**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Representative Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 4th March 2021 | **Time:** |  |  12:00 PM to 1:00 PM |
|  | **Minutes Prepared By:** | GSA Secretary- Naga Venkat Palaparthy | **Location:** |  |  Individual home via Google Meet. |
|  | **1. Meeting Objective** |  |  |  |  |  |

General Council Meeting

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| **2. Attendees** |

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

Management: Dr. Patrick, Dr.Barb, Mr. Quinn.

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues   | * Sandeep started the session by informing about the academic session organized by Naga Venkat to all MISSM and MISAM, he said that event was a success.
* Naga Venkat told everyone about a concern which he received from one of the graduate students in regard to the GPA criteria.
* He asked management that if a student is not able to meet the 3.0 GPA after completing the program requirements like all the courses, will he/she will be given the graduation degree?
* Naga Venkat further talked about the situation of having 2.98 or 2.96 GPA at the end of his/her program, will CUE give exemption in that case?
* Dr. Patrick replied saying that for someone to graduates from the graduate program, or from any graduate program, they must have a 3.0 GPA. so, the students will have to take another course and do well in it to bring up their GPA,
* He added that he has been informed from the registrar's office that 3.0 GPA is strict, actually, even if you have a 2.98. It doesn't count. It's a has to be a 3.0 or above, let the students know that they have to hit the 3.0.
* Naga Venkat further talked about another student concern who is into similar situation, but he graduates in spring semester, which means he need to wait for 6 months (2 months summer and 4 months fall semester) to graduate if he has to take any extra course to meet the 3.0 GPA
* He asked Dr. Patrick is there any exemption will be given to that student like taking more than 15 credits in spring semester so that he can compensate the GPA requirement in that semester only.
* Dr. Patrick replied Naga Venkat saying that if student is struggling getting the minimum grade, and then he add on another course, then it becomes even more a bigger challenge. So usually we do not encourage that, but it's something that we have to look at.
* He told that there might be a chance of giving a exemption after checking his transcripts and GPA track record.
* Dr. Barb added that talking to registrar would be a good option because they will guide the students on what possible first steps they have in order to meet the GPA requirement.
* Deepthi told everyone about the postponed Christmas event from December to march and informed that she is planning to have a in person event for all the graduate students by the end of march or April 1st week.
* Bhargava told that T4 for all the GSA employees has been rolled out to their respective addresses.
* Dr. Patrick informed again about the importance of getting 3.0 graduation GPA and asked everyone to educate the same to all the graduate students who are struggling to get it.
* Mr. Quinn talked about the GSA elections by informing that, the GSA is registered with the society's act with the province of Alberta. And said that, we reached out to the former dean of graduate studies, who is a lawyer, and had a lot of involvement in the development of the bylaws for the GSA and the advice was Do not touch the bylaws.
* He said that its better we don't want to make amendments to the bylaws because if we do those amendments need to be reported to the registrar, with the province and that takes several months for the changes to be reviewed, processed and approved, and it might also prompt the registrar to start asking questions about
* Mr. Quinn said that according to bylaws section, 6.16, the directors start on the first in the year the election, and ends no earlier than 11:59 PM the following April 30 with a possibility of extension by two weeks,
* He said that idea about not extending the term for the directors comes in and that is written into the bylaws.
* Mr. Quinn said that by elections policy clearly states about the vacant directorship and tells that GRC is responsible for running the by elections.
* He suggested about selecting the GRC members from the programs rather than electing so that they will be the caretaker of GSA going further.
* Mr Quinn said that the selected GRC members won’t serve as Directors of GSA rather they will take care of GSA businesses until by elections happen.
* He further said that we need to create resolutions in advance for tax filings, annual returns etc.
* He said that questions about who will handle the executives email handles can also be addressed through resolutions.
* Naga Venkat asked if a candidate is not elected as the gsa executive will he or she be eligible to serve as the GRC member?
* Mr. Quinn replied that its possible and there is no restriction on that aspect.
* Mr. Quinn said that students will receive an email about the new method of collecting final projects and approvals, which will be out to everyone by mid of march.
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