



Council Meeting
Thursday February 15, 2018
4 pm – 6 pm
University of Waterloo, Needles Hall 3318

Lindsey Daniels took the Chair and Rose Vogt recorded the minutes.
Vogt reported that quorum was present. [Attendance List](#).

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm
2. The agenda is adopted as circulated. (Daniels/Goyal)
3. Declarations of Interest. None
4. The minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting are approved.(Spasov/Van Bommel)

Note that the At-large representative for IQC, is a guest.

5. Consent Items are approved and/or received for information. (Dasilva/Freure).
 - a. Board Report
 - b. Executive Reports
 - c. Committee Reports
6. Council membership report is received for information.
7. UW Committee Membership Report is received for information.
8. Delegations
 - a. Jeff Casello, Associate Vice-President, GSPA (C. Read was unable to attend the meeting.)

Council heard that the GSPA and the AP Students are working to be more available to the community as a whole and make sure lines are open and transparent.

They will be submitting a termly report outlining what they are doing beyond the core functions of their office to support grads.

Their offices are working to ensure graduate students are able to reach their personal and professional objectives. Now one fifth of graduate students will end up in the academy and four fifths will work elsewhere.

Improve the Waterloo graduate student experience by broadening the scope of the GSPA.

- Policy development
 - To address the student experience with things outside of their core areas.

- To streamline the host of rules and regulations around comp. exams, that cause uncertainty for students and for faculty. Re-writing these to a university level policy and hold departments/faculty accountable to ensuring their departmental policies align with the UW policy.
- Policy 30 Review: Taken a very student focused approach. Being respectful of TA academic objectives and of that balance with personal objectives, and to make clear expectations between TA and instructor.
- Addressing “One-off” issues: For example, international students who may lose their home governmental funding due to changes in their home country political environment. Students may be left without living and tuition expenses. Offered financial support and defined the “guaranteed” financial support.
- Gradtalks provides honorariums for the student and the supervisor. Well attended event.
- Streamlined the IVGS program now with about 300 participating. Office is considering how to make the program equitable, for use of resource. UoT charges about \$1400.

Discussion heard about improving transparency in communicating funding, addressing issues with the different funding timelines and challenges to living expenses. Understand that students should be better informed. Graduate Student Relations Committee is the place to provide feedback for policy development. Policy 30-TA policy is a Z policy, and under review. RA/sessional policy needs to be developed, due to nature of the work, it may not be a class Z policy. RA policy is important.

Low Income Cut Off (LICO) – can PhD minimum funding be determined so that no student is living below the minimum standard of living. Students can’t control the level of funding and ask that UW does have a choice and ask that student funding reflects (LICO).

UW is moving to a centralized format addressing accommodation needs. The AccessAbility office is working in a procedure specific to graduate students and their departments.

b. Council Reform working Group (CRWG), Dasilva and Goyal.

CRWG is presenting the positions for feedback. The positions are presented with the motions. Council discussed each section of the position and then voted on the amended motion.

The Chair adds a friendly amendment to agenda to allow/facilitate discussion on motion 10 d and 10 e is approved.

9. Update from the Board – deferred.

10. Motions

- a. **BIRT** the GSA-UW Council ratify the appointments as detailed in the report for item 7. (Freure/Vam Bommel) **Carried**. Dasilva abstains.
- b. **BIRT** the GSA-UW Council approves the creation of an at-large seat for the Institute of Quantum Computing Graduate Student Association. (Salman/Goyal) **Carried**.
- c. **BIRT** The GSA-UW Council approves of withdrawing from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. This withdrawal from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations will take effect immediately. (Bruce/Wass). **CARRIED**
Opposed: Samuel and Abstained: Salman, Mistry, Tannous, Hagedorn
- d. Motion to adopt GSA-UW reform positions
[See attached for whole motion:](#)

BIRT Council approves the amended GSA-UW reforms positions:

A) Council:

1. Council is comprised of graduate student voting members representing graduate students at the department/program level.
2. Council has autonomy over its policies, procedures, and processes, provided that they are consistent with the organization's articles of incorporation and do not expose the organization to unreasonable risk.
3. Council establishes a policy of regular meetings, and special meetings are the discretion of the Chair.
4. Councilors receive training.

B) The President: *Postponed and struck from the motion. Status quo remains.*

C) Ends:

1. Council develops the Ends of the GSA-UW.
2. Council's Ends are reported to the Board via the President, and provided that the proposed Ends are consistent with the organization's articles of incorporation, are clearly written, and do not expose the organization to unreasonable risk, the Board approves said Ends.
3. *Struck from the motion and postponed.*

D) Fees:

1. By-Law 3 is preserved.

(Goyal/Kearney) **CARRIED**

Motion to extend meeting by half an hour is approved at 6:00 pm.
(Kearney/Salman)

- e. Motion to recommend delaying GSA-UW reforms
[See attached for whole motion:](#)

Motion to postpone 10e to next meeting is Council. (Dasilva/Bruce).
CARRIED

- 11. Members' Discussion-deferred
- 12. Notices of Motion - deferred
- 13. Other Business - none
- 14. Meeting is adjourned at 6:24 pm.

LD:rv

Reference pages:

CRWG Motions:

10 d. Motion to adopt GSA-UW reform positions.

WHEREAS the GSA Board of Directors is in the process of adopting and adapting the Carver Policy Governance Model, in accordance with Policy 5.1; and

WHEREAS the Chair of the Board outlined the Board's proposed reforms to Council in November; and

WHEREAS an online survey about areas of improvement in the organization was conducted in December; and

WHEREAS a Draft Policy Manual was circulated by the Chair of the Board in January; and

WHEREAS a World Cafe was held in January to discuss areas of improvement and potential solutions; and

WHEREAS a Council Reform Working Group (CRWG) was established at the January meeting of Council; and

WHEREAS the CRWG has reviewed all pertinent information on reforms, and

WHEREAS the CRWG feels it is important that Council have autonomy over its own governance; and

WHEREAS the desire for a student president as the political leader representing Council and independent of the Board has been expressed many times; and

WHEREAS the CRWG has presented its findings and recommendations to Council; therefore

BIRT GSA-UW reforms adhere to the following:

A) Council:

1. Council is comprised of graduate student voting members representing graduate students at the department/program level.
2. Council has autonomy over its policies, procedures, and processes, provided that they are consistent with the organization's articles of incorporation and do not expose the organization to unreasonable risk.
3. Council establishes a policy of regular meetings, and special meetings are the discretion of the Chair.
4. Councilors receive training.

B) The President:

1. The President is an elected student leader. The election procedures will be defined in a policy developed by Council.

2. The President will be a paid position at approximately 30 hours per week at the current TA rate.
3. The President represents and advocates on behalf of UW graduate students to all bodies¹, except for issues relating to staff and operations.
4. The President, upon election, shall be Chair of Council² and may choose to appoint a Speaker³ to preside over meetings and/or have Council appoint a Speaker.
5. The President is monitored by Council, who authorizes the President to represent in good faith the wishes of members.
6. The President receives training.
7. The President has a standing invitation to the Board in order to report on Council activities.
8. Neither the Board nor the CEO/COO/ED⁴ shall direct the President; the President shall not direct the CEO/COO/ED; the President and CEO/COO/ED will work collaboratively for the benefit of members.

C) Ends:

1. Council develops the Ends⁵ of the GSA-UW.
2. Council's Ends are reported to the Board via the President, and provided that the proposed Ends are consistent with the organization's articles of incorporation, are clearly written, and do not expose the organization to unreasonable risk, the Board approves said Ends.
3. Operational/logistical needs of Council and General Membership are provided to the Board via the President, and the Board directs the CEO/COO/ED to achieve them.

D) Fees:

1. By-Law 3 is preserved.

¹ Including, but not limited to, advocating on behalf of the Association to the University through seats on the Senate, the Senate Executive Committee, the Graduate Student Relations Committee, the Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee, the Student Services Advisory Committee, the Senate Graduate & Research Council, and the University Tenure & Promotions Committee; advocating on behalf of the Association to the University, directly or through a designate, on policy-drafting committees, search and hiring committees, and other senior level ad-hoc committees; advocating to the Kitchener-Waterloo Town & Gown Committee and other advocacy organizations outside the University as directed by Council; and nominating, for consideration by Council, graduate students to advocate on behalf of the Association to the University through seats on University committees and other University bodies that make decisions or that advise on decisions that affect graduate students.

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- ² **Chair of Council:** Responsible for administering the affairs of Council.
³ **Speaker:** Responsible for presiding over Council meetings.
⁴ **CEO/COO/ED:** Head Manager / Chief of Staff & Operations
⁵ **Ends:** Goals of the organization to be achieved by the President (responsible for social, political, and academic goals) and/or the CEO/COO/ED as appropriate.

10e Motion to recommend delaying GSA-UW reforms

WHEREAS the GSA-UW Board of Directors have been working on GSA-UW reforms since May 2017; and

WHEREAS the GSA-UW Council was only first made aware of the content of these proposals at the November 2017 meeting of Council; and

WHEREAS the Draft Policy Manual was not made available to Councilors until January 2018; and

WHEREAS the Council Reform Working Group was not established until January 2018 to review the proposals and feedback from surveys and the World Café; and

WHEREAS the CRWG has recommended positions that will require major revisions to the Draft Policy Manual; and

WHEREAS such positions have been adopted by Council; therefore

BIRT the GSA-UW Council recommends to the GSA-UW Board of Directors that adoption of the reforms be delayed, giving Council the opportunity to develop its policies.

Attendance:

		Winter 2018 dates		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	Chair of Council	Lindsey Daniels	1	1	1		
FAC.	DEPARTMENT						
AHS	AHS Dean/Social Work*						
	Kinesiology	Daniel Martel	1	1	1		
	Rec & Leisure	Naima Samuel	1	1	1		
	SPHHS	Julia Goyal	1	1	1		
ARTS	Accounting and Finance	Allan Wang	1	0	0		
	Anthropology						
	Classical Studies						
Stratford	Digital Exp. Innovation*						
	Economics						
	English Lang& Lit	Jason Lajoie	1	0	1		
	Fine Arts						
	French Studies	Sushma Dusowoth	1	1	1		
	Germanic & Slavic						
	Global Governance	Clay Dasilva	1	1	1		
	History	Russ Freure	1	1	1		
	Peace & Conflict MPACS						
	Philosophy	Chris Wass	1	1	1		
	Political Science	MacKenzie Smith	1	0	0		
	Psychology	Emily Cyr	1	1	0		
Wat.	Public Service, Master*						
	Religious Studies						
	Sociology & Legal Studies						
Cambridge	Architecture	Tanvi Kundiliwal	1	0	0		
ENG	Chemical	Archisman Ray	1	0	0		
	Civil & Env	Jessica Achebe	1	R	R		
	Electrical & Computer	Takin Tadayon	1	1	1		
	Management Sciences	Alison Jennings	1	1	R		
	MBET						
	Mech & Mechatronics	Kissan Mistry	1	1	1		
	Systems Design	Mei Lin Chen	1	1	1		
ENV	Geography and Env. Mgmt	Vicky Vanthof	1	0	1		
	School of Planning	Christopher Bell	1	R	0		
	SEED						

	SERS	Aravind Kundurpi	1	0	0		
MATH	Math Dean						
	Applied Mathematics	Josh Thompson	1	R	R		
	Combinatorics & Opt	Chris van Bommel	1	1	1		
	Computer Science						
	Pure Mathematics	John Michael Sawatzky	1	1	1		
	Stats & Actuarial Sci	Danqiao Guo	1	1	0		
SCI	Biology	Emilie Spasov	1	1	1		
	Chemistry						
	Earth & Env Sciences	Grant Hagedorn	1	0	1		
	Physics and Astronomy	Jennifer Reid	1	1	1		
	Optometry	Dania Abuleil	1	1	0		
Kitchener	School of Pharmacy*						
THEO	Catholic Thought						
AHS	AHS Dean/Social Work*						
Officers	President	Robert Bruce	1	R	1		
	Vice President	Max Salman	1	1	1		
Board	Chair	Norman Kearney	1	1	1		
	Director	Matthew Morison	1	R	R		
	Director	Richard O'Brien	1		0		
	Director	Serxho Selmani	1		1		
	Director	Ramy Tannous	1	1	1		
	Director	Beth Timmers	1	R	0		
	Director	Evan Andrews	1		0		
	Director	Sondra Eger	1		0		
	Director	Allison Sachs	1	R	0		
	Director	Amanda Joynt	1		0		
	Director	Julie Cook	1		0		
Non-	At-Large (IQC)	Daniel Grimmer		1			
Voting	General Manager S/T	Rose Vogt		1			
	Gov. Support Staff	JJ Mathews					