GRADUATE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, May 30, 2017, 5:30 PM
Last Defence Lounge

Attendees:
Brit Paris, President
Willem Klumpenhouwer, VP External
Taha Afyouni, VP Student Life
Christiana Manzocco, VP Finance and Services
Elena Favaro, Speaker
Veronika Kiryanova, interim Clerk
Jason Unsworth, Executive Director

Regrets:
Negar Mohammadi, VP Academic

Quorum

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology DGA
Katie Greene
Elizabeth Barretto

Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association
Chris Hooey

Biomedical Engineering Graduate Students' Association
Mana Novin
Alex Wyma

Biomedical Technology Graduate Students' Association
Rose Swansburg

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Graduate Students' Association
Youssef Tafu
Ross Arnold
Katelynn Daley
Chee Wong

Civil Engineering Graduate Society
Laura Jurgens

Community Health Sciences Student Executive
Rebecca Lang
Celina Boothby

Computer Sciences Graduate Society
Merdad Jafarigiv
Khosro Salmani

Council of Foothills
Ayla Heirali

Economics Graduate Students' Association
Gillian Petit
Fruzsina Mayer

Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Students Association
Patricia Groves
Mohammad Mansouri Habibabadi
English Graduate Students' Association
Gastrointestinal Graduate Students' Association
Geography Graduate Students' Association

Geomatics Graduate Group
German Studies Graduate Students' Association
Graduate Anthropology and Archaeology Student Association

Graduate Engineering Students Consortium

Graduate Music Society
Haskayne PhD Student Group

History Graduate Students Union
Immunology Graduate Association
Kinesiology Graduate Students' Association
Linguistics Graduate Students' Association
MBA Society
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students' Association

Medical Science Graduate Students' Association
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Graduate Students' Association

Neurosciences - Hotchkiss Brain Institute Trainee Organization
Philosophy Graduate Students' Association
Physics and Astronomy Departmental Graduate Association

Political Sciences Graduate Students' Association

Psychology Graduate Students' Association
Sociology Graduate Students Caucus

Strategic Studies Students Consortium

Veterinary Medicine Graduate Students' Association

Yasaman Amanngad
Tom Sewel
Timothy Jayme
Julie Lovitt
Kyle Plotsky
Paul Verlaine Gakne
Peter Peltek
Emily Peschel
Christina Robinson
Anis Ben Arfi
Leanne Dawson
Ross Arnold
Lauro Peckol
Alyson House
Steven Granger
Rebecca Ralph
Rachel Kratofil
Jodi Nettleton
Lindsay Hracs
Elena Storle
Annamaris Olmo Velazquez
Alexandra Meikleham
Myra Chen
Keith Lau
Somshukla Chaudhuri
Alya Heirali
Erik Fraunberger
Evangelian Collings
Taylor Cameron
Amir Ouyed
Jessica Weber
Bethany Matchullis
Kirsti Toivonen
Stephanie Cantlay
Martine Dennie
Kiernan McClelland
Timothy Choi
Persephone Greco-Otto
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Began

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

Approval of April 2017 Minutes

Motioned/seconded
Opposed:0
Abstained:0
CARRIED

GRCI Initiatives Presentation and Chair Vote. Brit Paris, President

• Brit reminded the GRC of the single-year initiatives that were proposed by the GRCI. These initiatives include Initiative Awards, Research Costs Grant, and Leadership training and workshop series

Q: Please elaborate on the research cost grant and what costs are eligible. More specifically, please explain what social science students could use this grant for?
A: e.g. a recorder. This funding is very broad

Q: Can the Research Cost Grant be used to pay for attending a workshop that will help with your research?
A: Academic support Projects grants may be more appropriate in situation like that

• Brit asked the GRC audience for ideas of workshop series. Audience suggestions were as follows:
  o Job training and job finding skills
  o Workshops that help students develop skills needed to work in industry and other career-development workshops
  o The GSA can collaborate with Career Services in workshop offerings.
  o Technical courses and seminars (e.g. LaTeX)

Q: Can you please clarify the Leadership Awards. Who are they for?
A: These awards are for people implementing different initiatives around campus. Eight awards in the amount of $1000 were distributed.

A vote was put forward to the GRC as to which initiatives should be funded by the GRCI:

- Initiative awards // 23 votes
- Research cost grants // 6 votes
- Workshop series // 19 votes
- Leadership training // 19 votes

Should the GRCI funding and benefits be available only to the GRC representatives?

- Only for official GRC members // 0 votes
- All students // unanimous

**Chair and Vice Chair Election**

Nomination for a chair of the GRCI
Leanne Dawson was selected unanimously as a chair

Nomination for a vice-chair of the GRCI
Kelsey Pennine // 29 votes WINNER
Camila Tores // 4 votes

**Health and Dental Dependents Fee (For approval)** Christiana Manzocco, VP Finance & Services

- Christiana discussed the proposed changes to student health and dental fees. She also discussed student feedback regarding the Health and Dental dependents subsidies.

**MOTION:** “To approve the recommendation of the GSA to keep the general GSA Health and Dental fee for 2017-2018 status quo at $618.58 for one-dependent.”

Motioned/seconded
In favor: 20+
    Opposed: 0
    Abstained: 3
    CARRIED

**MOTION:** “To approve the recommendation of the GSA to increase the general GSA Health and Dental fee for 2017-2018 by 10% plus $150 to $830.46 for two-or-more-dependents.”

Motioned/seconded

Discussion:

Q: for the 2 or more dependents is it the same amount for 2 and, let’s say, 5?

A: yes
Q: Please explain the reason for the following wording: “10% plus $150”
A: 10% is an amount in line with the market increase, while $150 was an amount we consider reasonable to charge in this situation

Q: If more people use the insurance will we be paying more for it in fees?
A: Not in the same year. But in the future, it may lead to a fee increase and/or service adjustment

Q: Do most insurance providers increase a cost by 10% a year?
A: With other providers, the amount of yearly increase depends on your age and health. This is different for group rates, which varies year-by-year. In Alberta, the cost of services has risen by about 10% in the past year.

In favor: 20+
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 1
CARRIED

President’s Report (Brit Paris) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Brit updated the GRC on the executive transitions, Quality Money report
- She also informed the GRC about her goals for the year, which are:
  - Communication
  - Community
  - Collaboration
- Brit encouraged the GRC to apply for a committee chair positions that are becoming available

Vice-President (Academic) Report (Negar Mohammadi, presented by Brit Paris) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Students were encouraged to apply for the Awards Committee Chair Position

Vice-President (External) Report (Willem Klumpenhouwer) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Willem updated the GRC on the activity of ab-GPAC
- Willem encouraged students to join the External Relations Standing Committee and to participate in municipal election

Vice-President (Student Life) Report (Taha Afyouni) (see PowerPoint presentation)

- Taha delivered news that a new committee, GSA², is being formed
- He also encouraged students to attend the upcoming summer events organized by his committees
Vice-President (Finance & Services) Report (Christiana Manzocco) (see Power Point presentation)

- Christiana updated the GRC on the Health and Dental contract with Student Care, and the fact that it is coming up for review
- Christiana encouraged students to apply to a position of a chair of Sustainability Committee

Question Period:

- Q: Please update us on the right to strike
- A: GSA will serve as a bargaining agent for graduate students. We have many questions to answer (e.g. specify what “essential service” is). We will need to change our Collective Agreement accordingly

- Q: What is the benefit of “no strike clause” for graduate students? The right to strike seems like a good tool in our toolbox, why give it up?
- A: We were previously not allowed to strike. Up until now we were forced to have mandatory arbitration. We do not have, and cannot have a “no strike clause”, but we can keep “mandatory arbitration” if we all decide on this. Currently we have great relationship with administration, we never needed to use “mandatory arbitration” in our negotiations with University Administration. These tools can only be used during negotiations. Collective agreement renegotiation will include discussion on this issue.

- Q: Will LDL coupons be given out during summer trivia?
- A: Yes

DGA Period

Other Business

- Speaker email address: speaker.gsa@ucalgary.ca

Adjournment of Open Session

Moved/seconded
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm