



Council

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday July 30, 2015

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Place: RCH 103

AGENDA

Time	Open Session	Page	Action
4:30	1. Agenda/Additional Agenda Items		Decision
4:35	2. Chair's Remarks		Information
	Consent Agenda*		
4:40	BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items #3 & #4 of the agenda.		Decision
	3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.	3	Decision
	4. Executive Reports	8	Information
	Regular Agenda		
4:45	5. Policy 33 Review (Beth Jewkes)		Discussion
5:10	6. TA Contract (Sarah Hildebrandt)		Discussion
5:35	7. Q&A- to Executive Reports (<i>oral reports</i>)		Discussion
5:50	8. OGSA – University Funding Reform Consultation (Mike Makahnouk)	Attached	Discussion
6:05	9. Athletics Update (Ghazal Mermatoluie)		Information
6:10	10. AFSA Referendum Results	Attached	Information
6:15	11. Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Open Position		Information
6:20	12. Other Business		Info/Discuss
6:25	13. Confidential Session (<i>if required</i>)		
6:30	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 councillor so requests. Councillors 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.

Matthew Perrone,
GSA Student Affairs Officer, Chair

July 23, 2015



Council

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday June 25, 2015

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Place: RCH 103

Attendance:

Present:

Council Speaker, Matthew Perrone
Maya D'Alessio, President
Rachel Mitchell, Vice President
Matthew Perrone, chair, Student Affairs Officer
Kristen Leal, External Affairs Officer-CASA
Michael Makahnouk, External Affairs Officer-OGSA
Robert Henderson, Director (2016)
Adeboye Oyegunle, Director (2016)
Michael Piazza, Director (2016)
Ghazal Memartoluie, Director (2017)
Marcel Humelnicu, Alumni Director (2017)
Sara Scharoun, Kinesiology
Julie Leeming, Recreation & Leisure Studies
Sonja Senthana, SPHHS (On-Line)
D.J. Houle, Classical Studies
Antulio Rosales Nieves, Global Governance
Thomas Freure, History
Adam Moreash, Peace & Conflict Studies
Zabeen Khamisa, Religious Studies
Zac Hogg, Accounting and Finance
Angela Willmot, Sociology&Legal Studies
Nicole Nagy, Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering
Chris Burke, SEED
Ji Sie Ma, ERS
John Doucette, Computer Science
Anton Mosunov, Pure Mathematics (On line)
Nathalie Moon, Statistics & Actuarial Science
Hina Bandukwala Biology
Ryan Amos, Chemistry
Ryan Truong, Earth & Environment Sciences
Nawaz Ahmed, School of Pharmacy (On-line)
Samantha Shortall, At-Large

Guest: Ami Rints for presentation PACE, Arun Raj (5:45)-GH events presentation.

Minutes: Rose Vogt, GSA General Manager

Regrets: Christopher Pugh, Laura Coakley, Richard Buchan, Sina Varamini

Absent: Anna Brousseau, Filip Budimir, Mohammed Ghaziaskar, Phil Miletic, Jamie Sewell, Michelle D'sa, Tim Leshuk, Ahmed Abdel Aziz, Jumana Shahzadeh, Christina Chan, Puneet Sharma/Naijing Kang,

Vogt reports that quorum is achieved and will record the minutes.

Perrone takes the Chair and calls the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

1. The agenda is approved with additional items for 'Other Business' by Maya D'Alessio-filling UW committees and Matt Perrone to remind councilors of the procedure for departmental and club donations. (Leal/Amos)
2. Chair's Remarks
The meeting is catered by the Graduate House and will continue to provide a meal since the meeting occur over dinnertime. Council is one of the most important ways to share information between the GSA and departments.

Consent Agenda

BIRT Council approves and/or receives for information by consent items #3-#4 of the agenda (Piazza/Doucette)

Approved, abstained: Marcel Humelnicu and Zac Hogg.

3. Approval of the minutes from the May 14, 2015 meeting
4. Executive Reports

Regular Agenda

5. Appointment of New Councillors
 - Antulio Rosales Nieves, Global Governance
 - Zabeen Khamisa, Religious Studies
 - Zac Hogg, Accounting and Finance
 - Jie Si Ma, ERS
 - Richard Buchan, Planning
 - Anton Mosunov, Pure Mathematics
 - Hina Bandukwala, Biology

BIRT Council approves the appointments of new Councillors omnibus.
(Makahnouk/Henderson) Approved unanimously.

6. Q&A to Executive Reports – Oral reports.

a. President:

The spring term and the first term in office, was very busy. Since the overhaul of the governance model, Executives are evaluating their roles. Work is continuing with the operating manual and updating policies. The Board is dealing with internal issues, defining staff roles.

Course evaluation project: The focus is on evaluation of professors/instructors. GSA's recommendation is that TA;s are to be included in the evaluations.

D'Alessio and graduate student senators recommend that there is a mechanism for graduate students to provide feedback on their supervisors. They recommend that an ADDS task force continue to improve guidelines for supervisor evaluations/reporting. Updates will be reported when received.

TA Contract: The GSA is recommending that a contract/TA allocation form be implemented. This would be a one-page contract on one side of a sheet and the TA Time Allocation form on the reverse side. There are indications that this type of contract will begin September 2015.

ACTION: The form will be included in the next council meeting package, for clarity and discussion.

Distribution of Scholarship funds: GSA is working to define/improve the guidelines regarding the payment of scholarships, to have them release on a specific day each term.

b. Vice-President:

Council heard about activities during for Bike Month: bike breakfast, bike safety workshops held in the parking lots, etc.

Councillor asked how to include policy statements regarding sexual violence, human rights etc., n their constitution. The recommendation is to include wording/affiliation with UW policy (i.e. policy 33-ethical behavior) and with GSA policy.

c. Student Affairs Officer:

The Council representation is improving and Perrone will continue to work to keep the councilors updates. The GSA will connect to individual departments to learn about their internal processes and activities.

The GSA will create a student handbook – further defining students options and resources when facing academic issues.

Policy 30 – the policy applies to graduate student that work as proctors, marking assistants, marking work reports. It does not apply to Research Assistants.

d. External Affairs Officer - CASA

The GSA hired a graduate student, from the School of Planning, to serve as the "Get Out The Vote" coordinator on campus.

Research shows that graduate students and co-op students use tax credits. In prior years CASA passed a policy that all federal tax credits be moved to up-front grants, and this benefits undergraduate students, but graduate students would benefit from tax credits. Leal is not sure what the climate will be within CASA to make the change or include tax credits as a policy position.

- e. External Affairs Officer – OGSA
OGSA continues to work to implementing a technology tax credit (provincial) for graduate students. Realistically, it may be another year before it can be in effect.

The Ontario government is reviewing the university funding formula. This is in the billion-dollar range. The expenditure on specific allocations is under review, not the amount of funding.

- f. GSA in General: The GSA/FEDS are working unified on some goals: creating an Ombudsman's Office for campus, improving student space/social space, and student services (health plan, ICSN). FEDS and GSA are working well together.

- 7. PACE Update, Ami Rints
Council heard an update from Ami Rints, graduate student member of PACE (President's Advisory Committee on Equity). PACE makes recommendations to the university administration. Two working groups provide advice on Sexual Violence, and LGBTQ. PACE will focus work as issues arise.

The current single use washrooms will be converted to multi-gender use, and all newly constructed facilities will require accommodation for multi-gender use washrooms.

Ami keeps the GSA informed by sending the President monthly updates.

- 8. AFSA Referendum

BIRT Council directs the GSA Board to call a referendum to approve the AFSA fee of \$30.00/term charged to each MAcc student. (D'Alessio/Makahnouk)

Approved. Humelnicu and Hogg abstain.

- 9. Get Out The Vote Campaign, Kristen Leal, External Affairs Officer

BIRT Council approves the GSA-UW support and participation in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' "Get Out the Vote Campaign" for the upcoming federal election.

(Leal/Memartoluie)

Approved. Leal and Mitchell abstain.

Leal will email students directly with volunteer information. The thrust of the campaign will begin in September. The metadata collected will include that students voted, and this is important information to help shape the direction of government. Leal, there are no measures to hold politicians/government to their platform. CASA home office is very active with politicians.

10. Graduate Student Space, Maya D'Alessio, President
Council heard that the GSA official policy on graduate student space is valid. UW has a statement regarding graduate student space, approved by the Provost. These guidelines do not apply to "course-based" masters.
The GSA believes that faculties can manage the current space better. Students have had to advocate for space, in some cases have a system of "flex" desk. Shared "quiet" space and social space are important. Libraries are changing their space use, and there may be opportunity for graduate student space in the library. This may provide interdisciplinary space.
The UW space manager is aware of the space issue, but is somewhat bound by politics and the domino effect of shifting space. (Since the acquisition of new facilities)
- The GSA will gather needs based information from graduate students in each department. Further discuss whether this can be a working group/committee. Perhaps students can submit information online with a form.

11. Graduate House Events, Arun Raj
Council heard of coming GSA events. Check the websites and E-news for details.

12. Other Business

- a. UW committees need graduate student representatives:
 - i. Parking and Traffic Committee - John Doucette, self nominated.
 - ii. Co-Op and Education Council - graduate student from a coop program may be interested.
- b. Due to time limitations, Perrone postponed his item until the next meeting.

13. Confidential Session (if required) -none

14. Meeting is adjourned at 6:33 pm.

MP:rv

**Report to the GSA Council
Maya D'Alessio, President
July 15th, 2015**

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
Committees:		
Space Information Advisory Group	June 10 th	Met with the committee to discuss the progress of the space audit and the poly-lining of building drawings. The poly-lining should allow more accurate collection of information on space.
Policy 30	June 11 th	First meeting of the Policy 30 drafting committee. We did not really accomplish anything in this meeting, but it is a start at least.
GSA Board	June 11 th	Everyone was present at the last Board.
GSRC	June 12 th	Discussed the TA universal contract further, raised concerns again about release of scholarship funds and the GSO is doing some investigating on the issue
Senate	June 15 th	Was able to call in to senate and stay on the line during most of the business. The ADDS status discussion went way over-time and I had to disconnect as the conference I was at was starting. The students present put the pre-drafted motion forward asking for a task force to investigate how to measure quality of supervision and how to increase overall supervision quality on campus. I consider this a great step forward!
Course Evaluation Project	June 22 nd	Met with the committee to discuss updates to the next version of the recommendation document, progress on consultations and any other issues. I was asked to draft a document that outlines considerations for evaluation of TAs to be included in the next version of the report.
Fall Break Committee	June 22 nd	The Fall Break committee re-convened to discuss an alternative scenario; faculty members raised issues with the current proposal of starting classes earlier (Thurs of orientation week) as it would decrease faculty's ability to take vacation. A solution was reached with the Registrar that would allow faculty teaching Spring/Fall to be identified and scheduled for their exams earlier in the exam period. The result of this will be consultation/decision at senate in the Fall term.
Council	June 25 th	Attended council!
Board Special Meeting	June 25 th	Held a Board special meeting after council to call the referendum for the AFSA student fee
Associate Provost Graduate Studies Search Committee	July 2 nd	I had a flat tire and had to call in to the meeting from Canadian tire (not awesome). Everything that happens in this committee is strictly confidential but the search process should be completed by late in the Fall term. This is very important for the GSA as the AP-GS works closely with us to improve

		graduate student life on campus.
Non- Committee activity		
South Commons	June 10 th	Met with Dennis Huber (VPAF) and Dan Parent (University Architect) to discuss the impact the south commons project will have on graduate house operations and revenues next summer. In addition, mentioned some graduate house issues/wishes including shading/covering of the patio.
ADDS/Senate	June 12 th	Met with FAUW President, David Porrecca and Bryan Tolson to discuss a motion I drafted to bring to Senate on the up-coming vote on the ADDS status update. The document definitely improves on the old policy, but does not touch on quality of supervision.
Away at conference	June 15 th – 19 th	Away in Regina for a research conference
International Student Social	June 22 nd	The GSA held an “after-event social” on the Grad House lawn after an international student event on Canadian immigration. Roughly 50-100 students stopped by and members of the executive were around to talk to students.
Executive meeting	June 24 th	The executive met in the GSA office to discuss on-going projects and touch base
Space expansion	June 25 th	Met with the Feds President, Chris Read and Scott Nicoll to discuss possibilities around a new student building.
SSAC update	June 25 th	Met with the Feds President and Chris Read to discuss proposed changes to the SSAC protocol and what still needed to be addressed.
Lunch with the President	June 26 th	Had lunch with Feridun, Rachel and Matt. Discussed the GSA’s priorities for the year, with emphasis put on the Ombudsman’s office.
Student Fees	June 29 th	Met with Dennis Huber (VPAF) to discuss and review all association/group imposed fees on graduate students to ensure all followed GSA policies. Discussed implementation of the AFSA fee and how to manage refundable student association fees.
Graduate Student Space	July 6 th	Met with Beth Jewkes, Scott Nicoll, Jim Frank and Michelle Banic to discuss graduate student space specific issues. Identified the ideal goals around space and how to get there. Jim Frank is discussing the Statement on Grad Space with the faculty Deans and is engaging the departments to get a full listing of all graduate students and where their office space is. The short term goal (hopefully the easiest) is to find non-lab space for all graduate students who have offices only in a wet lab. Longer term is to improve graduate space options on campus.
Meet the GSA Night	July 6 th	Attended the GSA night at the GH for the GH Summer Festival.

		Many students and on-campus partners came out and there was lively discussion among all who attended. Especially exciting was that two local MPs attended the event.
Meeting with Jim Frank	July 8 th	Bi-weekly check in meeting. Matt and Rachel attended with me and we discussed partnering with the GSO for town halls in each faculty in the Fall, Policy 30, the upcoming TA contract and some department specific issues that were brought to the GSA.
Executive meeting	July 8 th	Lengthy executive meeting dealing with some controversial issues that ended on a positive note. Really happy to say that this year's executive team is very tight knit!
Meeting with the Provost	July 9 th	Met with Ian Orchard with Rachel to discuss the GSA's priorities for the year (student space, ombudsmen's office, TA policy and quality of graduate student supervision). The Provost was very supportive, I look forward to working with him this year.
Writing Centre	July 9 th	Had a meeting with Clare Bermingham from the Writing Centre to discuss their program offerings, and their goals. Going to involve the GSA in promotion of their services which are very relevant to graduate students.
New Building	July 10 th	Had a lengthy meeting with Feds President, Chris to discuss at a high-level what we would want to see in a new student building based on previous survey data and previous building proposals. Called Scott Nicoll who came by and then hammered out a timeline to start moving this project forward.
Plant Ops	July 14 th	Met with Plant Ops to receive quote and discuss options around the request for information on shading/covering the GH patio. Some very exciting potential ideas!
SSO Meeting	July 14 th	Meeting with the SSO to discuss their current activities and on-going plans to shape the future of the office.
New building	July 14 th	Meeting with Scott Nicoll and Chris Lolas to get an overview of how to build a building program (the details of the design of a building) in advance of starting to put one together.
Athletics and Recreation Council	July 14 th	Met with Roly and the rest of the Rec council to discuss the results of a priority review from an external contractor to help guide how to spend the \$2.4 million being invested in the PAC renovations.
Grad Live Chat	July 15 th	Very excited to be taking part in the live chat for incoming graduate students. I will be working on the "back end" answering questions from students over chat while the orientation coordinators make presentations.

Current Projects:

- Opening discussions with the administration re. graduate student space, starting to identify early and long term goals
- Working with the Feds on international student tuition issues
- Prepared a draft of what Policy 30 should look like (if all of our wish list was addressed)
- TA contract is out in the departments for feedback – still aiming for Fall 2015 implementation
- Began high level discussions and planning on the potential of a new student building...
- Collaboration on the PAC upgrades
- A few graduate student advocacy projects; Pharmacy drinking water quality, CLV bus stop cross walk, graduate office safety concerns

Comments:

University committees have stopped meeting now until September which has freed up some time to spend on other projects and preparation of documents.

I met with Ian Orchard (the Provost) with Rachel a few weeks ago and it was a very fruitful discussion, he is on board with all of our major goals for the year. Matt, Rachel and myself also met with the President to discuss the GSA's priorities for the year.

The GSA is officially staying in our current office space "indefinitely", until we make the move to a permanent home that is student accessible and fulfills all of our needs.

Report to the GSA Council
Rachel Mitchell, Vice-President
July 15th, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
GSA Council		Attended June meeting and will be in attendance for July meeting.
GSA Board	June 25th	Attended June meeting, and will be in attendance for the July meeting. Attended mini board meeting to approve AFSA referendum
GSA Committee		
HR Committee		Beginning preliminary work in HR review.
University Committee		
SSAC	June 25th	Short debrief meeting to review how the past meeting went. Early discussions on the possibility of a new student building.
President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability	June 22nd	This was the last meeting of the summer/spring term for this committee. Next meeting is scheduled for September. Continuing discussions on campus initiatives, sustainability report, and SWOT analysis for the committee. Bike Month was a huge success ☺
Orientation	Upcoming July meeting	
Senate Executive	June 1st	Approved Senate Agenda
Senate	June 15th	Final Senate meeting before the summer break. Senate will reconvene in September. ADDS Status approval. Approval of the GSA motion to strike a task force to review the quality of graduate student supervision (inclusive of both Masters and Phd students).
Sexual Violence Working Group	June 12 th (regrets) June 25 th July 2 nd (phone in)	Continuing discussions on policy formulation. Guest speaker from Residence Life shared information on protocol and procedures in residences, and with dons. I will be following up on how we can encourage information dispersal at Orientation.
GSRC	June 12 th	See Maya's report for information on this

	(regrets)	meeting.
Joint Health and Safety	June 22nd	This was my first meeting as the grad rep on this committee. I will be reviewing with the executive team whether we can assign another grad to this committee. I will be pursuing information on the inspections that are taking place in July and August. Hoping to attend the August inspections.
Policy 33	June 23 rd June 25 th July 7 th	Attended Undergrad Operations meeting to assist in the gathering of information from managers in regards to their experiences with Policy 33. 25 th – Meeting of the committee. We had three guests attend to share their knowledge of the policy – Rose Vogt (GSA), Matt Erickson (Conflict Management - HR), Dan Anderson (Police) Attended the Grad Ops meeting to gather feedback on current Policy 33.
Policy 30	June 11th	Initial meeting to discuss TA policy. Follow up meetings scheduled for July to review draft policy from Maya.
Meetings: - Executive	June 24 th July 8 th	The executive team has continued our bi-weekly communal office hours and executive meetings. Our communal office hours have been extremely beneficial in terms of sharing information, and collaborating on initiatives. Exec Meeting
GSA Priorities with Ian Orchard	July 9th	Excellent meeting with Ian to discuss our main goals for the year; Policy 30, Ombuds, Student Space. Initial discussions on new task force for reviewing quality of student supervision.
Lunch with Feridun	June 26th	Meet and greet with Feridun at the Grad House. Discussions surrounding our priorities for the year: student space, ombuds office, TA policy. Excellent initial conversations.
GH Events	June 30 th	Check in meeting with Arun. Follow up to see how we can support the upcoming GH Summerfest. Last minute details covered for Meet the GSA Night.
GSEF	July 7 th	Attended GSEF Board meeting. Approved the appointment of Robbie Henderson as new Chair of GSEF. Maya will be attending as the GSA rep going forward.
Bi-Weekly Meeting	July 8 th	Bi-weekly meetings with Jim resumed July 8 th

with Jim Frank		and will be taking place biweekly for the next year! Discussions surrounding the TA policy and student concerns.
Reunion Meeting	July 8 th	Ongoing planning for Reunion taking place October 3 rd .
Meeting with the Writing Centre	July 9 th	Discussed how we can support each other throughout the year. Overview of workshops scheduled for the upcoming terms.

Comments and updates:

- Meeting with Dennis Huber about South Campus Commons project

Current Projects:

- Reviewing UWaterloo Policies – familiarizing myself with current policies. Contacting UofG and Queens for advice on changes to their Ethical Behaviour policies.

Events:

- Matt Perrone hosted an awesome event on the Grad House lawn for International Students on June 22nd. The event was very well attended! I was able to chat with a number of students, including some from our satellite campuses.
- Meet the GSA Night: Huge success!!! Pretty well attended considering it was a Monday night at 7pm. Hoping to hold another similar event in the fall during Welcome Week! Need to start the event earlier 😊

GSA Related Conference Activity:

Matt and I attended the Studentcare Networks Stakeholder Meeting in Montreal on June 18th. The meetings were very informative. There were roundtable discussions on mental health initiatives, and wellness initiatives taking place at campuses across the country. This trip was an excellent opportunity to liaise with other student leaders and gain insight on their current goals for the year, past successes, and lessons learned.

Studentcare is very student focused! They have a number of exciting new initiatives on the horizon including online video counseling; as well they will be launching interactive video call units to improve the student customer experience.

Comments:

June was a pretty eventful month! Lots of meetings kept me very busy from one day to the next. With July already almost behind us, I am planning on capitalizing on my reduced meetings-load to spend more time in the GSA Office reviewing existing policies and undertaking more leg work on current committee initiatives.

Report to GSA Council
Matthew Perrone, SAO
July 15, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
Councillor Meeting	June 5	Met with Accounting and Finance Councillor
CIC Presentation Meeting	June 9	Met with Darlene Ryan to organize a GSA social event following the CIC Presentation regarding permanent residency
Councillor Meeting	June 10	Met with Planning Councillor
Policy 30 Committee Meeting	June 11	Discussed considerations for the policy
GSA Board Meeting	June 11	Discussed GSA policy and Get Out The Vote Campaign
GSRC Meeting	June 12	Discussed TA Contract, Scheduled release of scholarships, and Policy 33 Review
Councillor Meeting	June 15	Met with Religious Studies Councillor
Studentcare Steakholder Meeting	June 17-19	Travelled to Montreal to meet with Studentcare (Health and Dental Plan Provider) and representatives from other University GSA's to discuss mental health, privacy, data security, communications, member services, cloud-based campus office, and prescription drug trends
Council Meeting	June 25	Discussed AFSA referendum, GOTV Campaign, and graduate student space
Lunch with the President	June 26	Met with Feridun to discuss the need for an Ombuds Office
Meeting with Ghazal	June 29	Met with Ghazal to discuss athletic/recreational initiatives for graduate students
Orientation Steering Committee Meeting	July 2	Discussed Fall 2015 Orientation, crisis management, leader's fees, and partnerships between Feds/GSA/SSO/faculties
Meeting with Jim Frank	July 8	Discussed Fall Town Hall Series and scholarship process
GSA Exec Meeting	July 8	Discussed ongoing projects
Councillor Meeting	July 9	Met with Peace and Conflict Studies Councillor

Completed Projects:

- Helped Geographers Without Borders create a constitution

Current Projects:

- Updating Council List for the new year
 - Filled 5 vacant Councillor positions
 - Continuing to reach out to departments without Councillors
- Preparing Council Meetings
 - The next Council Meeting will be July 30th 4:30-6:30pm in RCH 103, we will be discussing Policy 33 Review and the new TA Contract
- Collecting Student Feedback
 - Meeting with Councillors to discuss student issues
 - Discussion topics include student fees, student space, TA issues, funding, opportunities for grad students to meet, athletic/recreational initiatives, and the need for a student handbook
- Starting new Department GSA's/Clubs
 - Growing the number of Department GSA's
- AFSA Referendum
 - Accounting and Finance Student Association are having a referendum to approve a fee change
 - GSA is administrating the referendum

Upcoming Projects:

- Town Hall Meeting Series
 - Planning a series of town hall meetings with the GSO for Fall 2015
- Student Handbook
 - Create a document that outlines the steps a grad student should take when facing an issue

Comments:

I'm happy to answer any questions regarding my report and welcome comments.

Report to the GSA Council
Michael Makahnouk, External Affairs Officer - OGSA
July 15, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
OGSA AGM	June 13	-annual general meeting for the OGSA -annual report distributed to GSA Board
Exec Office Hours	June 24	-available in GSA office for couple of hours
Meeting with UW President	June 26	-regrets
Meet the GSA night	July 6	-attended a mixer hosted by the GSA at the Graduate House
Executive Meeting	July 8	-met with executive team
OGSA call with consultant	July 9	-discussed survey questions for MTCU University Funding Reform consultation -survey to be sent out on July 14th
Met with GSA GM	July 9	-discussed matters pertaining to GSA budget
Met with GSA GM	July 14	-discussed OGSA executive director job description -reviewed potential recruiting options for the position
GSA Policy review	July 14	-volunteered to chair committee -completed reviewing council policy -work to continue in August

Comments and updates:

The majority of my time has been spent on matters pertaining to the OGSA. I was re-elected as the OGSA president at the recent annual general meeting. I completed the OGSA 2014-15 annual report (circulated to Board), which was discussed at the OGSA annual general meeting. I have been working on preparing a survey (with our consultant) that will be sent out to the councils of the various GSAs that are participating with the OGSA. A response to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities University Funding Reform discussion paper will be prepared in August, and submitted to MTCU in early September.

I continue to support the executive team where possible. Executive meetings have been very productive.

I have volunteered to chair the Policy committee. I am also a member of the Human Resources committee. Both committees were formed at the Board of Directors June meeting.

Report to the GSA Board
Kristen Leal, External Affairs Officer - CASA
Thursday, July 23rd, 2015

Summary of Meetings:

Committee - Meeting	Date	Notes / Attendance
GSA council	June 25th	Discussed GOTV campaign, council approved the motion!
Lunch with Feridun	June 26th	Sent regrets.
CASA Grad Council	June 30th	Updated the members on the Ombuds person survey. Hoping to take an IT infrastructure policy to GOTV in August
CASA Policy Committee	June 30th	Sent regrets- had a doctor's appointment. Sent updates on my projects
Meet the GSA night	July 6th	Party time! Happy to see both MP Peter Braid and MP Stephen Woodworth in attendance!
Exec meeting	July 8th	Sent regrets- Was in Toronto for a PanAm shift but I did send my thoughts on the agenda items.
CASA Grad Council	July 14th	Ombuds survey is on the way out to the membership! IT infrastructure policy is looking good, and we're waiting on the SFA white paper to come to a decision on tax credits.
Athletics Facilities Review	July 14th	Provided feedback regarding the updates to the PAC facilities
CASA Policy Committee	July 15th	
Personal Days		
Pan Am Volunteering	15, 17, 20-23	

Comments and updates: This month will be pretty light for me- I'm in Toronto for the Pan Am games for quite a few days, but I'm trying to keep up with the committees and councils I sit on. If I can't attend, I make sure to get minutes from a committee member and I try to send my updates and thoughts on the agenda before the meeting. July in and of itself is quite light; a lot of committees take their summer hiatus.

Current Projects:

- Distribution of survey for CASA schools regarding Ombudsmen offices
- Develop list of questions regarding NSERC deferment for students
- Develop a list of questions regarding scholarship distribution/accountability (waiting on SFA paper for this as well)
- Preparation for the GOTV conference in August

**UNIVERSITY FUNDING
MODEL REFORM
CONSULTATION PAPER**



April, 2015

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Une publication équivalente est disponible en français sous le titre suivant : *Réforme du modèle de financement des universités : document de consultation, 2015*

This publication is also available on the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities website, at www.ontario.ca/tcu.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Consultation

On March 12, 2015, the government announced that Ontario would be moving forward with the transformation of its postsecondary education sector by launching consultations on modernizing the university funding model. The purpose of this consultation paper is to outline an engagement process and position the review within the context of the government's overall plan for postsecondary education. Funding universities in a more quality-driven, sustainable and transparent way is part of the government's economic plan for Ontario.

1.2 Postsecondary Education in Ontario

Ontarians, like many people around the world, know the importance of postsecondary education and training. With more than seven out of every ten new jobs created in Ontario requiring some form of postsecondary education or training, a high school diploma is no longer sufficient. The Ontario government, like many governments around the world, knows that Ontario's prosperity is tied to people who are employed and productive.

Ontario's overall goal for the postsecondary education sector is to ensure a system that achieves and supports accessibility, high-quality and student-centred learning experiences, social and economic development, financial sustainability, and accountability.

For more than a decade, the Government of Ontario has increased investments in postsecondary education significantly, including increasing operating grants to institutions by over 83 per cent since 2002-03. These investments have helped to support an unprecedented expansion in access to postsecondary education. Ontario's university sector now supports over 408,000 students, an increase of about 124,000 since 2002-03. Meeting this demand has been made possible through the commitment of Ontario's postsecondary institutions

to increasing access, and their willingness to respond to the increase in enrolment demand.

Enrolment growth, the main driver of university operating revenue, will slow in the medium-term due to demographic factors. This could result in increased pressure on budgets at some universities if costs outpace revenue growth. Substantial new investments in postsecondary education by the government at levels comparable to the recent past is not feasible. Government and institutions need to work together to find another way.

The government policy of differentiation sets the foundation for broader postsecondary change by publicly articulating government expectations and aligning the mandates of Ontario's colleges and universities with government priorities.

Ontario's Differentiation Policy Framework for Postsecondary Education, released in 2013, lays out this vision with a clear direction for transformation. Objectives of the framework include:

- ◆ Shifting the focus of institutions away from enrolment growth;
- ◆ Reducing unnecessary duplication;
- ◆ Ensuring that institutions' mandates align with government priorities (including financial sustainability at the institutional and system levels through a diversity of program strengths); and
- ◆ Reinforcing the ministry's role as a steward of the system.

Following the release of this framework, the government negotiated and signed Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMAs) with each of the province's 45 publicly assisted colleges and universities.

The ministry has been working closely and collaboratively with the sector on a number of key priority areas that support postsecondary education transformation. These include investing in credit transfer and the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) to give students more flexibility on how, when and where they learn. Additionally, the ministry has worked with the sector to establish Ontario Online, a collaborative Centre of Excellence in technology-enabled learning. The ministry has also released a policy framework aimed at improving the alignment of future capital capacity with long-term demand growth, ensuring

more students have access to quality postsecondary education closer to home and that we build the right spaces in the right places.

A key next step in the government's transformation plan is funding model reform, as committed to in the Strategic Agreement Mandate negotiations. It is anticipated that funding model reform will help support the goals of greater differentiation and transformation. Central to this pursuit will be the need to preserve and enhance educational quality and institutional excellence within a financially sustainable cost structure. This will require a careful balancing act between government stewardship and institutional leadership, and a strengthening of transparency and accountability between the government, institutions, the public, and students.

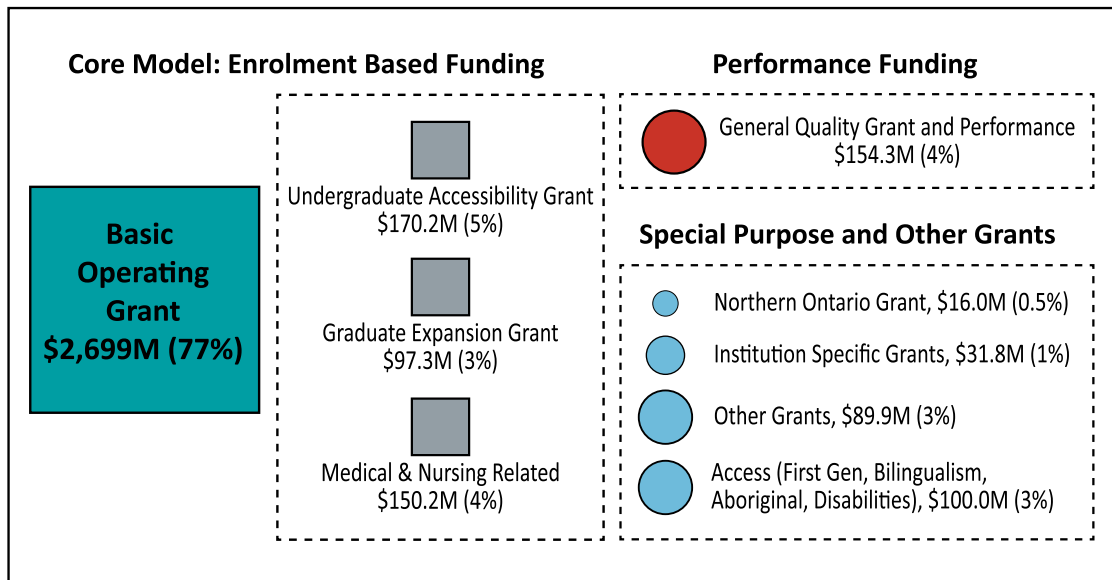
2. Ontario's Current Funding Model

2.1 Current Structure

The scope of this consultation will be the annual operating grants to universities provided through the university funding model. This represents about \$3.5 billion of government investment. Overall, funding will remain stable.

The purpose of the funding model is to provide a fair and balanced method for determining the share of the provincial operating grant to be allocated to each institution. The Ontario university funding model aims to ensure a reasonable degree of equity in the distribution of available government support, but does not determine the overall level of funding in the system.

The current funding model distributed grants for 2014-15 in the following manner:



The funding model consists of three main components:

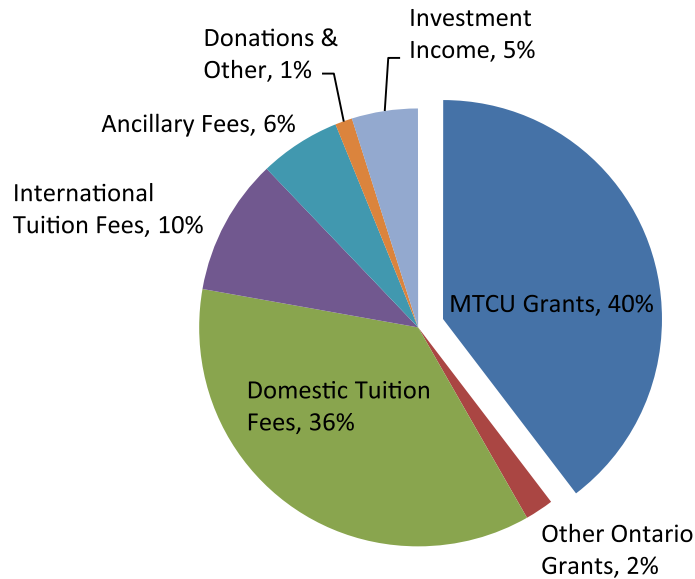
1. The Core Model, which is enrolment-based. The Basic Operating Grant provides grants based on historical enrolments. It is intended to provide a level of stability and predictability that allows universities to do multi-year planning.

The Undergraduate Accessibility Grant, Graduate Expansion Grants, Medical and Nursing Related Grants support new enrolments and growth. When combined with the basic operating grant, the core model grants support live, current-year enrolment. Funded enrolments for graduate, medical, and teacher's education are capped by the ministry.

2. Performance funding is based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the submission of Multi-Year Accountability Agreement (MYAA) Annual Reportbacks. Current KPIs include graduation rate, and employment rate six months and two years after graduation. Once MYAAs are successfully completed and submitted, an institution's allocation is determined based on its share of system enrolment.
3. Special Purpose Grants, which support specific policy objectives, as well as providing incremental funding to meet the needs of students and institutions.

It should be noted that with few exceptions, universities have full fiduciary responsibility for how operating grants are spent within the university. For grants other than the Basic Operating Grant, universities are required to submit reports that outline how funds were used, but decisions about expenditures are at the discretion of the university.

Operating Revenue of Ontario Universities, By Source for 2013-14



Ontario grants account for approximately an average of 42 per cent of operating revenues in the university sector, with other significant sources of operating revenue including student tuition and miscellaneous fees. The ministry also invests in specific capital projects and student financial assistance, while the Ministry of Research and Innovation invests in sponsored research. Operating revenue does not include funds from sponsored research, endowments, trust funds, or capital grants.

3. University Funding Model Reform

3.1 Purpose

To support positive outcomes for students and ensure the long-term sustainability of the postsecondary education sector.

3.2 Main Principles

Consultations will focus on how a reformed funding model may promote the following principles:

- ◆ Enhancing quality and improving the overall student experience;
- ◆ Supporting the existing differentiation process, which is expressed in each university's Strategic Mandate Agreement;
- ◆ Addressing financial sustainability and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the postsecondary education sector; and
- ◆ Increasing transparency and accountability.

3.2.1 Enhancing quality and improving the overall student experience

The government's shared goal with all Ontario colleges and universities is to ensure quality in the postsecondary sector and provide students with the most accessible, affordable and innovative postsecondary education possible, so that they have the skills they need to actively participate in the 21st-century global economy.

3.2.2 Supporting the existing differentiation process

Ontario's universities offer a diversity of strengths in both academic programming and cutting-edge research. The government is committed to helping institutions support and build upon well-established strengths. Ontario's university sector should have the flexibility to offer the full continuum of

educational opportunities required for students and communities to compete and prosper in a globally competitive environment.

3.2.3 Addressing financial sustainability

The government is committed to working with institutions to build a financially sustainable, high-quality postsecondary education sector in both the short and long term. This priority will help ensure that Ontarians have access to a full range of affordable, high-quality postsecondary education options, now and in the future.

3.2.4 Increasing transparency and accountability

As stewards of the postsecondary system, the government has a responsibility to ensure that university funding is distributed in a transparent manner, and to strengthen accountability relationships between government, institutions and the public.

4. Engagement Process

4.1 General Approach

The ministry commits to openness and transparency throughout this consultation. While we welcome all feedback on issues related to the university funding model, participants in the consultation should keep in mind the principles of the review and the discussion questions noted below.

4.2 Discussion Questions

General questions

1. Within the next 15 years, what will be the greatest opportunities and/or challenges facing the university sector in Ontario?
2. In your view, how could the funding model best achieve the main principles identified in this consultation?

Enhancing quality and improving the overall student experience

3. What factors in the student experience are essential to facilitating positive student outcomes, such as equity, resilience, and success?
4. How could the funding model better promote the improvement of undergraduate teaching quality in programs, and support innovative programming (e.g. experiential or entrepreneurial learning)?

Supporting the existing differentiation process

5. How could the funding model be better aligned with Strategic Mandate Agreements and the Differentiation Policy Framework, in particular, in supporting differentiation among institutions?
6. How could the funding model better recognize regional geographic diversity and community partnerships?
7. What is the appropriate role for outcomes measurement in supporting differentiation?

Addressing financial sustainability

8. What type of conditions or environment would be required for universities to best support financial sustainability?
9. What incentives or measures could be prioritized through the funding model to help universities promote a sustainable cost curve?

Increasing transparency and accountability?

10. How could accountability and reporting relationships between universities and the government be improved and structured to best demonstrate the achievement of key outcomes?
11. How could the funding model be redesigned to reflect greater transparency?

Closing questions

12. Are there any concerns or recommendations that you would like to add that were not previously covered?

4.3 Key Components of the Engagement

The government has appointed former Deputy Minister Sue Herbert as Executive Lead for the process. It is the ministry's intent to engage a wide range of stakeholders throughout this process. In addition to university senior administration, students and faculty, the ministry will also reach out to related sectors, such as colleges, employers, professional associations, and the elementary and secondary education sector. The ministry will also engage sector experts throughout the consultation process.

4.3.1 Engagement Process

In addition to individual meetings, the ministry will be hosting open meetings on issues and perspectives related to funding model reform, alongside other stakeholders and the Executive Lead.

The ministry acknowledges the leadership of the Council of Ontario Universities in establishing a task force and technical working group on this issue, and looks forward to their sound advice and expertise.

The ministry welcomes responses to the discussion questions at ontario.ca/fundinguniversities, by September 1st, 2015. Written submissions will also be accepted at FundingModel@ontario.ca by September 1st. Submissions should be related to the topic of reforming the university funding model allocation mechanism, and should address the discussion questions proposed. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) applies to information in the custody or under the control of the ministry. Submissions should identify whether any information is submitted in confidence within the meaning of sections 17 (Third Party Information) or 21 (Personal Privacy) of FIPPA.

Throughout the consultation, the ministry will maintain a website for the purpose of continuing dialogue and providing periodic updates regarding ongoing consultations.

ontario.ca/fundinguniversities

4.3.2 Consultation Summary

In keeping with the open and transparent nature of the consultation process, the ministry will report back publicly with a summary of the consultations at the conclusion of the process.



GSA Student Affairs Officer Report on AFSA Referendum of Master of Accounting Students

**Matthew Perrone, Student Affairs Officer
July 16, 2015**

The Accounting and Finance Student Association (AFSA) submitted a proposal for a referendum to approve the initiation of a new fee charged to Master of Accounting Students (MAcc). The GSA Council reviewed the supporting documents as required by GSA Policy – Referenda on Behalf of Affiliated Groups and the GSA Board approved to call a referendum by a special meeting of the Board on July 25, 2015.

The Student Affairs Officer, Matthew Perrone served due notice to each currently registered MAcc student on June 29, 2015 by direct email. The GSA created a webpage with details and information about the referendum. A web-form ballot was created and voting opened at 9:00 am on July 13, 2015 and closed at 9:00 pm on July 15, 2015. A technical problem with identifying each unique voter caused a delay to the ballot page. Forty votes were cast before the ballot was taken “off-line”, but there was no way to determine if each of the forty votes was cast by a different individual, nor if the individuals were from MAcc. The technical issue was corrected and the ballot was re-opened at 12:00 pm. The ballot closing time was extended from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm on July 15, 2015. The votes cast before 12:00 pm were deleted. Matthew Perrone sent emails to each MAcc student to alert them of the technical issue and the details of the re-opening of the ballot. No further issues were brought to the attention of the GSA after the ballot re-opened.

The referendum question:

“Do you approve the revised Constitution of the Accounting and Finance Endowment Fund (<http://www.uwafsa.ca/afsa-referendum/>) including a reduction in the voluntary contribution made each academic term to the AFEF of students in SAF programs from \$50.00 to \$20.00 (see article 4(a)i in the revised AFEF constitution) and the institution of a student society fee for AFSA in the amount of \$30.00 charged per academic term to each MAcc student.”

Results:

In accordance with GSA Bylaw #8.3.0

8.3.0 Decision and Quorum for Referenda. A referendum will be considered to have passed if each of the following conditions is met:

- a) More votes were cast in favour of the ballot question than were cast against it, and
- b) The number of votes cast is at least 10% of the number of eligible voters.

Eligible Voters: 205

Number of votes cast: 99 - 48%

Yes: 92 – 93%

No: 7 – 7%

Decline: 0 – 0%

The referendum has passed. MAcc students approve the revised Constitution of the Accounting and Finance Endowment Fund (AFEF) including a reduction in the voluntary contribution made each academic term to the AFEF of students in SAF programs from \$50.00 to \$20.00 and the institution of a student society fee for AFSA in the amount of \$30.00 charged per academic term to each MAcc student.