Attendees:

Sam Hossack, President
Yangyang Fang, VP External
Adrianne Offenbecker, VP Student Life
Arash Afshar, VP Finance and Services
Joey Windsor, Speaker
Veronika Kiryanova, Clerk
Jason Unsworth, Executive Director

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA
Katie Greene
Biological Sciences Graduate Students Association
Kara Vanden Broek
Jessica Hopson
Jonathon Lee
Tomasz Bugajski
Leonardo Martin Alacron
Thomas Welsh
Alejandra Enriquez Garcia
Laura Jurgens
Communication and Culture Graduate Students Association
Ritika Chuhan
Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Stephanie Coward
Khosro Salmani
Haley Vecchiarelli
Ayla Heirali
Economics Graduate Students Association
Daniel Ma
Electrical and Computer Engineering GSA
Fruzsina Mayer
Leanne Dawson
Anis Ben Arfi
Edmond Chih
Yasaman Amannejad

English Graduate Students Association
Zachary Brewer
Environmental Design Student Association
Minella Chiappe
Gastrointestinal Graduate Student Association
Fernando Vicentini
Geography Graduate Students Association
Elena Favaro
Kyle Plotsky
Sarah St. Germain
Geomatics Graduate Group
Graduate Anthropology & Archaeology Student Association
Graduate Engineering Students Consortium
Graduate Music Society
Graduate Programs in Education
Graduate University Mathematics Society
Haskayne PhD Student Group
History Graduate Students Union
Immunology Graduate Association
Kinesiology Graduate Students Association
Linguistics Graduate Students Association
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students Association
Medical Science Graduate Students Association
Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Graduate Students Association

Neuroscience - Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Philosophy Graduate Students Association
Physics and Astronomy DGA
Political Science Graduate Students Association
Psychology Graduate Students Association
Sociology Graduate Student Caucus
Strategic Studies Students Consortium
Sustainable Energy Development Society
Veterinary Medicine Graduate Students Association

Mostafa Sakr
Adam Benfer
Kelsey Pennanen
Anis Ben Arfi
Leanne Dawson
Laura Pecktor De Oliveira
Laura Berlanda
Chris Ostrowski
Leah Beech
Olasunkanmi Kehinde
Sumin Leem
Alyson House
Steven Granger
Rebecca Ralph
Rachel Kratofil
Kevin Boldt
Lindsay Hracs
Mohamed Abdelhady
Myra Chen
Somshukla Chaudhuri
Md Abu Naser Mohon
Leah Hohman
Alya Heirali
Erik Fraunberger
Haley Vecchiarelli
Brian Hanley
Samara Burns
Amir Ouyed
Anna Ordog
Bethany Matchullis
Emilie Lacroix
Kirsti Toivonen
Val Salt
Stephanie Cantlay
Timothy Choi
Doug Koroluk
Guilherme Rizzoto
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Began

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Approval of March 2017 Minutes

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Senate Presentation – Susan Ditchburn, Senate Executive Co-Chair

- Susan Ditchburn encouraged graduate students to submit Honorary Degree nominations.
- She also provided a brief description of the Honorary Degree initiative:
  - Ten are given out a year
  - This is the highest honour given by the UofC
  - The goal is to acknowledge people that have gone above and beyond their career to improve their discipline, community, and the society providing extraordinary and impactful contributions.
  - The nomination process is open throughout the year. Nominations include 2 letters of support and a nomination form. Nominees stay “on the list” for 3 years. Selection is a confidential process, and the nomination is anonymous.

Assessment Principles and Practices Presentation – Lynn Taylor, Vice-Provost (Teaching & Learning)

- Dr. Taylor encourages the students to use a resource currently available for graduate students and professors. This tool is the Principles for Assessing Student learning document (the web page is currently under development).
- Principles for assessing student learning document is important, as the assessment of student learning is a complex and challenging dimension of teaching. The document will help provide evidence- based, clearly outlined guidance for formal and informal teaching.
- Dr. Taylor also discussed the Graduate Attribute Statement. This statement will address expectations and qualities of UofC Graduate students regardless of their department. This
statement will list enduring, high-level qualities that graduate students will take into their life and work after they leave the university.

- The Graduate Attribute Statement will be used to help characterize student achievement across programs, help design program outcomes, help inform the incoming graduate students on what qualities they will develop, and serve to help universities philanthropic activities.

**Q: Who is the audience?**
**A: A reference point for program outcomes and course outcome (for the curriculum review)**

**Q: Is there marketing around this?**
**A: We are widely promoting the use of the statement**

**Health and Dental (Dependents)**

- Arash discussed student feedback regarding the Health and Dental dependents subsidies
- He stated that his recommendation was to proceed as he previously proposed during the previous GRC

**Q: Coverage period: for 16-month programs**
**A: Students pay for a full year and can use their health insurance for the full period they paid for, even after graduating**

*Comment: The “You’ve just graduated” Plan is available right after you graduate at the same cost as your plan.*

**Elections of Speaker, Clerk, Finance Standing Committee Chair, and Chief Returning Officer**

- Speaker: Elena Favaro, (elena.favaro@ucalgary.ca)
- Clerk: Haley Vecchiarelli (havecchi@ucalgary.ca)
- Finance Standing Committee Chair: Kevin Boldt re-elected (krboldt@ucalgary.ca)
- Chief Returning Officer: Somshukla Chaudhuri (schaudhu@ucalgary.ca)

**FSC Chair Presentation**

- Kevin introduced the role of the FSC and committee’s accomplishments this year.

**Graduate Representative Council Initiative Committee Update**

- Lindsay provided an update on the progress of the GRCI
- Ideas and suggestions for the next year’s budget are welcome
- The committee chairs and initiatives for next year will be voted on at the May GRC
Swearing in of New Executive

President’s Report (Sam Hossack) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Sam updated the GRC on the Awards, and the “Who is a Graduate Student” campaign
- Sam encouraged students to fill out the Annual Survey
- Sam stated that July/August is the time of the move for the GSA offices.
- She also introduced topics that will be covered during the next GRC meeting

Vice-President (External) Report (Yangyang Fang) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Yangyang updated the GRC on External Stakeholder Advocacy Group (ESAG), and its work on increasing transparency and discussion on international student fees.
- Yangyang encouraged students to apply for the Graduate College and the GSA mentorship program, and to attend the upcoming lecture of the lifetime

Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Adrianne Offenbecker) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Adrianne delivered news that a full reading week in the fall has been approved for graduate students
- She stated that the Sexual Harassment Sexual Violence Policy have been approved
- She encouraged graduate students to attend the Grad Student Success Week May 2-4 and to participate in the GSA Spring Food Drive

Vice-President (Finance & Services) Report (Arash Afshar) (see Power Point presentation)

- Arash reported on LDL Finances. He stated that the LDL finances are doing great

Question Period:

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DGA Period

- 25th Annual Cumming School of Medicine Symposium
  - Date & Time: May 5, 2017 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/event/2017-05-05/25th-annual-cumming-school-medicine-symposium

**Other Business**

- **AASEE Program Design Initiative**
  - Proposals deadline - April 15
  - Do you have a passion for education? Interested in passing on your knowledge to a new generation? AASEE is looking for graduate students, from any faculty, who are interested in designing STEAM programs to deliver at schools around the province of Alberta. Each program should accommodate 30-45 students and last 1.5-2 hours.
  - This initiative is funded by a GSA Quality Money Grant. For more information or to apply, please contact Leanne Dawson at ladawson@ucalgary.ca.

- **The Judicial Board has been called**
  - The Speaker will send the results of the Judicial review following their decision

**Adjournment of Open Session**
Moved/seconded
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm