



Graduate Students
Association Annual
General Meeting
Summary



Tuesday, March 31, 2015,
3:00 p.m.
at The Phoenix Bar & Grill

Please note that the following is a summary of the results of the motions at the AGM of the GSA. These are **not** the full minutes. The full minutes will be disseminated in May.

Present: Talena Rambarran (President), Megan Murphy (VP Administration), Rachel Kelly (VP Services), Lucia Lee (VP External), Manraj Kaur (VP Internal), Jeff Price (CRO), Sean Van Koughnett (Associate Vice-President (Students & Learning) and Dean of Students), Peter Self (Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Life and Research Training, SGS), and 190 GSA members (verified)

1. Call to Order at 3:24

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda for the AGM of the GSA of March 31, 2015
1st by Robert Fuller, 2nd by Ryan Sparrow, majority will accept the agenda, 1
opposed. **Motion passed to accept the agenda**

A Motion was put forward to amend the agenda and to add a Motion for the GSA to adopt a position policy; "Be it resolved that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental rights...(full motion below item 5. i.), to be added to the agenda after item 5.0;

1st by Ryan Sparrow, 2nd by Emma McKenna, For 68, opposed 33, after discussion on 2/3 majority vote meaning in the bylaws and discussion **item was added to the agenda.**

Motion was put forward to amend the agenda to move item 9 up to item 3. It was noted that the speaker would not be present until 3:30pm and the **motion was dismissed.**

3. Review of Executive/Committee Progress and New Initiatives

Summary was given from Megan Murphy, Rachel Kelly, Manraj Kaur, Lucia Lee

4. CRO Report on 2015 March Election

a. Election Report

Motion: To ratify the election results of the GSA representation for 2015-2016 - 1st by Patricia Edem, 2nd by Robert Fuller, all in favor carried unanimously, **Motion carried**

b. Call for vacant positions – no nominations were offered

5. Audited Financial Statements 2013/2014

a. Review of statements

Motion: To approve the Auditors report for the 2013-2014 fiscal year Reappointment of Auditor; 1st by Megan Murphy, 2nd by Donal Finnerty all in favor unanimously. **Motion carried**

b. **Motion:** To appoint KPMG as the Auditors for 2014-2015 fiscal year and to approve the Auditors fees of \$19,000 – \$21,500; 1st by Megan Murphy, 2nd by Carla Abarca, all in favor unanimously. **Motion carried**

- i. **Added Agenda Item; MOTION** to Recognize that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental human rights; Join other student organizations around the world by endorsing the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions called for by 170 different groups representing the Palestinian civil society; and
Commit to identifying and divesting from companies that support of profit from Israeli war crimes, occupation and oppression of Palestinians; and
Affirm that students have a vital role in supporting struggles for social justice and human rights, stand in solidarity with Palestinians’ struggle for self-determination and freedom; and
Commit to ethical purchasing policies and fair trade practices around the globe; and
Make a public endorsement on the website, social media and all official channels of the GSA in support of Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions
1st by Evan Johnson, 2nd by Nicole Wilson – 88 for, 39 opposed, 2/3 approved **motion carried.**

NOTE: After review of the GSA Bylaws, **this motion has been found to be null and void** as it is not in compliance with the GSA Bylaws. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Motion to move Item #9 ahead of item #6, due to the additional item added to the agenda and the forum running late.

Motion carried unanimously

6. Approval of Budget for 2015/2016

a. GSA Budget

b. Phoenix Budget

Motion: To accept the GSA and Phoenix budget for 2015-2016
1st by Megan Murphy, 2nd by Rachel Kelly, all in favor unanimously.
Motion carried

7. Approval of GSA Fees for 2015/2016

Motion: To accept the proposed GSA fees for 2015-2016

a. GSA Fee

b. Health & Dental Fees

Discussion of potential plan enhancements and a potential Motion to enhance the GSA health plan to include vision coverage, increased paramedical coverage and counseling services

c. HSR Fee

Motion to accept the proposed GSA/HSR fees for 2015-2016 and in the event there is a surplus with respect to the amount of health and dental fees charged to the students vs. the cost of the plan for fiscal 2015-2016, the GSA can use these funds to enhance the health plan to include vision coverage, increased paramedical coverage and counseling services

1st by Rachel Kelly, 2nd by Robert Fuller, all in favor. Motion carried

8. Nomination to GSA Committees - a show of hands reflected nominations members were asked to see Debbie (GSA office administrator) once the meeting is adjourned.
9. Student Supplementary Fees: Increase Proposal (25 min)
 - a. Presentation from Sean Van Koughnett regarding Compulsory Ancillary Fee Proposal
 - b. Discussion and questions

Motion: To adopt the new student supplementary fee protocol and to increase the supplementary fees in each of 2016 and 2017 by:

- \$4.86/term increase for part-time
- \$36.83/term increase for full-time

Motion to amend and drop the current motion –

1st by Carmina Perez Romero, 2nd by Carla Abarca motion not carried

Motion to adopt the new student supplementary fee protocol and to increase the supplementary fees in each of 2016 and 2017 by:

1st by Hino Pringnitz, 2nd by Patricia Edem; majority voted NO, motion not carried

10. New Business (10 minutes) – no new business was presented.
11. Adjournment - **Motion** to adjourn; 1st by Robert Fuller, 2nd by Mohamad Zaidalkilani all in favor. **Motion Carried**

Appendix 1

At the Graduate Students Association (GSA) Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, a group of Members requested that an item be added to the agenda calling for a motion supporting the Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) movement with respect to Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Motions were moved, seconded, debated and passed adding this item to the agenda and supporting the BDS movement.

The GSA Executive wishes to advise all Members that the motion passed at the Annual General Meeting to support the BDS movement is null and void, as it conflicts with GSA's Bylaw.

Article XXV Section 1 of the GSA Bylaw provides that "Policy positions established in accordance with Article XXV, Section 2 are the sole official policy positions the Association can take,..". According to Section 2 of Article XXV, policy for the Association shall be established at Meetings of Council in accordance with a process set out in the Bylaw. Policy proposals may be submitted by Members or Directors, but notice of the substance of a policy proposal must be received by Council at least two weeks before the meeting at which it is to be introduced, and requires a three-quarters majority to pass.

The Bylaw requirement for advance notice of the substance of a policy proposal ensures that information can be distributed to Council Members with sufficient time for them to analyze the proposal and respond in an informed manner. This prevents the passage of proposals, which are sometimes achieved by surprise.

The GSA Executive will be reaching out to the Members who presented the motion regarding the BDS movement at the AGM to inform them of the correct process for establishing the policy of the Association.