

## **GSA Council Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Monday, October 21st, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**Venue:** MB 9 CD

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

**Chair:** Timir Baran Roy

**Meeting Facilitator:** Rouzbeh Ghouchani

**Minutes Taker:** Gaurav Markan

### **Councillors:**

**Present:** Stéphane Larin, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Anmol Singh, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru

**Absent:** Carolyn Elizabeth, Félix Saint-Denis, , Federico Bettini, Yasser Jaber, , Kailun Cao, Ashit Patel, Neerav Bhatia, Bhargav Bhavsar, , Dhvani Agola

### **Executives:**

**Present:** Gaurav Markan, Ahmad Memari, Gunvansh Singh Bhatia,

**Absent:**

### **Final Agenda:**

1. Attendance Sheet verification at 10:00 am
2. Call to Order
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Chair's remarks
5. Approval of executive and committee reports (Closed Session)  
Executive monthly reports: (Consent Agenda)
  - a. President
  - b. VP Internal
  - c. VP External
  - d. VP Academic and Advocacy
  - e. VP Mobilization

Committee monthly reports: (Consent Agenda)

- a. Appointments committee
  - b. Hiring committee
  - c. Budget committee
  - d. Policy committee
  - e. Judiciary committee
  - f. Student Life committee
  - g. Funding committee
  - h. General Assembly committee
  - i. Environmental & Sustainability committee
- 
6. Workshops for the ENCS Graduate students
  7. To limit receivers of subsidies for holding seminars to only student association.
  8. 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.
  9. Raise the issue by senators: Notify ENCS departments to publish a plain instruction for evaluation factors in the selection of Teaching Assistantship award and In-course awards (Master and Ph.D.).
  10. Raise the issue by senators: Notify ENCS departments to publish results of In-course award (Master and Ph.D.).
  11. Request budget committee decision report on increasing directors' salary plan.
  12. Request policy committee report regarding decisions about bylaws for the GA.
  13. Discussion on appropriate time of GA based on members availability and out of exam schedules.
  14. Publish list of committee members and their brief report on website.
  15. Finalize making decision for all the vacant staff positions.
  16. Discussion on how meeting times are established.
  17. Business arising from the minutes.



18. New Business

19. Adjournment

## Minutes

1. Attendance sheet verification at 10:00 am
2. Call to order 10:30 am
3. Adoption of the agenda

### ***Motion CO-20191021-01***

BIRT Adoption of the agenda

**Moved:** Stéphane Larin

**Seconded:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Anmol Singh, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Adopted: Yes**

4. Chair's remarks:

Chair informed the Council regarding GA not happening and updated them with issues on discussion in the Senate Meeting. PhD Students getting less awards and require update from the PCT Committee as that has to be presented in the Senate.

6. ***Motion CO-20191021-04***

BIRT To move open session.

**Moved:** Stéphane Larin

**Seconded:** Kranthi Kumar Sankuru

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Hamed Esmaeeli, Emanuel Odubanjo, Anmol Singh, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Adopted: Yes**

7. Executives should present detailed reports for all events organized.

### ***Motion CO-20191021-05***

BIRT there has been various complaints from the Graduate students, and there need to be transparency in the running of the GSA.

**BIRT** the executives should present detailed reports including expenses and receipts of payments for every service purchased to the Council at the next Special Council Meeting, slated for October 26, 2019.

**BIFRT** This report should be made available to the Graduate Students via the GSA website.

**BIFRT** failure for the executives to present this report should result in the suspension of the monthly pay.

**Moved:** Emanuel Odubanjo

**Seconded:** Hamed Esmaeeli

Amendment: BIFRT to approve all events by the Council.

**Moved:** Jacqueline Ristola

**Seconded:** Sara Mumtaz

Amendment: BIFRT to provide report including recommendation and attendance which needs to be presented in the following Council Meeting.

**Moved:** Stéphane Larin  
**Seconded:** Jacqueline Ristola

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz.

**Against:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**Abstain:** Emanuel Odubanjo, Anmol Singh

**Adopted: Yes**

9. **Motion CO-20191021-05**  
BIRT to recess for 5 minutes.

**Moved:** Stéphane Larin  
**Seconded:** Jacqueline Ristola

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz.

**Against:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**Abstain:** Emanuel Odubanjo, Anmol Singh

**Adopted: Yes**

10. Every appointed committee should take up their duties and present a report to the Council

**Motion CO-20191021-05**

**Whereas** the council has passed a motion for every committee to present a monthly report to the council (**which has not been adhered to**). Also, GSA has been lagging in carrying out its' duties effectively and efficiently.

**BIRT** the Executive(s) who chairs any of the appointed committee explain the council why the decision has not been respected.

**BIFRT** Council determine the appropriate **punishment** for this violation.

**BIFRT** every appointed committee **must** start carrying out their duties with immediate effect and every committee must present a monthly report to council in every council meeting.

**BIFRT** failure to abide by the condition mentioned above for **3 consecutive months** should result in the **decomposition of the committee**.

**BIFRT** this motion should also be passed to the Policy Committee to be included in the By-law review.

**Moved:** Emanuel Odubanjo  
**Seconded:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Hamed Esmaeeli, Anmol Singh

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Adopted: Yes**

11. GSA should host a Halloween Party for the Graduate Students

**Motion CO-20191021-05**

**Whereas** it is a tradition in Canada to celebrate Halloween annually every 31<sup>st</sup> October. **BIRT** GSA should organize a Halloween Party which would accommodate every graduate student.

**BIFRT** the appropriate committees should be involved in the planning of this event.

VP Internal informed the Council that it has already been planned and the place was specified. Council suggested to have Google Form for each event and to inform the graduate community when the tickets are sold.

**Moved:** Emanuel Odubanjo

**Seconded:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Bhupinder Kaur, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Hamed Esmaeeli, Anmol Singh

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Adopted: Yes**

12. **Motion to adjust the GSA Health & Dental Plan Fee to Match Current Insurance**

**Premiums to be Paid**

**Motion CO-20191021-06**

**Whereas** the GSA runs and operates a Health and Dental Plan program for its membership,

**Whereas** the Health and Dental Plan is the most utilized service that the GSA provides with about 2,500 members enrolled on a yearly basis, both international students and Canadians,

**Whereas** the GSA has been subsidizing the costs of the Plan for the last two years with Health and Dental Plan Fee surpluses collected in years prior, and no such surplus remains for 2019-2020 onwards,

**Whereas** this decision was brought forward to the 2018-2019 GSA Council but that due to lack of quorum and the vote going online with all Directors but one voting in favor except for one Director failing to vote, therefore voiding the motion,

**BIRT** that the GSA adjusts its Health & Dental Plan Fee Cap from the current \$306.62 to \$370.00 for the 2020-2021 academic year to account for increases in the cost of the claims paid out and the deficit expected to be covered in 2019-2020.

**BIFRT** that the GSA works with Studentcare in order to review its current benefits and future financial terms with the insurance company.

**BIFRT** that Studentcare brings forwards options and pricing for mental health benefit improvements for this Council to consider for a 2020-2021 implementation.

VP Internal informed the Council on the urgency and importance of this motion as it affects the GSA in terms of monetary and has to go through the Board of Governors after the Council's approval.

**Moved:** Jacqueline Ristola

**Seconded:** Anmol Singh

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Anmol Singh, Emanuel Odubanjo

**Against:** Bhupinder Kaur

**Abstain:** Hamed Esmaeeli

**Adopted: Yes**

### 13. Workshops for the ENCS Graduate students

***Motion CO-20191021-07***

**Whereas** GSA is to serve graduate students

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

Council discussed on various stances and Director assumed that we are resourceful. We need to work for students as they are not benefitted from any Student Association (primarily ECSGA), Directors focused on getting recommendation from each faculty. Some directors wanted workshops to commence with python. As, it is basic skill for IT industry. Directors recommended that the executives will arrange the survey to get the list of the workshops from the graduate students and present it to the Council.

**Moved:** Fauzia Gandhi

**Seconded:** Arshdeep Singh Dandial

**For:** Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Stéphane Larin, Sara Mumtaz, Anmol Singh, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhupinder Kaur, Hamed Esmaeeli

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Against:**



**Abstain:**  
**Adopted: Yes**

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

***Motion CO-20191021-xx***

***Whereas*** 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.

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

**Moved:**  
**Seconded:**  
**For:**  
**Against:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Adopted:**  
**Tabled for the next meeting.**

15. 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-20191021-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:**  
**Tabled for the next meeting.**

16. Raise the issue by senators: Notify ENCS departments to publish a plain instruction for evaluation factors in the selection of Teaching Assistantship award and In-course awards (Master and Ph.D.). (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

17. Raise the issue by senators: Notify ENCS departments to publish results of In-course award (Master and Ph.D.). (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

18. Request budget committee decision report on increasing directors' salary plan. (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

19. Request policy committee report regarding decisions about bylaws for the GA. (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

20. Discussion on appropriate time of GA based on members availability and out of exam schedules. (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

21. Publish list of committee members and their brief report on website. (Hamed Esmaeeli)

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

22. Finalize making decision for all the vacant staff positions. (Hamed Esmaeeli)

*It will avoid missing events like Niagara fall that we missed this year, and balance burden of works on all VPs.*

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

23. Discussion on how meeting times are established. (Carolyn

Elizabeth) *Proposed order of priority for availabilities:*

*Council Chair*

*Executive team President*

*Doodle 1: Council members (to achieve Quorum)*

*Rest of the Executive team, Governors, and Senators*

*The idea is that we need quorum for the meetings so that should be a higher priority than the executive team. The president should be able to give any reports for executive team members who cannot attend.*

**Tabled for the next meeting.**

24. Business arising from the minutes

25. New Business

26. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm unanimously.