolved That this report include detailed information on the gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, languages, religious beliefs, and dietary practices of the GSA membership according to faculty;

Be It Further Resolved That this report include recommendations on how to make the GSA more inclusive, encourage the participation of all members, and bridge divides between faculties and other key areas;

Be It Further Resolved That the Hiring Committee may choose not to hire anyone should it doubt the qualifications and skills of the applicants.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Ribal
Failed

5.8 GSA Career Fair

Tabled

5.9 GSA Policies

Tabled

5.10 FB policy

Motion CO-20141218-14

Be It Resolved That the Council Table this Item

Moved by: Isabelle

Seconded by: Harkirat

Adopted

Motion CO-20141218-15

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Sean

Seconded by: Korosh

Failed

5.11 Health plan

Motion CO-20141218-16

Whereas GSA currently offers 500\$/year for dental plan, CSU for undergrads offers 750\$/year, Full-time professors get around 2000\$/year,

Whereas the insurance is too low to actually help out students specifically graduate students do any major dental work.

Whereas Graduate students are somewhere between students and employees at Concordia, and they should benefit from a good dental plan.

Whereas there are also concerns regarding mental health coverage in this plan

Whereas it doesn't address research related incidents that thesis students may face during their research

Be It Resolved That advocacy manager and VP internal be mandated to report to council next meeting the aspects of the issue and ways/options to address those issues and to negotiate better insurance.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Korosh

Adopted

6. New Business

6.1 BYLAW CHANGE: Budget Committee Composition

Motion CO-20141218-17

Whereas the GSA budget originates from the students;

Whereas GA membership has the right to have access to mechanisms through which it can easily exercise oversight on how the GSA functions and how their money is invested;

Be It Resolved That the GA elects a student from the general GSA membership outside council and execs to the budget committee;

Be It Further Resolved That the Article 12.2 of the GSA Bylaws on the composition of the Budget Committee now include "12.2.7 One member-at-large elected annually by the General Assembly."

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Isabelle

Amendment

BIFRT Council will appoint the member at large seat at this council meeting until an election is held at the next GA.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Isabelle

Failed

Motion (CO-20141218-17) Unamended

Whereas the GSA budget originates from the students;

Whereas GA membership has the right to have access to mechanisms through which it can easily exercise oversight on how the GSA functions and how their money is invested;

Be It Resolved That the GA elects a student from the general GSA membership outside council and execs to the budget committee;

Be It Further Resolved That the Article 12.2 of the GSA Bylaws on the composition of the Budget Committee now include "12.2.7 One member-at-large elected annually by the General Assembly."

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Isabelle

Requires 2/3 majority

For: 4 Against: 2 Abstention: 4

Failed

6.2 Exploratory Committee for an Arts and Science Faculty Association

Motion CO-20141218-18

Whereas the GSA bylaws stipulate that it “shall:

- Represent the collective interests and promote the general welfare of the graduate students of Concordia University;
- Provide a platform to stimulate interdisciplinary opportunities for all members in a variety of cultural, intellectual, political, recreational and social activities.
- Facilitate cooperation among students by providing services and organizing events, which supplement the learning experience of its members and develop a sense of community;
- Create an accessible space for its members that provides adequate resources and conveniences to support these objectives.”;
-

Whereas graduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science do not currently have a faculty association;

Whereas Arts and Science graduate students have been underrepresented at the General Assemblies this year, and have, for most of the current year, been underrepresented at Council as well;

Whereas many Arts and Science graduate students have expressed an interest in joining a faculty association in order to build and foster a community of their peers;

Be It Resolved That Council shall strike an exploratory committee for the purpose of assessing the feasibility and interest in an Arts and Science faculty association;

Be It Further Resolved That the VP Academic Advocacy shall oversee this initiative;

Be It Further Resolved That said committee shall be composed of the VP Academic Advocacy (as chair), Arts and Science Directors, the Departments Manager, and members of Arts and Science departmental associations;

Be It Further Resolved That the GSA shall allocate funds for this committee for mobilization and other requirements;

Be It Further Resolved That Be it further resolved that the results of the committee shall be presented by the VP Academic Advocacy at the February Council meeting;

Moved by: Isabelle
Seconded by: Shadi
Adopted Unanimously



Motion CO-20141218-19
Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Sean
Seconded by: Isabelle
Adopted

---7. Reports moved after 5.7---

Annex 1: Attendance

Council meeting November 18th, 2014 Attendance			
	Last Name	Given Name	Attended
Executives			
President	Madnourne	Houda	X
VP Internal	Patil	Rohit	X
VP External	Khan	Mohammad Jawad	X
VP Mobilization	Danish	Sheikh	X
Directors			
A&S			
	Boivin	Sean	X
	Johnston	Isabelle	X
	Abiraad	Ribal	X
	Salimi Darestani	Shadi	X
	Summers	Jonathan	X
ENCS			
	Kumar	Vivek	X
	Choudhary	Utkarsh	
	Kolan	Sriharsha	
	Manthapuri	Sindhura	X
	Koochekian Sabor	Korosh	X
	Islam	Md. Eftakhairul	
	Astaneh	Leili	X
	Singh	Harkirat	X
	Majumdar	Suryadipta	
Fine Arts			
	André	Marilou	X
JMSB			
	Ngo Mbom	Mathilde	X
	Chen	Longren	X
SIP			
	Riad	Keroles	X