



MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 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

Barb Daly – Executive Director

Attendees – Faculty Representatives:

Haley Myatt

Felisia Milana

Ash Grover

Jensen Murphy

Amanda Williams

Nawal Syed

Linshan Hou

Amanda Williams

Melissa Van der Wal

Regrets:

None

Absentees:

None

- **Meeting called to order at 12:06 p.m. by GSA President presiding**
 - A. Welcome
 - B. Conflict of Interest – 3C – Melanie Extance
 - C. Land Acknowledgement
 - D. Establishment of Quorum at 12:06 pm

- **Approvals**
 - A. **Agenda of the Board Meeting, January 21, 2021**
Melanie to add item to Other Business

Moved by Haley, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

B. Minutes of the Board Meeting, December 3, 2020

Moved by Moinul, Seconded by Felisia, All in favour

- **Items Arising from the Minutes**

- A. Document 017A – Board Leadership Bylaw – Second Reading**

- Moved by Melanie, Seconded by Haley, All in favour

- B. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

- Chair Nominations** – Haley Myatt

- Moved by Daislyn, Seconded by Melanie, Accepted by nominee

- Affirmed by Board acclamation

- Vice-Chair Nominations** – Felisia Milana

- Moved by Melanie, Seconded by Haley, Accepted by nominee

- Affirmed by Board acclamation

- C. Appointment of the 2021 Chief Returning Officer**

- Deputy President excused from meeting

- Received 8 nominations from mid Dec/20 to mid Jan/21. 2 nominations were not eligible. GSA Executive recommend Melanie Extance from the remaining 6 nominations as most experienced.

- Discussion – clarification on recommendation process.

- Moved by Christopher, Seconded by Melissa, All in favour

- Deputy President returned to meeting

- D. Executive Bylaws – Review**

- Documents to be available later today on secure share-point and will review at next meeting.

- E. Executive Reports**

- Vice-President, Internal**

- Working with career team for workshops. Also working on SHIFT conference for May 2021. Working on MNK Conference which will be online this year, and will include non-research students as well.
 - Issues with stay at home order – lots of overview for activities being planned. Dropping off supplies for paint night.
 - FGS survey found more social interaction needed.
 - Discussion of prize distribution

 - Moved by Jensen, Seconded by Melanie, All in favour

- Vice-President, Equity and External**

- CFS Caucus meeting on Jan 1/21, discussed issues.
 - Jan 12/21 meeting – buying equipment for students
 - Dec 15/21 – GSA committee meeting
 - Collaborating with university

 - Moved by Nawal, Seconded by Felisia, All in favour

- Vice-President, International**

- Planning Cultural Integration week – Feb 1-5/21 – online sharing

- Merging Trivia night with live event, includes speakers and lots of prizes – Wed. Feb 3/21 – everyone invited. Share on social media to promote.
- Had drop-in session on Monday, not very successful, might not continue. Will request feedback from students for further interest.
- Student Engagement committee meeting with FGS – brainstorming how to best connect with students.
- PACRED meeting on Feb 10/21.
Moved by Nawal, Seconded by Moinul, All in favour

Deputy President & Graduate Student Senator

- Most meetings happened yesterday.
- Updates – Senate discussion of option of hybrid model of classes going forward – online & in class. Strong guidelines needed if this happens
- FGS Townhall this morning – discussion of relationship of student/supervisor working conditions – want to look at mentorship model
- Brought issue to admin about extra costs involved in courses. They are working on guidelines to assist with this issue.
Moved by Linshan, Seconded by Daislyn, All in favour

President

- Audit 2020-21 – beginning process to develop RFP to elicit proposals and send to list firms to bid by Feb 1/21. Final Audit to be completed by Nov/21.
- GSA Budget 2020-21 – some surpluses might be realized due to Covid. Talking to BUSU about using surplus funds for student bursary assistance.
- Considering partnering with BUSU for menstrual products in washrooms at university. Pilot went well, so we are looking at assisting BUSU with cost of purchasing more machines.
- Strategic planning – don't have documents ready, will request a meeting in two weeks to look at them.
- Executive advised that VP Communications is taking a leave. Document 027A provides Associate VP can be nominated to assist the VP. Have prepared document to nominate a replacement.
- Grad student space – new building discussions – MOU is being prepared for referendum, as received go ahead from university admin. GSA Building Committee will review document.
Moved by Jensen, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

Items for Additional Consideration

- Deputy President requested that President leave meeting for conflict of interest. Nominating Christopher Yendt for the GSA Honorary Member for life, due to his contributions over last several years. Would like to also waive the one year waiting period for nomination.

Nomination acceptance:

Moved by Jensen, Seconded by Amanda, All in favour

Waive one year waiting period:

Moved Linshan, Seconded by Felisia, All in favour

Generative Discussion – Winter Term

- Experiences with current term issues – supervisor, classes, etc.?
We have been added to the university conversation for fall term on campus resumption.
Melanie was advised of issues occurring in classroom of profs taping classes and reposting – raised issue at Senate yesterday. Need to look at strengthened guidelines for student protection.
Nawal advised they were notified of changes to program and extra charges for material – not a good experience this term. Office hours restricted.
Melissa – nursing program – mental health supports not adequate enough. No support from university or reach-out, disappointed.
Haley advised also mental health issues occurring in their program. Students seeking external resources, as not available/adequate from Brock University. Need to ensure going forward that supports are more available for fall term resumption.
Hannah feels that the communication to grad students is not good. Supervisors need to be more involved to advise their students better. Promote counselling and supports more through supervisors.
Andy Nero from FGS reached out to Melanie to discuss planning this year’s Mental Health Summit and asked if there were any other grad students who would want to help plan, give insight, etc. Let Melanie know if interested.
Hannah planning HRE support events/programs.
Chris discussing final stage status – possible adjustments to the requirements/timelines in light of the extended funding periods.
- **Conclusion**
 - A. Next Meeting, February 4, 2021, 12-2 pm
No Executive reports required for meeting.
Moved by Chris, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour
- **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 1:56 pm
Moved by Hannah