



Council

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Place: DWE 3517

AGENDA & Minutes

	Item	Action
1.	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks	-
2.	Adoption of the Agenda (Changes, if applicable, will be noted with **)	For Approval
3.	Declarations of Interest-none	-
4.	Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting a. August 9, 2017	For Approval
5.	Consent Items⁺ a. Board Reports b. Executive Reports c. Committee Reports	For Information
6.	Council Membership Report	For Information
7.	University of Waterloo Committee Membership Report	For Information
8.	Delegations a. Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Svitlana Taraban-Gordon b. Ontario Graduate Student Alliance (OGSA) Lucas Dotto	For Information
9.	Presentations a. UW Budget Report b. Vital Signs Survey moved to next meeting**	For Information
10.	Discussion Items a. UW Budget Report b. Vital Signs Survey** .	Discuss
11.	Motions	For

	a. Motion to ratify the University of Waterloo Committee Appointments	Approval
12.	Notices of Motion	-
13.	Other Business	-
14.	Adjournment	-

+ 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

September 6, 2017

DELEGATIONS

Svitlana Taraban-Gordon
Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE)

The Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) will provide information to the Council on the services that they provide. The CTE will give a general overview of their office and the programs that they offer to graduate students.

Lucas Dotto
Ontario Graduate Student Alliance (OGSA)

The Ontario Graduate Student Alliance (OGSA) will be presenting an overview of what the OGSA is, the lobbying they do to the provincial government, past 'wins' the organization has helped attain, and the current issues/topics they are focusing on for the upcoming year.

RESOLUTIONS

11a Motion to ratify the University of Waterloo Committee Appointments

BIRT the GSA-UW Council ratify the appointments as detailed in the report for item 7.



Council

Notice of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

DWE 3517, University of Waterloo

Present:

GSA-UW Council Attendance List

	Active	Present
Total members of Council	42	
Quorum=	14	26

Fall 2017

Meeting dates =

	13
	Sep

Board/Officers

	Chair of Council	Lindsey Daniels	1	1
Officers	President	Robert Bruce	1	1
	Vice President	Max Salman	1	1
Board	Chair	Norman Kearney	1	1
	Director	Matthew Morison	1	Regrets
	Director	Richard O'Brien	1	1
	Director	Serxho Selmani	1	
	Director	Ramy Tannous	1	1
	Director	Beth Timmers	1	Regrets
	Director	Evan Andrews	1	1
	Director	Sondra Eger	1	
	Director	Allison Sachs	1	
	Director	Amanda Joynt	1	
	Director	Julie Cook	1	

FAC. DEPARTMENT

AHS	AHS Dean/Social Work*			
	Kinesiology	Daniel Martel	1	1
	Rec & Leisure	Naima Samuel	1	1
	SPHHS	Julia Goyal	1	1
ARTS	Accounting and Finance			
	Anthropology			
	Classical Studies			
Stratford	Digital Exp. Innovation*	Barbara Lukasz	1	
	Economics			
	English Lang& Lit	Jason Lajoie	1	
	Fine Arts			
	French Studies	-		
	German&Slavic			
	Global Governance	Clay Dasilva	1	1
	History	Russ Freure	1	1
	Peace & Conflict MPACS	Matthew Morales	1	
	Philosophy	Chris Wass	1	1
	Political Science			
	Psychology	Emily Cyr	1	1
Wat.	Public Service, Master*			

	Religious Studies			
	Sociology&Legal Studies			
Camb	Architecture*	Michael Lee	1	
ENG	Chemical	Guratam Singh Ahluwalia	1	1
	Civil & Env	Jessica Achebe	1	1
	Electrical & Computer	Takin Tadayon	1	1
	Management Sciences	Alison Jennings	1	1
	MBET			
	Mech & Mech	Kissan Mistry	1	1
	Systems Design			
ENV	Geography and Env. Mgmt	Vicky Vanthof	1	Regrets
	School of Planning	Garrett Mombourquette	1	
	SEED			
	SERS	Patricia Huynh	1	Regrets
MATH	Math Dean			
	Applied Mathematics			
	Combinatorics & Opt	Chris van Bommel	1	1
	Computer Science	David Choi	1	
	Pure Mathematics			
	Stats & Actuarial Sci	Danqiao Guo	1	1
SCI	Biology	Emilie Spasov	1	1
	Chemistry	Ryan Amos	1	1
	Earth & Env Sciences	Maria Digaletos	1	1
	Physics and Astronomy	Jennifer Reid	1	1
	Optometry	Dania Abuleil	1	1
Kit.	School of Pharmacy*			
THEO	Catholic Thought			
AHS	AHS Dean/Social Work*			
Non-Voting	Graduate Student/Senator	Samantha Shortall		
	General Manager S/T	Rose Vogt		1

1. Chair's Welcome

Quorum is present and the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm

The regular meeting room in Needles Hall was not available. This is a temporary location for today's meeting.

2. The Agenda is adopted with the amendment to move the 9b to the next meeting of Council.(Amos/Reid) **Approved** as amended.
3. Declarations of interest - none
4. **BIRT Council approves the minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting.**
(Van Bommel/ Cyr) **Carried**, Kearney abstains

5. Consent Items

BIRT Council approves the reports submitted to the Consent items.

(Amos/Martel) Salman and Tadayon abstain.

- a. Board Reports
- b. Executive Reports
- c. Committee Reports

6. Council Membership Report:

Ryan Amos, will continue for Chemistry,
Kissan Mistry returns for MME,
New Councillors are welcomed:
Alison Jennings, in Management Science,
Maria Digaletos, in Earth and Environment Sciences.

7. UW Committee Membership Report

Councillors/graduate students may complete the Statement of Interest for committee vacancies.

8. Delegations

- a. Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), *Svitlana Taraban-Gordon*
Council heard a presentation about the programs, certifications and resources available at CTE.

Registration is through an online form and registrants will be added to the CTE listserve. Registration for the workshops is independent of registering for the certificate. Training sessions are recorded in the MyHR info training summary section of individual files.

The “block” programs are popular and there is consideration of adding a program at the end of the term.

The “block” has to be completed in the two weeks, but the regular program has no deadline, although it is better to do the courses more immersive. The programs have to be completed before graduation; otherwise CTE cannot post to their transcript.

The courses, and workshops are really useful, well facilitated, and anyone can fit it into their schedule.

- b. Ontario Graduate Students’ Alliance (OGSA)- *Lucas Dotto*
Mr. Dotto was not available in person and a video presentation was submitted for the Council to view. He was available by SKYPE to answer questions. Council agrees to accept the video delegation.

Mr. Dotto answered the pre-arranged questions:

- There was no organization that worked specifically for graduate students in Ontario.
- 7 members: each institution has a director on the Board + one executive director (Luke Dotto)
- OGSA is invited to submit to the provincial budget annually, meet with administrators and MPPs, and writes policy papers.
- This year OGSA is working on:
 - A.) Working with Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) and Regroupement étudiant franco-ontarien (REFO) on a joint submission about challenges faced by students with disabilities.
 - B.) Working with Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) to join in their federal lobby week to meet with MPs in Ottawa, and promote graduate student priorities that the federal level. Includes advocacy for international students and indigenous students
 - C) Provincial election is in 2018-meeting with MPPs. Working with all three parties to develop policies.
 - D) Working on a new easily manageable website format. Currently there is outdated information. Apologizes that it has taken too long to get updated.

What are the tangible wins for graduate students?

- The OSAP transformation and what it means for grad students and the OSG (Ontario Student Grants).
Two years ago it included a 30% tuition rebate that was a benefit for undergraduate students, due to the requirement to have been out of high school for a maximum of 4 years.
- OGSA lobbied for two years on this issue and now government changes to the program allow graduate students to take part in the grants. No aid should be tied to how long a student has been out of high school.
- OGSA presented the argument of why this practice prevented grads to have access to funding and they agreed.
- The amount that can be earned is not included in the student aid assessment, nor is the amount of spousal contribution.
- OGSA was one of a number of student groups, that lobbied to increase funding to the PSSSP- aboriginal education funding of 60M-asked for 90M.
- Working on a policy on student health issues, 10 hour work rule, off set to raise tuition.
- Developing policy to lobby during federal advocacy week in Ottawa.

- The GSA membership fee is about \$8,000 relative to the win of 4 million to graduate students to be able to access aid funding.
- Mr. Dotto could not infer what the impacts would be to the GSA-UW if it exited from OGSA.
- For OGSA to lose Waterloo, as the largest schools, best staffed and resourced, and everyone wants to know what UW is doing so well to produce exemplary graduates, how they attract students etc. The virtue of OGSA is that they represent graduate students. Losing one of the biggest members, and the president and home office of the OGSA would effectively lose its ability to lobby for graduate students.
- OGSA has a Board of Directors, each Directors is one student from every member school. If there is a problem or a school is displeased with the positions that are being taken, then there is a failure of effective communication.
- OGSA bylaws were antiquated. At the June 2017 AGM the Board decided to address the bylaws in order of importance. Needed to change the bylaws, which if exploited could hurt other associations. There was a provision that did not make sense. The changes were made to give OGSA time to prepare itself for the departure of a member school. Also to ask why they are leaving and to have opportunity to correct/provide mediation. Want to know if there is something that can be done. OGSA does not have as much as funds a the bigger u/g organizations, and works on a much thinner budget. The decision was not in consultation with the school members, because they assume the directors of the organizations are appropriately representing their students. Trust that directors have good relationships with their schools and speaking in the interests of their students.
- OGSA is a graduate lobby organization at the provincial level, and will always have a do or die mentality. It is difficult to achieve anything politically as a sole school. It is easier to gain audience and want to be at the table where decisions are made. Recently OGSA has been at the table. We [graduate students] deserve to be treated fairly. OGSA is getting better at this process. OGSA will continue to lobby on behalf of all Ontario graduate students. Losing UW would be a big loss for OGSA and graduate student voice.

Motion for 5 minute recess at 4:58 pm (Kearney/Amos) Carried.

Directors refrained from discussing the OGSA issue today to facilitate Councillors to have a conversation.

Mr. Dotto was not aware of the GSA Council decision and subsequent drafting of GSA Policy 16 with reference to the GSA opposed vote to the OGSA policy on the 10-hour rule. Our delegate was directed to oppose the policy in the Winter 2017 term.

Councillors expressed there were threatening statements regarding “dues had to be paid before we can leave”, curious about “not taking time” to be sure that everyone was informed, and curious about how to interpret “he didn’t want to sue people.”

Councilor appreciates the effort OGSA made to keep Waterloo. Is OGSA trying as hard to get other schools involved? Perhaps membership fees may be reduced to be more attractive for members.

Additional questions may be directed to the Council Chair.

9. Presentations

a. GSA Budget Report

The Board Chair reports highlights of the budget and the associated fee requests. The Board has approved the Budget. The technicalities of the budget are complex. A report was submitted to this Council meeting.

b. Vital Signs Survey – deferred to next meeting.

10. Discussion

a. GSA Budget

Council discussed various aspects of the budget scenarios. The Board is weighing whether it should pull out of one lobby organization, all or neither of them. (CASA OGSA).

The amount budgeted for CASA reflects the dues owing for the balance of the year in which the GSA would exit. That is, it is membership payment to the end of April 2018.

If the GSA fee increase is not approved at the General Meeting, the Board would make decisions of what will need to be cut to balance the budget. The potential cuts will be identified at the general meeting. The GSA worked out two scenarios and they are available to view on the spreadsheet.

For the Grad House Budget, a few different models were considered. The average fee increase was adapted to fit across the various scenarios. The greatest impact is the increase to minimum wage.

11. Motions:

- a. **BIRT** the GSA-UW Council ratify the appointments as detailed in the report for item 7, University of Waterloo Committee Appointments. (Bruce/Cyr) **Carried**, Tadayon abstained.

12. Notices of Motion – none

13. Other Business – There is an open seat on CEC for Science

14. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm.

LD:rv