



COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Place: Needles Hall – 3407

1. Speaker's Welcome and opening remarks.

C. Van Bommel took the Chair. T. Beirness recorded minutes and noted that quorum is present. The meeting is called to order at 4:10 pm.

The speaker welcomed new members to council

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Tayadon/George

13-0-0

Carried and the agenda is adopted with minor change that the approval for the October Minutes be removed.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest stated.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings are deferred to next meeting.

Motion to table for January Meeting

Reid/Moraga

13-0-0

Carried

5. Council Membership Report

Please see council membership report included with agenda package.

6. Delegation

Graduate House – Naima Samuel/Cam Bartel

- a. Naima discussed the impact of Grad House refunds and the importance of feedback. There is an improved process in place for this coming term to process refunds. Going forward GSA is looking into electronic funds transfer as a possible means of providing refunds. The discussion about the GH fee will be taken to the joint workshops. N. Samuel will continue to provide updates on the internal improvements.

- b. C. Bartel Graduate House Assistant Manager provided his background with the Grad house and the hospitality industry. Cam also discussed the changes that have been implemented in the last six months based on feedback from the customers as well as the report from the consultant. The GH now deals with small micro-breweries thus keeping the costs low. Local food suppliers are utilized whenever possible including AAA beef and Halal chicken suppliers. The menu is a still a work in progress with changes coming in January to offer more vegetarian options. Sales for the first three months of fall term are over projection which is atypical. Cam and staff have made it a priority to focus on events for students driving future business. Cleanliness, service standards and focus on student events is important in order to drive future business. The importance of advocacy from Board and Council was stressed. We need to promote what we are and show that we are here to serve Grad Students.
- c. Discussion points: The vision for the Grad House was discussed. A steering committee will be formed to determine a future vision.

7. Motions

a. Motion to support GSSAC recommendation

BIRT the GSA-UW Council supports the GSSAC recommendation for PhD funding as outlined in the supporting documentation.

Motion to discuss after 7.b or if time runs out a subsequent meeting

Tadayon/Reid

12-0-0

b. Motion to approve Political Positions regarding graduate student funding payments, TA expectations, and Sessional Instructors

WHEREAS the GSA-UW Council has raised concerns regarding the payment of graduate student funding and TA expectations; and

WHEREAS the Council Executive Committee was tasked with developing political positions regarding the same; and

WHEREAS the CEC has proposed adopting the following political positions; therefore

BIRT the GSA-UW Council adopt the following political positions:

7. Timeliness of Graduate Student Funding Payments

Graduate students are promised funding through means such as the university minimum funding, their letter or offer, or termly promissory notes. Graduate students depend on these payments being issued in a timely manner to fund various expenses, such as tuition, housing, utilities, groceries, etc., and should not be forced into unnecessary debt due to such payments not being made on time, or being required to make payments to the university prior to the funds being provided.

- a. Graduate student funding amounts and dates of payment should be clearly communicated to the student prior to the start of the term.

b. Graduate student funding provided as a salary (TA, RA, sessional instructor, etc.) should be arranged to be paid at minimum monthly by the end of each month of the term of appointment.

c. Graduate student funding provided as a scholarship, bursary, GRS, etc. should be arranged to be paid no later than the 15th of the first month of the term.

d. Graduate students whose funding is unable to be arranged to be paid by the times indicated above should receive an emergency, interest-free loan in the amount of said funding, from the unit responsible for administering the funding, to be repaid on receipt of the promised funding.

e. Graduate students should be allowed to use funding that will be paid later in the term (e.g. salary) against fees due to the university, to be paid on receipt of that funding.

After discussion:

Motion to adopt political position 7

Reid/Sargent

16-0-0

Carried

8. Rights and Responsibilities of Graduate Student Teaching Assistants

Graduate students hired as Teaching Assistants should have clear expectations of their rights and duties throughout the term, and not be working without proper compensation.

a. Graduate student teaching assistants must receive training prior to commencing their duties, and should not be asked to perform any duties for which they are not trained. Time spent in training will be compensated at the same rate as their duties.

b. Graduate student teaching assistants should complete a written agreement with their supervising course instructor to ensure both parties have clear expectations of the role.

c. Graduate student teaching assistants should not be asked to work beyond their assigned number of hours without further compensation.

d. Graduate student teaching assistants should have the opportunity to correct areas of concern in their work through progressive discipline with written documentation, and loss of pay should never be used as a form of discipline.

After discussion:

Vote on each portion of political position 8

8a) 11-0-1

8b) 12-0-1

8c) 13-1-0

8d) 13-0-0

Motion to adopt political position 8

Reid/Moraga

12-0-0

Carried

Motion to take a 10 minute break – denied

9. Graduate Students as Sessional Instructors

Graduate students hired as sessional instructors make a significant additional contribution towards the university's academic mission and put in significant additional hours that often leads to extending the length of their studies, and are entitled to additional compensation in recognition of those efforts.

The difference between a graduate student's normal TA salary and their salary as a sessional instructor should not be counted towards the student's minimum funding.

Action item: N. Samuel will follow-up with J. Cassello as to the completion of Policy 30

Motion to adopt political position 9

Tadayon/Reid

13-0-0

Carried

c. Motion to add rationale in support of the recommended change to GP-1

WHEREAS the GSA-UW Council supported the addition "*Council will approve any additions or amendments to GP-8 Council proposed by the Board, and may also propose amendments to GP-8 Council for approval by the Board.*" to GP-1 Board Job Description; and

WHEREAS members of the GSA-UW Board indicated a desire that Council provide rationale for the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS the discussion during the motion provides this rationale; therefore

BIRT the GSA-UW Council provide the following rationale for the proposed addition to GP-1:

- *That Council discussions about changing the policy manual emphasized the need for Council to decide its own internal governance as the representative body of graduate students so long as it does not conflict with the fiduciary duties of the Board of Directors as outlined by the Ontario Corporations Act; and*
- *That GP-8 outlines Council's governance; and*
- *That directors are also elected members who can decide the internal governance of the Board of Directors.*

Discussion: Unfortunately, the Board doesn't have the time resources to bring this motion forward until January. A subset of directors have looked at GP 1. There may be a suggestion/compromise coming forward that gives more material stake. More favourable process is going to be proposed with regard to multiple reading. At this time, there has been no vote or discussion.

Motion to revisit in January

10-0-2

Carried

8. Consent Items

- Executive Reports**
- Committee Reports**

9. Update from the Board

See slides provided

10. Presentations and Discussions

- Council Meeting Structure
- Policy 8 – Freedom of Speech
- Student Advocacy Office
- Mental Wellness Initiatives
- Council Self-Monitoring
- Standing Committees

11. New Business

No new business

12. Members Discussion:

T. Tadayon would like the members to advertise the holiday party in E7 on December 7th. Everyone welcome.

13. Motion to adjourn – 6:05pm

Carried by consent

