



Minutes

GSA Regular Council Meeting

5 June 2013, 2 pm – 5 pm

GSA Lounge, 2030 Mackay, Montreal

Attendance

Chair: Alex Matak

Secretary: Golam M M Aurup

Voting Directors: Trevor James Smith (Arts and Science), Karthikeya Nadendla (ENCS), Nishant Walia (ENCS), Paramveer Singh Mann (ENCS), Tariqul Amin (ENCS), Arundeeep Malapati (ENCS), Mohammad Jannatul Ferdous Rupom(ENCS), Vinoth Kumar Ramaiah (ENCS), Genevieve Moisan (Fine Arts), Biagina-Carla Farnesi (Humanities), Monique Boudreau (JMSB),

Non-Voting Directors: Mohit Kumar (President), Vignesh Shankar (Vice-President External), Nasim Changizi (Vice-President Internal)

Observers: Roddy Doucet (Advocacy and Finance Manager), Elizabeth Colford (Services Manager), Jamie Goodman (Finance Manager), David Clos-Saseville (Department Advocate and Campaigns Coordinator)

Absent: Sarah Breikreutz (Arts and Science), Holly Nazar (Arts and Science), Poya Saffari(Arts and Science), Audrey Dahl (Arts and Science), Claude Fashka (ENCS), Elliott Rajnovic (Fine Arts), Stavros Athanasoulis (JMSB), Niranjana Bhakare (JMSB), Vivek Wadhwana (JMSB)

Documents

GSA Council Meeting 5 June 2013 Agenda

Appendix I

Finance Manager Report

Department and Campaigns Advocacy Report

Service Manager Report

Appendix II

GSA Health and Dental Plan Presentation (By ASEQ Representatives)

GSA Health Plan Fee Increase Scenarios (By Finance Manager)

Summer Budget 2013 (By Finance Manager)

Lawyer's comments on proposed GSA By-law changes (Letter from Philippe Andre Tessier)

Description of GSA Committees

Description of Concordia University Committees



1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2.10 pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Mohit made suggestions to amend the agenda.

- Order of items 3 (introduction of new members) and 4 (council business) should be interchanged
- Appointment of GSA representative to BoG (8.2) should be addressed at 6.2, Advocacy Fee Levy (6.2) to be discussed at 6.3
- University Committees' Appointment is to be discussed at 10. Items following are to move down to give way to this change.

Be It Resolved That the GSA council approves the agenda with suggested amendments.

3. Council Business

4.1 Appoint of council chair

Be It Resolved That GSA Council nominates Alex Matak to be chair for the meeting. Moved by Trevor and seconded by Vignesh, the motion was unanimously resolved. **Motion Passed.**

4.2 Circulation of Attendance Sheet

An attendance sheet was circulated among directors.

4. Introduction to New GSA 2013 Members

GSA Directors for 2013-2014 introduced themselves in the meeting. GSA staff (Managers, coordinators, and admins) also introduces themselves to the council.

5. Approval of Minutes

No minutes from previous meetings (May 7 and cancelled meeting on 28th May) were available to directors. Chair requested secretary to circulate the minutes to council members for approval in the next meeting.



6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 ASEQ Health Plan Fee

Representatives from ASEQ explained the health plan to GSA directors. They explained the scenario and rationale behind a proposed increase in premium to 292.02.

Jamie explained that students now pay \$273.33 a year while the premium is \$2569.26. This additional amount created a reserve for GSA (\$68,858) in the last few years. This might be used to mitigate impact of any sudden increase. He provided details of different increase scenarios (1% - 5%) and usage of the reserve fund.

After a discussion, council members decided not to touch the reserve fund, collect exact amount for the premium which pays for the plan every year, and stop collection of further reserves.

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council increase ASEQ Health Plan fee by 7% so that it reaches \$292.02. Moved by Trevor and seconded by Karthikeya, the motion was resolved in a vote. Eight directors voted for the motion and two abstained. **Motion Passed.**

6.2 Appoint BOG Member

Erik Chevrier, the present representative to Concordia Board of Governors (BoG) presented himself and explained the functions of the board and ongoing issues of graduate students at the board. The council discussed on his candidacy.

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council appoint Mr. Erik Chevrier the GSA representative to Concordia Board of Governors for the term June 2013- May 2014. Moved by Trevor and seconded by Nasim, the motion was resolved unanimously. **Motion Passed.**

6.3 Advocacy Fee Levy

Roddy explained the situation with the advocacy fee-levy referendum that was cancelled by GSA council on May 2013 on procedural grounds. It was put forward for a debate in this meeting, and was suggested ratification in a general assembly.

He informed the council of the importance of the fee increase to support GSA activities, support from students through referendum, and university deadlines to submit referendum results relating to fee increases. He mentioned that if the General Assembly (possibly in Fall) cancels the increase, the fee increase can be stopped. But if it is accepted in GA, no fee could be collected for 2013-2014 academic year for the procedural issues at Concordia relating to a fee increase.



Be It Resolved That the GSA council ratifies the advocacy fee-levy referendum for a year, and gets it presented in the next GA. In case there is no GA before the next elections, the fee increase must go through another referendum in 2014 election. Moved by Roddy and seconded by Vignesh, the motion was resolved unanimously in a vote. **Motion Passed.**

7. Reports

7.1 Finance Manager

Jamie presented his report to council.

7.2 Department and Campaigns Advocacy

Tabled.

7.3 Service Manager

Tabled.

8. Motions

8.1 Summer budget

Tabled.

8.2 Councilors' retreat

Tabled.

9. GSA Committee Appointments

9.1 Budget Committee:

Be It Resolved That Monique, Vinoth, Carla, and Trevor are appointed to GSA Budget Committee. Moved and seconded by candidates, it was resolved in the council. **Motion Passed.**

9.2 Student Life Committee

Be It Resolved That Genevieve, Karthikeya, Vinoth, Arun, and Tariqul are appointed to GSA Student Life Committee. Moved and seconded by candidates, it was resolved in the council. **Motion Passed.**



There was a discussion to accommodate absent directors into committees. Mohit was requested to circulate an email in this regard.

Be It Resolved That the council requests Mohit to circulate an email to all council members describing the committees in GSA and requesting to join. They can also join committees that are decided upon in this meeting. Moved by Mohit and seconded by Vignest this was unanimously resolved. **Motion Passed.**

10. University Committees' Appointments

Mohit described the committees in brief and mentioned to forward the descriptions to all council directors.

11. Next Meeting

It was decided that time for the next meeting and a possible councillors' retreat will be decided upon a doodle poll.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Trevor and seconded by Vignesh, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.