

Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting

April 19th 2018
GSA Office, East Tower Refectory
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Tim van Boxtel (GSA President), Sam Peter (FRC Engineering), Simon Mcnamee (FRC Engineering), Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Shawn Hercules (VP External), Robert Alex Ballagh (VP Services), Sara Oikawa (FRC Science), Anita Acai (Senator Science)

Call in: Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO)

Regrets: Nitika Sanger (FRC Health Science), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Tsz Wing Cheng (FRC International), Jodie Lobana (VP Administration)

Absent: Sid Nath (Senator Health Science), Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Nick Yelle (FRC Health Science), Taylor Mackenzie (Senator Social Science), Allison Leange (FRC Social Science), Alexander Qian (FRC Health Science), Curran Egan (FRC Humanities), Derek Stouth (FRC Science), Xiaomin Huang (Incoming FRC International), Aaron Roberts (Senator Humanities)

Call to order 5:03

Notice of Future Meetings

- Next Council meeting May 24 at 5 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda of April 19, moved by Sam seconded by Anita all in favour motion carried

Approval of Minutes

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

Council Year End Wrap Up

- Tim mentioned that there are quite a few Faculty representatives for the incoming year. He suggested to current FRCs to connect with other grad students and encourage them to

apply for Council positions. The current openings are; 2 FRC Business, 2 FRC Health Science, 1 Social Science, 1 International, 2 Humanities.

- He added that Sara Oikawa is the new VP Internal, her position was contested and she won the vote. Some members highlighted that they have received more than one ballot for voting, others didn't receive a ballot to vote. Tim explained that during the second election the MSU had a technical problem with Simply Voting, and they reached out to UTS to solve it.
- Tim suggested to have a trip during May or early to mid June for the new council, considered as a team building trip. Shawn suggested to send a doodle to Council and pick a date that works for all.

FRC/ Senator update update

SAM

- AGM is next Thursday.
- 2 new graduate students are running for the FRC Science position.

BoG

- Rodrigo highlighted that currently the discussion is to create a report regarding the performance of Dr. Deane. He will send a survey link to Mona to circulate to Council, and FRCs can circulate it to their faculty members. Tim suggested that the survey link can be posted on the GSA website as well.
- Rodrigo mentioned that he would like at least 10% of grad students to answer the survey.

EGS

- Sam mentioned that EGS has opened an office Mon – Thu for 2 hours and 2 representatives to sit in the office, however, they had trouble filling in the time slots, so the opening hours will be changed.
- In replying to Simon's question regarding the ability to leave the office open, Ashley explained that they can contact security regarding this, however, there is reason why they don't allow to leave the office doors open, so it might not be possible that they will agree to the request, she will send contact information to Sam.
- LATEX workshop is coming up, in replying to Shawn question if the workshop will be open for all? Sam explained that it's open for all with \$5 fee just to keep people committed to come if they register.
- They are currently bridging the gap between the Faculty of Engineering and CUPE. EGS will start to send a representative to CUPE to advocate for engineering.
- Application for travel award, next cycle is coming to an end.
- Collecting data to see if engineering grad students are getting the baseline funding. Some students didn't get the full amount as they are not TAing yet.

- In replying to Sam's question regarding updates on Pulse fees. Tim explained that they reached out to the university to get some answers, however, all responses are vague. The university verbally assured the fees are not going to increase, but they are not very accountable to it. According to suggestions to reach out to off campus GYM, Tim reached out Crunch GYM, however, they didn't get back to him yet. Sara suggested to pay Crunch GYM a visit to speed up the process.
- According to Sean vK grad students are not funding the new expansion, but the funds goes to the old building. last discussion with Sean was 4 weeks ago. Tim is meeting with him soon regarding different topics, however he will bring up this discussion again.
- In replying to Sam question regarding endowment funds. Tim explained that the current endowment is an existing fund from alumni, the university manages it, and it goes to travel awards, the GSA did put some contribution into it. Currently the GSA is exploring an additional endowment, in which the GSA can choose where the funds can be allocated, the suggestion available is to buy into child care, but the decision is not finalized yet.
- In replying to Sam's question "how much the GSA is going to contribute into endowment, Tim explained that the GSA contribution will be between 10K to 12K. The percentage of interest depends on the market every year. It's a pool of money and managed by professional money mangers, every year they add to it by getting new contributions and the interest is on the top of that.
- Tim highlighted that the GSA is trying to have all faculty associations events all in one place, the GSA link only with EGS and SGS, he is requesting from the rest of FRCs to be diligence in populating their own event calendars. He added that the communication style is going to be changed soon, that includes emails.

Senate

- New Associate Vice President, Equity and Inclusion started April 1st.
- Director of PACBIC shared 2017 report highlights, includes contribution to policy on discrimination and harassment.
- Dr. Deane shared an overview of the new provincial budget, some items relevant to students include adjustment to OSAP thresholds. Expanded support for mental health. Additional funds have been allocated to a broader strategy on gender-based violence.
- New centre for metabolism, obesity and diabetes research was established. Senate voted to approve the McMaster Strategic Research Plan.
- A new Master of Engineering and Graduate Diploma in Systems and Technology was established. The program will combine professional development with advanced technical competencies required for the development, implementation, monitoring, and improvement of performance of 21st-century industrial and civic systems that combine physical and digital components.

Social Science FRC application

- The application of FRC Social Science was circulated.

Motion to accept Lili Eskin as FRC Social Science moved by Sara seconded by Sam all in favor motion carried.

- Tim mentioned that he will push FRC for accountability and will help them to be more proactive and more engaged.

New Business

- Shawn explained that 2 years ago the GSA was part of OGSA. Now OGSA is dissolved over the past few months, the GSA received \$2423.93 of what we contributed over the past 2 years.
- Next week Shawn and Tim will attend thinkGrad conference in Vancouver. McMaster GSA is part of the foundation. They are spearheading a white paper about financial stability for grad students. This conference is useful for the executives to meet with other grad students and share problems grad students face, and solve it as a group.
- There are 3 agenda items they will bring up at thinkGrad. International students, for profit entity (Phoenix) and CAFS agreement.
- Sara suggested to improve coffee and donuts special at the Phoenix. Ashley added that there is a new coffee machine coming this week, and new coffee beans coming next week, to have a coffee special at the Phoenix.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:02 moved by Sam, second by Anita, all in favour, motion carried.

Action Item:

Item	Action by	Due date
Send contact information to Sam regarding leaving office door open	Ashley	By next meeting
Circulate survey Rodrigo will send	Mona	ASAP

Shawn Hercules,
VP External

Date

Recorder

Date