A) OPEN SESSION
   1) Presidents Remarks
   2) Notice of Next Meeting
      ▪ Oct 26, 2017 - 5pm
   3) Approval of Agenda + Previous Minutes
   4) Executive Remarks
   5) Welcome Week Review
   6) Roberts Rules Protocol at Council
      ▪ Discuss whether necessary as standard for all meetings or whether it should be reserved for binding decisions
   7) CRO Resolution
   8) New Endowment Ideas
      ▪ Additional endowment funds could become available. We wish to gain some insight into potential uses of extra revenue
   9) New Business
  10) Adjournment
Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

September 28th 2017
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Tim Van Boxtel (GSA President), Shawn Hercules (VP External), Robert Alex Ballagh (VP Services), Sara Oikawa (FRC Science), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Sam Peter (FRC Engineering), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Alexander Qian (FRC Health Science), Maryam Alizadeh (FRC International Representative), Simon Mcnamee (FRC Engineering), Curran Egan (FRC Humanities), Tsz Wing Cheng (FRC International),

Regrets: Jodie Lobana (VP Administration), Derek South (FRC Science), Roqibul Hasan (VP Internal), Nitka Sanger (FRC Health Science), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO)

Observer: Martin Kass (SFS Club Treasurer)

Absent: Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Allison Leanage (FRC Social Science)

Call to Order 5:01

Motion to approve minutes of last Council meeting moved by Alex, seconded by Sam, all in favour motion carried.

1. Presidents Remarks

New club the Socialist Fight Back club:
- This club was started by graduate students who are interested in participating in left leaning politics on campus and in Hamilton. They are associated with a community group called Socialist Fightback Hamilton which has been active in leftist politics outreach in Hamilton. Their approach is to organize with other left groups to build a movement that is unified and educated. Their group has agreed that they are free to use their name and are willing to co-organize community events.
- In replying to Curran’s question if the club has any connection with any of the campus students’ union, Martin mentioned that they don’t as they aren’t an official club yet.
- Sam asked if they will have to go through EHOSS to access their events, Ashley replied that all events have to be through EHOSS, as they make sure during the events students are safe within the event perimeters.
- Ashley asked if it is possible to change the name of the club as the literal definition of it is to be in attack. Her concern that from the university prospective, the name of the club suggests an aggressor, however, members of the club suggesting it is in opposition to oppression. Martin mentioned that they are not attached to the name, however, they prefer to keep the same name, in terms that the name has sort of violence connotation, this is not the aim of the club. The aim of the club is to create a space where students are allowed to
be engaged in political discussion, it's not a physical kind of fight back, it's a fighting in terms of ideas, and engagement through the apposition of ideas, and communication. Martin noted the following from Jo’s (chair of the club) email “Fighting back is a fundamental aspect of politics, and people’s efforts can be recognized and respected”. He added that they will not advocate violence within participant of the club, their hope is to create space, share ideas, and organize events.

- Alex explained that the reason the Council is concerned regarding the name of the club is that they need to consider how other students will think regarding the representation of the name, the Council needs to consider what the annotation will imply, and if this annotation is going to be associated with the branding of the club. Martin commented that they are not attached to the name of the club, and if the club will not be ratified in results of the chosen name, then the name can be changed.

- Curran suggested that members of the club shall consider to change the name to another form other than violence, in which the aim of the club do not endorse. In replying to Tim’s question Martin mentioned assuming the Proud Boys themselves want to participate he thinks as long as they aren’t violent, they are welcome. He is sure they can be invited to sit and learn with them, however, if they are going to be disruptive or disrespectful, that might cause to call the campus security and ask them to respect the space.

- Curran suggested that a formal declaration of nonviolence in their constitution would go a long way to dispel any connotations of violence and discourage future members from going down this path after the founders are no longer active in the club.

- In replying to Sara’s question regarding the Socialist reading Group incident on McMaster campus last week, Martin mentioned that the group wasn’t a recognized club yet, they were just socialist reading group that is already meeting to discuss ideas. The campus security interfered and locked down the room.

- Martin gave examples of some of the events that will be organized by the club; hosting a public speaker series event, pop night and game night, help people organize and notifying students of things that is happening in their community.

- In replying to Sam question, Ashley explained that clubs can apply for $100 seed money, and in case of events planning they can apply for events funding.

- Curran highlighted that the club president needs to take into consideration that once the club is ratified and has a formal state, there will be no control on who could join the club.

- Ashley suggested to reach out to EOHSS to make sure what events they can cover, and the motion is to be ratifying borrowing approval of EOHSS, in addition, calling the GSA insurance and request some information regarding this, as this is the first time the GSA will have a political club.

Motion to approve of Social Fight Back club as a GSA club upon barring the addition of a declaration of nonviolence, the approval of EOHSS and the GSA insurance company moved by Alex, seconded by Curran, all in favour motion carried.

2nd club Research and methods Society

- Designed to help students write their theses, enroll students in possible post docs. They have very limited spending in their budget, $20 for advertising promotion and posters.

Motion to ratify Research Methods club moved by Alex seconded by Sara, all in favour, motion carried.
2. **Notice of Next Meeting**  
   - Oct 26, 2017 at 5 pm

3. **Approval of Agenda + Previous Minutes**  
   - Adding the discussion of ratification of 2 clubs.

Motion to approve the amended agenda moved by Curran seconded by Shawn, all in favour motion carried.  
Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting moved by Alex seconded by Sara, all in favour motion carried.

4. **Executive Remarks**  
   - Tim mentioned that Welcome Week had a lot of introductory talks, executives met with international students group. He noticed that international grad students have been lacking a lot of information, however, there is international students groups who are engaging to accommodating some of the gaps.  
   - Phoenix financials are doing very well compared to last year.  
   - Alex mentioned that he gave a presentation regarding health and dental to new grad students last week. HSR communication is going very well, the GSA didn’t receive any complains in this regards.  
   - Shawn mentioned that the website needs continuous update and he is working on that, he is scheduling the SIAC and Social Trips meeting next week.

5. **Welcome Week Review**  
   - Orientation breakfast for new students took place for the first time at the Phoenix.  
   - There were 2 teams for scavenger hunt, there is another Welcome Week event in January, FRCs are welcome to send their ideas to the VP Internal.

6. **Roberts Rules Protocol at Council**  
   - Tim explained that this topic is on the agenda to discuss whether Roberts Rules are necessary as a standard for all meetings or whether it should be reserved for binding decisions, and whether the Council will need to do relatively formal procedures for maintain meetings. These rules are followed in Council, Board and AGM meetings, as this is the common rule for meetings.  
   - Tim has received a note from students regarding Roberts Rules mentioning that it is overly formal. There have been taking back and forth regarding this, but it will be the Council’s decision to continue using it or not. However, these rules must be followed at the AGM regardless.  
   - Some members agreed that it is important to keep the general structure of the meetings cohesive, however, a general discussion period during the meeting time can be cooperated.
• Curran explained that using Robert Rules is simple, he circulated a cheat sheet for Robert Rules to the Council members, it makes it easy to take the minute, and help reader to find out what members are talking about as it is the systematic way to run meetings.
• Ashley explained that in the GSA Bylaws mentions that meeting shall be governed by Roberts Rule.

Motion to continue using Robert Rule for meetings moved by Sam seconded by Curran, all in favor, motion carried.

7. CRO Resolution

• Ashley explained that standing resolution isn’t written in the Bylaws so Council has the right to change the details of the resolution and add compensation.

Motion to accept CRO Standing Resolution to be adopted as written moved by Curran seconded by Anita, all in favor motion carried.

8. New Endowment Ideas

• Tim mentioned that there are additional endowment funds which could become available through the alumni office. Council member can share ideas regarding the potential uses of extra revenue.
• Ashley explained that the GSA have many endowments for awards given in November, the biggest endowment fund is the travel awards, years ago alumni, and many others contribute to the endowment fund. The GSA is currently speaking with the university regarding this. She had contacted the director of advancement if she would be interested in running a campaign for the GSA, except the GSA doesn’t yet decide what the campaign will be. She recommended the idea of matching components, which would be that the GSA put some money, in which the university matches it, and the GSA gets donor money to match that. The GSA will be looking for everything from increasing travel awards endowment to emergency funds and childcare benefits.
• Curran suggested to put most of the endowment towards travel awards. Ashley noted that travel awards have been changed, previously, it used to be under certain criteria, correcting grammar, costs saving measures, ability to explain part of research, supervisor signature, this was quiet problematic because international students weren’t well represented because their grammar might not be to the level of a native speaking English person, other thing was throwing out somebody’s application because when setting the budget they didn’t choose the cheapest means, the rational for that is the financial component, and historically that was decided.
• The GSA met with SGS regarding changing the application process, and now it’s a lottery based system, application is divided by faculty and then picked from. Tim noted that no engineering grad students can apply to travel awards because EGS took over engineering travel awards and doubled the money.
• In replying to Sara’s question Ashley mentioned that the application is changed and became much easier, students need to submit a letter of intent, and supervisors signature.
• In replying to Alex’s question, Ashley explained that the application can’t be on first come first serve basis as there are still issues with MOSAIC, and sometimes student submit hard copies to SGS.
• Shawn suggested to put the endowment towards the Phoenix and raise the 5% discount for grad students, Ashley commented that the university won’t allow to put endowment money towards the Phoenix, Tim added that the plan is to increase this discount percentage in time, anyways.
• Tim suggested that endowment should be towards initiatives such as child care. Ashley mentioned that the money could be split between initiatives, it doesn’t have to be directed to one only. She noted if there is an addition to the actual amount the GSA will be going to get more interest on the principle.
• Sara suggested that to direct some of the fund towards health care, for example emergency dental issues. Ashley explained that administration on something like that is very difficult, the procedure will be creating a subcommittee of students who are not MD and not fit to make the decision if a students’ case needs the money or not.
• Curran mentioned that his department internal awards are distributed according to a general priority system where students who have received the award before goes to the bottom of the list. In replying to Sara’s question regarding merit awards, she mentioned that she will talk to the award committee regarding the concept of open merit.
• In replying to Sam’s question regarding Pulse membership, Tim mentioned that the fee is still the same, for now the GSA was promised that this fee will not be increases.

9. New Business

FRC Humanities report:
• Curran mentioned that he is no longer president at the History Graduate Student Society, he is working on new executive about proposing the HTSS as a GSA club.
• During the summer the President’s committee on Free Speech and Protest met once, they are establishing policy, they were in contact with the Manager of Security Services
• There is an adhoc committee to change the language in the student code of conduct, the document is going to be published soon after October.

Senate Report
• A meeting of Senate took place on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 3:30 PM.
• There were no noteworthy discussions pertaining to graduate students, but the following items are listed for information:
  Graduate Calendar Administrative Section Change (2.6.3)
• This section of the calendar was adjusted to include additional clarification about how courses are designated at the time of enrollment and to note the process for designating a course as an
• Extra Course. Previously the calendar text wasn’t sufficiently clear on this matter but it now explains a little better how extra courses are different from courses counted toward program requirements.
New Senior Leadership Appointments
• A new Provost and Associate Vice-President, Research were recommended by Senate and subsequently confirmed by the Board of Governors.
FRC Science Report
- Need $500 from GSA
- Student grocery store is an idea for idea for the student activities building
- Next trivia night is at Phoenix
- Need more physics questions
- Campus tour: first week of October (Thursday).
- Alumni Social: February reading week (Friday); need to get alumni
- SAM has reps from every department except biology
- SAM members upset about pulse membership regarding how grad students need to pay for pass even though they are already contributing towards new building
- Plan to talk to Dean in November regarding receiving annual $1000
- Currently have $550 in the bank account
- Sara noted that she has been asked to represent graduate students on the Athletic and Rec 5 years plan which is coming up in couple of weeks. She requested from FRC to gather their thoughts and ideas from students in their faculty and send it to herself.

FRC Engineering report
- McMaster Engineering, Technology, Research, & Innovation Conference (METRIC) was a success
- Students appreciated talks from guest speakers (path to academia, becoming professional engineers, and teaching through the MacPherson Institute)
- Conference came in under-budget
- EGS operates as a non-profit, so expect more EGS sponsored events this year!
- EGS has recessed for the remainder of term
- EGS Bi-weekly council meetings resume on September 27th

FRC International report
1. Recruitment of iGSA new members
- Currently actively recruiting.
- Planning to create iGSA club: 2 co-presidents, 1 secretary and 1 IT specialist. IGSA core members will also consist of 2 GSA international representatives, CUPE international officer and international faculty representative.
- They are planning to have an election in spring.
2. Feedback from International Graduate Resource Fair on September 13 with SGS
- Main complaint is that the event was held too late.
- They are planning to have a buddy program / webinar in the coming spring term.
- Webinar Planning/Buddies Sub-Committee is formed and will meet on Thursday Oct 5 from 2-3 pm.
3. Work permit/Immigration Seminar
- Held on Monday October 16 at JHE A102 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.
- They have sent an email to all international graduate students for registration.
4. Language Café
- Held on Thursday October 26 from 6 – 8 pm.
- They need to book the ABB 273 lounge through GSA.
• Each language's group will receive $15 for providing some souvenirs of their countries.
• They have sent an email to all international graduate students for volunteers' recruitment (language facilitators).

5. iGSA Logo Contest
• Deadline of submission will be on Wednesday November 1 at ncon.
• The winner will receive $50 and runner-up will receive $20 Phoenix gift card.
• They have sent an email to all international graduate students for invitation.

6. International Student Summit
• Global Hamilton Connect will hold it on Thursday November 23.
• Wing mentioned that they need to move the IGSA to be a club and not as an association. Ashley highlighted that this is not in the international grad students favour, specially as an recognized faculty association they will receive up to $600 of funds. She recommended to continue as a faculty association. Wing mentioned that the reason that they thought this way is because they have limited number of members and there is a lot of commitment.

FRC Health Science report
• Medical Science Program Newsletter recruiting new members
• McMaster Medical Science association hosting a Health Science Graduate Lounge in MUMC. This event will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 11AM - 1PM.
• Some events HSFG in the making: coffee house in early October. They are considering planning a trip to Wonderland, as well as a tutoring program for high school students in the area (to give back to the community). Ashley recommended for Alex to go through EHOSS regarding planning the trip.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. moved by Shawn, seconded by Simon, all in favour, motion carried.

Action Item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action by</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get back to the SFC regarding EHOSS</td>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send thoughts to Ashley regarding the endowment</td>
<td>Council members</td>
<td>By next meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shawn Hercules, VP External

Date Recorder Date

Page 7 of 8