

MINUTES

Graduate Students' Association

Council Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2013

12:00-2:00

Sankey Chamber

Present: Jory Korobanik (President), Siamak Nooraei (VP Equity & External), Leslie Nash (VP Communications), Kiel Ormerod (VP Finance), Lee Belding (BOT), Sofia Ramos (Senator), David Dodington (Applied Health Science), Laura Castelli (Applied Health Science), Paula Miotto (Applied Health Science), Rachel Nottrodt (Biology), Lucas Maddelena (Biology), Goodness Delali Dotse (Business Economics), Anna Veselovska (Business Economics), Ashley Nascimento (Child and Youth Studies), Anna Zwanzig (Comparative Lit & Arts), Oleg Rybkin (Computer Science), Amber Bramer (Critical Sociology), Kaleb Wagner (Earth Sciences), Theresa Bukovics (Earth Sciences), Kathryn Haynes (Education), Brianna Spratt (Education), Lisa Arblaster (Geography), Eugene Afiamoah Opoku (Math & Statistics), Stephan Farah (Philosophy), Aistis Januszko (Physics), Egor Ospadov (Physics), Shelby O'Donnell (Pop Culture), Taysa-Rhea Mise (Psychology), Caroline Drolet (Psychology), Venugopal Balakrishna (ISP), Yathish Shetty (ISP)

Regrets: Kshitij Verma (Senator), Helen Bai (Accounting), Dawn Westwater (Canadian-American Studies), Julia Polyck-O'Neil (Interdisciplinary Humanities), Kait Kribs (Pop Culture)

Absent: Ali Mansoor (VP Student Affairs), Ferdinand Reimmer (Applied Disability Studies), Faisal Saeed Khan (Business Administration), Mohamed Hassan (Chemistry), Memin Boyacioglu (Critical Sociology), Emmeline Gregoroff (History), Patrick Wood (Management)

No Representatives Elected: Applied Linguistics, Biotechnology, Classics, English, Management, Political Science, Social Justice & Equity Studies

Meeting called to order @ 12:05 by Jory Korobanik presiding.

1. Approval of the agenda

- a. Amendment to the agenda: shift the Senate report to the first report spot
- b. Motion (Sofhia Ramos) Second (Lisa Arblaster), Carried Unanimous

2. Approval of the minutes

- a. Motion (Paula Miotto) Second (Ashley Nascimento), Carried Unanimous

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- b. NONE

4. Review of Robert's Rules

Jory Korobanik: Roberts rules, when we are having a discussion please speak to me, it avoids conflict, in addition to this, Leslie keeps speaker list and she will call you out, so please put your hand out

5. Reports

5.6 Senate Representative (Sofhia Ramos)

- Discussion of motions made through senate, program review, addition of MA in nursing as well as changes to Goodman school of business. Review in health sciences was also done.

5.1 President (Jory Korobanik)

- VP International committee was produced consisting of 3 VP executives, 2 program reps and 1 member of large, we are looking at hiring a VP International by next meeting, and the first round of resume reviews will be done by next Friday

- Blueprint: career services, BUSU and research services, as well as grad studies are involved. If you submit a business plan, just a proposal, you will have a chance to win some prizes. This will train you to acquire the skills to be an entrepreneur. Deadline extended to November 18, there is over 10,000\$ worth of prizes. If you win you will be sent to MARS a business cooperation that trains you in marketing skills. It's a good thing to put on your CV.
- OGSST is back: It's an external award which has the same funding as OGS but has stipulations that you need to be in science and technology. Deadlines change from year to year, we aren't sure when it will be this year, but we will keep you updated as soon as we find out.
- CFS ISIC was brought to the University. Some businesses do not accept regular student cards, they require the ISIC cards, so CFS will bargain with companies and they get deals on certain things like Porter flights you get 10-15% off. If there is interest we will ask them to come back.
- CFS graduate symposium Nov 1-3. Jorge Chan will be at the event from PhD comics. If you are interested please see me.
- Faculty of graduate studies is looking at a way to prevent delayed theses. Delaying a student costs the student money because they have to pay fees even if they are still writing/correcting remarks. There are large delays finding an external which is outside of the student's control, so they are looking at ways we can remedy this. One way is to back pack the student if they go into the next semester. They are also looking at obtaining externals as far as 6 months in advance.
- Program review: task force does administrative side only and senate does the academic side.

5.2 VP Student Affairs (Ali Mansoor) – Not in attendance

5.3 VP Equity & External Affairs (Siamak Nooraei)

- CFS meeting report
- Discounts on ISIC cards
 - Full time students
- Student saver card
 - Part time students
- Tuition fee hikes
 - Most programs will go up by 5% in the next year
 - they have organized a campaign called "the hike stops here"
- Post residency fees
 - Reduced tuition fees after you've completed your course phase
- Election preparedness

- United for equity
 - Getting rid of homophobia
- Student rights
 - Students for better childcare
 - Access copy right fee
 - Fairness for International students
 - Bullying, student-supervisor relationships
- Contact with government agencies
- Community outreach
- YWCA
 - Helps women out of poverty
 - Painting and cleaning, in November
- Kitchen Kits
 - Packing of kitchen kits for people moving out of shelters
- Out of the cold
 - Helping out with providing warm meals for homeless and shelter

5.4 VP Finance (Kiel Ormerod)

- Proposed budget
 - Kaleb Wagner: How much is capital space?
 - Kiel Ormerod: This was started 10yrs ago, we dedicated a certain percent every year to dedicate money to build a space for graduate students, and it will steadily grow for the next few years until we can start talking about building that space. There are some promising opportunities; we stay in contact with the contractors that build around here so we are looking at different ways. It's a portion of our fees that get put away. We put a motion on that to protect this money and it is tightly regulated.
 - **Stephan Farah: Motion to accept budget**
 - **Brianna Spratt: seconds**
 - **Unanimous, motion passes**
- OCGS
 - Ontario council of graduate studies: collective body of all the deans from all the Ontario universities of graduate programs to look at issues and find solutions to these problems
 - Time to finish for graduate students is an issue as Jory mentioned
 - OGS scholarships allow for schools to use them as recruitment tool because now the schools have control of them
 - External awards are an issue where they can make entering students as competitive as more mature students because their CVs are very different
 - Mental health is another serious issue

- Recruitment liaisons go to international countries to recruit students; one issue is that they are lying to students. They promise students jobs, post-residency and certificates, etc. If you hear of this, please let me know so I can pass it on to the dean.
- Mapping New Knowledge committee
 - Research café Tuesday Nov 19
- Alphie's
 - Myself and Ashley (Hobden) Nascimento have been meeting with Karin Perry (who runs grad plus)
 - Ashley Nascimento: research on tap, to get people out and talk about their research and network, we are hoping to do it at Alphie's trough. We are trying to aim for before Christmas break to get people excited about it, and maybe do one per month starting in the second term. We have some ideas, the first time we might introduce to some comedy, to make it an interesting forum. We are trying to do a spinoff of things in a box and do research in a box. They have to ask questions based on their background. We were also thinking about doing a spinoff of Miss America where they get to answer questions and look at them from multiple perspectives. We are also going to involve some faculty.
 - Jory Korobanik: Research on tap is very exciting; I think developing a good graduate culture at Brock is very important. We need to have these times to go out and socialize. Grad studies can be an isolating experience so it's good to go out and chat.

5.5 VP Communications (Leslie Nash)

- Semi-formal
- Food Drive and Toy Drive
- Attendance

5.6 Senate Representative (Kshitij Verma) – Not in attendance

5.7 Board of Trustees Representative (Lee Belding)

- BOT approved 6 million dollars for maintenance such as leaky roofs; classroom upgrades (chairs and desks).
- Space issue
 - We are looking at making it more formal where space is going, who gets priority over specific spaces, such as faculties. We are going to start a committee for our space issue.

6. Mental Health Initiative

- Launch of new service: Good2talk
- Recognition of mental health in colleagues and students
- Mental health training

Kathryn Haynes: Yoga, maybe even men only classes?

- Wellness week is at the end of November where we will be holding different de-stressors such as a puppy room, free breakfast, etc.
- Counseling services
 - Coping with loss
 - Stress, anxiety and depression
 - Anger management

Kiel Ormerod: Did anyone have class during reading week

David Dodington: our supervisor asked us if we wanted to take the reading week or finish a week early

Kiel Ormerod: I'm just looking to see if we need to push this for graduate students

Leslie Nash: Most supervisors don't recognize it as a graduate

7. Other Business

Kathryn Haynes: concerns about people not being able to opt out of the bus pass in Oakville

Kiel Ormerod: The bus pass is done through BUSU, I know they have found ways to opt out for those in Hamilton, so they should collectively make a decision to either want it or not want it then we can get that going for them

Kathryn Haynes: well that's an issue because we aren't all there at the same time there are both part time and full time individuals

Kiel Ormerod: Go through Barb and she can help you streamline the process

Jory Korobanik: Summer buss pass is still in negotiation

Motion to Adjourn (Lee Belding) Second (Stephan Farah) Carried Unanimous

Meeting adjourned