



# Council

## Notice of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Place: NH 3407

## AGENDA

	Item	Action
1.	<b>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	-
2.	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b> ( <i>Changes, if applicable, will be noted with **</i> )	For Approval
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	-
4.	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> a. July 12, 2017	For Approval
5.	<b>Consent Items<sup>+</sup></b> a. Board Reports b. Executive Reports c. Committee Reports	For Information
6.	<b>Council Membership Report</b>	For Information
7.	<b>University of Waterloo Committee Membership Report</b>	For Information
8.	<b>Delegations</b> a. Student Success Office, Pam Charbonneau b. UW Orientation, Leicester Fung c. ** Overview of OSAP funding, Lucas Dotto, OGSA	For Information
9.	<b>Presentations</b> a. ** <del>CASA</del> /OGSA Foci ( <i>Salman</i> ) b. OSAP Funding ( <i>Salman</i> ) c. Council Work Plan ( <i>Daniels</i> ) d. Social and Academic Issues List ( <i>Daniels</i> )	For Information
10.	<b>Discussion Items</b> a. CASA/OGSA Foci b. Council Work Plan	Discuss

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Social and Academic Issues List</li> <li>d. Empower Me Follow up</li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Motions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Motion to ratify the University of Waterloo Committee Appointments</li> <li>b. Motion to approve the Council Work Plan</li> <li>c. Motion to approve Items to the Social and Academic Issues List</li> <li>d. Motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that the GSA-UW perform an audit of on- and off-campus mental health services</li> </ul>	For Approval
<b>12.</b>	<b>Notices of Motion</b>	-
<b>13.</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	-
<b>14.</b>	<b>In-Camera</b>	-
<b>15.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	-

+ Consent Items are those items that in the judgment of the Executive Committee require the attention of Council but that neither require nor imply a decision by Council on any procedural or substantial matter. By adopting Consent Items, Council formally receives information for entry into the minutes. Council may discuss Consent Items at its pleasure.

Lindsey Daniels  
Chair of the Council  
GSA-UW

August 2, 2017



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday August 9, 2017**  
**4:00 pm – 7:30 pm**  
**University of Waterloo, Needles Hall rm. 3407**

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**Present:**

Lindsey Daniels, Chair  
Robert Bruce, President  
Max Salman, Vice President  
Norman Kearney, Chair of the Board  
Ramy Tannous, Director  
Allison Sachs, Director  
Daniel Martel, Kinesiology  
Julia Goyal, School of Public Health & Health Services  
Jason Lajoie, English Language & Literature  
Scott Janzwood, Proxy, Global Governance  
Russ Freure, History  
Emily Cyr, Psychology  
Guratom Singh Ahluwala, Chemical Engineering  
Takin Tadayon, Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Vicky Vanthof, Geography and Environmental Management  
Patricia Huynh, School of Environment, Resources & Sustainability  
Chris Van Bommel, Combinatorics & Optimization  
David Choi, Computer Science  
Emilie Spasov,, Biology  
Ryan Amos, Chemistry  
Jennifer Reid, Physics & Astronomy  
Dania Abuleil, Optometry  
Rose Vogt, General Manager

**Regrets:** Matthew Morison

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The Chair announced that quorum is present and called the meeting to order at 4:14 pm.

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Adoption of the Agenda as amended. (Amos /Van Bommel) **Carried**

**Motion** to amend the agenda to remove the 9a) CASA/OGS presentation and add 8c) OGSA/OSAP, Lucas Dotto, (Daniels/Bruce) **Carried**

3. Declarations of interest-none
4. **Motion** to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017 meeting. (Freure/Van Bommel) **Carried.** Tadayon abstains.
5. **Motion** to receive for information the Consent items. (Amos/Freure)
  - a. Board
  - b. Executive, submitted reports
  - c. Committee

Councillor asked the President whether there were plans to eliminate International Student Grants. At this time the grants are under review, however, there is no notion of eliminating the grants, but a distribution based on needs.

6. Council membership report  
New Councillor Emilie Spasov from Biology is welcomed. Max Bui Marinos, Biology is acknowledged for his service as his term ended.
7. University of Waterloo Committee membership report  
Councillors are asked to consider sitting any of the committees reporting vacancies, and/or to distribute the information to their department and help recruit graduate students to fill the vacancies:

Information about the Committees is available through links in the report.

8. Delegations
  - a. Student Success Office, Heather Westmoreland and Kirsty Budd shared the SSO mandate and overview of services for graduate students. SSO offers some employment opportunities for graduate students.
  - b. UW Orientation, Leicester Fung  
Council heard an update on the graduate student campus-wide orientation activity. Volunteers are sought to assist with various duties on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Training for volunteers will take place on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Details on the LEADS registration form.  
The departmental/faculty greeters will be welcoming new students in the PAC main gym at registration, just before lunchtime. Councillors are asked to engage with their department leaders to send at least one person.
  - c. Luke Dotto: OGSA – OSAP grant structure  
Councillors heard a presentation on changes to the OSAP grants and opportunities for graduate students. With the restructure, education tax-credits are eliminated (Ontario). The new program will aid

graduate students by offering non-repayable grants, based on family income.

Most students whose families earn less than 50K will have the entire cost of their education covered by non-repayable grants.

No students are expected to be worse off, with less money than last year. Student Access Guarantee will still exist to help low-income students with costs of higher than average programs.

No longer have to take OSAP loans to get the OSG-You can accept the grant and decline the loans.

OGSA has been lobbying for the past three years on several policies and priorities that have been implemented in the new OSAP.

OGSA View of OSAP:

Ultimately, this is a net positive for graduate students.

#### *Discussion*

1.) How is the carry-over of tax credits being applied?

Nothing is changing at the federal level, this is information for provincial level.

2.) The staff at the financial aid office, assures graduate students that funding from the university will be treated separately from the OSAP grants/awards.

The province is aware that there is a minimum standard of living that students should be able to maintain.

There is a claw-back in the system, as the scholarship that students receive may play into the amount of the grant.

3.) The GSA should work to get an assurance from the Provost that there will not be any form of claw-back if receiving OSAP grants.

4.) This program will take effect in fall 2017. Some mature student policies may take affect in 2018-2019.

### **Recess from 5:15 – 5:27 pm.**

#### 9. Presentations

a. CASA/OGSA foci - Removed

b. OSAP Funding, Max Salman

The GSA will promote that graduate students should apply for the

grants. Salman will ask OGSA to provide a “one-pager” that will be distributed to graduate students. The OGSA presentation will be shared with Councillors and they can share it with their constituents. Councillors are encouraged to engage with their department leaders and act on this.

There is enough information now that if the Council wishes to create an official position it may consider doing so.

c. Council Work Plan

Outline of the Council Work Plan is submitted with the agenda. Council development will be included at each meeting.

d. Social and Academic Issues List

-Survey was done in the Winter term and the preliminary report indicated some key areas. The following key areas of graduate students issues are note:

- Wellness,
- Funding,
- GSA Services,
- Research
- Campus Services and Resources
- Course Quality

10. Discussion Items

a. CASA.OGSA foci – deleted.

b. OSAP Funding-no discussion

c. Council Work Plan- no discussion

d. Social and Academic Issues List

Updates and items will be added throughout the year.

*Discussion*

- Faculty level information from the Grad Life survey may be available to Councillors.  
Councillor urges the GSA to consider sharing survey results at the department level. Depending on the size of the responses/department confidentiality of the respondent may be less anonymous.

- Space, office space, could be included in the SAIL under the general topic of wellness. There was an indication in the CGSPS that satisfaction with office space was low.
- Policy 12 determines the process for approving the SAIL. The SAIL needs to provide the evidence used to determine the issues.
- Feedback about the 'Empower Me' service for mental wellness, proposed by Studentcare, was discussed. This is a third party product and is being offered based on requests from universities within the studentcare group.

ACTION: Look further into the service and determine if it will fill the needs of Waterloo students.

- Broaden lobbying efforts to eliminate causes and drivers contributing to adverse effects on student mental and physical health.

## 11. Motions

### a. Motion to ratify the UW Committee Appointments

**BIRT** the GSA-UW Council ratify the appointments as detailed in the report for item 7. (Amos/Van Bommel) **Carried** Reid abstains

### b. Motion to approve the Council Work Plan

**BIRT** the GSA-UW Council approve the Council Work Plan as detailed in the report for item 9b. (Amos/Van Bommel) **Carried**. Tadayon abstains.

### c. Motion to approve Items to the Social and Academic Issues List-**deferred** (the SAIL was not submitted with the agenda package)

### d. Motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that the GSA-UW perform an audit of on- and off-campus mental health services

**BIRT** the GSA-UW Council recommends to the Board of Directors that an evaluation of existing mental health services both on- and off-campus be completed with the intention of identifying current gaps, and to explore additional service improvements that will enhance the mental health of graduate students. (Bruce/Sachs)

Council discussed the wording and intention of the motion and could not come to agreement regarding the amendments to amendments.

**Motion** to postpone the motion indefinitely.  
(Kearney/Amos) **Carried:** 15 for: 1 opposed, 0 abstain

12. Notices of Motion

- a. That Council approves the creation of a SAIL item on making mental and physical health a standing item for report from the President on Wellness.

13. Other Business-no other business.

14. In-Camera begins at 7:00 pm

15. Adjournment at 7:30 pm.

LMD:rv