



Council

Notice of Meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019
Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Place: NH 3407

AGENDA

Time	Item	Action
4:00 pm	1. Speaker's Welcome and Opening Remarks	-
	2. Adoption of the Agenda (Changes will be noted with **)	For Approval
	3. Attendance	-
	4. Declarations of Interest	For Info
4:10 pm	5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting a. October 11, 2018 (tentative) b. June 5, 2019	For Approval
4:15 pm	6. Delegations a. Standing Advocacy Committee – Commissioners	For Approval
n/a	7. Reports a. None currently	For Info
4:45 pm	8. Motions a. Motion to elect commissioner for Standing Advocacy Committees b. Motion to appoint Councillors to the Joint Policy Review Committee c. Motion to appoint Councillor to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee d. Motion to accept the Joint Policy Review Committee's Year-End Report	For Approval
5:00 pm	9. Advising the President a. GSA Political Director – Student Choice Initiative Strategy	For Info
5:20 pm	10. New Business & Members' Discussion a. Relationship building with departmental GSAs b. Leveraging the Graduate House c. Training topics d. Standards for open / closed sessions	For Info
5:50 pm	11. Update from the Board	For Info
5:55 pm	12. Outstanding Action Items	For Info
	13. Notices of Motion	-
6:00 pm	14. Adjournment	-

Marsha Paley
Speaker of the Council
GSA-UW

July 3, 2019

RESOLUTIONS

8a Motion to elect commissioners for Standing Advocacy Committees

BIRT the GSA-UW Council elect the following commissioners:

Finance & Economy:

8b Motion to appoint Councillors to the Joint Policy Review Committees

BIRT the GSA-UW Council appoint the following two (2) members of Council to the Policy Review Committee for the 2019-2020 year:

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8c Motion to appoint Councillor to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee

BIRT the GSA-UW Council appoint the following graduate student to the SPSC for the 2019-2020 year:

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8d Motion to accept the Joint Policy Review Committee's Year-End Report

BIRT the GSA-UW Council accept the Joint Policy Review Committee's Year-End Report

10 New Business & Members Discussion

Relationship-building with departmental GSAs
Leveraging the Graduate House
Open / closed sessions
Training topics



Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Place: NH 3407

Time	Item
4:07 pm	<p>1. Speaker's Welcome and Opening Remarks The Speaker took the Chair. Quorum was present (6/18).</p>
4:08	<p>2. Adoption of the Agenda (Changes will be noted with **) The agenda was adopted. Moved by van Bommel, seconded by Robbins. Carried.</p>
4:09	<p>3. Attendance The speaker and deputy speaker took attendance.</p>
4:12	<p>4. Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest</p>
4:12 pm	<p>5. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. October 11, 2018 (tentative) Deferred to next meeting b. June 5, 2019 **Revisions for the correct spelling of councillor's name Moved by Robbins, seconded by van Bommel. Carried.
4:14- 4:36 pm	<p>6. Delegations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Standing Advocacy Committee – Commissioners <p>A SAC commissioner presented on the purpose, structure and goals of SAC. While environmental policies have been reviewed by current members, the committee requires applicants with a social diversity perspective, which entails gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and culture. The next meeting will be held in July to discuss how policies affect graduate students.</p> <p>The political director presented on news regarding the federal elections. The GSA intends to question the major parties about the following issues: student loan funding, co-op work permits for international students, cost of cell phones and internet, affordable housing, increasing public transit funding. If councillors would like other questions to be added, a slack channel will be opened and/or comments can be directed to the political director.</p> <p>The following questions were answered:</p> <p>Clarification regarding federal versus provincial funding for student loans; there are some federal grants available but provincial funding is the greatest source.</p> <p>The GSA does not endorse a particular political party. The strategy is to ask all major parties about issues pertaining to graduate student interests and present the answers to the UWaterloo</p>

	<p>community. The information may be presented as a summary of each party's stance across issues, written in a way that is focused on graduate student issues.</p> <p>Encouraging students to vote is a strategy the political commissioner and president are working on for the fall semester.</p>
n/a	<p>7. Reports</p> <p>a. None currently</p>
4:36-4:56 pm	<p>8. Motions</p> <p>a. Motion to elect commissioner for Standing Advocacy Committees</p> <p>Nominee for finance & economy SAC: Nekoei described their qualifications for the position. Expressed knowledge about international student affairs, student tuition increases in relation to grant decreases, and problems pertaining to funding TA positions and CTE budget cuts. Their goal will be to investigate and monitor financial issues affecting graduate students. Students will provide feedback about financial problems to the commissioner, and anyone who is interested in participating can be involved.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to collect information about TA experiences with workload and funding across courses, and then analyze this information to create a report. It was also noted that Finance 101 will be providing financial training seminars to graduate students. Motion to nominate the candidate for the position. Moved by Sargent, seconded by Robbins. Carried.</p> <p>Motion to move into election. Moved by Sargent, seconded by van Bommel. Carried.</p> <p>The candidate was elected to the commissionership by a majority vote.</p> <p>b. Motion to appoint Councillors to the Joint Policy Review Committee Two councillors required to join the JRPC. Paley and Parker put their names forward to join the committee. Motion to appoint Paley and Parker to the committee. Moved by Smith, seconded by Annamalai. Carried.</p> <p>c. Motion to appoint Councillor to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee No nominees. Motion to defer the nomination. Moved by Smith, seconded by Robbins. Carried.</p> <p>d. Motion to accept the Joint Policy Review Committee's Year-End Report Moved by Parker, seconded by Sargent. Carried.</p> <p>Ten minute recess at 4:56. Reconvened at 5:04.</p>
5:04-5:18 pm	<p>9. Advising the President</p> <p>a. GSA Political Director – Student Choice Initiative Strategy</p> <p>A presentation was delivered on the student choice initiative. Statement about SCI was published on the GSA website and will be published in Imprint. Student organizations are still waiting for more information about financial metrics and the status of the Canadian Federation of Students lawsuit, and as a result, no institution has launched a platform to communicate to</p>

	<p>students about SCI. Letters to incoming and returning graduate students are being edited; information about the GSA will be included. Orientation week events being planned to communicate to students about the SCI. Networking with local post-secondary schools (Laurier and Conestoga) as well as other schools in Ontario to create a unified front. As part of this networking initiative, a casual conference will be held in August with student council representatives from Ontario post-secondary institutions. The political director is working to hold a federal election debate with all four major party leaders on campus in the fall term.</p>
<p>5:19- 5:58 pm</p>	<p>10. New Business & Members' Discussion</p> <p>a. Relationship building with departmental GSAs</p> <p>How can the council improve their interactions with departments going into the fall semester? The first step is for councillors to formally introduce themselves to their departments. Face-to-face interactions need to be emphasized.</p> <p>In addition to weekly departmental newsletters, a report is created for monthly meetings and added to the agenda in one department. There is no mechanism for delivering information to graduate students at large.</p> <p>Anonymous success stories can be shared online as testimonials for the work the GSA does. Monthly e-news to graduate students can be leveraged to advertise departmental GSA information, as well as the website. Speaker suggested that each month, a departmental GSA will deliver information to be included in the e-news. A councillor noted that a problem with this suggestion is that some people delete the email. To help reduce deletions, the GSA could edit the headline of the email to emphasize a topic that engages the audience.</p> <p>Social media can be used to advertise events and communicate important information. The office of the GSA and the grad house have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, but there is low uptake of these platforms by graduate students.</p> <p>Differentiation between departmental and office of GSA needed. Councillor profiles and photos for website needed.</p> <p>b. Leveraging the Graduate House</p> <p>Are there other opportunities for the GSA to host events at the grad house and make it better known to incoming and existing grad students?</p> <p>Suggestion for a raffle; spend a certain amount of money and be entered into a monthly prize contest. Could try to get sponsors to offer free drinks or food to entice people.</p> <p>Increase advertisements for the \$5 off a month coupon.</p> <p>Faculties reluctant to host events at the grad house due to alcoholic culture, students who don't drink may not want to attend due to lack of non-alcoholic drink choices. A way to be inclusive to non-drinkers would be to hold a mocktail contest; the winner could be the mocktail of the month. Councillors can use the grad house for their informal meetings with grad peers.</p> <p>Art group could hold art-viewing events.</p> <p>Look to other universities for inspiration.</p> <p>A slack channel will be opened for further suggestions.</p> <p>c. Training topics</p> <p>What happens to political positions the GSA introduces; how are they leveraged?</p> <p>Procedures for voting and speaking.</p> <p>Outcomes achieved by the GSA.</p> <p>How does the GSA advocate for students?</p> <p>Flash presentations on the different organizations and infrastructure of UW.</p> <p>20 minute training sessions preferred prior to regular meeting rather than after. Slack channel will be opened.</p>

	<p>d. Standards for open / closed sessions Described the rights of councillors and board directors regarding voting and attending open and closed sessions. A gap exists between bylaws and policies regarding these procedures; the JRPC will review them and provide clearer guidance on operations. For example, it is unclear how and when to establish a closed session. Under the municipal act, it clearly states how a clerk can close a meeting, e.g. legal discussion that is confidential to a client, real estate discussions, etc. In last meeting, discussions about personnel was the reason for closing the session. A list of reasons will be developed by the JRPC for closing sessions, seeking input from council and board members.</p>
5:58 pm	<p>11. Update from the Board</p> <p>Two meetings held in June to discuss agenda items. Approved commissioner honorariums. JRPC and Strategic Planning committee board nominees completed. Plan to address gaps between bylaws and policies. Approved the president's recommendation for a new VP. Policy changes regarding EL-9, EL-15, GP-1, GP-4, and GP-12. More policy revisions are planned for the next meeting.</p>
6:02 pm	<p>12. Outstanding Action Items</p> <p>Speaker and deputy speaker will gather a list of action items from councillors and board members to present at meetings.</p> <p>Report on problems related to doctoral award for international fourth year PhD students in the physics department. The president followed up with the Perimeter institute and funding has been resolved there; have not yet heard from the physics department.</p>
6:07	<p>13. Notices of Motion</p>
6:08 pm	<p>14. Adjournment Moved by Smith, seconded by Kim.</p>