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
Biochemical Sciences Graduate Students Association
Kara Vanden Broek
Biomedical Engineering Graduate Students Association
Jessica Hopson
Biomedical Technology Graduate Students Association
Taylor Woo
Cardiovascular Respiratory Students Association
Tomasz Bugajski
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering GSA
Rod Vafaei
Chemistry Graduate Students Association
Nadia Maarouf
Classics and Religion DGA
Teeratorn Kadeethum
Communication and Culture Graduate Students Association
Ross Arnold
Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Teeratorn Kadeethum
Computer Sciences Graduate Society
Thomas Welsh
Council of Foothills
Laura Jurgens
Economics Graduate Students Association
Ritika Chuhan
English Graduate Students Association
Laura Sevick
Environmental Design Student Association
Mark Hofmeister
Environmental Design Student Association
Sarah Lee
Environmental Design Student Association
Mehrdad Jafarigiv
Environmental Design Student Association
Khosro Salmani
Environmental Design Student Association
Haley Vecchiarelli
Environmental Design Student Association
Ayla Heirali
Environmental Design Student Association
Daniel Ma
Environmental Design Student Association
Jing Jiang
Environmental Design Student Association
Leanne Dawson
Environmental Design Student Association
Anis Ben Arfi
English Graduate Students Association
Tom Sewel
Environmental Design Student Association
Zachary Brewer
Environmental Design Student Association
Angat Desai
Environmental Design Student Association
Minella Chiappe
Aaron Bomback
Nicholas Graves
Elena Favaro
Kyle Plotsky
Yan Xiang
Mostafa Sakr
Peter Peltek
Adam Benfer
Kelsey Pennanen
Rebecca Englert
Dane Synnott
Anis Ben Arfi
Ross Arnold
Jonathan Gresl
Brit Paris
Olasunkanmi Kehinde
Sumin Leem
Alyson House
Steven Granger
Erin Hrynuk
Rachel Kratofil
Jodi Nettleton
Lindsay Hracs
Myra Chen
Somshukla Chaudhuri
Md Abu Naser Mohon
Heather Luduc-Pessah
Haley Vecchiarekku
Brian Hanley
Celeso Neto
Elizabeth Watt
Anna Ordog
Bethany Matchuillis
Jessica Weber
Clark Amistad
Devon Currie
Martine Dennie
Stephanie Cantlay
Christian Halt
Timothy Choi
Ravi Holani
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Began

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Sexual Health & Sexual Violence Presentation
Jaya Dixit, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Ms Dixit introduced herself and her role at the University. She stated that she is an academic and international specialist at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Her role is to help graduate students know their rights and options and find solutions to difficult problems. She provides confidential academic advising about supervisory conflict, extensions, academic misconduct, barriers to performance and progress and withdrawals.

Ms Dixit is currently a part of the Implementation Committee for the Prevention of Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence. This committee looks at sexual harassment and sexual violence issues as they impact students in the areas of prevention and education, policy and measurement, sexual violence that occurs online, supports and resources, and current research and trends.

Ms Dixit is seeking graduate student input regarding the new Consent Curriculum developed by the Committee. The Consent Curriculum is an online module available for self-study, this module will be implemented into existing UofC Online Courses. The key messages of the online course are: yes means yes; everyone is responsible for the safety of the other members of our community; positive language.

Ms Dixit asked the GRC members to contribute their opinion on how useful the training module may be and where such training would fit.

GRC suggestions:
Bystander intervention training would be a good place to offer this Consent Curriculum online module

Conversation is already happening at the faculty level regarding physical barriers, this may be a good time for this module.
Consent Curriculum members are available to come and talk about consent at different venues, including classes.

Q: How do you ensure that people that “should” hear this module actually do? How do you offer this not only to offer this curriculum not only to a self-selected group?
A: The best way to do this is to ensure that we all contribute to this conversation on campus.

Q: Sexual violence survey did not contain situations that apply to graduate student life. How do you ensure that your Consent Curriculum does?
A: A facilitator can change the module to make it appropriate to the audience

Q: Consent Curriculum can be embedded into curriculum in different professional program for example into topics on doctor/patient (e.g. in medicine) and employer/employee (e.g. in business programs) relationships. Consent Curriculum could be also delivered at TA orientations
A: This is a good idea especially because not all conversations about consent are about sex. It’s also about dealing with people who are at a different power level than you

Comment: this must be embedded into mandatory training, students are unlikely to show up to this type of training if it is a stand-alone session

Comment: As researchers, we talk about informed consent. Perhaps there is an opportunity to expand the content of the mandatory ethical workshops that deal with informed consent adding the Consent Curriculum.

**Provincial Government Updates Presentation**
Dru Marshall, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Dru Marshall updated the GRC on the provincial government business and news:
- Provincial government promised stable and predictable funding to the University with 2% yearly increase
- There will be tuition freeze next year
- This year the tuition back-fill will not be provided by the government
- The infrastructure maintenance program will be increased by the government, but the exact amount is not yet known.
- The province will not be providing Lights On funding for the Schulich School of Engineering.
- We do not yet know how the carbon tax will impact the University of Calgary
- The federal budget may provide an innovation budget for the next year, details are to come
Dr Marshall discussed the Post-Secondary Learning Act, which states that every jurisdiction should have the right to strike, the right for the essential services, and the right to lock out for universities and colleges. Alberta organizations provided submissions to the provincial government stating their view on and an impact of such legislation. Possible outcomes: 1. PSLA with increased information on labor 2. PSLA will be put right in to the labor code This legislation will lead to many discussions at the university level.

Dr Marshall discussed the progress of the Tuition Committee and the Funding Review. These initiatives are ongoing and productive.

Q: Can an external organization represent and internal organization?
A: Yes, an example of such organization is AUPE.

2017-2018 Budget (see PowerPoint presentation)
Arash discussed substantial changes in the GSA budget, that included an increase in GSA fellowships, professional fees, LDL loss, and salaries and wages. Arash stated that there was a decrease in funds for the GSA meetings, and discount reimbursement

Motion
BIRT the Graduate Representative Council approves the 2017-2018 GSA and LDL Budgets as attached and recommended by the Finance Standing Committee.

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:1
CARRIED

Health & Dental (Couples and Families) (see PowerPoint presentation)
Arash discussed potential changes to the Health and Wellness Plan

Q: How much will students +5 dependent will pay?
A: As much as the student +2 dependents.

Q: What was the reason for the selection of $150 to be the amount of an increase if we select the following option: “Charge 2+ dependents an extra $150 on top of 10% increase:

$680.46 + $150 = $830.46”

A: This was a number that made most sense

Q: Can you please tell us the exact number of families that fall into these categories?
A: 115 2+ dependent 75 1 dependent
Q: Is there a way to find out whether families have dependent children or spouses?
A: Not at this time

Q: Is it normal for single students to be subsidizing for families?
A: In general, single students are always subsidizing couples and families.

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

Sam updated the GRC on the Election results, and the “Who is a Graduate Student” campaign. The Annual Survey is being updated and will come out in mid April. Energizing Eyes High was passed and the University now has a new strategic plan. University District is officially launched with discovery center is now open.

Sam said that many policies and procedures have been updated by Governance Committee. FGS Funding Policies will be discussed at the Funding Retreat. Student input is welcome.

Sam stated that the MacKimmie Tower and Block will be re-developed and the GSA offices will be moved. A hub for the entrepreneurial thinking will eventually be developed there.

Graduate students are collaborating with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. They want to improve relations with graduate students and support innovation.

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

Yangyang updated the GRC on ESAG (External Stakeholder Advisory Group), and its work on increasing transparency and discussion on international student fees. Yangyang delivered great news that Mental Health funding will be continued by the province!

She also encourages students to participate in the GSA mentorship program and invited students to attend the Mayoral Election Forum.

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

Updated the GRC on the discussion around the Residence and Family housing, success of the GSA² initiative, and the availability of the Community Hub.

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

Arash reported on LDL Finances. He stated that the LDL is doing substantially better than it was at this time last year.

**Question Period:**
Q: When will the GSA office will be moving to the 10th floor of Earth Science? How long will the GSA be staying there for?
A: The GSA office will be moving to the 10th floor of Earth Science sometimes this summer. It is not known how long the office will be staying there for.

Q: Is there still a DGA discount at the LDL?
A: Yes

**DGA Period**
The Department of Anthropology and Archeology is holding a Chacmool at 50: The Past, the Present, and Future of Archeology 50-th Annual Conference, November 8-12, 2017. Currently looking for presenters.

Thank you for the input and engaging graduate community in the Language Creation Conference planning. The conference will take place in July. A special documentary of the Conlanging: the art of crafting tongues. A Q&A period will be hosted with producers.

**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.

Please add more comments to Slidocode: 8196

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm