



AGENDA

Time	Open Session	Page	Action
4:00	1. Agenda/Additional Agenda Items		Decision
	Consent Agenda*		
4:05	BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items 2-4 of the agenda.		Decision
	Approval of the minutes of Oct 20, 2014 Special meeting	3-6	
	2. Approval of the minutes of Nov 11, 2014 Special meeting	7-10	
	3. Executive Reports	11-21	
	Regular Agenda		
4:10	4. Appointment & Resignation Matt Edwards External Affairs Committee Member		Decision
4:10	5. Q &A		
4:10	6. Referendum, R. Vogt		Discussion
4:25	7. Amendment of GSA Constitution and Bylaws BIRT the GSA Council endorses the amended Constitution and Bylaws (Attached with the email)		Information
4:45	8. CASA Advocay Week, G. Memartoluie		Information
5:00	9. GU 15, G. Memartoluie	22	Information
5:10	10. Q&A		Information
5:15	11. Other Business		Discuss/Info
5:15	12. Next meeting of Council- TBA		

	Confidential Session	
5:20	13. Student Service Ancillary Fee, C. Even	Discussion
5:30	14. Adjournment	Decision

*To allow council to complete a number of matters quickly and to devote more of its attention to major items of business, the agenda has been divided between items that are to be approved and/or received for information by consent and those that are to be presented individually for discussion and decision and/or information. A consent agenda is not intended to prevent discussion of any matter by the council, but items listed under the consent sections will not be discussed at the meeting unless a director so requests. Directors are supplied with the appropriate documentation for each item and all items will be approved by means of one omnibus motion. The Council will then move immediately to consideration of the items on the regular agenda.

Sonia Rahman,
GSA VP Internal, Chair

Jan 7th, 2015



COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday October 20, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Graduate House Green

Room

MINUTES

Attendance

Councillors:	Present	On-line	Regrets	Absent
Sonia Rahman, VP Internal, Chair	X			
Maryam Shahtaheri, President	X			
Coleen Even, VP Comm & Events	X			
Ghazal Memartoluie, VP External	X			
Robert Henderson, VP Student Affairs	X			
Maya D'Alessio, Director	X			
Connor Hart, Director	X			
Michael Makahnouk, Director			X	
Taya McGillivray, Director		X		
Michael Piazza, Director	X			
Ahmad Basalah, Mech & Mech Eng.				X
Ahmed Abdel Aziz, ECE				X
Allison Mascella, Economics	X			
Celia Huang, Sociology & Legal	X			
Chris Burke, Environment	X			
David Pomaranski, Physics & Astronomy	X			
Gah-Jone, Optmetry			X	
Iain Wallace, Biology	X			
Janelle Salhanha, Peace & Conflict				X
Jessy Parokaran Varghese, Kin	X			
Jinchao Lin, Stats & Act Science				X
John Doucette, Computer Science	X			
Joseph Buscemi, History				X
Jumana Shahzadeh, Management Science			X	
Kimberley Lopez, Rec&Leisure		X		
Kristen Leal, Earth & Env. Sciences			X	
Matthew Edwards, Chemistry		X		
Matthew Perrone, Civil & Env. Eng	X			
Naijink Kang, Applied Math				X
Nathalie Moon, Stats & Act Sci			X	
Nathan Haydon, Philosophy				X
Nawaz Ahmed, Pharmacy	X			
Phil Miletic, English	X			
Puneet Sharma, Applied Math OR				X

Sonja Senthana, SPHHS	X			
Tim Leshuk, Chemical Engineering			X	
Ty Ghaswala, Pure Mathematics	X			
Vikkie Chen, Architecture	X			
NON-VOTING Members				
Christina Chan, Arch, guest /incoming	X			
Dan McRoberts, At-Large				X
Krista Mathias, At-Large	X			
Muyiwa Ogunlaja, At-Large	X			
Rose Vogt, General Mgr. (minutes)	X			

Quorum is achieved and Rahman called to order at 6:10

The agenda is approved. (D'Alessio/Wallace) Approved

Rahman welcomes to new members to council.

CONSENT AGENDA

BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items 2-3 of the agenda. (Ghazal/Iain) Approved.

Appointments and resignations

Resigned: James Sebele, Planning, Sandy Beidu and Alex Pokluda, Computer Science, Isabelle Messa, SPHHS, Virginia Shay, English.

Appointments: Sonja Senthana, SPHHS, Phil Miletic, English, Christina Chan, Architecture, Chris Burke (At-Large) Environment, John Doucette, Computer Science, Nawaz Ahmed, Pharmacy, Muyiwa Ogunlaja, At-Large, Nathalie Moon, (At-Large) Stats & Act Sci.

Approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting.
Executive Reports.

REGULAR AGENDA

Health Services, Barbara Schumacher.

Barbara Schumacher, Director of Health Services presented an update to Council.

Students will provide 7.75 million toward the expansion of health services, and Barbara Schumacher thanks graduate students for their commitment to the project.

A commemorative plaque was erected, recognizing the student contribution and wonderful building and legacy for the future.

The Health services website contains a video of the grand opening.

A reason for producing the video, students will be paying \$10.00 /term for the

next 20 years and in a few years from now, future councilors may receive questions about why we are paying for this etc.

The family clinic is finally able to open, after many months of trying to pull together the physician team, reception staff and nursing. Finally, everyone is trained; a soft launch is presented today. It is open to all registered students and their dependents covered by the GSA supplementary H&D plan, and visiting scholars. Important to offer health care for families of students, making studies easier because there is family care available.

Q&A – none

VP University Research Nominating Committee.

GSA President Shahtaheri and VPSA Henderson, sit on the committee.

Councillors are asked if there are any compelling reasons why Dr. Dixon should not serve for an additional two years as VP University Research. Councillors may send feedback to the GSA President or VP Student Affairs.

Councillors heard that some departments have assistance for students completing grant applications, and some do not.

ACTION: Send information for your department to Henderson, GSA VP Student Affairs.

Reports from Council Committees:

1.) PBRC – Council heard that progress is being made regarding the review of the governance structure of the GSA and the GSA by-laws overhaul. The Committee is trying to get this project completed by December and possibly hold a referendum in January to ratify changes.

2.) Theft Committee – Council heard that this committee did not meet in the fall term. The chair of the committee will provide Council a supporting document to replace the chair of the committee. This will be decided at the next meeting of Council.

3.) Activities Committee: Council heard an update on events planned by the committee.

4.) External Affairs Committee:

VP External is having difficulty arranging a meeting of the members, making three attempts this term. In lieu of meeting with the committee the VP External seeks feedback for a GU15 document, (Indirect Costs of Research), that will be sent to council by email.

Discussion on Policy 30 and the GSA Town Hall meetings

Council agreed to discuss agenda items 9 and 10 together, as they are related.

Policy 30 is a new Class Z – TA policy.

GSA is seeking for feedback from faculties, by hosting town halls within the faculties, specifically to update policy 30 and to inform students of this new policy

Council heard a variety of issues. A report will be made available to Council after the Town Halls are completed.

Council also discussed how to empower the GSA, the role of Councillors, and engage students in the issues. The GSA is looking for ideas to improve policy 30.

ACTION: Councillors should let students they represent know what the GSA is doing and that they can participate.

Other Business

-Sarah Hildebrandt is named Director of Graduate Academic Services. Graduate Studies Office. Sarah Hildebrandt will be replacing Lynne Judge, who is retiring.

-Bill C626 – Re-Instate the mandatory long form census.

A link will be sent to Councillors to add information and support for this Bill .

-Fall study break

The report was read at Senate. Fall 2015 is the latest labour day, so probably won't happen until next year. Policy changes for parameters for reading week to include graduate students.

Course evaluation project team, grads can get valuable feedback from the process. Grads will be more included.

Next meeting of Council

VP Internal will send notice.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION none

Adjournment at 7:50 pm.

SR:rv



COUNCIL MEETING

Date: November 10, 2014

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: RCH 204

MINUTES

Attendance

Councillors:	Present	On-line	Regrets	Absent
Sonia Rahman, VP Internal, Chair	X			
Maryam Shahtaheri, President			X	
Coleen Even, VP Comm & Events	X			
Ghazal Memartoluie, VP External	X			
Robert Henderson, VP Student Affairs	X			
Maya D'Alessio, Director	X			
Connor Hart, Director			R	
Michael Makahnouk, Director	X			
Taya McGillivray, Director		X		
Michael Piazza, Director	X			
Ahmad Basalah, Mech & Mech Eng.			X	
Ahmed Abdel Aziz, ECE				X
Allison Mascella, Economics	X			
Celia Huang, Sociology & Legal	X			
Christina Chan, Architecture	X			
David Pomaranski, Physics & Astronomy			X	
Gah-Jone, Optometry	X			
Iain Wallace, Biology				X
Jamie Sewell, Philosophy				new
Janelle Salhanha, Peace & Conflict				X
Jessy Parokaran Varghese, Kin				X
John Doucette, Computer Science	X			
Joseph Buscemi, History				X
Jumana Shahzadeh, Management Science	X			
Kristen Leal, Earth & Env. Sciences				X
Laura C, French Studies	X			
Matthew Edwards, Chemistry			X	
Matthew Perrone, Civil & Env. Eng	X			
Naijink Kang, Applied Math				X
Nathalie Moon, Stats & Act Science				new
Nawaz Ahmed, Pharmacy	X			
Phil Miletic, English	X			
Puneet Sharma, Applied Math OR				X
Sonja Senthana, SPHHS				X
Tim Leshuk, Chemical Engineering	X			
Ty Ghaswala, Pure Mathematics	X			
NON-VOTING Members				
Sepehr Mohaddes, Mech. Eng., At Large				

Muyiwa Ogunlaja, Civil Eng., At-Large	X			
Dan McRoberts, At-Large				
Krista Mathias, At-Large	X			
Rose Vogt, General Mgr. (minutes)	X			

Vogt advised that quorum is achieved.

Rahman took the chair and called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

Vogt recorded minutes.

The agenda consists of one item for discussion at this special meeting of Council. The following is a summary of feedback provided regarding:
governance structure, constitution, bylaws, and policies and procedures.

Council heard that the GSA is incorporated in Ontario, has matured as an organization, and in light of a updating laws regarding “not-for-profit” Ontario corporations, the GSA must be proactive in applying due diligence to comply with the impending changes.

(See Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act, 2010. (ONCA)).

The act is supposed to be passed in 2016. This gives the GSA time to better define its governance structure, update its constitution, and update its bylaws. For transparency, efficiency, and better training/operating, the Association will maintain a policies and procedures, and an operating manual.

The following is a summary of topics discussed:

Appointment of Officers vs Election of Officers.

Potential to have abuse in a committee that ‘appoints’ officers rather than election by the members. The committee could be ‘stacked’ to favour a particular candidate

An election would select candidates based on their “platform”

The directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the corporation; the law empowers the board to appoint officers. The best thing for the corporation may not be the best platform of the elected individual. Directors are liable

The intention is to have the appointees, President and Vice President etc., ratified by members, via a “ballot”. Even if there is only one candidate, members have the option to vote against that individual.

Directors are elected by membership and have a staggered two year term of half the board annually

Put forward more than one candidate/appointee

This is possible given candidates will be interviewed.

Transparency in the interview process of candidates, make the information public

This may be a problem, as no “job” interviews are public, this could be a privacy issue, and a personal issue that would be public record. No graduate student should be traceable by such record.

The selection committee is made up of board members and they are responsible and accountable for activities and operation of the corporation.

Suggest that a council member be appointed to the nominating committee.

The GSA is dependent on the members, via feedback through various avenues, such a Council, to develop the direction of the Association and how to best serve members. These form the basis of policies and procedures follow.

The bylaws are a combination of “rules” for the corporation that are identified in the statutes of the Ontario laws governing NFP corporations and supplemental bylaws where the law gives license to the corporation to better define rules that apply to itself.

This is why the bylaws document was restructured. The bylaws need to include that the Association will maintain policies and procedures. (note in amended bylaw #10)
Members discussed the appointment of alumni directors. What criteria would advise the nomination/selection process, better define the alumni position. Does this include a current student that completed a Masters and is not registered as a PhD? What about alumni that are staff or faculty?

Council heard how UW uses nominating committee for selection of administrative officers, and faculty deans. In addition, there is a process where “external” members are appointed to the university Board of Governors. There is a process. The GSA council empowers council in the selection process of alumni directors, and officers.

Council section of the bylaws is very limited.

The Council is empowered by the constitution. The policies and procedures would further empower Council.

Bylaws are a corporate requirement, and there is only a requirement surrounding membership, members meetings, and specifically the requirement of an Annual General Meeting.

Compensating departments for students who select to serve a leadership role on the GSA

Clarification that a student does not have to choose between doing research and serving on the GSA, but those that do choose to serve the GSA in a more “full-time” capacity should have a mechanism by which they are not stymied by their supervisor, and the supervisor should not suffer the loss of a productive student in their research.

No student should be “punished” for serving on the GSA

The honouraria amount recorded, in hours, is not realistic for some of the positions, and a true account of the hours required to fulfill the roles of the officer, i.e. President, would be contrary to some funding requirement. (i.e. a student cannot work for more than 10 hours/week outside of their research)

Suggest that the wording in the document is changed to avoid confusion.

Possibility of Co-Presidents to spread the workload.

It would be ideal to spread the workload among more officers, but the reality is that more than two presidents may not be possible, especially with university level committee, issues of confidentiality, and the ability to build relationships.

Clarify the Board of Directors having a Graduate House Tab.

The directors have a discretionary that allows them to order items (non-alcoholic) from the Graduate House in the course of doing GSA business. This could be a meal while attending a Board meeting, for example.

Term of Office for Officer is not defined in the bylaws.

Noted and an amendment will be made.

Constitution updated

Removed all references to “affiliate and honorary” members, the GSA membership has only one class of member and that is “graduate student” The old references were to membership in the Graduate House. This was moved to “services” offered by the GSA to fulfill its mandate to enhance the graduate student experience at uWaterloo.

The restructuring of the official documents is intended to avoid confusing terminology and definitions that resulted from “patchwork” fixes to the documents as the GSA evolved into a professional corporation from its roots as a social club.

The term “student issues” in the constitution under affiliation is not well defined.

Agreed that this is vague. Better wording, intent, is needed.

Important to have the GSA recognized for the collective bargaining role it plays with all levels of student activity – whether this is at the level of a club, department, faculty, or the general graduate student membership.

In general, the changes proposed were received on a positive note. The intent to add safeguards to policies, increase efficiencies for the corporation and students that participate for multiple years, and proactive ways to involve students is important. Succession planning and training for council, board, and officers is important. It is also important to be transparent with the membership.

Next steps:

Send additional comments, questions, and any other feedback to:

Sonia Rahman, gsa-vpin@uwaterloo.ca

Rose Vogt, rvogt@uwaterloo.ca

Discuss this with students in your department

A General Meeting will be held on November 26, 2014 to further gain insight and input from the members. Please encourage your colleagues to attend.

The constitutional changes will need to be approved by a referendum that is expected to be held in January 2015.

For efficiency, the changes to bylaws will be approved by the same referendum.

The GSA Policy & Bylaw Review Committee will work to further catalogue policies and procedures, and the operating manual, in preparation for the anticipated amendments to bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM

SR:rv

November 11, 2014

President Report to GSA Council
Maryam Shahtaheri,
December 2014& January 2015
HAPPY NEW YEAR ☺

Meetings/Committees	Date	Notes
Meeting with Mahejabeen and VPCE	December 1, 2014	This meeting was regarding preparation for an event to invite Jackson Katz to campus
Official launch of the family clinic	December 2, 2014	
Hiring committee prep and interviews: Football head coach	December 3, 2014	Chris Bertoia has been hired!
Hiring committee interviews: Football head coach	December 4, 2014	
SGRC	December 8, 2014	
Hiring committee interviews: Football head coach	December 8, 2014	
Hiring committee interviews: Football head coach	December 9, 2014	
Northdale community development meeting with VPEX and Feds president	December 9, 2014	
Board meeting	December 10, 2014	Taya McGillivary resigned from her role as a director
Meeting with Jim Frank	December 11, 2014	
Policy 33 drafting committee	December 11, 2014	
GSRC	December 15, 2014	
Campus climate and community issues meeting	December 16, 2014	More info available by request
SSAC	December 17, 2014	
Meeting with CRO and GM	December 17, 2014	
Lynn Farewell party	December 17, 2014	
VP-University Relations interview committee meeting	December 18-19, 2014	Confidential
Winter orientation	January 4, 2015	
GSA exec meeting	January 5, 2015	
Meeting with GM	January 5, 2015	
Upass meeting with GM,	January 6, 2015	

VPIN, and execs from Laurier		
Meeting with Feds President on Policy 33 committee meetings	January 7, 2015	
Meeting with Nick Driedger	January 7, 2015	Federal Elections 2015 prep meeting
UPass contract negotiations with VPIN and GM	January 7, 2015	
AWAY	January 8-15, 2015	Personal matters
Council	January 15, 2015	
UPass contract negotiations with VPIN, GM, and GRT	January 15, 2015	
VP-University Relations interview committee meeting	January 15, 2015	
Senate long range planning committee meeting	January 16, 2015	
Policy 33 drafting committee meeting	January 19, 2015	
Senate	January 19, 2015	
UPass contract negotiations with VPIN, GM, and GRT	January 21, 2015	
GSA Board meeting	January 27, 2015	
SSAC	January 27, 2015	
UPass contract negotiations with VPIN, GM, and GRT	January 28, 2015	

**Report of the Vice-President Communication & Events to Council
Coleen Even
December 2014**

Committee Updates

Activity Committee

The committee did not meet in December and will resume its activities in late January.

Updates

Special Projects:

Faculty Town Hall

The Graduate Student Association hosted its last Town Halls on November 21 and December 3. In order to decide what the working group established at GSRC needs to work on, council will have to take a decision on the wish list once the report has been shared (January or February meeting).

Certain items requiring action have already been brought forward to the appropriate groups.

Fall break – graduate students feedback

Due to the ongoing discussions regarding a fall break at Waterloo the GSA had a form on its website where students could leave their feedback. This feedback has been shared with Mario Coniglio, chair of the Task Force on a fall break. They have been added to the general pool of comments that the group received.

We will come back with more information and please follow the debate that will come forward at a future Senate meeting.

eNews

December eNews items

1. GSA – Town Hall / Family clinic: opening / Lynda.com: training accessible to grads / Fall break: your thoughts
2. GH – December @ the Grad House
3. News from our partners – CTE's workshops; Career Action's grad team; MITACS winter workshops & GRT changes

GSA – Human Resources:

At our December GSRC meeting we received updates on the progress regarding the interim solution and the establishment of contracts and time allocation forms for graduate students. There are currently no solutions in place but we should be receiving more information at our next meeting. This item will probably brought forward for a formal discussion at one of our next council meeting.

Long-form census

If you are interested in writing the open letter of support to Bill C-626 please send me an email (gsa-vpce@uwaterloo.ca) and I will work with you to write up a document that we can present at our next council meeting or via email.

For information and press releases on Bill C-626 you can go [here](#).

Summary of Meetings

GSRC	Nov 17	Regular business
Orientation Steering CTE	Nov 17	Discussions surrounding the relationship of the different partners and their roles and how the orientation steering committee can help provide support for each group.
Senate	Nov 17	Regular Senate meeting – New budget model – The University of Waterloo will be changing its budget model in the upcoming year and will move to an activity-based budget. There have been some discussions as to how this will impact Faculties and Departments (especially smaller departments) and their resources. The President and Provost ensured Senate that the details of the budget model are still being worked and there will be a thorough discussion with Senate’s Finance Committee. If students are interested in this topic they can find more details in the Senate minutes or they can reach out to any student senator. Ray Darling (Registrar) and Jim Frank (AP Grad Studies) presented the Fall enrollment numbers and currently UW is missing its graduate students target. A few questions arose regarding the number of domestic students as well as support for international students. Again for more details please refer to the Minutes.
JHSC - CTE	Nov 18	Regular business – Review of incidents and

		injury reports, discussion of procedures for incidents happening abroad and support from UW / Safety office and Police Services.
Arts - TH	Nov 21	The feedback received on that day will be shared at a future council meeting with a document to support the discussion so that council can determine a wish list for GSA executive to bring forward in the GSRC Policy 30 working group (next GSRC agenda supposedly)
FEDS – GSA SSAC	Nov 25	Each year Feds and GSA follow the process to review different services (non-academic) on campus and decide from which service they would like to receive a detailed report (presenting information related to their budget and programs for students). At this meeting we discussed which group should be included in that process as well as what specifics we would like to see.
GSA – Board	Nov 26	Regular business
GSA - Council	Nov 26	See minutes
GSEF – Orientation budget & participation	Nov 27	Moving forward the GSA – GH should be able to support the cost for the Welcome Reception event (this includes food and activities). However and due to the advertisement that the orientation program provides we need to review how GSEF and the GSA can still collaborate so that GSEF can highlight its own programs.
Meeting with student	Nov 28	Private meeting - Advocacy
GSA - Executive	Dec 1	Confidential
Equity Director	Dec 1	Discussion of GSA support for an event pertaining to campus safety.
Long-From Census support meeting	Dec 3	At one of our former council meeting I touched upon this topic. I have met with Faculty members to see how they provided support to the Private bill from the MP Ted Hsu (Kingston). Most of them belong to association or groups that have formally sent letters of support, open letters...
ENV - TH	Dec 3	As mentioned for the Arts TH the feedback received will be shared in a report at a future council meeting.
SGRC	Dec 8	Review of programs from Architecture and AHS (...) and regular curriculum changes (cf Senate minutes to see finalized report accepted).
GSA Board	Dec 10	Regular business

SSO-SSAC working group	Dec 15	Due to SSAC's decision for the SSO student monetary support for some programs we are meeting regularly with Pam Charbonneau and Heather Westmorland and Feds to discuss how student support could be reestablished (what in the program is deemed not to respond to students' needs...)
GSRC	Dec 15	Regular business, discussion of Policy 30 working group and other items
SIAG	Dec 15	Updates on moves to EC buildings (former BBM buildings) – Presentation of proposal for an office of space planning and utilization – Review of COU's space survey (office space, classrooms...)
SSAC	Dec 17	Confidential – At council we will present the incremental variation to explain the difference in the fee level and open the discussion to know whether students are comfortable with the increase coming for next year (mostly due to a drop in enrollment.)

**Vice-President External Report to GSA Council
Ghazal Memartoluie
November and December, 2014**

Meetings/Committees	Date	Notes
Housing Survey Meeting	November 5th, 2014	
Council Meeting	November 10th, 2014	
Advocacy Week	November 17-21st, 2014	Presentation will be given in Council Meeting
Town and Gown Meeting	November 25th, 2014	Meeting Cancelled
Board Meeting	November 26th, 2014	
General Meeting	November 26th, 2014	
OGSA Meeting	December 1st, 2014	
Exec Meeting	December 1st, 2014	
Environment Town Hall Meeting	December 3rd, 2014	
Northdale Community Development Meeting	December 9th, 2014	
Board Meeting	December 10th, 2014	I had proctoring and I could not attend this meeting.
OGSA Meeting	December 15th, 2014	
GSRC Meeting	December 15th, 2014	
Housing Survey Meeting	December 15th, 2014	I had to attend GSRC Meeting and I could not attend this meeting.
CASA General Meeting	December 18th, 2014	Election 2015 GOTV Campaign Plan is discussed. Oral report will be given in Council Meeting

Vice-President Internal Report to GSA Board
Sonia Rahman
November- December, 2014

Meeting	Date	Notes
GSA Town Hall in Engg. Department	Nov 10, 2014	Discussion on TA rate, procedure on getting a TA/RA etc.
Special Council Meeting	Nov 10, 2014	Discussion on the proposed governance structure, Policy and By laws and constitution
Meeting with GSA-GM	Nov 12, 2014	Discussion on General Meeting
Meeting with GSA-GM	Nov 13, 2014	Discussion on General Meeting
GSA Board	Nov 26, 2014	Regret
General Meeting	Nov 26, 2014	Discussed changes to the constitution and by-laws.
U Pass Working Group Meeting	Nov 28, 2014	Discussion on the updates and new changes on GRT and LRT
GSA Executive Meeting	December 1, 2014	Discussed ongoing issues and work of the executive.
International SOS Meeting	Dec 1, 2014	Discussion on hiring SOS
Official Launch of Family Clinic	Dec 2, 2014	Welcome the family clinic
Meeting with GSA GM	Dec 2, 2014	Discussion on Referendum
Health and Dental Committee Meeting	Dec 5, 2014	Discussion and overview on the health and dental plan
Provost's Advisory Committee for Timetabling (PACT)	Dec 8, 2014	Discussed issues surrounding scheduling processes at this university and how to solve them. The issues are complex and perhaps dry but I'm happy to explain some if anyone has questions.
GSA Board Meeting	Dec 10, 2014	Determined the details for the upcoming referendum.
Meeting with GSA-GM	Dec 15, 2014	Discussion on health and dental plan
GSA exec meeting	Jan 5, 2015	Discussed current issues and work
Upass meeting with execs from Laurier	Jan 6, 2015	Discussion on the GRT related issue

UPass working Group Meeting	Jan 7, 2015	
General Meeting	Jan 14, 2015	Regret, away for conference

Report of the Vice President Student Affairs to GSA Council

Robert D. E. Henderson

Nov-Dec, 2015

Updates on Key Issues

Graduate Student Policy Development

A formal policy drafting committee has been struck and will begin its work to develop additions to Policy Z.

Fall Break Working Group

Formal consultations have gone ahead and the group is compiling feedback. Primary discussions and debate will happen at Senate. If anyone is interested in attending this Senate meeting, keep an eye on the Senate agendas from February on, via the Secretariat website.

Course Evaluation Project

Formal consultations will begin soon, similar to how the fall break discussions have happened.

Summary of Meetings

Committee	Meeting Date	Highlights
GSA Town Hall Meeting – Arts	November 21	See forthcoming report for details of findings.
Course Evaluation Project Team Policy Subcommittee	November 24	Discussed further details of policies to input into course evaluations in the future, such as distribution of the feedback.
Course Evaluation Project Team	November 25	Finalized details for the preliminary report to be submitted to the Associate VP Academic, Mario Coniglio. The report is confidential at this point.
GSA Board of Directors	November 26	Discussed matters pertaining to the general meeting and upcoming referendum, and financial matters of the corporation.
GSA General Meeting	November 26	See minutes. Discussed changes to the constitution and by-laws.
Board of Governors Retreat	November 27	All-day meeting of the board for discussions of important university issues.
PACT (Provost’s Advisory Committee for Timetabling) Working group on professor and course constraints	November 27	Discussed a long-standing issue of how and what accommodations can be made for various instructor requests pertaining to scheduling.
Dean of Science Candidate Meeting for Grads	November 28	Arranged a meeting of graduate student representatives from the departments in Science to

		meet the candidate for the new dean. The process is semi-confidential until approval is done by Senate and Board.
GSA Executive Meeting	December 1	Discussed ongoing issues and work of the executive.
PACT Working group on professor and course constraints	December 2	Same as previous.
GSA Town Hall Meeting (Environment)	December 3	See forthcoming report for details of findings.
Meeting with Jim Frank and Chris Read	December 5	Discussed accommodations and institutional support for the GSA executive if changes to the constitution and bylaws go ahead. Such as funding support for an additional year for the president and (future contemplated) VP.
Provost's Advisory Committee for Timetabling (PACT)	December 8	Discussed issues surrounding scheduling processes at this university and how to solve them. The issues are complex and perhaps dry but I'm happy to explain some if anyone has questions.
Academic Integrity Working Group	December 10	Discussed the potential uses of turnitin software for students to check their work against the internet database to assist in detecting anomalies they might want to correct. I provided some input on grads as students taking courses as well as implications for TAs to detect academic misconduct.
GSA Board Meeting	December 10	Determined the details for the upcoming referendum.
SSAC Follow-up Re: SSO	December 15	Discussed the development of the SSO to bring some aspects further in line with student needs.
Graduate Student Relations Committee	December 15	Made changes to parental and partner leave guidelines. Formally created a Policy Z drafting committee.
Meeting with Neighbour GSA Representatives	December 15	Arranged a dinner at the Grad House for GSA representatives from WLU, Guelph and McMaster.
Course Evaluation Task Force	December 16	Sent regrets – travel.
Student Services Advisory Committee	December 17	Sent regrets – travel.
Retirement Celebrations for Lynn Judge	December 17	Sent regrets – travel.
GSA Executive Meeting	January 5	Discussed current issues and work.
Senate Executive Committee	January 5	Set the agenda for the January Senate meeting. Started a review of <i>ex officio</i> membership on Senate and the Senate Executive Committee.

GU 15

Dear Councillors

GU15 is a network between the executive of graduate students' associations of 16 research-intensive universities. GU15 conferences are giving these associations the opportunity to share best practices and learn more about operational systems of other member universities. Currently, GU15 has decided to add an approach of advocacy to its mission. This approach enables the member universities to **support** one another on issues related to graduate students on a federal lobbying level (such as the ones attached). However, the definition of "support" is not fully clarified to this date and it is critical for our councillors to determine this definition and the extent of support we "willingly" would like to provide to other members. To conclude, please keep in mind that uWaterloo GSA is already paying to be a full-time member of two lobbying alliances: CASA and OGSA.

Ghazal Memartoluei
January 6, 2015

Indirect Costs of Research:

Better Funding for Better Research and Innovation

Research projects financed by the three Canadian research councils (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) incur indirect costs that are not covered by the original grant. These costs include such necessities as building maintenance, laboratory heating, electricity for lasers, library acquisitions and patent agent salaries. Overall, indirect costs are estimated by a number of OECD countries, including Canada, to be between 40% and 60% of the direct costs of research.

The federal Indirect Costs Program augments all federal research grants with funds to cover the indirect costs of research. **However, the Indirect Costs Program is currently funding the indirect costs of research at only 21.5% of the direct costs. We wish to increase this level to 40%, as promised by the government when the program was created¹.**

The gap between the promised amount and what is actually funded was \$76 million in Quebec alone this fiscal year. **Nationally, the shortfall is estimated at \$287 million.**

This systemic underfunding forces universities to cover the indirect costs of research with their own operating grants. This significantly reduces the amount of capital available to invest in hiring top researchers and creating world-class degree programs.

Fortunately, the Québec Federation of Student Unions (FEUQ) has identified at least three ways in which the funding level for the indirect costs of research could be increased to the promised 40%, **at no additional cost to the federal government².**

¹ Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. 2013. *Study on the Indirect Costs Program*.

² Ibidem

1. Funding of university-industry partnerships

Rising research and development costs are causing businesses to look for other ways to produce new intellectual property. One common approach is to partner with a university – studies in both Canada and the United States show that such partnerships are more costly for the universities than for the businesses³. Thus, the overall costs of research are effectively shifted from the company to the universities, and by extension the state. Given this, it is appropriate to revise the budget allocated for partnerships between universities and businesses, freeing amounts that may then be transferred to the Indirect Costs Program.

2. Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

The Canadian Foundation for Innovation supports research infrastructure, but neglects that infrastructure's maintenance costs. A portion of their funds, including interest from funds not allocated (\$225 million in 2013), could be transferred to the Indirect Costs Program.

3. Tax Credits for Research and Development in Industry

Canada spends important sums on industrial research: at 0.24% of GDP, it ranks 6th in OECD countries for direct support of research and 2nd for indirect support⁴. Yet despite these federal investments, Canadian businesses are ranked only 14th for their own investments into research and development and 18th for the number of patents per capita.

Given this apparent inefficiency in the current tax credit system, it seems timely to review the tax incentive program for scientific research and experimental development. The liberated sums could be used in the Indirect Costs Program.

³ Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. 2013. *La recherche universitaire en partenariat avec les entreprises*.

⁴ Science, Technology and Innovation Council. 2012. *State of the Nation 2012*. Chapter 3: *Canada's Funding for Research and Development in an International Contexte*. Online. <http://www.stic-csti.ca/eic/site/stic-csti.nsf/eng/00064.html> (visited November 13th 2013).

Undergraduate Student Research Awards

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) currently has an Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program that funds internships, often during the summer, providing a unique experience to undergraduate students by introducing them to the research environment found in academia or industry. This program increases students' interest in research, contributes to their supervisors' productivity, and gives the supervisors an opportunity to assess and recruit students for graduate studies¹. Conversely, the experience allows students to explore, discover, and refine their research and work environment preferences – opportunities to do so outside a research internship are rare, yet the knowledge can be life-changing.

By contrast, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) does not have a program similar to the USRA. In consequence, **undergraduate students in the social sciences and humanities have fewer research opportunities during their studies than their peers in the natural sciences.** By enabling these students to undertake original research, they will be far better prepared to enter into and succeed at graduate-level research. Therefore, **we believe that the SSHRC must offer an internship program for undergraduate students in the humanities and social sciences.** In order to develop research as a whole, the creation of this program must not be at the expense of the currently available funding for graduate students.

¹ Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. 2012. *Evaluation of NSERC's Undergraduate Student Research Awards - Final evaluation report.*

Student representation on the Tri-Council agencies

The three Canadian research councils (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR, collectively known as the Tri-Council) provide critical support to more than 100 000 students every year – over \$1,3 billion annually in research grants¹. In return, students conduct and support cutting-edge research at Canada's post-secondary institutions, producing roughly one-third of Canada's scientific publications².

Despite this massive level of support to students from the Tri-Council, and the massive research output of those students using Tri-Council money, **there are still no student seats on any of the Tri-Council's governing bodies.**

It is already best practice for students to have seats on the governing boards of their universities. At the provincial level, the *Fonds de recherche du Québec* also has students on their governing councils. Both internally and provincially, student-governors have proven to be valuable contributors to research, innovation, and outreach. They can play an equally important role federally with the Tri-Council.

While SSHRC and NSERC accept students on some of their advisory committees, CIHR still does not³. In addition, keeping students in an advisory role deprives the organization of students' expertise and energy when planning strategic initiatives and responding to global trends. We believe that more can be done to foster an environment where young researchers are able to influence and conduct innovative research. **We believe there needs to be student representation on the governing bodies of the Tri-Councils.**

¹ a) Canadian Institutes of Health Research. 2013. *Annual Report 2012–13*. Available online: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/cihr_annual_report_2012-13_e.pdf [accessed on November 14, 2014]

b) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. 2014. *2013-14 Report on Plans and Priorities*. Available online: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Reports-Rapports/RPP-PPR/2013-2014/docs/RPP-PPR_eng.pdf [accessed on November 14, 2014]

c) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. 2014. *Facts and Figures*. Available online: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/facts-faits/index-eng.aspx [accessed on November 14, 2014]

² Larivière, Vincent. 2013. *On the shoulders of students? The contribution of PhD students to the advancement of knowledge*, Scientometrics, DOI 10.1007/s11192-011-0495-6.

³ Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. 2012. *Avis sur la représentation étudiante sur les organismes subventionnaires*.

Meetings agreements:

Chair sets agenda, calls meetings, and is responsible for minutes.

Notice of meetings as for Council meetings.

Contacts and resources to work with:

FEDS, WLUSU, WLUGSA, City of Waterloo (Town & Gown)-police, fire dept., mayors, uWaterloo Communications and Public Relations, Imprint and local newspapers, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Police – uWaterloo and Region of Waterloo, uWaterloo Residences Council, insurance company