AGENDA (GSA Regular Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 26th, from 1:00PM-4:00PM)

- 1. Call to Order (1 min)
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
- 3. Council Business (3 mins)
 - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
 - 3.2 Appointment of Secretary
- 4. Approval of Minutes (5 mins) [See Attached]
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes (15 mins) [See APPENDIX II: MOTIONS on Pgs 9-10]
 - 5.1 CSBC/CJLO Audit (Ahmed Atia)
- 6. Reports (25 mins) [See APPENDIX I: REPORTS on Pgs 2-15]
 - 6.1 President
 - 6.2 VP Internal
 - 6.3 VP External
 - 6.4 Finance Manager
 - 6.5 Advocacy Manager
 - 6.6 Service Manager
 - 6.7 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning Committee)
- 7. Motions (20 mins) [See APPENDIX II: MOTIONS on Pgs 16-17]
 - 7.1 By-law Changes, See "Proposals for GSA by-law changes March 2013"
 - 7.2 Calling GA
 - 7.3 GSA Advocacy Centre Fee Levy
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

APPENDIX I: REPORTS

6.1 PRESIDENT REPORT

Coming soon.

6.2 VP-INTERNAL REPORT

The past month was mostly spent on social events planning, conference subsidies.

Departmental associations (~4h/week)

- Weekly meetings with David to go over the departmental allocations, meetings, website and newsletter.
- Update on allocations: Seven associations have received their funding, thirteen associations have been approved and their checks are ready to be picked up, ten associations have been repeatedly contacted but haven't yet fulfilled the requirements for funding (some are in the process of holding a GA to approve their revised bylaws, some are simply not responding at all)
- Had a departmental newsletter sent to departmental associations
- Revised the mass email sent to departmental reps drafted by David. It was aimed to conduct information on whether they have any kind of insurance coverage, and asking their opinion on having the GSA website as the central repository of all association's contact info, bylaws and budget.
- Along with David, organized a departmental gathering on March 20 and helped with logistics of the event

Student life committee (~6h/week)

- Called two student life committee meetings.
- Thanks to Liz, a tubing trip and a sugar shack meal took place where 53+ people attended.
- Thanks to Katherine, we held a successful Saint Patrick's O'Karaoke night at La boite, around 50 people showed up to he event throughout the night.
- It was decided to cancel the Pecha Kucha event which was previously under planning due to lack of interest received from the call outs on the newsletter.
- Fundraising event to recognize students who contribute to their community:
 - Katherine presented this great idea and she did an amazing job of creating a proposal, video script and preliminary poster. After talking with the dean of students and consulting other GSA staff, this idea was tweaked a bit. We're still in the discussion phase and are investigating different options, but the bottom line is that SLC will be organizing a fancy, chic party in Mid April at the EV 11. 725 with its wonderful view of Montreal.
 - o Looking into permits and requesting required booking waivers
- Corresponding with Adnan, VP Internal of ECSA for a potential joint end of semester party, which did not lead to any because of the two associations' different schedules.

- The preliminary planning and permits for the GSA's end of semester party on the April 30, at EV 11 725 was undertaken.
- It was also decided in the meetings to have a New York trip in May for which Liz is researching our options.
- The committee was approached by the ISACU who sought funding for their Nowrooz party that was held on March 20th. The committee decided to sponsor this event and allocate \$500 retroactively under the condition that they fully acknowledge the GSA as the co-sponsor of this event.

Conference subsidies (~ 1h/week)

- Reviewing conference applications as they come in and processing them
- A total number of 15 conference subsidies have been granted to date

Internal matters (~4h/week)

- Attended an exec meeting and two staff meetings
- Meeting with Xiao, the outreach officer, and Nadia to train her to advertise GSA's service, events and campaigns.
- Preparing materials and handouts for Xiao to give away when doing outreach on the tubing trip bus.
- Providing some materials for and reviewing draft versions of the weekly newsletters
- Following up with SAF fee levy question, they decided to decrease the amount of their fee levy from 2.25 to \$1.25 per semester in the upcoming GSA elections

Other matters (~ 3h/week)

- Meeting with dean of students to go over the insurance policy drafted by Concordia. It entails the GSA to cover insurance for its departmental associations among other matters.
- Meeting with ECSGA and other execs to discuss the international student advocate position
- Meeting and interviewing a candidate with Nadia for a research project regarding international students issues.
- Corresponded with GSA members on individual questions regarding bookings, conference subsidies and organizing events.
- Booking space for the GSA elections on April 9-11
- Getting SIP certified for the upcoming GSA events.

Due to some family issues, I have to take a two-week long trip to Iran. During this time, as consulted with other execs, our great councillor and student life committee member, Katherine Rossy will be able to fill in this position as regards the social events and SLC. I will maintain accessible by email during this time as regards other aspects. I hope that the councillors accept my apology for any inconvenience and accept my regrets to the council meeting.

6.3 VP-EXTERNAL REPORT

(TOTAL hours SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING = 89.5, details below)

ISSUE/ACTIVITY	HOURS
ISSUE/ACTIVITY	11.5
GSA Open letter to the Montreal Gazette newspaper about our position for free education (published Feb. 26)	8.5
 Wrote pitch to the Gazette for an Op-Ed about free education in context of Summit (30 minutes) 	
 Researched Gazette phone number & calling the Gazette to follow-up on pitch (10 minutes) 	
 Revised letter that David wrote to The Gazette, back-and-forth between David about it (5 hours combined on Friday-Saturday) 	
 Researched free education for international students abroad and back- and-forth with Daria about content and authorship and for final revision (2 hours) 	
 Final revisions and research into free education for international students in other countries and different taxes in Quebec, sending finalized version to the Gazette (2.5 hours) 	
 Back-and-forth with editor for final revisions (1.5 hours on the morning of council meeting) 	
GSA contingents at Free education protests during Summit (Feb.25-26)	8.5
 Posted online and texting people (individually and as a group) to come to the GSA meeting point (30 minutes) 	
 Attended the Monday Feb. 25 protest with GSA banner (2 hours) 	
Announced GSA meeting point for protest at Cinema Politica (30 mins)	
 Made GSA Facebook event page (10 minutes) about the Concordia contingent, posted it on different Facebook pages 	
 Sent emails to different groups to invite them to the contingent including council, international student committee, campaigns committee (1 hour, some on Feb. 25 night, some on Feb. 26 morning) 	
 Read about the Summit news before the protest (30 minutes) 	

Attended Tuesday Feb. 26 protest with GSA banner (3.5 hours including GSA meet-up point)		
Read about Summit and answering emails after the protest (30 minutes)		
Other campaigns activities/logistics	5.5	
 Emailed David with a new task, adding possible tasks to his Google doc of tasks, and back-and-forth about campaigns committee meeting (10 minutes) 		
 Reading articles about analyses of student unions in Quebec (March 5th – around 15 minutes) 		
Planning meeting with David and writing agenda (5 minutes – March 6th)		
Campaigns committee meeting (2 hours, March 7)		
Follow-up tasks from campaigns committee meeting (1 hour)		
 Went to ASSÉ to pick up free education posters (1 hour), followed by campaigns committee/postering meeting 12:30pm – 3:00pm (2.5 hours) 		
Finalizing GSA report for Summit on Higher Education to send to graduate students (2 hours)		
Meetings with external organizations/groups	2	
 Attending discussion meeting at UQAM about where to go next after the strike, met Maria (sociology grad) and Gwen (geography grad) to chat about Concordia international student and general post-strike situation (March 4th 12:30 – 3:00pm, i.e. 2.5 hours) 		
 Attended Study in Action panel about the strike and discussion afterwards with student activists from different associations and universities, discussion about SSMU and GSA collaborating on a panel about gender dynamics during the strike and in student organizing (2 hours, i.e. 10:30am-12:30pm) 		
Meeting with <i>Profs Contre La Hausse</i> about the situation at Concordia for student and labor unions (1 hour, March 15)		
Compiling GSA campaigns receipts for finance manager		
Seeing how much money has been spent in campaigns budget after compiling all the accumulated campaigns receipts	8.5	
Making sure people get reimbursed for their campaigns expenditures		

(through email, asking their address, confirming their costs)				
International student organizing				
•	Meeting with GSA and ECSGA execs to plan future of International Student Advocate position, we decided to allot the position to Xiao, since she is already trained about these issues and is already doing outreach (2 hours)	14.5		
•	Emailing Xiao with updates on her new hours to fulfill International Student Advocate tasks, replying with a clarification email to her, emailing interested graduate student about possible research contract on international student issues, emailing execs about international student research contract (15 minutes)			
•	Meeting with international student volunteer (1 hour) about organizing an outing for international student committee			
•	(Won't count this in hours as it was partly GSA duties, partly just plain old fun, to get international student committee to get to know each other, as suggested by one of the volunteers): Hike & potluck dinner with some of the most active members of international student committee (8 hours)			
•	Ordering the documentary "End of Immigration" at the library for possible GSA screening at GSA for international student committee (20 minutes, March 6)			
•	Interview with Rebecca and Roya for international researcher contract (1 hour)			
•	Drafting contract and duties for the international student researcher contract (1 hour, March 13)			
•	Meeting with Rebecca to sign contract and review responsibilities; follow- up to meeting to send Rebecca relevant documents as a starting point for her research (2 hours)			
•	Drafted Doodle, full set of emails for Mohnish to send Doodle to international student committee for next meeting (30 minutes)			
•	Interview with Université de Montréal newspaper about international student tuition (March 18, 20 minutes)			
•	Meeting with Roddy, Erik and Daria about how to go forward with the mandate from our GA about late fees being cancelled for students facing transfer delays (15 minutes, Feb. 27): Note: Decision was that Erik would bring up this issue at the Friday BoG Finance committee meeting			

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign against Israel Apartheid 8.5 Attended Israel Apartheid Week committee meeting Feb. 25 (1.5 hours) Completed tasks taken on after the meeting, i.e. posting IAW volunteer call-out on ASSÉ-support and other student lists, looking for grad students to be a moderator for two of the events, looking for a room for one of the events, sending a call-out to the GSA BDS committee about IAW, putting IAW and Palestine demonstration on GSA website and making sure it gets on GSA newsletter (1.5 hours over a few days following the meeting) Meeting about facilitation for IAW opening panel with GSA member and IAW organizing committee (March 4, 6:00 – 7:45pm) Preparation/discussion with GSA member and IAW organizing committee member about introduction for opening panel (10:00pm-11:30pm – March 4) Preparation to facilitate IAW opening panel, including introduction about GSA's BDS mandate, and postings on GSA Facebook page about different IAW events! (Tuesday March 5th - 3 hours preparation, event itself 3 hours) Sending out more emails IAW, email to confirm moderator for Cinema Politica (15 minutes, March 6) Attendance at IAW event "Zionism in academia", during question period spoke about BDS and Concordia context (March 12, 2 hours) GSA Exec & Staff meetings 1.5 March 4th 3:00-6:00pm: Exec meeting to talk about the contracts, evaluation of employees, etc. (minutes on google doc) Emailing execs about concerns not yet discussed (GA in March, legal services fee levy) (5 minutes) March 6 4:00-6:30pm -GSA staff meeting, Follow-up tasks: 6:30-7:00pm (total 3 hours) 30 minutes – spontaneous meeting with GSA Finance officer to discuss my campaigns budget and some other budget questions/concerns March 14: sorting out a mix-up about former International Student Advocate' pay with Aurup (20 minutes) March 20, 4:00pm-5:30pm: GSA staff & exec meeting

Preparing for / revising GSA newsletters	10		
Week 1: Revising Summit recap information for newsletter (20 minutes)			
 Week 2: Emailing Roddy ideas for newsletter, and back-and-forth about newsletter items (20 minutes) 			
 Week 3: Final revision of newsletter, revising Roddy's revision, sending Roddy corrections about the newsletter (30 minutes) 			
Week 4: Another revision of newsletter for the latest week (20 minutes)			
GSA By-laws:	5		
(3 hours previous to March 14): Sent out Doodles for the By-Law committee to meet and reminders, drafted specific by-law changes to propose at Council, replied to emails about this with by-law committee.			
 March 18 - 3 hours writing and revising a formal version of By-Law amendments to show to By-Law committee. 			
March 20 – 2 hours By-Law committee meeting			
 1-3pm: drafting changes to my by-law proposals based on some comments during meeting 			
Note: There is not consensus on my proposals from the By-Law Committee, nonetheless I would like to propose my suggestions to Council as I deem them to be time-sensitive			
GSA Outreach:	3.5		
 March 8 - 10am – 12:30pm: meeting with Xiao and Roya, creation of 2- sided GSA flyer 	3.3		
 March 8 - 2:45pm – 3:15pm: Went to Dollarama to buy chocolates for prizes for outreach on bus and pins for postering 			
 March 8 - 6:30pm – 8:30pm: printing out flyers etc. (department flyer number 2, making international student revised flyer, sign-up sheet) for Xiao to take to mobilize on the GSA bus trip, looking for megaphone 			
Sending/responding to GSA emails - and other random tasks	3.5		
March 5			
 around 30 minutes minimum – reading emails with Daria and Roya about the new person to interview (2 mins), emailing her for an interview (5 mins), including Xiao in staff meetings (5 mins), sending 	5		

IAW call-out (3 mins), responding to Humanities student question about room-booking and texting Roya about it (5 mins), letting Zouhair know where to pick up flyers (2 mins), emailing Rushdia to ask about GSA's status on CRAM (Conseil Régional de l'ASSÉ à Montréal) (5 minutes) 4:00pm – 5:00pm: More counting my GSA receipts, emailing ASSÉ about printing the posters, etc... March 13: 2 hours Sending emails about IAW, international student researcher contract, newsletter, cancelling exec committee meeting, about following-up with outreach coordinator, sending emails/requests about reimbursement from SPHR for BDS January panel, speaking to students about details about elections, making Doodle for international student committee, preparing email for volunteer to send. Responded to email from la Table de Concertation des Étudiants du Quebec (TACEQ), a provincial student association interested in meeting the GSA exec 2

6.4 FINANCE MANAGER REPORT

Hello Student Council,

I apologize for my absence – I am currently visiting my family in Toronto, and will be returning this weekend (all honoraria cheques will be written next week).

Speaking of honoraria cheques, I have developed a new system for tracking meeting attendance and subsequent honoraria payments. This new system was inspired by recent confusion caused by inaccurate attendance lists and tardy payments. It will be piloted this week, and will work as follows:

An attendance list will be signed by all councilors who attend the council meeting. This list will be used as the basis for preparing honoraria payments (it is each councilor's responsibility to ensure that they sign the attendance list if they want to receive honoraria). The same list will be signed by the councilors when they receive their cheque, thereby acknowledging that the GSA is no longer indebted to them. This system accomplishes three goals:

- i. Conflict resolution
- ii. Administrative simplicity
- iii. Environmentally friendly we will no longer photocopy cheques, which will save a considerable amount of paper on an annual basis (this will also save us some money)

On a similar note, I have cut out photocopying of cheques completely by creating a new cheque log. This system has cut down our paper consumption considerably, and is much simpler for our administrative staff to use.

The following is a breakdown of the cash flow over the past 31 days (as of March 19, 2013) in our TD checking account:

Customer Loyalty Payment by ASEQ	\$ 7,500.00
Outflows:	
Department Allocations	\$6,523.00
French Teacher Pay & Student Refunds	2,917.50
Events & Parties	1,310.31
Campaigns	1,220.26
Tubing (net of cost charged)	1,166.14
Council Honor. & Meeting Expenses	981.99
Office Move	734.69
Conference Subsidies	525.00
History in the Making	500.00
Office Supplies & Cable TV	466.09

 Other Misc.
 19.55
 16,364.53

 Net Cash Outflow
 \$ 8,864.53

6.5 ADVOCACY MANAGER REPORT

The past weeks have seen a steady stream of cases. The more complex have mostly involved students facing charges associated with the Academic Code of Conduct. There has been a rise, as is normally the case, with Immigration concerns this time of year. It would be a good idea perhaps to host another Immigration Information day in the coming days.

I have, as requested, provided a breakdown of tasks in a general fashion. If you have any questions, I am happy to answer them at Council, via e-mail at advocacy@gsaconcordia.ca, or phone at 514.969.6163

As always please do not hesitate in contacting me or referring students to me should you encounter any problems.

514-969-6163 and advocacy@gsaconcordia.ca

Roddy

Date	Task	Time
Week of 02/25- 03/02/2013		30 hours total
	Student Tribunal Defence Preparation - Student 1	4.5 hours
	Meeting with student re: Immigration concerns	2 hours
	Preparation for meeting immigration	1 hour
	E-mail correspondence - variety	3.5 hours
	Student Tribunal Defence - Student 2	5 hours
	Tribunal Hearing	3.5 hours
	Office Hours	6 hours
	Referrals (1)	1 hour
	Scheduled off-campus meetings (2)	3.5 hours
Week of 03/03- 03/09/2013		27 hours total
	Student Tribunal Defence - Student 3	3.5 hours
	E-mail correspondence - variety	3.5 hours
	Transition Pamphlet work	5 hours
	Follow-up - previous meetings	2 hours
	International Tuition - Individual (2 cases)	3 hours
	Supervisor Conflict Resolution	1.5 hours
	Student Tribunal Defence Student 2 - Phone Conference	1 hour
	Graduate Academic Appeal Tribunal writing appeals, gathering information (3)	7.5 hours

Week of 03/10-		
03/16/2013		28 hours
	Office Hours	8 hours
	Scheduled off-campus meetings (1)	2 hours
	Supervisor Conflict Resolution	2 hours
	Institutional Help (CSU\FASA) questions	1.5 hours
	E-mail correspondence - variety	3.5 hours
	International Tuition - Individual (3	
	cases)	5 hours
	Referrals (3)	4.5 hours
	Follow-up - previous meetings	1.5 hours
Week of 03/17-		
03/20/2013	Half-week as report due March 20th	16 Hours
	Student Tribunal Preparation - Student	
	1	4 hours
	E-mail correspondence - variety	2 hours
	GAAT defense document preparation	2.5 hours
	GAAT Request document preparation	1.5 hours
	Staff Meeting	1.5 hours
	Research Legal - Challenging University	
	decision - administrative	3 hours
	Notary request	0.5 hours
	Referrals (1)	1 hour

6.6 SERVICE MANAGER REPORT

Hi everyone, over the past month, I have been working closely with the Student Life Committee to plan for our tubing and cabane a sucre trip, which attracted 48 students on a beautiful sunny day. We are now working on planning a trip and a fundraiser for the end of the semester so stay tuned. Also, I'm often at the GSA house and have been helping groups to book space, get permits, and been getting things set up for the meeting of departmental councils. I was also able to attend a meeting of the Campaigns committee and am hoping to also help out with campaigns as much as time permits.

-Liz

Service Manager hours:

	1		
Date	Day of Week	Task	Hours
25/02/2013	Monday	council meeting, cleaning and logistics	3
		student life committee, booked glissades,	
	Tuesday	SLC trip research, liquor letter	5
		regie de l'alcool, bus booking, tubing	
	Wednesday	planning	2
		MyEvents training, SHAC event, cabane a	
	Thursday	sucre logistics	3
	Friday		

13 Date Day of Week Task Hours 2 04/03/2013 Monday registration confirmation, SHAC support Tuesday SIP certification, SLC benefit planning 2 Wednesday staff and execs meeting 2.5 contract translating, campaigns committee mtg, shopping and last followups for tubing Thursday 4 Friday Saturday tubing at Glissades des Pays d'en Haut 10

Date	Day of Week	Task	Hours
11/03/2013	Monday	translating contract & excel spreadsheet	3
	Tuesday	student life committee	3
	Wednesday	SLC trip research	1
	Thursday		
	Friday		

DateDay of WeekTaskHours18/03/2013translating contract, SLC trip research,
quotes for GSA stamp & banner3.5TuesdayWednesdayto be continued...

20.5

7

Thursday	
Friday	

6.7 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning Committee)

...

APPENDIX II: MOTIONS

5.1 CSBC/CJLO Audit (Ahmed Atia)

Whereas Graduate Students are fee paying members of CJLO, for which the Concordia Student Broadcast Corporation (CSBC) is collecting and managing the fees;

Whereas student fee paying members are not automatically eligible to vote in CSBC general assemblies;

Whereas the prevailing principle of "no taxation without representation" is not applied when it comes to the CSBC's governing structures;

Whereas the CSBC's overall budget is over 400,000\$ per year, an amount significantly higher than the GSA's own budget;

Whereas, since at least the last three years, the CSBC has not conducted a full financial audit; Whereas full financial audits ensure transparency and financial accountability surrounding the spending of organizations;

Whereas, over the past years, several allegations of financial mismanagement and misspending have been levied by some CSBC board members and staff concerning the financial records of the organization;

Be it resolved that this GSA Council of Directors requests that the CSBC produce full audited statements of its financial records going back to at least the last three years;

BIFRT this Council mandates the GSA executive and council committee to take all appropriate steps, including but not limited to requesting that the University withhold the disbursement of the fees paid by graduate students until such time as a full financial audit for the CSBC is produced;

BIFRT this full financial audit go back to at least the last three years;

BIFRT, once produced, the CSBC financial audit be made available and public to all its (CJLO's) fee paying members;

BIFRT, once produced and as of now, CSBC audits be required to be presented and made public at all upcoming GSA annual general meetings;

7.1 By-law Changes

See attached document "Proposals for GSA by-law changes March 2013"

Considering the increasing amount of work that needs to be done at the GSA, since new GSA committees continue to be created;

Considering the scarcity of time faced by the GSA executives in this year and in previous years and thus the need for an increased number of executive positions;

Considering that mobilization is the key to an active GSA and thus the importance of the creation of a VP-Mobilization position;

Considering the importance of creating a committee of graduate representatives on university bodies and thus of the creation of a VP-Academic & Advocacy position;

Considering the importance of maintaining a stable Campaigns and Department advocate (paid) position, in order to continue reinforcing the communication with department and faculty student associations and to continue reinforcing the work of the VP-External around tuition issues;

Considering the importance of having a smooth process for by-elections in order to fill vacant councillor and executive positions when need be;

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council approve the following changes to the By-Laws, to be ratified at the next GSA General Assembly.

7.2 Calling GA

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council calls for a General Assembly before the end of the semester to ratify these by-laws, and that the date and agenda of this GA be determined by the GA committee.

7.3 Advocacy Centre Fee Levy

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council approve the following fee levy question: "Do you approve a \$1.50 per semester increase to the fee levy for the GSA Advocacy Centre, which could serve to increase the GSA's capacity to ensure international students' rights and issues are addressed?"