**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 07th April 2020 | **Time:** |  | 12:00 PM to 01:00PM |  |
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|  | **Minutes Prepared By:** | GSA Secretary | **Location:** |  | Individual home via Google meet  |  |
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|  | **1. Meeting Objective** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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GSA General Council Meeting

**2. Attendees**



Council Members: Rajat Wason (President), Sushant Sharma (VP Internal and External Affairs), Jasmine (VP Student Life).

New Council Members: Sandeep Bonagiri (President), Naga Venkata Palaparthy (VP Internal and External Affairs), Nakkina Bhargava Sai (VP Finance), Deepthi Gudapati (VP Student Life)

Management: Dr. Edgar, Mr. Quin, Dr. Barb, Mr. Rizwan Kanji

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues  | * Dr. Edgar told the council that the online transition process was conducted very well with the help of IT services, though he requested all the students to be in touch with their supervisors for any doubts regarding course.
* Dr. Edgar wishes everyone for keeping well with their health and managing with the current circumstances.
* Rajat asked the management if there is any financial support (Emergency support fund) available from university due to Covid19 outbreak.
* Dr. Barb told the council that the government has rolled out some financial support benefits if they meet the eligibility.
* She told the council that Margie and Lynne do have some funds available, if any student wants to know more about it – he/she can send them an email to enquire.
* Rizwan told the council that there is no reduction in fee as of now – all the cost to university is the same.
* Dr. Barb told the council that the CUE food bank does have food for students who are facing some food crisis.
* Amanda is the point of contact for food bank and if needed she can hook with Edmonton food bank.
* Rajat asked the management can GSA support graduate students with some fund after discussing with Akash.
* Rajat told the council that we can disburse some of the GSA fund as financial assistance to students which were not used for GSA events for the month of March and April.
* Dr. Barb told the council that CSA thought the same to support students, but this would be done through referendum, so they are not disbursing funds to students.
* Rajat asked Rizwan about his thoughts to support students in this unprecedented situation due to Covid-19.
* Rizwan replied to the council that as of now there in only government support fund presented by government under the name CERB.
* Rajat asked Rizwan that GSA has sent the information returns through mail in the month of February, but it hasn’t been showing cleared.
* Rizwan replied that he doesn’t have a concrete reply, though tax is being delay and there will be a waiver of the fee.
* Rajat told everyone that source deduction cheques have been mailed to CRA but haven’t cleared yet.
* Also, due to two signatories with GSA accounts, we cannot link it with our GSA bank account in order to conduct a transaction.
* Rizwan told Rajat that they can go to bank straight to pay it there only.
* Sushant told everyone about the CISSP/SSCP bootcamp plan asked by Prof. Harpreet.
* Dr. Edgar asked Sushant that whether the bootcamp will be an additional knowledge or it is the part of any existing course and will that be done online only?
* Dr. Edgar suggested the council to connect with our office of extension and culture for the same.
* Bhargava asked everyone whether there will be any extension in deadline to pay tuition fee?
* Dr. Barb replied as Rizwan mentioned there will be no reduction in fee and it will be unlikely, but she will be confirming it from the management.
* Rajat requested on behalf of students to the management that even extending the deadline date to pay tuition fee will ease off the financial stress from students.
* Dr. Edgar told that he had a recent talk with dean of graduate studies across the county – topics like tuition fee reduction, deadline discussion – possible ways to create an opportunity for fair conduct, people associated with the program as it a complicated situation, some institutions are in the position who provides some extensions, emergency funds to students as well. – it depends on the size and historical nature of the institute, larger institutions like UoC, they are grappling with it and there are not any changes.
* Dr. Barb told everyone that the new students’ orientation will be conducted online, Chelsey is taking a lead and will send the email to all the students.
* Dr. Barb asked the council if they have heard from students regarding any kind of difficulty.
* Jasmine told everyone that students are keen to know about reducing the financial stress in terms of tuition fee.
* Rajat asked Dr. Barb to hold a meeting regarding any funds support for students.
* Naga mentioned everyone about the exam pattern, that students are satisfied with the time allocated for exams conducted online.
* Dr. Edgar replied that its important to keep in touch with their professors with any concerns regarding exams as instructors have support from IT services and expertise available in the campus.
* Deepthi gave the detail of exam time that 60 mins exam was reduced to 45 mins, though it does reduce academic dishonesty, but it will result in lower GPA.
* Dr. Edgar replied to Deepthi that he will bring the concern to the management.
* Deepthi also raised the concern about the online exam functionality that there is no back button while taking exam in order to change previous choice of answer.
* Dr. Edgar replied that it depends upon instructor – how he designed the exam pattern to maintain the integrity.
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