



## MINUTES

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Graduate Students' Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Christopher Yendt – President

Hannah Young – VP, Internal

Mohammad Moinul Hassan – VP, Equity & External Affairs

Upinder Singh – VP, Finance

Barb Daly – Executive Director

Daislyn Vidal – VP, International

Melanie Extance – Senate Representative

Marina Casavecchia – VP, Communications

**Regrets:** None

### **Absentees:**

Adil Naik – Senate Representative

### **1. Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m. by GSA President presiding**

### **2. Approvals**

**Minutes of Board Meetings – September 3, 2020**

Moved by Marina, Seconded by Hannah, All in favour

**Second circulation of policy amendments sent last week**

Daislyn moves, Hannah seconds, all in favour

### **3. Items Arising from the Minutes**

## 4. Executive Reports

### President

- There is an upcoming meeting with the Provost for bargaining the TA collective agreement, there is a potential for CUPE to decide to strike and we should be asking our members if they would support a strike considering the financial burden COVID may have placed on our members
- The Brock Zone is set to be opened beginning of November
- Senior administrative meeting will be taking place to discuss opening up access to campus to allow for internet access, and a safe quiet space
- A preliminary budget was drafted by Chris and Barb to be discussed next week
- Post docs are currently not included in FGS or GSA and we will be looking into including them into our folds
- Filming Between 2 Lakes with Suzanne will begin to take place tomorrow

### Vice-President, International

- Requested Mary add the scholarships to the GSA newsletter, with specifications for which are available for international students
- Making a poster for cultural events taking place in the winter
- First international committee meeting scheduled

### Vice-President, Communications

- Weekly orientation stories, requested executives to share tips and photos
- There will be a paint night October 17 at 3pm
- Request for a Hootsuite pro account to schedule social media posts
- Planning to create a GSA Teams account for grad students to connect grad students and provide a platform for resource sharing

### Vice-President, Internal

- Workshops with the career zone - 2 in the fall and 3 in the winter – first is on Oct 21 2pm
  - We will be doing all of the promoting for them
- Faith and life will be having a grad student book club in the winter
- Meeting with Marina and SWAC to discuss Graduate specific events
- Paint night October 17, with materials being \$16.95 from Dollarama. And 10 Dollarama gift card giveaways
- Halloween events – pumpkin/fruit carving
- 8pm event timeslots work well for international students who are living abroad
- Harry Potter Trivia was last Thursday with 25 people attending and positive feedback
- Starting Right, Ending big student panel only had 4 attendees
- Looking at purchasing a Zoom webinar account, which could also be used to run Facebook live events

### Vice-President, External

- Information and technology meetings have started to take place,
- Meeting with CFS National about communications with University administrations in fall semesters - Will be following up with CFS about accessibility inequalities

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

- No updates, will be sending a meeting request to Barb and Chris to finalize the yearly budget
- Was not able to attend the Senate finance planning committee meetings

### **Graduate Student Senators**

#### **Melanie Extance**

- The winter term will be online, however student representatives at senate had concerns about course resource accessibility; with some faculty not posting lecture material to Sakai, not providing asynchronous material, or spending a large portion of the lecture troubleshooting
- Student input and concerns were being silenced by the Senate, and Chris will be following up with them to advocate for better dialogue
- About to recruit for the board, will be circulating a poster to be shared with Marina and Mary

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

### **A. Other Business**

Executives are expected to be checking their emails at least every 24-48 hours

## **6. Conclusion**

**A. Next Board Meeting, September 24, 2020 – 12pm-2pm; online**

## **7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 1:08 pm