



## MINUTES

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Graduate Students' Association  
Board Meeting  
Thursday, August 13, 2020  
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Online Meeting

**Attendees:**

Christopher Yendt – President  
Daislyn Vidal – VP, International  
Hannah Young – VP, Internal  
Upinder Singh – VP, Finance  
Melanie Extance – Senate Representative  
Barb Daly – Office Coordinator

**Absentees:**

Adil Naik – Senate Representative

**Regrets:**

Marina Casavecchia – VP, Communications  
Mohammad Moinul Hassan – VP, Equity & External Affairs

**1. Meeting called to order at 12:18 p.m. by GSA President presiding**

**2. Approvals**

**Minutes of Board Meetings – June 25, 2020 & Aug 6/20**

Moved by Hannah, Seconded by Melanie, All in favour

**3. Items Arising from the Minutes**

**4. Executive Reports**

**President**

- Working with Dean of FGS to get access to documents relating to the Health & Safety Tool Kit, which includes the instructions related to the Covid staging protocols for graduate students returning to school. GSA would like to review the documents and provide feedback/input and several GSA execs expressed interest in being involved.

- Attended National Graduate Caucus (CFS) meeting on July 29/20 online. It seems that no other universities are getting extensions of graduate funding for an extra term, only Brock. Many takeaways from the meeting.
- Zone construction project is on target and is planning to be operational by Nov/20.
- Graduate Council special meeting held on Tuesday (GPD's & Dean's office).
- Estimates for producing videos with the new FGS Dean were too expensive so we will downsize to smaller, more personal Instagram sessions of exploring the Niagara Region together. Other options will also be explored.
- Restarted GSA staff meetings. To begin training new employee on campus next week. To do video for orientation to introduce the GSA staff.
- Transit meeting – no stickers required this year, just Brock student ID card on bus. Currently only St. Catharines/Thorold service. Negotiations still ongoing for the regional service.
- Have meeting scheduled with the Brock Provost, VP Student Services next week. Let me know if any issues you want to be discussed.

#### **Vice-President, Internal**

- Met with VP Internals across Canada to discuss plans and get ideas for upcoming year. Proposed to try a National Trivia Night competition across the country.
- Marina & I have set out the event schedule for the fall term
- To co-ordinate with FGS for orientation events. They are looking for a speaker.
- Exploring possible paint night candidate – will form contract for them to sign.
- October – considering a Jack-o-lantern decorating event
- November – mental health events
- December – baking/decorating/gingerbread event
- To co-ordinate with BUSU for Trivia on Thursday from 8-9 pm, as well as continuing Wellness Wednesday and Turntable Tuesday
- Met with Career Zone to plan career workshops – 4 planned for graduate students, including networking
- Student Life running engagement survey to determine interests of graduate students for fall. So far, 102 have signed up. They will be hiring graduate students as mentors.

#### **Vice-President, International**

- Held introductory meeting for the GSA International Committee online. Had five participants, and it was a very diverse group. Goals of the committee were discussed. To start planning at September meeting.

#### **Vice-President, Finance**

- No Updates

#### **Vice-President, Communications** (*Absent*)

- As of August 5 with values representing the number of events (+/- from the previous report)

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Followers</b>	<b>Engagement/ Interactions/ Profile Visits</b>	<b>Reach (Unique Accounts)</b>
<b>Facebook</b>	2271 (+2)	21 (-5)	479 (+40)
<b>Instagram</b>	709 (+6)	66 (-8)	412 (+22)

<b>Twitter</b>	507 (+1)	53 (-11)	-
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## **Graduate Student Senators**

### **Melanie Extance**

- Senate committees are starting to meet. Attended Teaching & Learning Policy meeting yesterday. Want to start a movement to help students who are lonely/disconnected at Brock. Concerned that graduate and international student issues were not addressed in this discussion, and made this known. Will follow-up to make sure that this issue is addressed.

## **5. Items for Additional Consideration**

### **A. Other Business**

## **6. Conclusion**

- A. Next Meeting, August 20, 2020 – 12pm-1:30pm online**

## **7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 1:25 pm