

CD-0818

**GSA Council Meeting -- Tuesday, August 18, from 2pm-5pm,
PLACE: School of Community and Public Affairs building on 2149 Mackay Street**

PLEASE PRINT YOUR OWN COPY

DRAFT AGENDA

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 1:30pm
1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business (5 mins)
 - 3.1 Scheduling Council for tabled items
4. Approval of July 31st Council meeting minutes
5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I (40 mins)
 - 5.1 Advocacy Center Resource Allocation
 - 5.2 Vacant Advocacy Manager Position
 - 5.3 Vacant Service Manager Position
 - 5.4 New Filing System
 - 5.5 Fall 2015 General Assembly
 - 5.6 Research Committee
 - 5.7 Repeal FB Campaign Ban
6. New Business, Appendix I (5mins)
 - 6.1 Council Chair Honorarium
7. GSA Committee Appointments (20mins)
 - 7.1 Research
 - 7.2 Budget
 - 7.3 Insurance
 - 7.4 Communication
8. Reports, COUNCIL ARCHIVE¹ (35mins)
 - 8.1 Department/Campaigns Manager
 - 8.2 Finance Manager
 - 8.3 President (LINK)
 - 8.4 VP Academic Advocacy
 - 8.5 VP Internal
 - 8.6 VP External
 - 8.7 VP Mobilization
9. Other Business (30mins)
 - 9.1 CFS case conclusion briefing (Closed session)*
 - 9.2 New Finance Manager Employment Contract (Closed session)*
 - 9.3 Outreach Coordinator Position (Closed session)*
10. Adjournment

¹ <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/py9wfat8s973iyb/AAB35b6GoQ1aIBtk6mAdYUu8a?dl=0>

Appendix I – Motions

Council Business

3.1 Scheduling Council

WHEREAS Doodle sucks.

WHEREAS bylaw article (V-8) states “. Council meetings shall be called at least once per month. One half (1/2) of the sitting directors shall constitute quorum. Meeting dates for each semester will be established within ten days of the of the start of the semester save summer, when the new council will establish summer meeting dates ten days after assuming office”.

BIRT All future monthly council meetings on the last Saturday of every month as per motion (CO-20150731-07) be held from 6-9pm. This time is also to be mentioned in the GSA agenda.

BIFRT In the event of items being tabled in the agenda of the monthly council meeting, a second council meeting is to be held the following Saturday from 6-9pm. That meeting is open to informal to informal discussion. The time and place of this meeting is to be announced to the general membership in the weekly newsletter, social media and other communication platform at the GSA’s disposal.

BIFRT Motion CO-20150731-08 be stricken.

Addendum

Motion CO-20150731-07

WHEREAS bylaw article (V-8) states “. Council meetings shall be called at least once per month. One half (1/2) of the sitting directors shall constitute quorum. Meeting dates for each semester will be established within ten days of the of the start of the semester save summer, when the new council will establish summer meeting dates ten days after assuming office”

Be It Resolved That All future monthly council meetings are the last Saturday of every month.

Be It Further Resolved That VP internal be mandated of booking a conference room for those councils.

Be It Further Resolved That monthly council meetings dates and room are indicated in GSA agenda, website, newsletters and social media.

CO-20150731-08

Be It Resolved That Council meeting will be held twice a month. Once on a weekday at the beginning of the month when there are tabled item from the previous meeting.

Be It Further Resolved That this additional council meeting is open to informal discussion.



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Business Arising

5.1 Advocacy Center Resource Allocation

5.2 Vacant Advocacy Manager Position

5.3 Vacant Service Manager Position

5.4 New Filing System

5.5 Fall 2015 General Assembly

WHEREAS last year we had 3 failed general assemblies (GAs) in a row partially due to very poor mobilization that was also conducted very last minute and consequently, we need to use every communication and mobilization tool at our disposal to mobilize for the GAs as well as encourage them to observe our council meetings.

WHEREAS participating in university governance and making sure students are well informed, engaged and that their interests are protected is one of the biggest responsibilities of the GSA and consequently we should prioritize empowering students to engage in the governance activities of the universities as well as getting them interested to be active representatives in the future.

WHEREAS the main purpose of making and distributing a free GSA agenda, or any agenda for that matter, is to communicate and highlight important dates.

BIRT All GSA monthly council meetings and GAs times, dates and places are indicated in the agenda in the page of the respective date.

BIFRT The times, dates and places of the open sessions of the following university bodies be indicated in the GSA agenda on the pages of the respective date: Concordia's board of governors (BOG), Concordia's senate, the Council of the school of graduate studies (CSGS), the ENCS' faculty council, the arts and science's faculty council, the fine arts' faculty council and JMSB faculty council.

BIFRT a page in the beginning be dedicated to list all of the important time and place coordinates of all that is concerned in this motion.

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5.6 Research Committee Motion

Whereas council has the authority to create committees and delegate unto them the powers and tasks that it chooses to.

Whereas it will be in the interest of the GSA to conduct a research to assess the overall impact of the current cuts on graduate students and graduate studies at Concordia.

Be it resolved that a Research committee be struck composed of a minimum of 5 Graduate students at large involved in similar studies.

Be it further resolved that the hiring committee be mandated to appoint qualified students to this committee, and a supervisor to supervise the research.

Be it further resolved that a honorarium be paid to the researchers on the acceptance of a report, which should be submitted at the conclusion of the research within a 2 month period.

5.7 Repeal FB Campaign Ban

Whereas GSA follows the direct democracy model where the emphasis is on the idea that everyone has an influencing voice, freedom of speech is crucial and the idea that we can tell members what it is they can and cannot say within the GSA community cannot be reconciled with. Just as crucial is students' informed and effective engagement that can best be facilitated via access to information and transparency.

BIRT Motions CO-20150216-06 (Facebook policy) and CO20150324-04 (fb campaigning ban) be repealed.

BIFRT the following text “

a. All campaign materials prior to distribution shall be approved by the C.R.O. This includes any and all:

i. Printed materials

ii. Electronic communications, including e-mail, personal websites and other external websites.

iii. Any other form of communication not outlined within.

”

be stricken from election regulation and replaced with “Slander, false allegations and name calling are grounds for disciplinary measures up to disqualification at the discretion of a non-prejudiced judicial committee that has to be convened within two business days of a complaint filed within a maximum of three business days of the alleged offense. Lack of due process negate all consequences of the complaint”



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BIFRT Council meetings and GAs be live tweeted and live streamed as arranged by VP mobilization. A twitter account is maintained by VP mobilization (1-2 tweets/day).

BIFRT motion CO-20141022-09 (old live tweeting motion) be stricken.

Addendums

Motion (CO-20150216-06) As amended

Be It Resolved That the GSA Council approves the following policy statement:

Welcome to the Facebook group of Concordia's Graduate Student Association (GSA)! We encourage the active participation of all grad students in our community. In order to keep this a friendly and respectful space for our members, the following rules have been put in place:

- no racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory comments*
- no slanderous accusations against anyone in our community*
- no advertising for large, for-profit businesses, for those not managed by GSA members, or for those not in line with GSA mandates*
- no "spamming" or frequent posting of the same thing*

FIRST OFFENSE: the offending post will be deleted. SECOND OFFENSE: post deleted and the user will be removed from the group. THIRD OFFENSE: post deleted and the user will be permanently blocked. The offenders will be messaged each time a post made by them is deleted explaining the reason.

(This policy was approved by the GSA Council of Directors on _____.)

Motion CO-20150324-04

BIRT the GSA prevent students from campaigning for elections on the GSA's official facebook group's page

Motion CO-20141022-09

Whereas transparency, engagement and accountability are high priorities in GSA;

Be It Resolved That the communication manager hours be increased by 5 hours a month to manage the GSA official twitter account according to the following strategy.

- 1) Aim for 1 or 2 tweets a day. (Acknowledging that 2 tweets could be rare)*
- 2) Ensure that councilors active on twitter about GSA have some more exposure by retweeting GSA related posts (obviously councilors should tweet mentioning the GSA official account to get that exposure more efficiently than asking the communication manager to fetch)*
- 3) Posting policy and principles have to follow the principles of facebook use (in terms of politeness... etc)*
- 4) Council to be live tweeted. Motions, motives for and against (and who said what= accountability) and humor.*

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New Business

6.1 Council Chair Honorarium

Reports

See [COUNCIL ARCHIVE²](#)

7.3 President

President's July 2015 report

During the month of June we started the planning process for our activities we plan to undertake and projects we wish to execute. Some of the committees which were struck by council during the June regular council meeting are now assisting us in the planning process and in the performance our duties. Our main focus has been on the fall 2015 Orientation. We are also working towards restoring services that will be beneficial to our members and improving the quality of our language classes. Other projects we wish to complete are the GSA advocacy center, the GSA Café, an upgrade of the GSA website and a GSA job bank the will help our members find opportunities. We have been focused on our objectives despite some minor distractions which we encountered. Some of my activities during the month and my contributions towards our goals are listed below.

Canada Day Event – Completed

We hosted an event to celebrate Canada day at the GSA house on June 30, 2015. Between 80 and 90 students attended this event.

Eid Celebration – Completed

We hosted an event to celebrate the Eid at the GSA house on July 30, 2015. More than 230 students attended this event.

Fall 2015 Orientation – In progress

I had several brainstorming session with other executives on the orientation. We made a list of activities and their respective dates, which was proposed to the student life committee. We also agreed on a draft orientation budget, which was presented to the committee. I booked the spaces for our Orientation events.

July 15, 2015 – Meeting with Laura at the Dean of Student's office. The VP Internal was in attendance.

July 30, 2015 – Meeting with Yuliya at the International Students Office (ISO)

GSA Lounge Renovation – In Progress

I have given authorization for the commencement of the renovation of the GSA lounge. The renovation works will start on August 3, 2015 and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

² <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/py9wfat8s973iyb/AAB35b6GoQ1aIBtk6mAdYUu8a?dl=0>

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July 9, 2015 – Meeting with Property Manager (Concordia Facilities Management), Interior Designer (Concordia Facilities Planning and Development), and the Contractor (Etoile Construction).

July 20, 2015 – Meeting with the Interior Designer (Concordia Facilities Planning and Development). The VP External and VP mobilization were present at the meeting.

New Filing System – In Progress

Last month I stressed the importance of a new indexed filing system. I will be proposing the appointment of a graduate student to help facilitate the implementation of the new filing system. I had a meeting with the coordinator of the work study program on July 15, 2015. I made an application for a work study project which was approved. This provide an opportunity for an international student to gain some experience.

Internal Controls – In progress

The planning process to strengthen and improve the internal controls of the GSA is in progress. The internal controls were discussed during the budget committee meeting.

GSA Café – In progress

I am currently compiling the requirements for the operation of a GSA Café. The Café will provide free coffee to our members as well as make sales which will generate additional revenue.

GSA Advocacy Center – In progress

I am working with the VP Academic towards the establishment of the GSA advocacy center. This is a service which students voted for in a referendum. This service will be able to commence after the suspension of the appointment of an advocacy manager, allocation of resources for the advocacy center and the appointment of a coordinator for the center. I will continue to ensure that students receive advocacy services in the meanwhile.

July 3, 2015 – Meeting with the coordinator, CSU Legal Information Clinic. The Vice President Academic and Advocacy was in attendance.

GSA French classes – In Progress

I worked with the VP Academic on a Survey which will be used to get feedback from students who have taken GSA French classes in the past. This will help us identify all we need to improve.

Printing and Copying Service – In Progress

I had phone conversations and meetings with two representatives from Xerox to get additional quotations to purchase a better copier which will provide subsidized printing and copying services to our members. We also plan to purchase an A3 colour printer to reduce our costs of printing posters and flyers by producing them in house.

GSA Senate Caucus - Planned

We plan to hold a senate caucus meeting in the coming week with all graduate student senators.

Committee Meetings

I attended meetings of the committees listed below.

Executive Committee – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

Student Life Committee – July 6, 2015 and July 30, 2015.

Campaigns Committee meeting – July 9, 2015.



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Budget Committee – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

Hiring Committee – July 23, 2015 and July 31, 2015(to hold).

Other Activities:

GSA Newsletter – produced and distributed GSA newsletters during the month of July.

GSA staff meeting – July 15, 2015 and July 30, 2015(to hold).

June 30 – Meeting with the President CUPE local 4512. The VP Internal was present at the meeting.

July 15, 2015 – Meeting with the Alumni Officer, Students & Young Alumni of the Concordia University Alumni Association. The VP External was in attendance.