**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 16th December 2020 | **Time:** |  |  12:00 PM to 01:00 PM |  |
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|  | **Minutes Prepared By:** | GSA Secretary – Naga Venkat Palaparthy | **Location:** |  |  Individual home via Google Meet. |  |
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|  | **1. Meeting Objective** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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General Council Meeting



 **2. Attendees**

Executive Council Members: Sandeep Bonagiri (GSA President), Naga Venkat Palaparthy (VP Academic and External Affairs), Deepthi Gudapati (VP Student Life), Bhargav Sai Nakkina (VP Finance)

Management: Dr. Schmidt, Dr.Barb.

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues   | * Sandeep started the session by informing everyone that skip the dishes coupons are still under process and mentioned that he sent an email with estimated number of coupons needed, for which he needs to receive a response.
* He further talked about the students concerns who were charged 200 CAD for GSA activity fee instead of 150 CAD.
* Sandeep told everyone that he did informed the concerned students to contact the student accounts to get the clarification for extra charge.
* He asked Dr. Schmidt to give a confirmation on the exact graduate fee amount to be charged for all the graduate students.
* Dr. Schmidt replied saying that GSA fee will be charged as per credit to a maximum of 150 CAD per term.
* Sandeep talked about student concern of scoring 2.8 GPA in fall semester but having more than 3.0 GPA overall, he asked Dr. Schmidt whether that student will be placed in academic probation or not? since the overall GPA is more than 3.0.
* Dr. Schmidt told that there has been shift from last winter and spring semesters in terms of how calculation is applied in relation to academic standing which is to the benefit of the student.
* He further mentioned that graduation GPA is something that really matters, if a student completes all the subjects and meets 3.0 GPA requirement to graduate then there won’t be any issue.
* Dr. Schmidt told that we look at each individual case and look at full academic history of the student before deciding related to academic standing.
* Sandeep mentioned about one student concern of getting C+ grade even after scoring 79.29% in a particular course.
* Dr. Schmidt told that which it comes to individual course like grading or final grades, student has to speak directly with the instructor and a formal appeal has to be made with the instructor to clarify the grading.
* He further told that there is also a formal process where a committee will review the final grade and make a final decision as per 9.2 section of the academic calendar. (Committee’s decision is final).
* Naga Venkat raised a point of students concern for professors having different grading system and having same cutoff grade (3.7 GPA) for merit scholarship.
* He further told that he received similar concerns in the past from the students and found that its really disappointing from student’s perspective to have different grading system for same scoring percentage.
* Dr. Schmidt replied saying that letter grade is the final grade not the percentages scored and added that each instructor will have some range of grades that he/she will have authority and ability to use.
* Naga Venkat on behalf of GSA proposed Dr. Schmidt to have a standard grading system across all the instructors since similar concerns has been received from students earlier.
* Dr. Schmidt told that he will have this topic discussed with dean of management to proceed further.
* Naga Venkat told that as part of ab-Gpac governance committee, GSA executives will be working on updating the IT policy and communications policy.
* Dr. Barb asked Naga Venkat if students are in different sections with different instructors for the same course, is the syllabus exact same
* Naga Venkat replied saying that each instructor has his own style of teaching, the pattern for each instructor are different like conducting the labs and exams but the overall knowledge from the course given to a student will be same.
* Sandeep told that each instructor will have his own priority of explaining a particular aspect of a topic in a course, but all the topics in the course will be covered.
* Bhargava talked about one of the students concern where he asked whether he is eligible to receive the merit scholarship since he took rm2 and a course for that semester.
* Sandeep said that even he received similar concerns from students, but he asked them to contact finance depart for exact details.
* Naga Venkat asked about any inputs from management on preparing for GSA elections since its already December.
* Dr. Barb told all the members to go through the bylaws to plan the election process accordingly and asked to contact her or the management for any questions or concerns going further.
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