



MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association
Board Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 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
Adil Naik – Senate Representative
Upinder Singh – VP, Finance

Regrets:

Barb Daly – Executive Director
Daislyn Vidal – VP, International
Melanie Extance – Senate Representative
Marina Casavecchia – VP, Communications

Absentees: None

1. Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m. by GSA President presiding

2. Approvals

Minutes of Board Meetings – Aug 27, 2020

Moved by Hannah, Seconded by Upinder, All in favour

Second circulation of policy amendments sent last week

Hannah moves, Moinul seconds, all in favour

3. Items Arising from the Minutes

4. Executive Reports

President

- Turntable Tuesdays- reducing to once a month, shortening video length, easier songs
- Budget draft put together this week
- Met with chair of National Graduate Caucus- built a presentation around the work we have done. Receiving national recognition for the work we have done. Good work team!
- UPC looking to give faculty power to adjust syllabi. Should try and gain insight into what students want for courses in Winter semester. Access to campus or not? Something for Adil to try and consult students on.
- Estimates about 200-250 students currently accessing campus
- Food security meeting- contract with BUSU for Food First to provide grad students access to emergency gift cards. Plan with university is to develop more programs for food insecurity. Committee slowed over the past few months. Our contract with BUSU expired end of August. New service not in place yet, reached out to BUSU that we would like to do a one year renewal. Contribute \$6,500 to extend for another year. General agreement on this from BUSU
- Meetings with senior admin- currently GSA have to apply to get access to campus through Dean Curtain. Inappropriate protocol when we could apply to COVID committee to get access. Go through executive director as well.
- Stages document- no details for what a stage means, how we stay, progress or regress from stage. Lack of info for graduate students. Students back in labs- as we go forward what happens if university suspends access to lab? Stages document does not give info
- Zone- going to campus tomorrow to tour Zone. Construction is moving along, no major adjustments
- Met with BUSU President- concerns around opening of campus in winter.
- Radio interview- virtual O-Week. Went really well, MARCOM happy
- Difference between Barb and Mary
 - Barb- is resource for executive team and board of directors. Invite Barb to meetings with university
 - Mary- front-facing, addressing student needs
- Working on policy pieces to get sent out to everyone
- Food orders in to Mary for Sept. 13 Social

Vice-President, Internal

- Orientation programming set and ready to go for next week
- Rec facilities- opening next week. Students sign up for time slot in advance- Karen sending update for GSA newsletter today.
- Zone should re-open in November
- Harry Potter trivia September 10th
- GSA Orientation September 8th
- Paint Night first week of October
- Almost 150 students in Engagement communities
- Following up with Rox re: engagement communities to promote GSA through these channels
- Newsletter updates sent to Mary- events to be shared in newsletter
- Will send email to exec team with information for September 13

Vice-President, External

- Last month AGM of CFS Ontario- elections occurred, new president and national representatives to serve CFS for the next two years

- Issued raised by Circle of First Nations Community around accessibility of AGM for CFS. Meetings post-poned to September to try and engage marginalized communities in safer spaces
- Goodman session- introduced GSA
- New role in Information Technology and Structure committee starts next week
- Requesting more details about Executive health & dental coverage. Chris to follow up with Barb and Mary and have this sent to execs

Vice-President, Finance

- Bus pass questions- works from first of September. Remind them that only for St. Catharine's transit, not Niagara Transit
- Admissions criteria- has it changed? Chris says no.

Graduate Student Senators

Adil Naik

- No updates

5. Items for Additional Consideration

A. Other Business

Meetings in the Fall/Winter

Going forward: First Thursday of month: 12-1, 3rd Thursday of month: 12-1, 4th Thursday of the month, 12-2

4 hours of meeting commitment a month

6. Conclusion

A. Next Meeting, September 17, 2020 – 12pm-1pm online

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 1:22 pm