

GSA Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, August 13th, 2019

Time: 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Venue: GSA house

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

Chair: Timir Baran Roy

Meeting Facilitator: Rouzbeh Ghouchani

Minutes Taker: Gaurav Markan (VP Internal)

Councillors:

Present: Stéphane Larin, Yasser Jaber, Kailun Cao, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Anmol Singh, Haamid Usman, Dhvani Agola, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Sankuru

Absent: Carolyn Elizabeth, Félix Saint-Denis, Federico Bettini, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Neerav Bhatia, Fauzia Gandhi

Executives:

Present: Gaurav Markan, Gunvansh Singh Bhatia

Absent: Aditya Taneja, Ahmad Memari, Gunvansh Singh Bhatia, Dima Kanaan

Final Agenda:

1. Attendance Sheet verification at 3:30 pm
2. Call to Order
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Address by the Chair (Closed session)
5. Approval of executive and committee reports (Closed Session)
 - a. President
 - b. VP Internal
 - c. VP External
 - d. VP Academic and Advocacy
 - e. VP Mobilization

6. Presentation by Keroles Riad for GSA's collaboration with the Waste Not, Want Not Compost project.
7. PCT related issues for CSE department students
8. Fall Orientation 2019 Events update (VP Internal)
9. Unionization of French Teachers (VP Internal)
10. Discussion regarding the Mount Tremblant Trip (VP Internal)
11. Metrics to keep track of Council's productivity, and tools to ensure memory of resolutions in effect
 - b. Tools to ensure memory of resolutions in effect
12. Workshops for the ENCS Graduate students
13. Grievance Policy based on Natural Justice; Governing Documents Committee mandate and membership; Policy on Sexual Harassment
14. Every appointed committee should submit a brief report monthly.
15. There should be Two (2) Council meetings in August.
16. Getting Info Up on Website as Fast and Professionally as Possible
17. Motion to publish all dedicated awards since July 2019 on the GSA website
18. Motion to limit receivers of subsidies for holding seminars to only student association
19. Motion to pop up the topic of increasing the salary of directors in General assembly to become real for the burden of tasks and committees
20. Motion to re-evaluate our contract with website provider/designer to assign an email domain for all members to handle all communications under the portal of GSA domain
21. Creation of the Ad hoc Committee, and a sample to support the motion
22. Business arising from the minutes.

23. New Business

24. Adjournment

Minutes

1. Attendance sheet verification at 3:30 pm
2. Call to order 4:00 pm
3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion CO-20190813-01

BIRT Adoption of the agenda

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Bhargav Bhavsar

For: Stéphane Larin, Yasser Jaber, Kailun Cao, Xun He, Bhupinder Kaur, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Anmol Singh, Haamid Usman, Dhvani Agola, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Sankuru

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

Motion CO-20190813-08

BIRT to recess for 8 minutes.

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Anmol Singh

- Amendment: To recess for 5 minutes.

Moved: Ashit Patel

Seconded: Bhargav Bhavsar

For: Stéphane Larin, Yasser Jaber, Kailun Cao, Xun He, Bhupinder Kaur, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Dhvani Agola, Arshdeep Singh Dandial

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

9. Presentation by Keroles Riad for GSA's collaboration with the Waste Not, Want Not Compost project.

Motion CO-20190813-09

BIRT to appointment Interim President and Interim Academic & Move Item 15,19 to now.

Moved: Emanuel Odubanjo

Seconded: Hamed Esmaeeli

- Amendment: To Move Item No. 13,20 and 21 after them.

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Jacqueline Ristola

- Amendment: To Move Item No. 7 after Item no. 15 &19.

Moved: Kranthi Sankuru

Seconded: Ashit Patel

- One Council Member is Interested to be the Interim President and Two of them wish to be Interim VP Academic.

Motion CO-20190813-10

BIRT to appointment Karan Pande as Interim President.

Moved: Ashit Patel

Seconded: Hamed Esmaeeli

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman

Against:

Abstain: Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Adopted: Yes

Motion CO-20190813-11

BIRT to appointment one of the two interested candidates as Interim VP Academic.

Moved: Emanuel Odubanjo

Seconded: Haamid Usman

- Director asked them to tell about themselves for 2 minutes.

Voting :

- Hamed Esmaeeli: 3
- Anmol Singh: 4
- Abstain: 4

- Anmol Singh is appointed as Interim VP Academic for 45 days.
10. There should be Two (2) Council meetings in August. (ENCS directors)

Motion CO-20190813-12

Whereas there need to be proper preparation for the fall term

Be It Resolved That there should be Two (2) council meetings in the month of August (probably mid-August and last week in August), to properly round up activities for the summer term and for proper preparation for the fall term.

Moved: Emanuel Odubanjo

Seconded: Ashit Patel

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

11. Motion to pop up the topic of increasing the salary of directors in General assembly to become real for the burden of tasks and committees (Hamed Esmaeeli)

Motion CO-20190813-13

BIRT to pop up the topic of increasing the salary of directors in General assembly to become real for the burden of tasks and committees

Due to the burden of reviewing materials of council meeting (include: Action plans, Agendas, Finances, and proposed motions), lengthy meetings, and participation in committees, it necessitates increasing salaries of Directors. The basic wage for participation in meetings should be at least double. Also, an extra raise of 50\$ can be considered based on the received report of their works in committees (need to be approved by VP internal)

Moved: Hamed Esmaeeli

Seconded: Stéphane Larin

- **Amendment:** To table to the Budget Committee and they can check.

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Anmol Singh

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

12. PCT related issues for CSE department students (Ashit Patel and ENCS directors)

Motion CO-20190813-14

Whereas GSA is to serve graduate students

BIRT PCT issue need to be resolved as early as possible with priority among all other motion and to make a committee composed of 3 Council Members- ENCS Directors : Kranthi, Dhvani and VP external. And to have ENCS Director : Ashit Patel in the committee.

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Kranthi Sankuru

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

13. Grievance Policy based on Natural Justice; Governing Documents Committee mandate and membership; Policy on Sexual Harassment (A&S directors)

a. Grievance Policy based on Natural Justice

Motion CO-20190813-15

Whereas the mandate of a judicial committee ought to include defining a Policy for Grievances; **Whereas** any Judicial committee exists to uphold Rules of Natural Justice;

BIRT The Judicial committee shall outline a policy for grievances, based on rules of natural justice, by the July meeting;

BIFRT Going forward it shall settle all grievances at the GSA, reporting to council as needed; See Appendix A: Rules of Natural Justice.

Moved: Kailun Cao

Seconded: Stéphane Larin

- **Amendment:** Policy Committee to define about conditions where the Grievance Policy would be applied.

Moved: Haamid Usman

Seconded: Anmol Singh

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

b. Governing Documents Committee mandate and membership

Motion CO-20190813-16

Whereas a governing documents committee is needed, distinct from the Policy Committee, to handle and oversee drafting of new governing documents for Council's, and subsequently a General Assembly's approval;

Whereas such a committee ought to be comprised of only gsa members, with as much representation from the GSA leadership and as much representation from department and faculty associations as possible, and which and ought to be chaired by an independent experienced gsa member;

BIRT a governing documents committee shall be struck, with membership restricted to:

- i) The Graduate Student Governor;
- ii) President;
- iii) Council chair;
- iv) 1 Graduate Student Senator;
- v) VP Academic and advocacy;
- vi) 4 Directors from 4 faculties;
- vii) 4 Representatives from 4 faculties qualifying based on status as executives of department/faculty associations,; and
- viii) 1 Committee Chair from the membership at large qualifying based on current and past activities as a student representative.

BIFRT the appointments committee shall send a call out for the 5 vacancies to be filled from among the executives of member associations, and shall provide council with recommendations;

BIFRT that the gov docs committee membership shall consult but not welcome any members of external organizations as voting or presiding members of the committee.

- Amendment : Recommend to send it to the Policy Committee as it is similar to their functioning.

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Anmol Singh

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- c. Responding to the University's request that the GSA adopt a Policy on Sexual Harassment

Motion CO-20190813-16

Whereas recent historical events at the GSA highlight the importance of having a policy on sexual harassment;

Whereas the GSA has yet to create and adopt a policy on sexual harassment despite repeated advice from the University's administration;

Whereas the Incoming Council Members are determined to bring needed change while in office;

BIRT the Policy Committee shall produce, and present to Council by the august 2019 meeting a proposed policy on sexual harassment, consistent with that of Concordia University.

- Amendment: to be submitted to policy committee.

Moved: Kailun Cao

Seconded: Xun He

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

14. Creation of the Ad hoc Committee, and a sample to support the motion
(Stephane Larin)

Whereas the GSA has a history of

- Poor communication and animosity between the GSA executive team and the GSA council members,
- A severe lack of productivity due to the said animosity;

Whereas Terry Kyle (Manager, Student Life, Dean of Students Office) recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee responsible for looking into improving the functioning of the GSA – a suggestion that she and the Dean of Students conceived based on their substantial knowledge of the history of the GSA and their understanding of the events that have occurred since the beginning of the mandate of the 2019-2020 GSA executive team and council;

Whereas the 2019-2020 GSA executive team and GSA council have an opportunity to create a strong positive precedent for all future GSA executive teams and GSA councils;

Whereas the efforts of Stéphane Larin (JMSB Director in the GSA Council) to improve communication by meeting with various members of the executive team and GSA council have begun to yield notable positive results in the overall functioning of the GSA;

Motion CO-20190813-17

BIRT an ad hoc committee, simply named the “Ad Hoc Committee”, be created with the following characteristics (see next page).

Moved: Stéphane Larin

Seconded: Haamid Usman

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

Length of Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From the moment that the council approves the creation of council until the election of the next GSA executive team and GSA council in 2020. At that point, the Ad Hoc Committee shall cease to exist. ● If future GSA councils wish to create another ad hoc committee, they can do so by proposing a new motion with its own set of details.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ad Hoc Committee shall have a purely advisory role, collecting information to provide constructive recommendations to the council and facilitating communication. ● The Ad Hoc Committee shall look into all aspects of the functioning of the GSA executive team and GSA council to determine any areas of improvement – this includes internal dynamics as well as the relationship the GSA has with third parties such as the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). ● The Ad Hoc Committee shall be at the disposal of all GSA members, executives, directors and employees to listen to any concerns, recommendations or other feedback that they may have. ● The Ad Hoc Committee shall not supersede any of the other existing committees or make any recommendation to the council that should be made by another committee. The Ad Hoc Committee can instead make recommendations to the other committees which they can then take into consideration in their own recommendations to the council.
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ad Hoc Committee shall produce a report including all the recommendations that were provided throughout the year. This report shall state how the recommendations were acted upon and describe the immediate outcomes. ● The final report shall be presented at the last council meeting for final review by the council. The council shall proceed with a vote to approve the transmitting of the document to all the new GSA directors and executives. A simple majority will suffice, but a unanimous vote would be preferred to show support for the recommendations and the continued improvement of the GSA.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair: Stéphane Larin ● 2 GSA Executive ● 4 GSA Directors, 1 director from each faculty (Stephane would fill the position of the JMSB Director) ● Terry Kyle (Manager, Student Life, Dean of Students Office)

Motion CO-20190813-18

BIRT to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Anmol Singh

Seconded: Bhargav Bhavsar

For: Stéphane Larin, Xun He, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Bhargav Bhavsar, Kranthi Sankuru, Jacqueline Ristola, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Haamid Usman, Kailun Cao, Dhvani Agola

Against:

Abstain: Kailun Cao, Jacqueline Ristola

Adopted: Yes

15. Metrics to keep track of Council's productivity, and tools to ensure memory of resolutions in effect. (A&S directors)

c. Tools to ensure memory of resolutions in effect

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas many resolutions passed by Council have and will have on going implications;

Whereas the GSA Council benefits recording and storing clear information with regard to motions in effect;

BIRT the Executives and Meeting Facilitator shall maintain the following documents to be sent out with every Council meeting package:

- i) document listing all temporary resolutions still in effect.
- ii) document listing all resolutions perpetually in effect.

Moved:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

16. Workshops for the ENCS Graduate students (Ashit Patel and ENCS directos)

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas GSA is to serve graduate students

BIRT In the summer, there must be 2 academic workshops for ENCS graduate students.

Moved:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

17. Every appointed committee should submit a brief report monthly. (ENCS directors)

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas every appointed committee should have regular meetings

Be It Resolved That these committees should submit monthly reports about their meetings and activities and these reports should be sent along with the monthly meeting packages, also be presented to the council in meetings.

Moved:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

18. Getting Info Up on Website as Fast and Professionally as Possible (A&S directors)

- a. Profile Blurbs for the GSA Website

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas the GSA benefits if the association's webpage is quickly updated to include information on the new GSA team,

Whereas the GSA benefits from consistency of format across profiles of directors, executives and staff,

BIRT all affected shall submit their personal introductions for the website to the meeting facilitator before the July meeting, including only the following information in the following order:

- i) Name;
- ii) Program;
- iii) Department;
- iv) Research interests (optional);
- v) Other universities attended and places lived;
- vi) Past community engagements (optional);
- vii) What you would like to contribute to the most at the GSA this year; and
- viii) Where you spend most of your time at Concordia doing what;

BIFRT the execs shall adjust the GSA website to include lists of committee membership and all chairs' contact information.

Moved:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

b. Professional Profile Photos

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas the GSA's Brand benefits if professional photos are taken of the GSA's leadership for the website;

BIFRT the execs shall hire a professional photographer to take profile pictures of all directors, execs, and staff for the website on a day before the July Council meeting, to be decided by doodle and based on availability of photographers;

BIFRT the execs will present council with 3 quotes provided by professional services with an explanation if the least expensive firm is not hired.

BIFRT executives will organize an open house event, during which individual profile photos are taken of the new leadership.

Moved:

Seconded:

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

c. Web Services For Member Associations

Motion CO-20190813-xx

Whereas GSA Member Associations would benefit from space on the GSA website;

Whereas GSA Member Associations would benefit from email addresses for their executives issued by the GSA;

BIRT the executives will review the feasibility of offering space on the GSA website for GSA Member Associations, and shall report to Council during the July meeting;

BIFRT the executives shall review the feasibility of offering GSA email addresses to executives of member associations, and report to Council during the July meeting.

Moved:
Seconded:
For:
Against:
Abstain:
Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

19. Motion to publish all dedicated awards since July 2019 on the GSA website
(Hamed Esmaeeli)

Motion CO-20190813-xx

BIRT to publish all dedicated awards since July 2019 on the GSA website

All allocated budget under the category of conference subsidies should be presented by a seasonal diagram on the GSA website (send link to students each season). Graphs should represent the number of approved requests based on each faculty and mention the average amount of allocated budget to each student.

Moved:
Seconded:
For:
Against:
Abstain:
Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

20. Motion to limit receivers of subsidies for holding seminars to only student association
(Hamed Esmaeeli)

Motion CO-20190813-xx

BIRT to limit receivers of subsidies for holding seminars to only student association

To support student associations, the total extra funding budget should be allocated to ONLY requests that received from student associations. The first aspect of this rule is that student associations become more active and avoid any individualism. Second, it makes cooperation of associations and GSA closer even on using their budget to cover some part of the projects. The budget plan of any seminars and share of associations must be submitted to the GSA for preapproval before the registration day of the workshop.

Moved:
Seconded:
For:
Against:
Abstain:
Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting

21. Motion to re-evaluate our contract with website provider/designer to assign an email domain for all members to handle all communications under the portal of GSA domain (Hamed Esmaeeli)

Motion CO-20190813-xx

BIRT to re-evaluate our contract with website provider/designer to assign an email domain for all members to handle all communications under the portal of GSA domain

The primary purpose of this motion is to have records of any communication of council members on the server for future use. It also has credibility for council members to communicating under the domain of GSA as well as protecting the privacy of their emails.

Moved:
Seconded:
For:
Against:
Abstain:
Adopted: Yes

- Tabled to Next Council Meeting
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.