



MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

Attendees – Executive Team:

Christopher Yendt – President

Daislyn Vidal – VP, International

Melanie Extance – Deputy President, Senate Representative

Marina Casavecchia – VP, Communications

Mohammad Moinul Hassan – VP, Equity & External Affairs

Hannah Young – VP, Internal

Siddharth Pathak – VP, Finance

Barb Daly – Executive Director

Attendees – Faculty Representatives:

Haley Myatt

Felisia Milana

Ash Grover

Jensen Murphy

Amanda Williams

Melissa Van der Wal

Regrets:

Nawal Syed

Linshan Hou

Absentees:

None

1. Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m. by GSA President presiding

A. Welcome

B. Conflict of Interest – None

C. Land Acknowledgement

D. Establishment of Quorum at 12:05 pm

2. Approvals

A. Agenda of the Board Meetings, October 29

Moved by Haley, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

B. Minutes of the Meetings September 24, October 1, 23, 29 2020

Moved by Haley, Seconded by Daislyn, All in favour

3. Items Arising from the Minutes

A. Document 010B – Second Reading

Moved by Moinul, Seconded by Felisia, All in favour

B. Executive Reports

Vice-President, Internal

Vice-President, Equity and External

Vice-President, Communications

Vice-President, International

Graduate Student Senator

- Addition of the current attempts to extend the winter term to 3 weeks to align with other universities

President

- Question by Felisia in regard to new campus space: Will there be opportunities for student employment within the new facility?
 - Answer: While it is too soon to determine without having concrete plans for what sort of space we will be creating, there would ideally be job opportunities if the plan includes a pub or café
- Question by Haley in regard to new campus space: Will the board be presented with different architecture firms for the new space?
 - Answer: for the purpose of time we will be initially be working with the same architects who designed the Zone and other student spaces on campus

Approval of all reports moved by Haley, seconded by Jensen, all in favour

4. Items for Additional Consideration

Generative Discussion – Mission & Vision Breakouts

- Breakout room 1
 - To be strong representatives and advocates for grad students
 - To meet and advocate for the constantly changing current needs of students
 - To foster very strong relationship with university/university admin; being the bridge or mediator between the university and students. If possible, the university should also be involved in the training for GSA executives; leadership training for executives
 - To be the best at supporting the mental health of grad students- provide more training and support for the mental health of students.
 - Relationships with the university to better advocate for resources and supports for our executives

- Executives: leadership training
 - Mental Health
- Breakout room 2
 - Mission: Represent, support and ensure equitable community and academic engagement for graduate students at Brock University
 - Vision: community, inclusivity, diversity, advocacy, anti-oppression, equity, openness, visibility, engagement, support, feedback, fostering dialogue, creating safe spaces
- Breakout room 3
 - Keywords: Representation, Advocation, Equity, Inclusion, Social, Student wellness, mental health, International student support,
 - Promoting and supporting research and academic excellence
 - Developing career skills
 - Providing opportunities for students to access services and information
 - Facilitating interaction from students from all departments
 - Brock University Graduate Students Association's purpose is to ensure best graduate student experience by providing advocacy, services, engagement, program support
 - What – graduate students, wellness
 - How – advocating, services, representation
 - Why – equity, inclusion, research, academics

5. Conclusion

A. Next Meeting, December 3rd, 2020, 12-2 pm

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 1:30 pm