



## GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Executive Meeting

### Executive Agenda

Friday, October 13, 2017, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

GSA Commons



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**Present:** Z. Ghaith (President), J. Bonkowski (VP Finance & Operations), I. Efimoff (Indigenous Liaison), A. Kiani (VP Student Affairs), and N. Sahtout (VP External).

#### 1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:20 PM.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Addition of funding requests from Chemistry Course Council and Computer Science Graduate Council as per emails.
- b. Efimoff adds Standing Committees to Other Business.
- c. Ghaith moves to approve. Efimoff seconds.

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

#### 3. Approval of September 29 Minutes

- a. Minutes are posted on the website. Sahtout moves to approve the minutes. Kiani seconds.

**4 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion carried.**

#### 4. Funding Request – Chemistry Course Council

- a. Purpose of the event is to provide direction to graduate students regarding their future career paths in a variety of disciplines (industry, research, government).  
Approximately 80 attendees from a variety of colleges.

- b. Requesting \$500 from the GSA. Ghaith moves to provide \$400 for the event.  
Efimoff seconds.

**4 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion carried.**

## **5. Funding Request – Computer Science Graduate Course Council**

- a. Poster presentation event for Computer Science graduate students. Involves community tech organizations for potential networking opportunities. Event is next week, October 19. Available sponsorship opportunities are the poster prizes and refreshment costs, up to \$500. More than 200 people will attend.
- b. Efimoff moves to sponsor the first place poster at \$400. Kiani seconds.

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

## **6. Indigenous Liaison Update**

- a. **RISE** – Efimoff was able to network with Indigenous students from the First Nations University about potential collaboration. Efimoff and a fellow Indigenous graduate student attended and they felt it was an excellent learning experience around Indigenous and International student solidarity.
- b. **Additional updates:** TLARC meeting for the year that included the new student evaluation system, campus master plan, and Indigenization. Guppies is underway. Working on the ethics application for the GSA survey. Successfully re-elected as the GSA Liaison at the end of September, will bring along successor in the New Year to help with transition. Planning Aboriginal Achievement Week. Planning Indigenous town hall next week in collaboration with Indigenous undergraduates. Helped to plan Wanuskewin student leadership retreat. Met with researchers to discuss connecting to Indigenous community. Facilitated poster-making session

for Sisters In Spirit vigil and attended vigil. Became certified in SafeTalk, a suicide prevention workshop. Discuss Indigenous men's health initiatives with Aboriginal Student Centre.

## **7. VP External – Update**

- a. GSA Health Workshops** – Looking to continue Health Chats as per last year. Early October was the Suicide Prevention workshop, October will be Laughter Therapy. Potential exercise classes in December and the New Year. Sahtout has reached out to the appropriate channel for funding for these types of events to help with the Workshops budget.

## **8. VP Student Affairs – Update**

- a. Workshops** – Immigration Workshop on October 24 at 3PM. This workshop is focused on providing general information about immigration such as work permit, study permit and common immigration-related questions that many students often ponder about.
- b.** Have a plan to have a panel discussion about Study Abroad Graduate students; Envision the experience on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 12PM.
- c. Social Events** – Halloween Social on October 27 at 6PM.
- d. Additional Updates** – Meetings with students, administration and different university offices regarding students' academic and non-academic issues and committees.

## **9. VP Finance & Operations – Update**

- a. Communications**

- i. PAWS Sticky Announcement** – Bonkowski will forward wording of the Announcement to the registrar sometime next week. She is presently working on creating a mock newsletter template for the Executive to consider, and will update the website to include a Newsletter page that has an option for students to subscribe.
- ii. Delegation of Portfolio** – Bonkowski is incredibly bogged down with the substantial size of the VP Finance & Operations portfolio. She is seeking to delegate some of her responsibilities in order to increase the ability to which she is able to oversee projects to completion. Efimoff will take over Twitter. Ghaith will take over Facebook. Sahtout will take over biweekly emails to graduate students. Office staffs are being trained on managing the website, and will soon be able to help in that regard.

**b. Bursaries**

- i.** The GSA will begin accepting fall bursary applications next Monday, October 16. The application period will remain open until Friday, October 27 at 5 PM. Bonkowski has yet to arrange a meeting of the Bursary committee, but a selection meeting will take place within two weeks of the application period ending to abide the GSA policy.

**c. Commons A/V**

- i.** Still only one quote has been provided; Bonkowski will begin seeking more quotes ASAP. She will aim for a decision to be made by Fall Reading Week. Ideally a new visual system will be available in the Commons by the new year.

**d. Commons Furniture Cleaning**

- i. 2 quotes received, funds will be allocated from the Commons

Improvement budget in the VP Finance & Operations portfolio.

Bonkowski will work with Rohovich to have it resolved. Bonkowski will also look into purchasing a vacuum for the space.

**10. President - Update**

**a. College of Arts & Science Vice-Dean Faculty Relations Search Committee**

- i. Member must be enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. Ghaith moves to have Sahtout sit on the committee. Efimoff seconds.

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

**b. University Senate Meeting**

- i. First Senate meeting on Saturday, October 21 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Marquis Hall. Ghaith encourages attendance from all executive if they are able.

**c. Fall Convocation**

- i. Fall convocation is Saturday, October 28. Bonkowski will attend the morning ceremony, Ghaith will attend the afternoon.

**d. Engineering Faculty Council**

- i. Seeking two engineering graduate students to sit on the Faculty Council. Bonkowski has someone in mind, will reach out. After that it will be posed to Council.

**e. Request for feedback on Council's Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters\*\***

- i. Request from Chair of Governance Committee for feedback on the proposed Student Appeals procedure. Ghaith requests feedback from Executives in approximately two weeks so that it can be passed through the appropriate channels.

## **11. Other Business**

### **a. Standing Committees**

- i. Committees are announced at the October Council meeting and the Chair makes a call for membership on the committees via email after the meeting. Committee members will be announced at the November meeting.
- ii. The bursary committee for the 2017/18 will have to be created at the October meeting to account for the Fall bursary period.

## **12. In Camera Session**

## **13. Adjournment**

- a. Ghaith moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM.

**All in favour. Meeting adjourned.**

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