committee. Having a committee is necessary because it shows the GSA accountable to our constituents, and transparent.

- Ashley read Megan’s point that speaks to Arun’s point of view “to be part of the Financial Committee does required participant to have some sort of financial understanding of financial statements, control and implications for business, many of the members previously served on it simply didn’t have these and as such there was some inherit issues.” She noted the GSA have an independent bookkeeper, and also a separate firm that audits the GSA’s financial statements, as well as we have bodies that double check both sides of the house, for instance, the GM of the Phoenix has to provide the financial statement first, that goes to the bookkeeper second, then goes to an audit firm third.

- Arun commented that the GM of the Phoenix is considered an operational issue, it is not an audit, so internal and external audit both need to be verifiable, and for those reason they both need to be put in place. He added educational session could be provided in regards of financial statements. It necessary to have internal and external audit, as the preview of both are different. The internal audit is to ensure the projected and the actual are in line with each other, however, the external audits is to make sure the internal audit have been done properly. They both need to in place in order to have a properly functional organization.

- Ashley read Megan’s point that speaks to Arun’s point of view. “The GSA also have the auditor provide a letter each year with suggestions for improving financial controls oversees, and other things that always go the committee for implementation. The university also reviews the financial statements as condition of releasing the GSA fees. The budget and audit documents are also available at both Council and Board, to the executive and at the AGM.” She noted, “do you really see an added benefit for another committee to do what already is being done. What kind of mechanisms would be put in place to ensure that members of the audit committee had necessary knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to the process and procedure related to finance, and the audit of the GSA more than what is already being done?”

- Arun mentioned that because members are elected, they have the skills and knowledge. So these elected representatives will be in charge of audit committee, it is not a certain agency, it is not a specialist, they will be an elected member doing that, for that reason, to have an audit committee comprised of members who are elected.

- Marguerite added that the assumption is that the specialist should be a grad student, more importantly what external audit doesn’t do is the assessed value of graduate students benefit. Having 50% plus one FRC that should be accountable to the membership. Sara noted that this is valid point, however, in terms of 50% plus one FRC, this is difficult to achieve and sustain, as in the current meeting there is no 50% plus one FRC attendance. Marguerite added that she agreed with the concept that this could be difficult to achieve and sustain, however, it is worth trying.

- Ashley asked if the Council members would be willing to put financial resources, as there will be some financial training. Arun mentioned that some institutions offer free financial training for everyone. Ashley suggested changing the Finance Committee to have more internal representation Arun commented that the Finance Committee is responsible for day to day financial operations, whereas the audit committee is responsibility is more so forensic. Lucia disagreed respectfully, she mentioned that this committee would be time consuming, she suggested to have a subcommittee from the finance committee.

**Motion** to establish a permanent audit committee that will be compromise of 50% + 1 FRC members, and the signing authority is the Chair, first by Marguerite, seconded by Arun, 4 in Favour, 4 opposed, abstention, motion failed. According to the bylaws (p.17), all tie votes fail.
14.0 **OpenSyllabus.org**

- Arun explained that the concept behind the Open Syllabus Project is to have a central repository at McMaster University for course outlines of the entire university. The repository would be free, open and accessible. Having this in place has several positive outcomes.
- Arun mentioned that he looked into the MSU website, there is an ongoing referendum for the same reason (having a syllabus repository); if that come into being, this could be done in tandem with what the undergrads are doing.
- Ashley asked if the GSA has to provide a financial contribution as buy in. Arun answered that the library will host this, therefore there is no financial contribution required of the GSA.
- Colette commented that her department is updating the website, and this is a trend at all departments, the IT personal is working on having the course outline available on the website. Arun mentioned that this is not duplication of service, and as there is no a standard format offered between the departments there is going to be an accessibility issue with the documents. However, if the GSA worked with the university to upload the syllabus, every document will have the same format, for easier accessibility.

**Motion** to accept the engagement of the GSA to advocate for and engage in the creation of an OpenSyllabus at McMaster, working in tandem with the Grad Students, and all necessary stake holder groups, first by Arun, seconded by Firat, all in favour, motion carried

15.0 **DBAC fees**

- Colette explained that the university is planning to expand the athletic center and the fee structures are changing. The fee proposed is $18.50, in addition to what they are paying now, which is $105, so total is $223.50 starting in 2020.
- The university is discussing this with the MSU. Colette asked what is the Council’s point of view in case the university approached the GSA. Ashley highlighted the expansion of pulse will be a new gym space, new studio space, additional study room, social meeting events room, and also multi-faith prayer rooms. However, a part of that $223.50 is to remove the pulse fee, so students are no longer paying a pulse membership, which students are currently having in addition to the fees they are paying.
- Arun mentioned by becoming a member in the capital investment project then the GSA would be equal stakeholders along with the MSU. Ashley mentioned that they didn’t discuss who will be the stake holder and what is the percentage, this will be discussed further with the university. Arun asked if this is a capital fee. Ashley mentioned for what is provided it seems there is no additional levy. Right now grad students pay $121.08 for student services that include sport complex fee of $36.57. Ashley added this is a huge project, she highly doubts that inclusive of the capital fee, but the GSA will ask for clarity in the next meeting.
- Marguerite mentioned that it is up to the grad student to decide, and they should be engaged as a lot of people feel that they don’t get value for money they pay.
- The Council agreed to put this into a survey.

16.0 **New Business**

- No New Business

17.0 **Adjournment**

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**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm first by Marguerite, seconded by Lucia, all in favour, motion carried.

Lucia, Sec., VP External  
Date: Jan 16, 17  
Recorder:  
Date: Jan 12, 12