



Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Graduate Student Association – University of Waterloo
COUNCIL MEETING
Agenda

Date: Thursday July 25,, 2013
Time 4:00 pm
Place: Needles Hall, room 3001

Time	Items	Page	Action
4:00	1. Chair's Remarks		Information
4:05	2. Approval of the Agenda		Decision
4:10	<u>Consent Agenda</u> BIRT the Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items 3 – 5 as indicated.		Decision
	3. Minutes from previous meeting held on June 28, 2013	3	Decision/Information
	4. Appointments and resignations:		Decision/Information
	5. Executive Reports		Decision/Information
	a.) President	7	Decision/Information
	b.) VP Communication & Events	10	Decision/Information
	c.) VP External	12	Decision/Information
	d.) VP Internal	15	Decision/Information
	e.) VP Student Affairs	19	Decision/Information
	<u>Regular Agenda</u>		
4:20	6. Questions/Answers		Information/Discussion
4:40	7. CASA Update, GSA VP External		Information
4:50	8. Update on the Health and Dental Plan, (VP Internal report.)		Discussion/Information
5:00	10. Other Business		Decision/Information
5:10	11. Next meeting date:		Discussion/Information
5:20	<input type="checkbox"/> August meeting if required, TBD		Information/Discussion
5:30	12. Confidential Session		
	13. Adjournment		Information/Discussion

Note: To allow the Council to complete matters quickly and 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, 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 requested by a Councillor. Documentation for each item will be supplied with the agenda and all items will be approved by omnibus motion in the consent agenda. The Council will then move immediately to address items on the regular agenda.

Michael Makahnouk, VP Internal
July 17, 2013

MM:rv

Please send regrets to Rose Vogt by email to rvogt@uwaterloo.ca

Supporting documents attached:



Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Graduate Student Association-University of Waterloo
GSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 3:30 pm in RCH 308

Quorum is achieved.

Present:

Michael Makahnouk, VP Internal, Chair
Robert Henderson, President
Matthew Gaster, VP External
Coleen Even, VP Student Affairs
Maya D'Alessio, Director
Helen Stubbs, Director
Michael Piazza, Director
Adrian Cossu, Recreation & Leisure
Krista Mathias, SPHHS
Allison Mascella, Economics
Julien Defraeye, French
Ryan Kirkby, History
Amin Haghnegahdar, Civil & Environmental
Engineering
Boyd Panton, Mechanical & Mechatronics
Engineering
Amenda Chow, Applied Mathematics
Ty Ghaswala, Pure Mathematics
William Lotosky, Biology
Nathan Clevon, Earth & Environment Sciences
David Pomaranski, Physics & Astronomy
Minutes: Rose Vogt, General Manager

Regrets:

Maryam Shahtaheeri, VP Communications &
Events
Taya McGillivray, Director
Ikdip Brar, Kinesiology
Tommy Mayberry, English
Ben Nelson, Philosophy
Drew Wheatherhead, Psychology
Mark Tam/Connor O'Grady, Architecture
James Sebele, School of Planning
Matthew Edwards, Chemistry

Absent:

Muhammad R. Khalid, Director
Karan Jandoo, Master of Public Service
Hadi Hosseinzadeh Khaligh, Electrical &
Computer Engineering
Poonks Manilachelvan, Systems Design
Engineering
Sarah Bishop/Afua Oteng-Amoako, Vision
Science
Farah el-Zarkout, Pharmacy

1. Chairs remarks
Makahnouk welcomes councillors.
2. The agenda is approved with no further additions. (Gaster/D'Alessio)

Consent Agenda:

BIRT the Council approves and /or receives for information by consent items 3-5 as indicated.
(D'Alessio/Even) Approved.

3. Minutes from the meeting held on May 28, 2013
4. Appointments and Resignations

5. Executive Reports (as submitted with the agenda package)

Regular Agenda:

6. Q&A none

Makahnouk reports that the Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance (OGSA) was established this year. The OGSA transition conference was held in Guelph. Makahnouk will serve as the President and represents UW. At the conference five lobby priorities and begin developing policies. At this time OGSA is funded by donations from the members.

Stubbs represents the GSA at CASA at the Graduate Council Committee and the Policy Committee. Policies will be discussed at the next CASA meeting and will be decided upon for the coming year. Feedback can be sent to Helen by email.

(Gaster/Ghaswala) **Motion to amend the agenda to defer item 7 until the guests from SSO arrive is approved.**

7. Student Success Portal, Jude Doble

Council heard a presentation and viewed a demonstration of a tool being developed for student access to uWaterloo resources and support.

This does not replace current sites and resources, help target access.

ACTION: Request graduate student consultation on the portal. Suggest that a demonstration is held at the Graduate House. Vogt will help set up a demo at the Graduate House with Jude Doble and Henry Ensley.

Could set up a consultation session through orientation in September.

8. Tuition increase

Council heard from Henderson and Makahnouk about the GSA position on the tuition increases implemented mid-term.

GSA President and VP Student Affairs attended a panel discussion in the SLC. Summary, graduate students were not adversely affected by the tuition increase. Domestic tuition went up 2 % and International Students tuition increased 3%. (Excluding the governmental "head-tax"). Funding discussions in the past year resulted in doctoral students receiving a 3% increase to the minimum funding and the TA rate. Graduate students mostly end up revenue neutral. The GSA official position is that net graduate student funding should not decrease.

The perspective of the GSA is continued work with the Grad Student Advisory Committee. Last year the GSA made it clear that the Provost gets recommendations, the deans allocate money, but the GSA feel that overall support should not be based on the TA budget. Allocations of new money happened independent of each other. The GSA recommends that discussions take place earlier in the year.

The Senate Graduate Research Committee, will be setting up a committee to see how graduate money travels and how it should travel. Makahnouk suggests that they should be engaging the

GSAC before striking this ad-hoc committee.

Ryan Kirkby: Is the GSA going to make a formal statement. Grad students seem to be under represented on this issue.

Makahnouk sent a statement to Imprint, (as per their request), which they chose not to print. The GSA Executive seeks direction from Council.

At the end of the Day this is about the communication surrounding the tuition increase. There was discussion at the UW Senate suggesting a review of how such issues should be addressed.

Part of the issue for uWaterloo is due to academic model and that the government did not come out with the tuition increase in a timely manner.

ACTION: Prepare a formal press release/communication to inform graduate students of all the facts and the GSA official position. Provide a gentle reminder to students that the GSA is following up on this issue.

ACTION: Investigate the ad hoc committee set up at the SGRC .

9. Council Committee Vacancies:

BIRT Council approves the appointments to Committees as indicated.’

(Boyd/Coleen) Approved.

Policy & By-Law Review Committee

-Nathan Cleven

-David Pomaranski

Activities Committee:

-many new members have joined this Committee. Connor Hart, Ghazal Memartoluie, Yasaman Shahtaheri, Daniel Saari, Pavit Lally, Dina Atel Saad.

Student Affairs Committee

-the Chair will seek to fill vacancies and report to Council.

Graduate Student Funding Committee:

-the Chair will seek to fill vacancies and report to Council.

External Affairs Committee

-Matthew Edwards

Elections Oversight Committee

-Maya D’Alessio

Ad-hoc Graduate Orientation Committee:

-the Chair will seek to fill vacancies and report to Council.

Long Range Planning Committee

Krista Mathias, SPHHS

10. Other business:

-The gender specific swims could have been handled better. There was no swim time set up for the start of this term.

Vogt asks that if GSA cancels this event as a paid event what the response would be. It is a matter of communication. This will be taken to the Activities Committee and VICE to make a decision on how to continue with the gender specific swims.

11. Next meeting Thursday July 25, 2013, at 4:00 pm. Location TBD.

12. Confidential Session – minutes in hardcopy only, separately.

13. Meeting is adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Errors and omissions accepted.

RDEH:rv



Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Report of the President to GSA Council Robert D. E. Henderson July 2013

Committee Updates

Ad hoc Graduate Orientation Committee

Work is ongoing for this project. Registration is up and running, swag has been ordered, communication strategies are proceeding, and presentations are being prepared. The committee will meet as needed between now and early September.

GSA Long Range Planning Committee

This committee now has a full complement of members:

- Robert Henderson, GSA President, Chair
- Michael Makahnouk, GSA VP Internal
- Taya McGillivary, At-Large Director
- Mike Piazza, At-Large Director
- Connor Hart, Graduate Student At-Large
- Boyd Panton, Graduate Student At-Large/Senator
- Rose Vogt, GSA General Manager, Secretary
- Krista Mathias, GSA Executive Assistant (resource)

Special Projects

GSA Executive Retreat

Over the weekend of July 12-14, all 5 executive officers, our general manager and executive assistant attended a retreat in Collingwood, ON. The goals of this retreat were teambuilding, familiarizing all executive with the GSA in both a current and historical context, and to set strategic priorities for the coming year. A report on the outcomes of the retreat, and priorities for the 2013-14 year, is forthcoming.

Reviewing Policy on ADDS Status

ADDS (Approved Doctoral Dissertation Supervisor) status allows a faculty member to sole-supervise a PhD student. Acquiring this status is loosely covered by policy. FAUW (the Faculty Association) in collaboration with the GSA, have undertaken to review the policy. This is an opportunity to increase the accountability of faculty members in supervising students (otherwise the status could be revoked), while clarifying the procedures and qualifications to acquire, review, revoke and appeal ADDS status decisions. Discussions are in the early stages; updates will be made to council as information becomes available.

Summary of Meetings

Committee	Meeting Date	Highlights
Graduate Student Relations Committee	June 19	Discussed confidential matters pertaining to graduate students. Outcomes that are not confidential are reported to council elsewhere.
Athletics Advisory Board	June 19	Heard updates from the Director and Associate Directors on the status and direction of the department.
Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance	June 22-23	Two-day conference to establish governance of OGSA, delegates, and policy priorities. For now, the GSA President will be the primary delegate as the VPIN has been elected to the OGSA board. See the VPIN report for further information.
Task Force on ADDS (Approved Doctoral Dissertation Supervisor) Status	June 24	See notes above.
Graduate House Staff Meeting	June 24	Attended, with the VPSA, a meeting of all staff members of the Graduate House.
Lunch with Alumni Council	June 25	The executive were invited by the Alumni Council to have lunch with members, and to give a presentation on the GSA. This was attended by the President, VPSA, and our executive assistant (having been a previous VPSA). There was a good discussion following the presentation with the Council about graduates students and studies, and the GSA's role on campus.
GSA Board of Directors	June 26	Discussed corporate matters of the GSA and approved project expenditures.
Lunch with President Feridun Hamdullahpur, Provost Geoff McBoyle, Associate Provost (Students) Chris Read	June 26	The executive invited these senior administrators to have lunch, and we had a good discussion about broad university matters and graduate students on campus.
Athletics SSAC Follow-up Meeting	June 26	We're engaging in a series of discussions with the

		department of athletics to better understand how the department is run and how student fees are currently used.
GSA Council	June 26	See the June Council minutes.
Director of Equity Search Committee	June 27	Determined a short-list of candidates to interview. I will be the sole student representative on the interview panel. Interviews will be conducted in late July and early August.
Town and Gown Committee – Update from Associate Provost, Students	July 2	This is a municipal committee that brings together representatives from the various post-secondary institutions, city council and staff, and residents. The terms of reference are currently under reform to refocus the mandate of the committee to address higher-level issues, and to include graduate students.
Meeting with Jana Carson, IAP	July 11	Discussed the prospect of hosting a national Student Advocacy Survey to be compile comparative data across the country. Developments TBA.
GSA Executive Meeting	July 11	Finalised retreat agenda and discussed current projects among the executive.
Convocation Review Committee	July 12	Sent regrets (retreat).
GSA Executive Retreat	July 12-14	See notes above.
Athletics SSAC Follow-up Meeting	July 16	Discussed internal departmental practices and procedures to better understand how the unit is run.
Meeting with Associate Provost (Students), Chris Read Re: SSO Director Search	July 16	Provided feedback on the SSO in general and discussed the hiring procedure for the next Director of the SSO.
Senate Executive Committee	July 17	Special meeting to address business in confidential session.
GSO/Graduate Coordinators Meeting	July 18	
Meeting with Adam Garcia	July 18	
Orientation Lab Safety Session – Organizational Meeting	July 19	
Task Force on ADDS Status	July 19	
GSEF Board of Directors	July 23	
GSA Executive Meeting	July 23	
GSA Board of Directors	July 25	
GSA Council	July 25	



Vice-President Communications and Events Report to GSA Council
Maryam Shahtaheri,
July 2013

Summary of Meetings

Meetings/Committees	Date	Notes
Activity Committee	July 2, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on upcoming events • Recruit team • Exploring event ideas for this year
Meeting with GM (Rose Vogt)	July 3, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and working on organizing upcoming events • Updating website
E-News	July 4, 5, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder for upcoming events, Legal Aid, etc.
Ice cream social	July 9, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handing out free ice cream and allowing graduates to socialize
Meeting with the Muslim club	July 11, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on ways to have “male” specific swim sessions as a combination of graduate and undergraduate students
Executive Meeting	July 11, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize agenda and discussions for retreat
GSA Retreat	July 12-14, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on our vision and mission • Discussion on goals that need to be achieved by VPCE at the end of this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work on developing a hardcopy newsletter ○ Make communication between GSA and students more efficient (feasible) ○ More on campus events than off-campus ones ○ More focus on single graduate students
Graduate’s live chat	July 15, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing answers for possible questions which new graduate students may have for us • Preparing necessary links and websites that may be useful for new comers

Meeting with SSO	July 15, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on ways to improve leadership skills within graduate students (discussion was more focused on undergraduate students)
Meeting with John Johnson	July 16, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on elements that our GSA logo should include • Agreement on the first sketch of the logo
Tour to Wonderland	July 27, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange bus and wonderland tickets for the event
Departmental Donations	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, approval of donation requests from departmental GSA and Clubs.

Departmental Donations:

Please note that the GSA awards donations for social events to departments and clubs. The details of the procedure, eligibility and the application form are available on the GSA website. Donations are per term, and reimbursements are made in accordance to event receipts up to the approved amount.

Activities Committee:

The summer time event planned for June 21, 2013 was cancelled due to lack of participation. The Activities Committee will meet in the next few weeks to consider alternate events. I welcome event ideas from the Council and please send comments to me by email: gsa-vpce@uwaterloo.ca

Volunteers for Orientation:

The GSA will be seeking volunteers for the Orientation and pre-orientation for the Fall. A website and registration form was posted on the GSA website, with an announcement sent in the E-news.



Report of the Vice-President External to GSA Council
Matthew Gaster
July, 2013

Summary of Meetings

Committee	Meeting Date	Highlights
CASA Graduate Council	Tues. July 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * First meeting to discuss progress on the two priorities tasked to our committee for further research. Please see CASA Update below for more information. * This committee will meet regularly every second week.
GSA Executive Meeting	Thur. July 11	* Prepared for Executive Retreat
GSA Executive Retreat	Thur. July 12- Sun. July 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of GSA's current relationships with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * UW Administration * External organizations * Review of GSA projects underway * Goal Setting for the upcoming year
CASA Graduate Council	Tues. July 23	* Updates on current research priorities see above
GSEF Board Meeting	Tues. July 23	
GSA Executive Meeting	Tues. July 23	* Finish up outstanding business from Executive Retreat
GSA Board Meeting	Thur. July 25	

CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations) Update:

At the end of June, I attended CASA's annual Policy and Strategy Conference, where delegates selected the advocacy and research priorities for the year. Although this does not limit CASA delegates and staff from lobbying on different policies as the need or opportunity arises, this conference selected the issues toward which CASA will focus its resources.

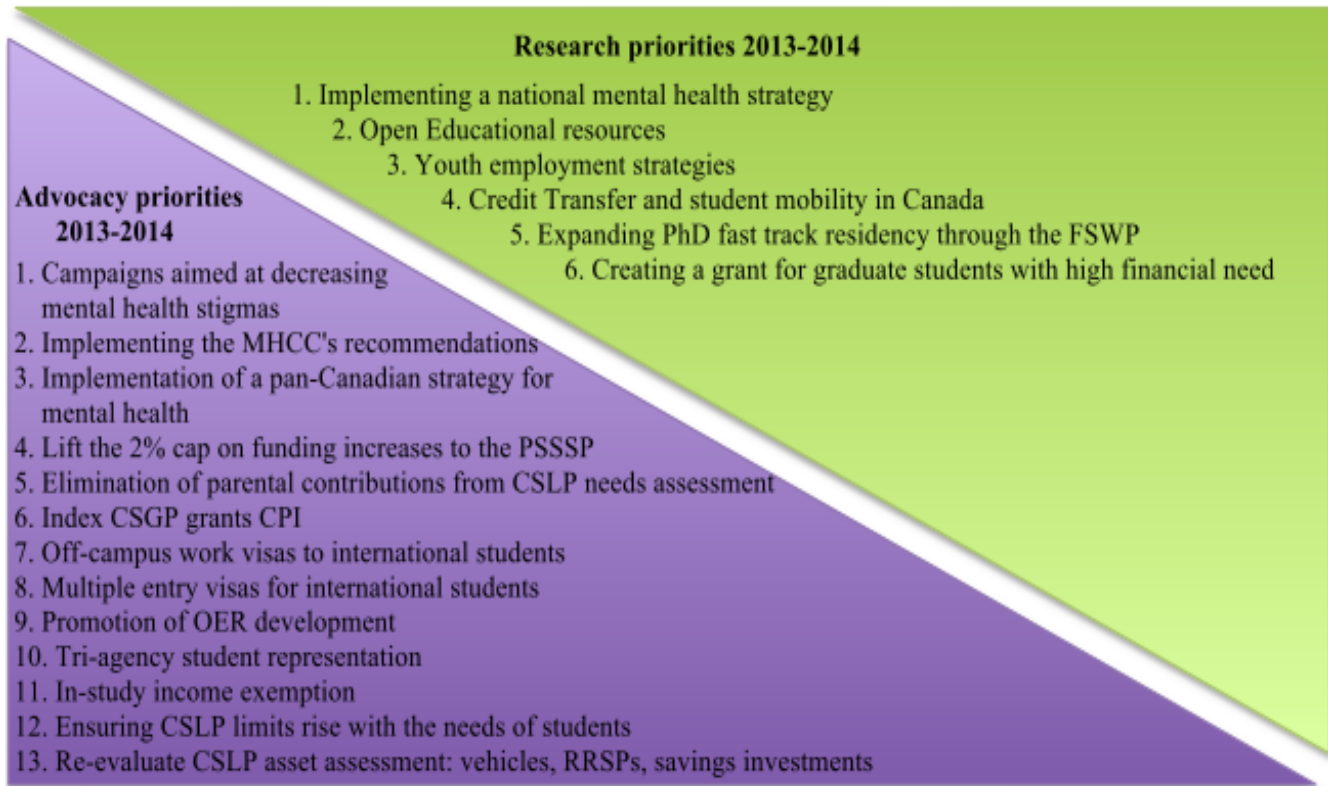
As Graduate Council (of which I am chair), we went into the conference endorsing 3 different policies directly related to issues that affect Graduate students:

1. Student representation on tri-agency governing bodies (I09)
2. Creating a grant for Graduate Students with High Financial Need (F06)
3. The advancement of OER development within the country

We presented these asks to the larger membership, and we received great support for graduate student issues. Amongst the 6 research priorities selected by the membership both “Grants for Graduate Students with High Financial Need (F06)” and “Expanding PhD Fast Track Residency Through the Federal Skilled Workers Program (A34)” (a policy in addition to our endorsements) were selected. Additionally, “Student representation on tri-agency governing bodies (I09)” and “The advancement of OER development within the country” were selected as 2 of the 12 advocacy priorities.

As we move forward towards CASA's Advocacy week in November (the biggest week of CASA's year in which delegates meet with decision makers on parliament hill) graduate student issues will be well represented by CASA's research and advocacy efforts. Specifically as a “Graduate Council,” we will be working on “Grants for Graduate Students with High Financial Need (F06)” and “Expanding PhD Fast Track Residency Through the Federal Skilled Workers Program (A34),” two of the policies identified by the membership for further research. These will be our priorities through the rest of the summer and in to the fall. Following our completion of these two policies, the Graduate Council has identified a number of other policies that we will be developing with a completion goal of March, these will be detailed in a later update.

CASA Priorities 2013-2014





Report of the Vice-President Internal to GSA Council
Michael Makahnouk
July 2013

Summary of Meetings

Committee	Meeting Date	Highlights
Space Inventory Advisory Group	June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sent regrets because of research conflicts -no additional meetings to be scheduled this summer
Meeting with Associate Director Athletics (Campus Rec.)	June 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -VPCE and I met to discuss the gender specific swims -advertising and student turnout limit the success of this program
Phone meeting with Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)	June 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -discussed issues that students are facing with retroactive tuition increases -updated colleagues at OUSA about the OGSA developments and transition conference -look to keep in contact over the course of the year
OGSA Transition Conference	June 22-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -discussed OGSA history with new members -review bylaws -elected 2013-14 Board of Directors -Set policy objectives based on the policy setting framework -spent time with Co-Chair and OGSA staff prior to the conference to set agenda, etc. -Liz Sandals (Minister of Education) attended the conference as a guest speaker

VP Academic and Provost nominating committee	June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -discussed the position and challenges -heard presentations from the Provost and President -discussed next steps of the process
OGSA Board Meeting	July 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -OGSA governance discussed -OGSA identity and website -OGSA bank account -action items identified for the next two weeks -Board will meet biweekly
GSA Executive retreat in Collingwood	July 12-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -retreat focused entirely on business -areas of need were identified for future retreats -a one day transition between executive teams must take place to cover the historical topics related to the GSA -priorities were set for this year
Met with the Student Success Office – Student Leadership team	July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -follow up meeting from the initial discussion had by VPSA, GSA Office Assistant, and myself with SSO -VPCE attended the meeting with 3 staff members from Jeff Henry’s team (including him) -identified areas that need to be addressed for student leadership opportunities for graduate students -articulated that the GSA will be involved with working on graduate student opportunities for leadership experience

General Comments

Over the past month, multiple weekends were spent on GSA matters. I continue to spend the most of my efforts with the OGSA; however, more internal matters are starting to need my attention.

The Senate does not meet during July and August. The GSA did meet with the Waterloo’s President, Provost, and Associate Provost – Students for lunch to discuss issues facing graduate students.

Special Projects

I was elected President of the Ontario Graduate Students' Alliance, and continue to work with the staff member from WLUGSA to finalize various action items. I was invited to speak on July 16th to the WLUGSA Board's working group reviewing external organizations, where I presented on behalf of the OGSA. The discussion was well received by myself and WLUGSA directors. On July 17th, I set up a bank account for the OGSA with the Vice-President (President from WLUGSA).

I recently submitted the OGSA Board of Directors' personal bios to the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (TCU). The staff at TCU will be scheduling a meeting with myself and the Vice-President later this summer.

Finally, the McMaster GSA has approved a donation of three thousand dollars.

Health and Dental Plan Update:

Below is a summary of the information the General Manager discussed at meetings with Del Pereira and Lev Bukhman, (representatives from Studentcare.net/works), and the FEDS. These meetings were held in April 2013 and May 2013.

In summary, both the joint GSA/FEDS Health Plan and the GSA Dental Plan are very stable. As recommended last term, the GSA fees will remain at the same rate as last year, \$114.25/term/student for both plans.

Health Plan

The supplementary Health Plan is a joint plan with the FEDS. On April 19, 2013 the GSA General Manager met with Studentcare.net/works and FEDS to review the renewal analysis report and performance of the Health Plan, for the year 2011-2012.

Background:

The FEDS & GSA joint Health Plan operates on a self-insured model. That is the insurance company does not insure the premium amount and the risk for the cost for actual claims compared to the premiums collected is borne by the plan holders. If there are less claims than premiums collected the plan holders keep the difference and if there are more claims than premiums collected the plan holders pay the difference. This money is captured in 2 funds; one is the Claims Fluctuation Reserve (CFR) that the insurance company can draw upon in the event that claims surpass premiums. The other fund is a shared bank account, with the FEDS, where the insurance company deposits the balance in the event that claims are less than the premiums. (Non-Restricted Deposit Account)

The plan year is from September to August annually.

Health Plan Summary

- The current plan fee, charged to students, maintains an appropriate surplus amount to ensure that the Claims Fluctuation Reserve remains fully funded and a buffer is maintained by each Association to alleviate any future cost pressures on the plan
- The insurance policy that underlies the FEDS & GSA Health Plan is a one-year contract that must be renewed with the Plan insurer each September for the following year.
- The Renewal Analysis Report provides an overview of the projected Plan cost structure for 2013-2014 based on an analysis of the Plan's historical claims experience (year 2011-2012), and also

looks at the claims from the first several months of the current policy year (2012-2013)

- Claims and enrolment in the Health Plan have both decreased for the current year, with per capita health claims down by 3% from the previous year.
- Travel claims have been highly volatile over the past few plan years; this has resulted in some unpredictability. The 2011-2012 plan year saw increased travel claims, under \$25,000.00 as thus has impacted the Claims Fluctuation Reserve. A top-up to the CFR was required. The GSA amount of top up was \$29,698.00 for the GSA and \$120,363.00 for the FEDS.
- The renewal analysis recommends a small premium increase in the joint health plan for the 2013-2014 year.
- The recommendation is to maintain the current GSA Health Plan Fee at \$51.25/term/student.

Dental Plan

Background

The GSA Dental Plan operates on a fully insured premium model. That is, the insurance company assumes all risk of the cost of actual claims. If claims are greater than premiums collected, the insurance company pays the difference and if claims are less than premiums collected, the insurance company keeps the difference. The actual claims experience will reflect on the future premium rate. The GSA Dental plan was separated from the FEDS plan as of September 1, 2010. At that time the dental premium rate more than doubled. (From ~ \$40/perm to ~\$90.00/ term). The Ad-Hoc Health & Dental Committee agreed that tough decisions had to be made to reduce the premium by reducing coverage.

After the first year as a stand-alone dental plan, the coverage changes demonstrated a marked balance in the claims experience to the dental premium. The insurance company reduced the annual dental premium to \$219.00/student for the 2011-2012 year. The GSA continued to subsidize the plan fee at \$60.00/student/term keeping the Dental fee at \$180.00/student annually and keeping all coverage the same as the 2010-2011 year. Improvements to the coverage, by increasing the number of scaling units from two to four, were made to the 2012-2013 plan year. The GSA Board approved raising the graduate student fee by \$3.00/term for this plan year, to gradually step the student fee to match the premium. Each graduate student paid 189.00/annum.

Dental Plan Summary

The GSA General Manager met with studentcare.net/works on April 19, 2013 to review the annual report detailing the activity of the 2011-2012 year and the performance of the plan in the first several months of the current year.

- The GSA is subsidizing the Dental Plan by \$11.82/student/term. The Dental plan is stabilizing since the split from the FEDS. That is the premium is decreasing and the fee increased minimally.
- Plan enrollment decreased from the previous year with an average annual enrolment of \$4328. As enrolment decreased by 3% over the previous year, per capita claims have increased by 5% from the current year September 2012 – March 2013. This is a result of the increased coverage for this year.
- The estimated annual premium negotiated by Studentcare for the 2013-2014 year is \$219.71/student/annum. This is a decrease of 2% from \$224.47 for the 2012-2013 plan year. Studentcare recommends that the GSA maintain the current plan coverage to further stabilize the plan.
- The VP Internal and General Manager recommend that the current dental plan fee for students remains the same as last year. \$63.00/term/student. The subsidy to students is \$10.24/student/term.



Report of the Vice-President Student Affairs to GSA Council Coleen Even

July 2013

Committee Updates

Student Affairs Committee [July 2013]

There will be a meeting planned for the beginning of August in order to review current issues and talk about action items.

Funding Committee [July 2013]

Planning of SSAC and GSSAC reviews, met with the funding committee in early Fall in order to raise issues for this year's goals.

Special Projects

- Communication on the GSA's current position over tuition increase to be delivered via our communication paths.
- Orientation committee: meeting with the different services, organization of the logistics for the orientation week. Planning of the volunteer training and other tasks for the set up of orientation.
- Visits to satellite campuses: discussion of current GSA statuses on these campuses, presentation of the Fall 2014 graduate orientation and logistics to bring these students on campus.
- Advocacy office: taking actions to start having an advocacy element on campus.

Summary of Meetings

Committee	Meeting Date	Highlights
Council	June 26	The different executives presented their reports. Student portal presentation, discussion over the tuition increase, (press release to be done), filling the different committee's vacancies
Task force English competency	June 27	Travel team met, summary from steering committee + discussion on home team presentation
Student Advocacy - meeting with	July 3	Discussions concerning the status of the advocacy

Chris Read		office, what is going on and what is going to happen next
Orientation committee	July 3	Meeting to discuss and create volunteer registration form
Orientation committee – Services meeting	July 9	Jessica, Tasha and I met with the different services that will be presenting during our wide-campus orientation day in September. We provided them with the logistics and itinerary of the day
Joint Health and Safety Committee	July 11	Orientation session to tell us what are roles are in the committee and how the committee works within the university
GSA executive retreat	July 12-14	Retreat with the GSA executives to prepare our year goals and highlight important projects to keep working on or develop
Orientation committee – live chat team	July 15	Meeting with Krista and Maryam to preparer the live chats for graduate students
GSA – Logo discussion	July 16	Meeting with Jon Johnson to review and talk about the current development of the new GSA logo
Athletics Budget review	July 16	On-going review of the Athletics budget. Analysis of budget breakdown and discussions on distribution of revenues from SSAC
Student Advocacy project – Chris Read	July 16	Discussions with Chris Read on the GSA’s stake and decision to move forward with the creation of the office
Stratford visit	July 17	
GSO – Faculty meeting	July 18	
SSO meeting	July 18	
Orientation – lab safety	July 19	
GSA – executive meeting	July 23	
GSA – Board of directors	July 25	
GSA - Council	July 25	