

GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, April 12th, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Venue: H-1011

Save a tree. Please don't print unless it's really necessary.

Chair: Jacqueline Ristola

Meeting Facilitator: Rouzbeh Ghouchani

Minutes Taker: Etta Sandry

Councillors: Etta Sandry, Sahar Alinezhad, Yihan Wu, Fangfang Gu, Yanglin Zhang, Harish Babu Mullapudi, Masoumeh Zaare

Absent: Divya Divya, Mahmud Joarder, Anuj Bisani, Boshra Arghavani, Anumeet Kaur, Avneet Singh Chawla, Abhi Bhowmick, Shreyas Krishnamurathy, Karolyne Courville, Nancy Shukla, Jean-Simon Castonguay, Irina Borcea, Panteha Mamouri

Executives: Amir Molaei, Nafisa Jamal, Likith Kumar Reddy Chavva, Aisha Vyas, Aathi Prasath Agasthiappan

Absent:

Final Agenda:

1. Attendance Sheet verification at 6:00 PM
2. Call to Order
3. Adoption of the Agenda:
4. Executives Present Reports
5. Discussion regarding the grievances between the Executives and Directors.
6. Business arising from the minutes
7. Updates
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Minutes

1. Attendance sheet verification at 6:00 pm
2. Call to order 6:30 pm
3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion CO-20190412-01

BIRT Adoption of the agenda

Passed by consensus vote by all present

4. Executives present their reports

a. President

- Finalized collective agreement with union that represents GSA office staff
 - Agreement hadn't been updated since 2016
 - Decreased working hours of staff
 - Not all activities they were doing are done by the GSA
 - Merged some positions
 - Q: Why decrease these positions now? They seem needed. This decision should have been brought to the larger GSA body.
 - Saves \$50,000/year
 - Resolved sexual harassment cases without further cost to GSA
 - Resolved grievance case of 2016
- JMSGGA event
 - Event was an effort to balance the distribution of the GSA budget
 - Q: Why not give more money to student associations?
 - 100 people attended
 - Intention of event was to bring people together from different faculties
- Accelerator Award was redistributed amongst different faculties

b. VP Internal

- Contacted CRO for elections
 - First candidate was unavailable
 - Contacted second candidate
 - Currently in process of confirming elections with Dean of Students
- JMSGGA event
- GSA was approached by alumni who want to organize an event for time and stress management for students

- Q: Advised to check whether this service is already offered elsewhere, like Grad Pro Skills

c. VP Academic and Advocacy

- LaTeX Workshop
 - 50 attendees
 - 8 hour workshop
 - Free for all GSA Students
 - Q: Are there less events this year than last year?
 - A: No, there have been more events this year.
- PCT student grievance
 - Students were being charged different amounts of money for the additional course they have to take if they fail their exam
 - Q: Were the students from different places (international/Canada/Quebec) or have a fee waiver/scholarship? If so, it would make sense that their tuition rates are different.
 - A: They were all international students.
 - Updating website with Nura
 - Sent out call for Tribunal Pool
 - Q: How many Grad students are on the Tribunal Pool? This call should have gone out earlier. Grad students are underrepresented on student governing bodies. This is a problem.
 - Organizing French classes for the summer, deciding whether to start them before the new mandate or leave it for the next team.

d. VP External

- LaTeX Workshop
- Coordinating election CRO

e. VP Mobilization

- LaTeX Workshop
- Coordinating CRO
- JMSGSA Event
- Sending out newsletter and updating facebook page

Follow up questions and comments:

- According to bylaws, you should have called two GAs per semester. Why didn't you? How come there was no quorum at the GA?

- Why don't you do an audit? You have enough money to do so.
- How is money allocated to student association groups? How could student associations get more money?
- There is a lack of communication between GSA executives and student associations. Check to make sure you have the correct contact info.
- There are lots of "I don't knows". Have you had training on organizational management? If not, why?
 - There wasn't a good transition or transfer of information from the last executive team.
- In general, there is poor communication in the GSA.
- Why didn't the directors come to the meeting?
- Executive reports are unclear.
- An action plan wasn't presented until the winter term, this should have been done in fall.
- GSA should be better represented in movements advocating against sexual harassment within the school.

Q: Lack of Commun

5. Discussion regarding the grievances between the Executives and Directors.

The executives want more respect from the directors but they are not going to resign because they want to run elections and finish the mandate.

6. Business arising (tabled)

7. Updates (tabled)

8. New Business

a. List of recommendations for next year's executive team and mandate:

- Organize an audit
- Participate in training workshops on how to run an organization, these could also be offered to the other student associations at all levels throughout the school
- Better mobilization for the GA
 - More lead time
 - Better communication
 - Have bylaw change suggestions ready to present to the GSA body

- Have more things on the agenda to encourage people to come
- Better location and time
- Send out call for Tribunal appointments, and other student bodies, earlier
- GSA should be better represented on student bodies throughout the school
- Better communication
- Set up a GSA Advocacy center, separate from CSU
- Make sure you have the correct contact information for student associations
- Set up a committee for electoral reform
- Set up a bylaw/governing documents committee
- Bylaw change suggestions:
 - Directors shouldn't be allowed to work for the GSA
 - Voting procedure should be outlined (online or not)

b. Calling for another meeting

- One for the next week
 - Rouzbeh will try
 - Alex suggests last week of April/First week of May
 - Meeting attendees agree to try to attend the next meeting to talk about the list of recommendations
- The Link is writing about the GSA, write to them and give feedback
- The reason bursaries were cut in the last meeting was in attempt to put an end to the culture in GSA in which executives don't seem to be working hard
- GSA directors shouldn't vote on whether executives get paid or not, should be an automatic amount
 - Alex thinks directors should run vote on bursaries based on the action plan and whether or not the executives are making progress
- People at this meeting should run for the GSA!

c. Elections

- Why is there a delay in the elections? When are they going to happen? We are running out of time.
 - The CRO who was selected was asking for more money, so execs had to hire a different one.
 - Charlie is now the CRO.
- Have you talked to the Dean of Studnets?
 - Yes.
- Will elections be online? What is the history of elections in the GSA?

- There was a past GA motion against online voting but was tabled and then the meeting ended
- There is no mandate for online voting
- Can we go back to offline voting?
 - Violations during voting period
 - CSU example = recommendation against online voting
- Have you put out calls for the DROs?
 - Yes, today.
- Elections should be held before exams. Why weren't they? This is a problem.
 - Elections were delayed partly because directors didn't respond to Rouzbeh's call for election positions.
 - The election committee wasn't brought up in the Jan/Feb meeting
- Rouzbeh thinks it's a good idea to have elections in the GA, others think not, others think yes so that other issues can be discussed at the same time
 - TRAC GA as example
 - GSA usually does just by-elections in the GA
 - Better to have election by ballot
 - Sometimes people leave the GA after elections and quorum is lost
- Recommendation: Hire people to run elections on both campuses, 9-5, working in shifts, have sheets with candidate names and info, have ballots, verify IDs, everyone should be paid
- Go back to paper ballots like CSU used to do
- Recommendation to form a committee for electoral reform
- At this point, it's better to do elections via ballot

9. Adjournment (Pizza)