

GSA Council Meeting Agenda (Special Meeting)

Date: Sunday, November 10th, 2019

Time: 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Venue: MB 1.437

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Chair: Timir Baran Roy

Meeting Facilitator: Rouzbeh Ghouchani

Minutes Taker: Manuel Michael Lepage Lévesque (FAS Director)

Councillors:

Present: Carolyn Elizabeth, Manuel Lepage-Lévesque, Sara Mumtaz, Xun He, Jacqueline Ristola, Ashit Patel, Hamed Esmaeeli, Neerav Bhatia, Emanuel Odubanjo, Bhargav Bhavsar, Haamid Usman, Fauzia Gandhi, Dhvani Agola.

Absent: Félix Saint-Denis, Stéphane Larin, Federico Bettini, Yasser Jaber, Kailun Cao, Bhupinder Kaur, Anmol Singh, Arshdeep Singh Dandial, Kranthi Kumar Sankuru

Executives:

Present: Farrokh Darvishi, Gaurav Markan, Ahmad Memari, Gunvansh Singh Bhatia, Maryam Bagherzadeh

Absent: None

Final Agenda:

1. Attendance Sheet verification at 10:30 am
2. Call to Order
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the Executive Action plans (Closed Session)
 - a. President
 - b. VP Internal
 - c. VP External
 - d. VP Academic and Advocacy
 - e. VP Mobilization



5. Adjournment

Minutes

1. Attendance sheet verification at 10:30 am
2. Call to order 11:00 am
3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion CO-20191110-01

BIRT the Agenda be adopted.

Moved: Haamid Usman (ENCS Director)

Seconded: Carolyn Elizabeth (JMSB Director)

For: Unanimous

Against: None

Abstain: None

Adopted: Yes

4. Issues raised by the Chair:

(i) Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ):

Sudden changes in PEQ policies is making it more difficult for international students in general.

(ii) Issues concerning ENCS departments

Two GSA Senators, the Chair himself and Bayan, met with the ENCS Dean concerning ENCS issues.

Discussion

The following members participated in a discussion regarding the GSA's position on the PEQ issue:

Carolyn Elizabeth (JMSB Director), Maryam Bagherzadeh (VP A&A), Haamid Usman (ENCS Director), Emanuel Odubanjo (ENCS Director) and the Chair.

The discussion was centered on the GSA taking a specific position without consulting its constituents. The arguments were the following:

The GSA must stand with Concordia and all other Québec universities insofar as the new PEQ policy is concerned.

The GSA must reflect the true opinion of its constituents and not the personal sentiment of the Council.

The GSA was empowered to make such decisions, on the behalf of its constituents.

Since the position taken by the GSA does not endanger non-international graduate students, then the GSA membership can only benefit from opposing the newPEQ policy.

Motion CO-20191110-08

BIRT Council creates a Communications' Strategy Committee, with a timeline similar to the Website Committee (emergency committee).

Comments/Discussions:

Director Carolyn Elizabeth clarified that the Communications' Strategy Committee is mandated with planning a comprehensive communications' strategy. The timeline shall be next semester. The members shall be the following: Vice-President Mobilization, Hamed Esmaeeli, Carolyn Elizabeth, Emanuel Odubanjo, Vice-President A&A and the President.

Moved: Emanuel Odubanjo (ENCS Director)

Seconded: Carolyn Elizabeth (JMSB Director)

For: Unanimous

Against: None

Abstain: None

Adopted: Yes

6. Adjournment

Motion CO-20191110-09

BIRT the meeting be adjourned

Moved: Emanuel Odubanjo (ENCS Director)

Seconded: Carolyn Elizabeth (JMSB Director)

For: Unanimous

Against: None

Abstain: None

Adopted: Yes

End of Minutes for the GSA Council Meeting CO-20191110