
Minutes of GSA Council Meeting held on 24th July 2009 at GSA House
(2nd Council Meeting, 2009-10)

Members Present:	Mahboubeh Khani	(President)
	Manu Jain	(VP - Advocacy)
	Altayeb Qasem	(VP - Finance)
	Nadia Hausfather	(Director - Arts)
	Mathew Tziritas	(Director - Science)
	Natheer Alatawneh	(Director - ENCS)
	Sussan Dolatshahi	(Director - JMSB)
	Erik Chevrier	(Director - IS/SIP)
	Zachary Kenny	(Director - Fine Arts)
	Shikui Wu	(Director - JMSB)

Members Absent:	Mohammad Faisal Uddin	(VP - Services)
	Zafar Ullah Khan	(VP - External)
	Svetla Turnin	(Director - Arts)
	Roddy Doucet	(Director - Arts)
	Peipei Shi	(Director - ENCS)

Agenda of the Meeting:

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1 Chair's remarks
 - 1.2 Approval of the Agenda
 - 1.3 Approval of the Minutes
2. Presentation for Tuition Fee increase
3. Approval of Budget
4. Appointment of GSA Representative for Senate
5. Creation of GSA Committees
6. Reports of the Executives
7. Other businesses [ASEQ deal]
8. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda unanimously approved after adding ASEQ deal in other businesses.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes tabled till next meeting.

4. Presentation for Tuition Fee increase in Quebec

Two guests Harry from McGill and Fahar from Dawson for presentation. They introduced what happened in 2005 and how francophone united student unions were able to get back \$103 million from Quebec Govt. There was an opinion that Anglophone schools should be included as well.

The aim is to get students informed about Government policies for education. We need to mobilize Concordia students for a big strike alongwith other universities later on. This is the only way possible. It was decided to have workshop for awareness amongst students as that first step.

5. Budget Discussion:

The budget committee comprised of Altayeb, Mah and Nadia presented the proposed itemized budget for 2009-2010. There was deficit of \$25,000. Each item on the budget was individually discussed by the council. The salary of assistants was decreased from \$15 to \$12 per hour and unanimously agreed. There was general disagreement among members on the distribution of funds for different activities. To solve this issue it was proposed to have a survey to be given to all graduate students so as to prioritize the areas of expenditure. Erik agreed to prepare this questionnaire.

MOTION - Nadia - BIRT to approve certain mandatory expenditure items for present and table the remaining items till results of survey are analyzed. Manu seconded, 8 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion PASSED.

Items approved: Office Support (Administrative Assistant & Lab Monitor), Benefits (Administrative Assistant & Lab Monitor), Stationary & office supplies, Convenience supplies (water cooler), Moves, Concordia postage, Photocopier charges (printing service), Local telephone & tel. service & fax, Computer service, Cable TV, Renovation (funded by millenium committee), Orientation, GSA meetings & transportation, Directors' honorarium, Executives' honorarium, Daily free coffee, Auditor, Agenda.

MOTION - Nadia - BIRT to approve \$1000 for CFS referendum campaign and \$1000 for the Montreal Students Against Tuition Increase campaigns. Erik seconded, 8 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion PASSED.

6. Appointment of GSA Representatives

Mah informed that GSA needs to appoint representatives for various university committees like Senate, senate standing committees and graduate school committees. It was decided to make appointment amongst the GSA directors if they are interested and for remaining committees VP-Advocacy should send mail to all graduate students to invite them to be on different committees.

MOTION - Mah - BIRT to appoint Svetla, Zafar, Sussan and Erik to be on Senate and Svetla on Senate Steering Committee. Everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

MOTION - Mah - BIRT to appoint Altayeb to Finance Committee and Manu to Tribunal Pool. Everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

7. Creation of GSA Committees

Mah informed that we need to start zero cost classes at GSA and for that we need to interview the applications received so far for teaching at GSA. To do this we need to form a hiring committee comprising of Mah and other interested directors'. Natheer, Altayeb and Manu were interested to be part of hiring committee.

MOTION - Mah - BIRT to appoint Mah, Natheer, Altayeb and Manu for the Hiring Committee. Everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

Manu informed that this year we were able to secure more than \$14,000 as funding from COI for orientation activities and hence we need to have a large scale September Orientation spread over a week. For this a committee is required.

MOTION - Mah - BIRT to appoint Faisal, Manu, Mathew and Nadia for the Orientation Committee. Everyone approved. Motion PASSED.

8. Other Businesses

ASEQ Plan deal: Erik presented the comparison between offers received from different companies for the GSA Health Plan. There were 3 offers received. Altayeb suggested that since the offers from Sunlife and Desjardin seemed comparable with both having different pros and cons, so we should think about it more and table the decision till next meeting. Erik

informed that decision has to be told to Lev Bukman from ASEQ in next 2 days only otherwise the change will not be possible.

MOTION - Nadia - BIRT to approve Desjardin as against Sunlife for ASEQ Health Plan. Zak seconded, 8 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion PASSED.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm.