



## MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association

### Board Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Online Meeting

#### **Attendees – Executive Team:**

Christopher Yendt – President

Melanie Extance - Deputy President, Senate Representative

Daislyn Vidal – VP, International

Mohammad Moinul Hassan – VP, Equity & External Affairs

Hannah Young – VP, Internal

Ahmad Rabbani – AVP, Digital Communications (ex-officio)

#### **Attendees – Faculty Representatives:**

Haley Myatt (Chair)

Felisia Milana (Vice-Chair / Secretary)

Ash Grover

Jensen Murphy

Amanda Williams

#### **Attendees – Staff:**

Barb Daly – Executive Director (ex-officio)

Mary Tibollo – Office & Health Plan Administrator (ex-officio)

#### **Regrets:**

Nawal Syed

Melissa Van der Wal

#### **Absentees:**

Linshan Hou

### **1.0 Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by GSA Board Chair, Haley Myatt, presiding**

- **1.A Welcome**
- **1.B Conflict of Interest**
  - Haley M. Agenda item 3.C (*will continue to preside over meeting onwards of 3.D. Felisia M. to preside during 3.C*)
- **1.C Land Acknowledgement**
- **1.D Establishment of Quorum at 12:04 pm**

## 2.0 Approvals

- **2.A - Agenda of the Board Meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Moved by:** Hannah Y. **Seconded by:** Mohammed M.H **All in favour**

- **2.B - Minutes of the Board Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- Clarify that increase of fees the 10% was to GSA membership fees overall and not just to listed items in 3.B

**Moved by:** Melanie E. **Seconded by:** Hannah Y. **All in favour** **Abstention:** Christopher Y.

## 3.0 Items Arising from the Minutes

- **3.A – First Readings – Bylaws 029A, 030A, 041A**

- **029A-** performance appraisal and compensated for exec team. 5 Hours a week for terms of employment with the GSA
- Spring/Summer get approved for compensation and evaluation at end of term
- First trial for this particular piece
- **Question:** Renumeration. What would occur if someone cannot meet set goal based off of certain restrictions (in the eyes of the pandemic).
- **Answer:** Adjust goals for the September term. A review of what happened previous and expectation for pieces moving forward.
- Good document for accountability and transitions for new members in the role. Framework to work off of and reconceptualize it
- **Comment:** If you have an executive not abiding by their role and not doing what they are outlined to do what would occur?
- **Answer:** This will be outlined in the contracts Executives sign. If members break contract, they may face disqualification. Recommendation would be subject to an in-camera meeting where discussion would occur.
- **Comment:** If the GSA will recruit Associate Vice Presidents throughout the year
- **Answer:** This was not seen before and this was the first year occurred. Evaluate gaps throughout the year to see if AVPs are needed, this is all in Document 027A – this current document is only saying they will have goals as well and they will be monitored as well.

**Moved by:** Christopher Y. **Seconded by:** Hannah Y. **All in favour**

- **030A** – Single staff member is responsible for all beneath them
- Executive Director: How staff structure works
- Codifies board has a single employee, describing how they will be hired and reviewed. As well that they will have a contract. Guides the organization to understand this piece

**Moved by:** Christopher Y. **Seconded by:** Jensen M. **All in favour**

- **041A** – No governing or guidance for AGM or SGM
- 001C is just assigning Chair, and minutes but does not govern other guidelines
- The past GSA has never done anything to codify this – this bylaw codifies that we will have a baseline to work – sets out expectations of quorum,

members who can vote, who can attend, and what should be on the agenda for meetings

- Conduct meetings efficiently while also maintaining responsibility
- **Question:** Some way we could add pointers of how to handle members who have been disruptive in meetings
- **Answer:** Yes, this will be in second reading. Will put something on managing conduct under responsibility of the Chair.

**Moved by:** Christopher Y.

**Seconded by:** Felisia M.

**All in favour**

### • **3.B – Vice President Student Engagement Recruitment**

- Followed a modified and enhanced process for recruitment of vacant VP positions
- Interview panel makes recommendation to President and President brings recommendation to Board. Conclusively the President has agreed with panel
- President brings forward **Amanda MacDonald** as VP Student Engagement for recommendation of appointment
- Unsuccessful candidates will be notified and suggested on other positions they can potentially participate in with the GSA

**Moved by:** Christopher Y.

**Seconded by:** Melanie E.

**All in favour**

### • **3.C – Vice President Communications & Advancement Recruitment**

- Same as above procedure
- Bring forward **Haley Myatt** for recommendation of appointment
- **Question:** Any plans to announce these appointments on social media?
- **Answer:** Board will make a final decision today and the current executive team will meet next week with incoming team and shortly after will release a press release on the incoming Executive team that will be beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- *Hannah Y. had to leave meeting early but provided her comments on supporting candidate*

**Moved by:** Christopher. Y

**Seconded by:** Melanie. E

**All in favour**

### • **3.D – Signing Authorities**

- **001C** parameters President, 1 VP, and Executive Director – Challenge we face currently is transitioning from current Executive Director (finishing July 1) to our new. In that transitioning period both need to be signing authorities
- Need board acknowledgement that there needs to be accommodating on these next few months due to the circumstances but that this will be
- This will return to normal after July

**Moved by:** Christopher. Y

**Seconded by:** Daislyn V.

**All in favour**

### • **3.E Mental Health Fund**

- \$20.00 per term we pay for graduate specific mental health resources
- Asked for CPI increase of 0.7% - \$1.45 on fee per term
- Amount of Graduate demand for this increase is high
- This includes on-campus, virtual access etc.

- **Question-** Any way this fee could be increased because there is a demand, and the demand is not anticipated to go away?
- **Answer:** Has to follow MOU which prescribes increase procedures.
- **Question:** Second and motion to have further discussion on having a greater increase – would have to go to referendum

**Approve CPI and BIFRT this will be further discussed for a greater increase**

**Moved by:** Christopher Y.      **Seconded by:** Melanie. E      **All in favour**

- **3.F GSA Banking Information**

- Quick update changing bank provider
- Currently with Scotiabank
- In March revised RFP to a bank and a few credit unions
- Since this is done quick we commit to a full review a year from now – operational process
- Pen Financial Credit Union is suggested as new provider

- **3.G Strategic Plan Update**

- Develop a draft version that we have created over the year, put it up on an online space to allow comments and feedback – anticipate this for next Board meeting

- **3.H Executive Update**

- **i. President**

- Executive transitions
  - Incoming meetings set up with Existing and Incoming teams to address what needs to be passed on and general team building
  - Asking Incoming VPs to meet with Existing VPs to have one-on-one discussions of what to expect in the role and how things function
  - Incoming team will meet with FGS members they will be working with
  - President will meet to discuss additional training and Incoming Team expectations for the following year
- New Building Update
  - Big win to the Board as vote was a record high for “yes”
  - 3 areas to address in immediate future:
  - Current need for space on campus – looking at opportunities for grad students to have ongoing space to their own while building and preparing for a new building
  - Conversations with university to create a contract around food services, fees etc.
  - Conversation with University and board of trustee to begin lobbying of when we can receive money for the project. Need to start doing this advocacy
  - Plans for Brock News Press release due to success of referendum
  - Cost came back under what we projected and initially anticipated
- The Emergence of populism on campus
  - To identify what the university will do regarding populism
  - What will we do to try and dispel these truths
  - Thoughts on what our place is in addressing these pieces

- Discussion of Executive Reports for AGM on Apr 29 – Due date Friday before

#### **4.0 Items for Additional Consideration**

- **4.A Generative Discussion – Fall 2021**

- Question on administration really hearing and understanding the concerns presented from Grad students for return to campus
- Discussion on what events we would enjoy
- Could grad students participate in BUSU run events as well

#### **5.0 Conclusion**

##### **5.A - Next Meeting, April 22nd, 2021, 12-2 pm**

#### **6.0 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 1:58 pm

**Moved by:** Felisia M. *All in favour, general consensus*