



**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday April 28, 2016**  
**RCH 305**  
**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

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**Present:**

Matthew Perrone, Chair, Student Affairs Officer,  
Maya D'Alessio, President,  
Rachel Mitchell, Vice President,  
Norman Kearney, Student Affairs Officer, incoming,  
Indi Madar, Communications & Marketing Officer, incoming,  
Kristen Leal, External Affairs Officer-CASA,  
Michael Makahnouk, External Affairs Officer – OGSA,  
Michael Piazza, Director,  
Ghazal Memartoluie, Director,  
Jae Kang, Director incoming,  
Sara Scharoun, Kinesiology,  
Kyle Rogers, SPHHS,  
Russ Freure, History,  
Navio Kwok, Psychology,  
Angela Willmott, Sociology & Legal Studies,  
Tim Leshuk, Chemical Engineering,  
Lindsey Daniels, Applied Mathematics,  
Anton Mosunov, Pure Mathematics,  
Ryan Amos, Chemistry,  
Shannon Callender, School of Pharmacy,  
Samantha Shortall, At-large,  
Sepher Mohaddes, At-large,  
Rose Vogt, General Manager, minutes.

**Regrets:** Savio D'Silva, Jacob Deutsh, Nathalie Moon, Chris Pugh, Aaron Thompson, Jeremy Pinto, Rebecca Mayers, Sondra Eger (incoming EAO-C), and Jessica Brake (incoming VP),

Chair informs Council that quorum is present and the meeting is called to order at 5:05 pm.

1. Chair's remarks.  
The Chair introduces the incoming directors to Council.
2. Agenda/Additional Agenda Items

**BIRT that Council accepts the agenda with amendments to include the CASA update and the tuition increase discussion moved forward to 5:20 pm time slot.**

(Makahnouk/Leal) Approved unanimously.

### Consent Agenda

**BIRT Council approves and /or receives for information by consent items #3-#4 of the agenda.** (Leal/Wilmott) Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.
4. Executive reports

### Regular Agenda

5. Appointments and Resignations  
Appointments: Ashley Rudkevitch (School of Planning) and Nathalie Moon (Statistics and Actuarial Science)

**BIRT Council approves the appointments of new Councillors omnibus.** (Leal/Rogers) Approved unanimously.

6. CASA update, K. Leal/M. D'Alessio.  
Council heard a presentation about CASA providing a brief background and overview of the organization and the GSA-UW involvement with the organization. Waterloo Delegates, Alex Lavasidis and Maya D'Alessio, attending the Lobby Conference held over one week in Ottawa. Training for delegates in effective lobbying and subsequent three full days of active lobbying occurred. Delegates lobby on the pre-determined items. This year over 170 meetings with politicians took place. CASA delegates plant ideas, develop relationships, build the reputation of CASA, and make PSE issues visible, and make specific monetary asks. Delegates try to set up CASA as the 'go to' resource for parliamentarians.

-Lobby asks for the 2016 Conference were:

- Increase tri-council funding by 10%
- Put students on the tri-council boards,
- Increase experiential learning opportunities,
- Increase Canadian Student Loan weekly limit,
- Increase Canadian Student Grant program amount, and expand to include graduate students,
- Increase the threshold for RAP (Repayment Assistance Program) – to \$30,000. (It was increased it to \$25,000),
  - Remove 2% cap from PSSSP and fund the backlog of students.

Follow up with MP's if they requested things and continue to build relationships after the conference.

CASA AGM was held on the final 2 days of the Lobby Conference. The financial statements and audit are presented and blue sky thinking. Sondra is going to Winnipeg in July for Policy and Strategy Conference.

7. Tuition Increases:

Council discussed the UW decision to increase tuition and how the information was passed to students.

The Registrar and AP Graduate Studies sent an email to international students indicating the 9.2% tuition increase. New incoming students should have been informed that tuition would be increasing. There is no student input in setting tuition.

A Councillor suggested that the GSA take an official position and make a response to the administration. Last year GSA and students asked Waterloo Administration to consider implementing a tuition framework, but there was no room in the budget to do so. There are guidelines in place for tuition applied to domestic students. The International Graduate Studies Scholarship offsets some of the fee differential of domestic and international students.

**Overall better strategize the GSA positions and activity.**

GSA is the political voice of students and improved information sharing from GSA members that sit on UW committees, better timing and scheduling of internal meetings to better inform graduate student representatives and become more strategic in the use of time of councillors. Present issues at the Graduate Student Relations Committee for reporting to the Provost.

Decision Making- review the GSA official positions and committees.

Taking Action – how does Council hold GSA representatives accountable?

8. Q&A to Officer Reports

- President  
Councillor Amos expressed frustration that there is no report on the issue of graduate students office space in a wet-labs.
- Vice President  
Mitchell worked with the incoming Vice President and with the new role of Communications & Marketing Officer for transition.
- External Affairs Officer – CASA  
Leal remarks that the GSA must continue to evaluate CASA and determine its value to our membership. There is a significant investment in CASA.
- External Affairs Officer – OGSA  
Makahnouk did not submit a written report. He is transitioning out of the OGSA role, working to schedule an AGM, and instate the next year's leadership team

- Student Affairs Officer  
GSA is undergoing a rapid growth spurt, amending bylaws, and trying to get mechanisms in place. A lot of good things have happened, and the GSA needs to continue to have an inward focus and improve member engagement. Continue with the work that was done to further develop the strategic plan.

9. AGM summary:

At the Annual General Meeting held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, members approved amended bylaws to re-align the GSA with the Ontario Corporations Act regulations, appointed a President, elected directors, appointed the auditor (MNP, LLP), and received the annual report and the audit report.

10. Strategic Planning Update:

- Two workshops were held at the beginning of March (20 participants)
- Workshop purpose was to collect feedback for GSA Strategic Plan
- Waterloo Organizational Research and Consulting (WORC) is a UW Psychology Dept. group analyzed the data and are preparing a report.
- Moving forward: continue determine mechanisms for collecting feedback, broaden the scope to membership, and create GSA Strategic Plan.

11. TA contracts collection:

Physics is revising their TA contracts and the Councillor is looking for online application forms for TA contracts. Please forward your sample contracts to the SAO.

12. GSA Council Transition:

- If a Departmental GSA or equivalent recognized by GSA exists: they determine the appointment to Council. Fill out the GSA Council form.
- If No departmental GSA – your term ends on April 30  
The SAO will put out a call to all students in the department to elect a student. If one person is nominated they are acclaimed, if there is more than one student the GSA will host an election.

13. Other business- no other business.

14. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

MP:rv