A) OPEN SESSION
   1) Presidents Remarks
   2) Notice of Future Meetings
      • November 23, 2017 - 5pm
   3) Approval of Agenda
   4) Approval of Minutes
   5) Ratification of Gibrea Student Group
   6) Athletics and Recreation Strategic Plan Update
   7) FRC Updates
   8) New Business
   9) Adjournment
Graduate Students Association of McMaster University

Council Meeting

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

Minutes

Attendees: Tim Van Boxtel (GSA President), Shawn Hercules (VP External), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Sam Peter (FRC Engineering), Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO), Alexander Qian (FRC Health Science), Simon Mcnamee (FRC Engineering), Curran Egan (FRC Humanities), Tsz Wing Cheng (FRC International), Roqibul Hasan (VP Internal), Nitka Sanger (FRC Health Science), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Nick Yelle (FRC Health Science), Aaron Roberts (Senator Humanities)

Call in: Jodie Lobana (VP Administration)
Observer: Hilary Caldwell (act on behalf of FRC science)

Regrets: Derek South (FRC Science), Sara Oikawa (FRC Science), Robert Alex Ballagh (VP Services), Taylor Mackenzie (Senator Social Science)

Absent: Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Allison Leanage (FRC Social Science), Sid Nath (Senator Health Science), Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Maryam Alizadch (FRC International Representative)

Call to Order 5:03

1. Presidents Remarks

- It was mentioned that there are no events during this except for the President meeting with the Provost.

Executive Remarks

- Shawn mentioned that the Social events meeting was held in October, they discussed the events planning till the end of this term. He is planning a corn maze trip next Friday, and all the tickets were sold out. He an Tim will attend the CAGS conference next month.
- Roqibul mentioned that he attended the smoke free campus initiative. Currently has 3 applications for event funding he has approved 2 and the third one still in process. Ashley highlighted the negative article the Silhouette wrote regarding the campus smoke free policy, noting that this article created issues for already marginalized group. Roqibul noted that this was not discussed but he would bring it up in future meetings.
- Jodie highlighted that the executives currently are trying to minimize the admin cost and transfer this to membership, this money will be transferred to services to grad students. Currently the GSA is transitioning to new accounting firm, in this process a lot money will be saved, the new accountant was selected and will start soon. HR committee discussed the new evaluation appraisal of the GSA staff, new edits was made on the old form, the new form will be implemented soon. Investing and financial committee discussing to switch the banking services to reduce the cost, currently Tim is
leading the negotiation process with the bank to have the best offer. Tim added bank accounts will also be for faculty associations in order to save money on banking fees.

Alex sent the following report:

- the Gilbrea Student Group has applied to be a GSA club and that he has reviewed their application. Everything appears to be in order and they have secured a grant to fund their operations. He would move to have them reviewed by the council.
- There are two more clubs that have also applied and their applications are in the review process.
- He has scheduled the GSSRC meeting for November 6th at 4:00pm.
- For year-end league meetings, there has been no student feedback for timing, except for Sarah Oikawa. He has resent invitations to the other two student members of the committee.
- The tentative date for GSA League - Softball meeting is November 3rd at 9:00am.
- The tentative date for GSA League - Soccer meeting is November 2nd at 10:00am.

2. Notice of Future Meetings

- November 23, 2017 - 5pm

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Sam seconded by Shawn all in favour motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Kara request the amendment of her name from absent to regrets on last minutes.

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

5. Ratification of Gilbrea Student Group

- Tim mentioned that the Gilbrea Student Group is an interdisciplinary group of McMaster graduate students with interests in aging. Members include Master’s students, Doctoral students, and Post-Doctoral Fellows conducting research in such diverse fields as Health, Aging & Society, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Gender Studies, Geography and Earth Sciences, and Health Sciences. Members share an interest in improving the lives of older adults by linking research, education, policy, and practice with local, national, and global initiatives. Tim added that they received spices grant, that is how they have a balance budget.
- Members suggested that they shall explain what the name stands for as it is not clear.

Motion provided the amended about the name regarding aging to be more descriptive to ratify the Gilbrea student group as a GSA club moved by Shawn seconded by Sam, all in favour, motion carried.

6. Athletics and Recreation Strategic Plan Update

- Item tabled for next agenda
7. **FRC Updates**

**FRC Engineering Report:**

- Sam explained that EGS used to taking over travel awards for engineering, the current discussion in EGS is, does engineering grad students are eligible to apply to GSA travel awards? And does SGS contribute to this awards? Ashley explained that SGS doesn’t contribute to the GSA travel awards, there was an endowment given to the GSA years ago from alumni and other people who wanted to contribute, SGS only helps adjudicate it. Since the GSA own the endowment the CRA makes sure that the GSA have a degree of separation. Nonetheless, since grad student engineering are GSA members, then they still have the entitlement to apply for the GSA travel awards.

- Ashley recommended that EGS could give this money to the GSA to put in endowment in which it will boost the EGS travel awards money by 5%. In which they can pay double of travel awards this year, in order to have it next year with interest. Sam can pass this recommendation to the chair of EGS if she is interested she can email Ashley.

- In replying to Sam question regarding travel awards, Tim explained that the application now is lottery based and became very simple for grad students to apply. Ashley explained how travel awards lottery works; the applications is divided into 6 faculties, for instant if there are 12 awards then they will pull 2 applications from each faculty to make sure there is equal representation by faculty.

- Hillary noted that this information is needed to be communicated to grad students as most of them thinks there is a criterion to apply.

- In regards to Sam question regarding Overtime Grad students, Tim explained that OT students are considered full time students and pay all the supplementary fees in full.

**FRC Science report:**

- Teaching dossier night was success, people came because of departmental emails (important to have departmental reps)

**Trivia night- ~90 people (low ball)**

- Phoenix manager thought it was really well done and next time will give us the venue free of charge
  - Would like SAM to organize something again soon

**Alumni Social**

- Need more suggestions for individuals to contact
- Panelists need to be set in the next month
- GSA banking switch - Tim mentioned that the GSA could help SAM so that they aren’t losing money on banking fees.

**SAM Karaoke- November 24, 2017**

- In replying to Hilary question, Ashley commented that 1 trivia night at the Phoenix will cost $60, but it’s not science focused questions. Jodie recommended that questions could be on artificial intelligence and science focused to be more challenging.
- Aaron suggested that each student could donate $2 for example and at the end the team who will win get the money and will put the questions for the next trivia.
- Sam suggested that SAM can do a shared event committee with EGS
FRC International Report:

- Web Chat Forum for Incoming International Graduate Students
  - Webinar Planning/Buddies Sub-Committee was formed and met on Thursday Oct 5 from 2-3 pm.
  - They will host a web chat (webinar) on December 5 from 9 – 10 am.
  - This web chat will include 20 minutes' information delivery and 40 minutes Q&A.

- Work permit/Immigration Seminar on Oct 16
  - Was held on Monday October 16 in JHE A102 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.
  - There were 60 signups and around 50 people attended.

- Language Café on Oct 26
  - Will be held on Thursday October 26 in ABB 273 (ABB Lounge) from 5:45 – 8 pm.
  - They have 34 facilitators deliver 13 languages in three sessions at 6, 6:30 and 7 pm.
  - So far we got 46 signups.

- iGSA Logo Contest
  - Deadline of submission will be on Sunday November 5 at noon.
  - They have increased the winner prize amount from $50 to $100.
  - The winner will receive $100 and runner-up will receive $20 Phoenix gift card.
  - They have sent an email to all international graduate students for invitation.
  - Students will vote for the winner and runner-up on our social media starting on November 6.

- International Student Summit (organized by the City of Hamilton) on Nov 23
  - Will be held on Thursday November 23 at McMaster Innovation Park.
  - Informative day about living, working and thriving in the City of Hamilton.
  - Keynote speakers include McMaster alumni, small business leaders and community activators.

FRC Health Science Report:

- October Health Sci Rep Updates:
  - Met with HSGSF and Medical Sciences Student Association earlier this month.
  - HSGSF is planning on getting the other Health Sciences students associations together for monthly meetings.

- HSGSF is running a Halloween Social:
  - October 27th Phoenix - 6-8
  - They were wondering if there is a better way for them to book large spaces within the Phoenix. Online form limits reservations to 15 people.

- Upcoming Events:
  - Christmas Social/Food Drive
  - Winter Skating Event
  - Careers Night with Industry Link in the Spring

- Inquires: HSGSF was wondering what status they were: Club status or Faculty Association status and if they are able to obtain office space. They currently have documents and work from home.

- Medical Sciences:
  - Medical Sciences Pizza Social had a good turnout of around 50-60 students
  - Med Sci and Chill
FRC Humanities Report:
- Curran mentioned that there are not a lot going on, he had lost battle with trying to get participation through graduate students societies.
- There are concerns regarding oversight of the money in the HSS, and currently they are trying to find a successor. He added that the perception of the GSA is that it is very science focused and Faculty of Humanities not of its interest. Tim recommended that Curran can schedule a meeting in which he can attended in person.
- Tim highlighted that he is currently trying to push forward for each faculty to have a faculty association like SAM and EGS, both are very focused in contact with students, and plan events properly, while GSA struggle to get people to come up. He suggested to Curran to be in contact with president of SAM and EGS to take advise on how to set this up.

Senator science Report:
- Preliminary Enrolment Figures
  - Dr. Welch reported that, as of September 12, the enrolment of full-time domestic students in master's programs were 1,778, a decrease of 2% over last year, and the enrolment of full-time domestic students in doctoral programs was 795, a decrease of 3% over last year, for a total of full-time domestic graduate students of 2,573, a decrease of 2% over last year.
  - Total enrolment of students in full-time master's programs was 2,464, a decrease of 2% over last year. The total enrolment of students in full-time doctoral programs was 1,383, almost exactly the same level as last year. This added up to a total of 3,847 full-time graduate students, which represented a 1% increase over last year.
  - Dr. Welch noted that domestic PhD application numbers were nearly identical to last year's, but international PhD applications were up 49%. Domestic master's application numbers increased 14%. International master's application numbers increased 29%.
  - The total number of completed applications was 11,489, a 20% increase over last year.

- Establishment of a PhD Program in Global Health
  - At its meeting of September 20, the University Planning Committee approved a proposal for the establishment of a PhD Program in Global Health, effective September 2018. The proposed program builds upon the ideas, concepts, and topics presented in the MSc in Global Health program. The doctoral program proposes a more collaborative approach than the traditional reliance on physicians, in which specialists with interdisciplinary training are needed to provide responses that move beyond the traditional biomedical solutions.
  - The proposal was subsequently recommended to Senate on October 18 and approved.

8. New Business
- No new business.
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. moved by Sam, seconded by Shawn, all in favour, motion carried.

Action Item:

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action by</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passing the recommendation of putting the EGS travel awards in endowment, to the chair of EGS</td>
<td>Sam Peter</td>
<td>By next meeting</td>
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Shawn Hercules, VP External
Date
Recorder
Date