

October 7th, 2010

GSA Council Meeting Minutes

Written by Golam M Aurup
Administrative Coordinator





Attendance

<u>Chair</u>	
Roddy Doucet	
<u>Executives</u>	
President	Adnan Abueid
VP Internal	Nazanin Hazrati
VP External	Mathew Tziritas
<u>Council Members</u>	
Art and Science	Matthew Macdonald
	Louise Birdsell Bauer
	Robert Sonin
	Holly Nazar
Interdisciplinary	Nadia Hausfather
JMSB	Mohammad Sabr
	Mahmood Salehi
	Parastoo Naghavi
ENCS	Nayeem Ninad
	Mohammed Khader
	Yuhang Luo
	Natheer Alatawneh
	Mohammad Beajon
Absent	Ajay Pooni
	Emily Page (Fine Arts)
	Ali Halawi (Art and Science)
	Rushdia Mehreen (Art and Science)
<u>Managers</u>	
Manager advocacy	Roddy Doucet
Absent	Trevor Nelson (Manager Finance)
	Anna Chigo (Manager services)
<u>Minute taker</u>	Golam M Aurup



1.0 Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm

1.2 Approval of the agenda

A discussion was held to scrap item 7 (GSA stance on BOG reconfiguration) and 16 (The HUB graduate student representation) and add to the next meeting.

Motion- Mohammed Khader- BIRT we approve the Agenda for the Council Meeting with the proposed change. 2nd Louise. All in Favor. PASS.

1.3 Approval of Minutes

Rushdia pointed that point 7 about 'approval of policy to allocate fund' does not mention that the policy was approved yet says the corrections were approved. There was a discussion on this and the Chair suggested that it might be a mistake while taking notes as there was a pretty big discussion. It was discussed that the motion regarding the correction should include the approval of the policy.

MOTION – Louise - BIRT we approve the minutes from the last council meeting with the above mentioned corrections. 2nd Mathew. For 11, Abstain 1. PASS

2.0 Student Service Fee agreement presentations by Mr. Roger Cote

Mr. Roger Cote, Associate VP Enrollment and Student Services, came to the council with Ms. Laura Stanbra, Director of Financial Aid and Awards Office. They presented 'Overview: Student services budget framework' to the council. The presentation informed the council about the practices in budgeting Student services, recreation and athletics. He informed that it is a 3 yearly process and students are informed about the budgeting every 3 years.

Mathew asked him why the university is pursuing approval of the budget retroactively after three years. Mr. Cote informed that the change of policy of Quebec Government asked Concordia to get written approval of the student body in this regard for the current budget starting 3 years back. Though it was made after consultation with the student bodies, no objections from student bodies were raised and services are already delivered; the Government recently asked the university to get formal approval from the GSA and CSU.

Another question from Mathew regarding what would happen if the GSA turns the proposal down; Mr. Cote said that it would go to the CCSL council and the result is not known because funds were collected and services were rendered.

3.0 Reports from Executives and Managers

President:

Adnan presented his report in brief. There was a discussion regarding GSA's stand in the CFSQ RAE lawsuit against the CFS.



VP Internal:

Nazanin presented her report. Natheer suggested that the certificate of French class should be in French. Mohammad informed that lot of policies and forms are missing in the website.

Manager Finance:

Trevor presented his report to the council. Mohammad informed that departmental allocation forms are not updated in the website, Roddy informed that all GSA forms would be reviewed and updated soon.

Manager Services:

Anna presented her report. There was a discussion regarding orientation activities and proposed health workshop with the help of Concordia Health services. Roddy informed that the Concordia University Student Parents center thanked the GSA for allowing them to use the lounge for the program.

Advocacy Manager:

Roddy presented his report. He informed that GSA could not submit any plans for the advocacy center so there is no fund for that now. He informed that he would submit the options about starting advocacy support services to Concordia Graduate students.

VP External:

Mathew informed the council about his activities regarding managing the orientation and other issues. He informed that a report on orientation is being prepared with help of VP Internal and Manager Services to point out step by step guidelines to organization orientation.

Holly asked if the GSA attend the table booked at CSU fair. Mathew and Adnan explained the situation and said the booking was cancelled on the event day.

There was discussion regarding change in the GSA health plan. Mathew McDonald and Rushdia suggested that any change in plan should be conveyed to students.

Motion- Mathew Mcdonald- BIRT the GSA Communicate with students about all recent changes to health plan by newsletter. 2nd Rushdia. For 11, Abstain 1. PASS

Responding to another question from Holly, Mathew informed that the current report is for both the months of August and September.

There was a discussion regarding job descriptions of Managers and Executives as a lot a duties performed by them are seen to be overlapping. Nadia and Louise suggested that the job descriptions to be performed by execs and managers should be looked into in; may be by the hiring committee.



Robert suggested that there should be more participation by the GSA VP External in FEM, CFS related issues and meetings with SSMU, PGSS, ASSE and Take and other student bodies. He informed that there should be GSA representation in those meetings according to GSA bylaws.

Motion- Holly- BIRT the VP External of GSA held formal meetings with his counterparts in CSU, SSMU, PGSS, DSU, ASSE, FEUQ and TaCEQ and report to the council upon the recent policies and positions of these organizations at the next regular meeting of council.

BIFRT that the VP External is hereby directed to investigate whether there is any other organizations which it would benefit the GSA to collaborate with, and to report his findings in writing at the next regular meeting of council. 2nd Rushdia. For 9, Abstain 1, Against 3. PASS.

Nadia informed that there should be support for Adnan as he is taking a lot of duties on him.

Amendment to Motion- Nadia- BIRT the GSA VP External accurately represents the duties of the position voted on by the council. For 9, Abstain 3, Against 1. PASS

4.0 Fall Classes Update

Tabled to next meeting.

5.0 Report from orientation team

Tabled to next meeting

6.0 Feedback from IMSB Doctoral Candidates and Students about GSA

Tabled to next meeting

7.0 GSA stance on BOG reconfiguration

Tabled pending more information

8.0 Report on meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies

Roddy discussed the meeting with the Dean of Graduate Studies. It was reported that the possibility of 4th year funding for PhD students was among the discussion topics. Rushdia added there should be confirmation from GSA councilors who wish to attend these meetings as there was uncertainty regarding who would be there.

9.0 Motion to develop standardized report structure for committee members

The council was informed that there currently is a template of such reports.

Motion- Rushdia- BIRT GSA adopts temporary report structure and present in November council meeting. 2nd Nadia. For 11, Abstain 1. PASS.



10.0 Communication Policy for member wide emails/newsletter

There was a discussion about the present situation and members agreed upon that there should be a communication policy for the GSA. It was also discussed that in absence of the by-law committee who would oversee the issue.

Motion- Robert- BIRT the bye law committee is formed comprising Adnan, Roddy, Rushdia, Nazanin and Mathew Mcdonald and the committee submits report on communications policy. 2nd Louise. All in favor. PASS.

11.0 Endorsing FEM petition and stance on fee structure

Motion- Nadia- BIRT the GSA council officially endorses the petition circulated by the FEM. 2nd Holly. For 11, Abstain 1. PASS.

Motion- Nadia- BIRT the GSA council of Directors officially endorse their stance as against the new fee structure proposed by Concordia University. All in favor. PASS.

12.0 FEM Budget request

Nadia informed the council that last year, the CFSQ provided \$4000 to the FEM through the GSA. It was approved in the last council meeting of the last GSA Council of Directors. Unfortunately, the money was not transferred to the FEM account. She requested that Council look into the issue. She also reported that a full FEM budget would be submitted in November council meeting

After a discussion on the CFSQ donation, it was decided that it would go through the budget committee and then come to the council.

Nadia also submitted a sponsorship proposal for Rushdia to attend World Education Conference and represent FEM and the GSA. The discussion on the issue considered whether it should be a sponsorship application or one for a conference subsidy. Adnan asked how representatives from GSA to certain platforms would be chosen. Rushdia indicated that the proposal is in front of the council to decide upon.

Motion- Louise- BIRT the GSA allocates \$500 from the sponsorship fund for Rushdia to attend the World Education Forum conference. 2nd Nadia. For 9, Against 2. PASS.

13.0 Complaint against GSA House usage policy

Natheer presented a complaint from a group of students who were charged to use GSA lounge. He requested an explanation of the issue. He was informed that there is no charge for booking the lounge during regular work hours, but booking beyond the work hours is being charged, and the amount is yet to be finalized.



Motion- Robert- BIRT VP Internal makes a policy regarding lounge booking after operating hours.
2nd Mathew. All in favour. PASS.

14.0 IMSB 2011 MBA Intl. Case Competition Sponsorship

Tabled to November Council meeting

15.0 Developing new GSA Logo

Tabled to November Council meeting

16.0 The HUB graduate student representation

Item withdrawn

17.0 Other Business

None reported

18. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.