



MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020

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

Marina Casavecchia – VP, Communications

Mohammad Moinul Hassan – VP, Equity & External Affairs

Siddharth Pathak – VP, Finance

Hannah Young – VP, Internal

Barb Daly – Executive Director

Attendees – Faculty Representatives:

Haley Myatt

Felisia Milana

Ash Grover

Jensen Murphy

Amanda Williams

Nawal Syed

Linshan Hou

Amanda Williams

Regrets:

Melissa Van der Wal

Absentees:

None

- **Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by GSA President presiding**
 - A. Welcome
 - B. Conflict of Interest – None
 - C. Land Acknowledgement
 - D. Establishment of Quorum at 12:04 pm

- **Approvals**
 - A. Agenda of the Board Meeting, December 3, 2020

Moved by Haley, Seconded by Marina, All in favour

B. Minutes of the Board Meeting, November 19 2020

Moved by Felisia, Seconded by Jensen, All in favour

• **Items Arising from the Minutes**

A. Document 017A – Board Leadership Bylaw – First Reading

Moved by Jensen, Seconded by Haley, All in favour

B. Document 001D – Review and Approval

- i. Change of definition of by-law, constitution and policy to align with provincial standards
 - ii. Removal of gendered language and requirements of in-person meetings
 - iii. Changing of the President to no longer be the Chair of the board
- Moved by Alisia, Seconded by Linshan, All in favour

C. Funding Request – Capital Release for New Building & Initiation of a Committee

Moved by Haley, Seconded by Marina, All in favour

- i. Committee Co-Chairs: Haley Myatt, Hannah Young
- ii. Committee Members: Melanie Extance, Jensen Murphy, and any additional members who would like to join at a later point

D. Executive Reports

Vice-President, Internal

- Addition of a meeting with Andie Nero to discuss Frost week activities/ orientation for incoming students
- Moved by Nawal, Seconded by Daislyn, All in favour

Vice-President, Equity and External

- Addition of a meeting with Andie Nero to discuss Frost week activities/ orientation for incoming students
- Moved by Mel, Seconded by Nawal, All in favour

Vice-President, Communications

- Addition of a meeting with Snezana Ratkovic to discuss promotion of writing educational sessions for writing to graduate students
 - Deadline of photo information is next week, video submissions can be
 - Suggested by Nawal to also share profiles on LinkedIn as well, as Goodman Students utilize it frequently as a networking platform
- Moved by Haley, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

Vice-President, International

Moved by Jensen, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

Deputy President & Graduate Student Senator

- Initiating an arrangement of care packages for incoming international graduate students as they are going to arrive into Canada and isolate for 2 weeks.

- Collecting information from students about students having to pay for third party software to pass a course
- Clarification that the winter term extension was initially brought to the attention of Brock's administration by Chris from a mental and physical health perspective and catalysed by larger universities extending their breaks and student petitions
Moved by Hannah, Seconded by Daislyn, All in favour

President

- Support has been given from several sources in regard to a graduate specific space, in addition to financial donations by the end of this fiscal year
 - Meeting with the finance department next week
 - Approval still needs to be granted from the Board of Trustees and President
- Has been in several meetings for hiring
- Research Access task Force – allowing for more students to have access to campus to continue research, including for research with human participants to resume in January
- Library will have a space specific for graduate students
Moved by Mel, Seconded by Haley, All in favour

- **Items for Additional Consideration**

Generative Discussion – Mission & Vision Breakouts

- Mission and Vision will be consolidated and presented to the board in January
- Breakout group 1
 - Creation of a building, having a home base
 - Allowing students to be their authentic selves
 - Representation and recognition of graduate students within Brock and the Niagara community
 - Paid staff & executives
- Breakout group 2
 - Community engagement, networking, clubs
 - Mitigating graduate school being very isolating
 - Professional development
 - Greater transparency of advocacy
- Breakout group 3
 - Vision: What is the ideal future state
 - Enable & empowering graduate students to transform into future leaders
 - Insert and assert graduate student voices into university decisions
 - ◆ Supporting and advocating for rights in roles as student and employees/ student experiences
 - Expand services and space for graduate students
 - Transforming the narrative that Brock is focused on graduate level research

- **Conclusion**

A. Next Meeting, January 21, 2020, 12-2 pm

- **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm