

Council Meeting April 25th Minutes (CO-20140425)

Chair: Gretchen King

Minutes-taker: Liz Colford

Present:

Voting directors: Holly Nazar, Audrey Dahl, Poya Saffari, Carla Farnesi, Nishant Walia, Vinoth Ramaiah, Kartikeya Nadendla, Mohammad Rupom Babla, Trevor Smith

Non-voting directors: Vignesh Shankar, Mohit Shama, Nasim Changizi

Staff/Observers: David Clos-Sasseville, Liz Colford, Simon-Pierre Lauzon, Firas Al-Hamoud

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet (3 mins)
4. Approval of Minutes from March 3 and March 21 (5 mins)
5. Business Arising from the Minutes (50 mins)
 - 5.1 Follow-up on councillor participation (VP Internal/Carla Farnesi)
 - 5.2 Accreditation follow-up (VP-Mob)
 - 5.3 Motion to Rescind 20k for Accreditation (Audrey Dahl)
 - 5.4 COI Policy (Poya Saffari)
6. New Business (70 mins)
 - 6.1 Ratification of report and allocation of funding motion (Funding Committee)
 - 6.2 Elections Report + Varia / Debrief (CRO)
 - 6.3 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment (Audrey Dahl)
 - 6.4 Volunteer recognition awards & student scholarship (Vinoth Ramaiah)
 - 6.5 Bylaw changes (Vinoth Ramaiah)
 - a. Regarding Executive monthly reports and salary
 - b. Regarding elections
7. Reports (30 mins)
 - 7.1 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 - 7.2 Service Manager
 - 7.3 Advocacy Manager
 - 7.4 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Elections, Bylaw Committees)
 - a. Tabled reports, including March & Special Meeting Packets (See March 21 & Feb. 7th),
Report from the Council of the School of Grad Studies (Carla Farnesi), Sustainability Report (Trevor Smith), and the Academic Program Committee (Audrey Dahl).
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
9. Other Business (5 mins)
10. Adjournment

No-quorum portion of the meeting begins at 10:43am

New 5.1 - Hiring committee

3.1 Chair's report: Training for new coming council meeting proposal by Gretchen

Approval of the minutes – suggestions about the minutes

March 21st - we can't formally approve them from the March 21st because of missing GA agenda

March 3rd – spelling mistakes on pp7-8, clarify Conflict of interest (COI too vague)

Business arising

5.1 Hiring committee report (Carla)

Hiring committee: Jamie, Mohit, Carla were present. Hiring committee interviewed 3 candidates and selected Roxana Barry. They liked her because she worked with student groups and is familiar with the GSA.

Moved by Carla

Seconded by Poya

Unable to vote on this item since quorum had not yet been achieved

5.2 Follow-up on councillor participation (new 6.3)

Update: The meeting is on hold until after exams in May.

5.3 Accreditation follow-up (new 6.4)

Update from Holly: 2 direct marketing companies were suggested by Roddy but they don't take care of logistics. Cause Comms was the most similar consulting firm. Kokobi is similar in price but Kokobi's members are more familiar with Concordia. Audrey found guide from FECQ with tips on mobilization for accreditation.

Next steps? Vote to go ahead? Vote to rescind?

Quorum is now achieved at 11:17. Gretchen motions to formally adopt the agenda.

Motion CO-20140425-01

Moved by Juliette

Seconded by Audrey

Adopted

Amendment-01

Move 6.5 to 6.1

Moved by Vinoth

Seconded by Juliette

Approved

Amendment-02

Reports after approval of the minutes, making 7 the new 5, to ask questions on the reports, max 15min

Moved by Audrey

Seconded by Juliette

Approved

Agenda now approved as follows:

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 - 5.4 Motion to Rescind 20k for Accreditation (Audrey Dahl)
 - 5.4 COI Policy (Poya Saffari)
6. New Business (70 mins) [See Appendix I, p. 3-5]
 - 6.1 Bylaw changes (Vinoth Ramaiah)
 - a. Regarding Executive monthly reports and salary
 - b. Regarding elections
 - 6.2 Ratification of report (See ATTACHED) and allocation of funding motion (Funding Committee)
 - 6.3 Elections Report + Varia / Debrief (CRO) [See ATTACHED: 3 docs from CRO]
 - 6.4 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment (Audrey Dahl)
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Return to approval of the minutes – March 3 – Motion 10 – clarify that executives are part of the committee, missing a seconder on page 7

Motion CO-20140425-02

Approval of minutes

Approved edits and put the minutes on the website

Moved by Juliette

Seconded by Kartikeya

Approved.

5. Reports

Holly's report on Senate from January until now will be delivered at the end of the day after today's senate meeting.

Poya's concerns over advocacy manager report that academic offences are getting worse and he wishes that GSA take on a campaign of education to prevent plagiarism from happening, and feels the university is not doing enough to create awareness about what plagiarism is in order to prevent it.

Vignesh is working with the dean of graduate studies to create an interactive educational tool on the Moodle website for all new students.

All execs, staff, and representatives are encouraged to provide reports in a timely manner so that important information like this is made accessible so councillors know the work that's already being done to address the issues.

Motion CO-20140425-03

BIRT [council encourage] the VP academic put pressure on university departments to implement a workshop on plagiarism and academic integrity.

Amendment to the motion

BIRT GSA representatives (such as the VP Academic and the Department Advocate and Advocacy Manager) attend faculty meetings with departmental reps to encourage workshops on plagiarism and academic integrity.

Approval of amendment

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Juliette

Amendment carries.

This is now what we're working with:

BIRT GSA representatives (such as the VP Academic and the Department Advocate and Advocacy Manager) attend faculty meetings with departmental reps to encourage workshops on plagiarism and academic integrity.

Moved by Poya

Seconded by Vinoth

Approved

Back at New 6.3 – Accreditation Follow-up

Motion CO-20140425-04

Motion to pause discussion until after 6.4

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Juliette

Motion carries

New 6.4 (former 5.3)

Motion CO-20140425-05

Motion to rescind 20k

Moved by Audrey

Seconded by Trevor

Trevor raises concerns about only 1 consultant seen as a possibility – perhaps mismanagement. GSA is good at getting votes and mobilizing as we saw with the last GA.

Poya agrees with concerns but is not ready to abandon hiring a 3rd party.

Vignesh shares concerns about lack of mobilization support from directors and concern that we don't have the capacity to take on an accreditation campaign without support.

Juliette reminds council that the GSA already tried to achieve accreditation before but it didn't work.

Carla suggests laying out the planning steps if we are to take this on ourselves.

Mohit clarifies roles and wants to make a decision before next council takes over.

Audrey gives examples of other associations that have been able to have successful accreditation campaigns on their own.

Simon says that most of the cost is related to hiring polling clerks, etc.

Motion-CO-20140425-06

Whereas there is confusion about how the accreditation process should proceed.

BIRT council mandate the accreditation committee to distribute 1 week before next council the detailed logistics plan and budget from Kokobi and Cause Comms and in-house plan to councillors upon which our decision will be made to go ahead with one of these three options.

Motion- CO-20140425-07

Motion to split 3 resolutions set by Audrey

Moved by Carla

Seconded by Holly

Motion fails

Motion- CO-20140425-08

Motion to table 6.4

Moved by Carla

Seconded by Trevor

Motion fails

Holly: we want to decide, but we don't have sufficient committed people. We need a core group of people who are going to be motivated and be here next year. That group is not here. If that group isn't here, maybe we don't have sufficient commitment to go ahead with it.

Return to Audrey's motion in full *Motion-CO-20140425-05*

BIRFT that the resolution # CO-20140207-08 be rescinded with the understanding that the GSA does not set aside \$20,000 for an external organization (Kokobi or otherwise) to help with accreditation and carries out accreditation drive internally;

BIFRT the GSA council gives mandate to next year's council to run an accreditation campaign and set aside more or less equivalent amount of funds as yearly elections (approximately \$10,000) from this year's budget for accreditation;

BIFRT the GSA council discourages the spending of student funds to pay an external organization for accreditation as such it should be achieved through mobilization of GSA's internal capacity.

Roll-call vote

In favour: Trevor, Holly, Audrey

Opposed: Juliette, Vinoth, Nishant, Kartikeya

Abstentions: Carla, Poya, Rupom

Motion fails

Return to Carla's motion *Motion-CO-20140425-06*

Whereas there is confusion about how the accreditation process should proceed.

BIRFT council mandate the accreditation committee to distribute 1 week before next council the detailed logistics plan and budget from Kokobi and Cause Comms and in-house plan to councillors upon which our decision will be made to go ahead with one of these three options.

Amendment-01

BIRFT the committee now be composed of councillors only (no execs) and we will appoint Poya to this committee, with Carla as replacement.

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Trevor

Amendment carries

Motion carries with abstention from Audrey

New 6.5 Conflict of Interest Policy

Motion-CO-20140425-09

BIRT we adopt the draft policy submitted by Poya

Discussion about mechanism for keeping people accountable to voluntarily disclose a conflict of interest.

Amendment-01

To point 4

Add: with the acknowledgement that every GSA body is responsible for ensuring all GSA members uphold this policy, by having the power to disclose conflict of interest if it is not volunteered.

Remove the word “only”

Amendment-02

Remove acronyms and clearly spell out “conflict of interest”.

Amendment-03

BIFRT this policy be made available on the GSA website: (to be completed by Nasim)

Vote to approve with all amendments

Moved by Trevor

Seconded by Juliette.

Motion carries unanimously

New business

New 7.1 Bylaw changes (presented by Vinoth)

Motion-CO-20140425-10

a. Regarding Executive monthly reports and salary BIRT executives will be paid their monthly salary only after they submit reports that include the number of hours worked for 2 weeks and details.

b. Regarding elections BIRT Election Ballot Should have the option of abstention and No.

BIFRT If the number of NO is higher than YES the candidate should not be elected.

BIRT There shall be no acclamation of -executive positions during elections. All candidates should be elected by members of the association.

BIFRT If the acclaimed candidate is not elected. The position should be filled in the General Assembly.

Modification to bylaw article 14, 6a to have options for “no” and “abstain” when it comes to acclaimed candidates

Moved by Vinoth

Seconded by

Approved by 2/3 with one abstention

Amendment:

(CO-20140425-10)

BIRT a committee be struck to examine ways to hold GSA executives accountable to Council and the GSA membership to suggest recourse for unsatisfactory participation,

BIFRT this committee be tasked with proposing mechanisms for maintaining transparency in the work of the GSA executives, to propose revisions to financial sanctions to executives and to propose revisions to impeachment procedures for GSA executives to be considered for the next meeting of Council in May,

BIFRT in order to address potential conflicts of interest, the committee will not be chaired by a current GSA executive or be open to incumbent GSA executives.

Council nominates Trevor and Audrey to chair the committee and Vinoth as a member.

Moved by Trevor

Seconded by Audrey

Motion carries

Ratification of the funding committee's report

Ratification approved, abstention by Trevor

5.4 Election report

Questions for CRO report/elections debrief:

-election preparation started too late, CRO was hired too late

-multiple extensions to candidacy caused delays in election process

-confusion for candidates – what if nomination paper is missing signatures? Is there a grace period? This put a lot of pressure on the CRO to make big decisions in a short time frame.

-Simon acknowledges that all of these concerns have also been noted in his report.

-another suggestion: campaign period shouldn't run into election period – campaign period could have started earlier

-debate could be helpful in resolving this issue

2 items to be tabled because **we have lost quorum at 1:39:**

3. Advocacy fee levy question

4. volunteer recognition awards and student scholarship