**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Representative Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 17th August 2020 | **Time:** |  |  12:00 PM to 1:00 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 (President), Naga Venkat Palaparthy (VP Academic Affairs and External Relations), Deepthi Gudapati (VP Student Life), Bhargava Sai Nakkina (VP Finance).

Representative Council: Satinderpal Singh, Isha Pathak, Abhilash Reddy, Gagandeep Singh, Adam

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues   | * GSA executive members started the GRC meeting by raising a point about fee discrepancy they have been hearing from students.
* The discrepancy was about 1600 CAD for a student who took only 2 subjects. As per the standard fee structure it has to be 1250 CAD per credit
* Satinder asked the executive council members about fee discrepancy and further asked that is there any say in increasing or decreasing the fee for Grad students from GSA?
* Sandeep replied saying that university don’t have any right to change the fee for domestic people but for international students they can do.
* Naga Venkat further added that International students who received admit letter from university at the time of admission will have a note about fee variations with respective to the given tuition fee for the entire program.
* Sandeep clarified that GSA won’t have any say regarding fee change and also said that students will be charged as per the new academic year standards.
* Gagan raised a point that students who changed from masters to GIDS in spring semester and who continue in fall semester have been charged more.
* Sandeep said that normally GIDS program is meant to be completed in two semesters, if a student extends and if he continues till next year the he will be charged as per the new academic year’s standard.
* Deepthi told everyone that normally students who switch from masters to GIDS are considered as new admission.
* She further added that currently most of the students switched from masters to GIDS after completed two semesters which includes non GIDS subjects, so students who wish to move to GIDS has to do one or two more semesters to complete their GIDS subjects.
* During those circumstances’ students shouldn’t be charged more since students who moved to GIDS have already done few subjects which are not required for them.
* Sandeep told that he will email student account to know more details about the fee discrepancies.
* Satinder told about one of the student cases named Gaurav, where after emailing to financial department regarding fee discrepancy they replied saying there is a IT issue and they will get back to him once resolved.
* He further added he took the same subjects he took but he has been charged 12k where I am charged 10k
* Sandeep told that fee is due on first day of class starts, in Gaurav’s case he can pay half or more than half and he can wait until the issue clears to pay the rest.
* Sandeep asked Adam whether he came across any similar thing in case of MED
* Adam told everyone that he did aware of the ongoing issue and currently he hasn’t come across any case from med students
* He further added that Med is a small program consists of 8 courses in 1st year and a research project in 2nd year.
* He told that as of now we didn’t hear anything regarding fee change but will get back if there is anything
* Sandeep told all the council members that he will be going to India next week for which he might not be able to attend the online fall orientation on 27th Aug.
* He told that GSA Secretary Naga Venkat will be replacing him for online orientation and for in person activities during his absence.
* Deepthi told everyone that she is yet receive Covid-19 checklist from the management after which she will be planning events scheduled from September to December for the fall term
* She further added that GSA is planning to have a meet and greet on 12th and 26th of September among Grad. Students
* Sandeep asked Deepthi whether all the events she planning this term are in person, if so, what is possibility of them being happening considering the GSA summer event being canceled due to covid
* She replied that there is high possibility of the planned events being happening because Concordia is preparing a checklist with respective to covid.
* She told that checklist will in place so that offline events will happen with maximum upto 50 people and the reason for 15th August GSA summer event cancelation is we are expecting more than 80 people
* Satinder asked Deepthi about the number of incoming students for Graduate studies
* Deepthi replied that only domestic people are enrolled for grad. Studies and that too only 32.
* She added that MISSM/MISAM program is on hold till fall 2021.
* Deepthi proposed 7,000 CAD budget for events she is planning to conduct between September to December. Considering Christmas being the main offline event
* Naga Venkat told all the GRC members about ab-GPAC updates happened in last month.
* He told that ab-GPAC announced an Executive Director position in first week of July for which he was member of the Hiring Committee and told that they have selected the member out of 50 applicants.
* He further told that GSA executives are now part of governance committee and are currently working on IT code of conduct and policy updates
* Bhargava told everyone about the proposed budget for 2020, he started saying that the opening amount to be 31,182 CAD.
* He further added the following budget proposals to the opening amount:
* Fall 2020 Student Activity: 25,000 CAD
* Salaries: 15,140 CAD
* Cheque distributing expenses: 200 CAD
* GSA Insurance Renew: 600 CAD
* Ab-Gpac Membership Fee- 400 CAD
* GSA Scholarships: 5,000 CAD
* Events Budget planned: 7,000 CAD
* The total budget comes to be 28, 390 CAD
* Sandeep told everyone that GSA executives were agreed to receive less salaries for spring and summer considering no offline events planned and summer being break and having fewer working hours.
* He further told that going further GSA executives will be having regular working hours for president being 10hr/week and Vice presidents being 8hr/week
* Sandeep even told that as per his interaction with financial department the salaries for the executives should match the Alberta and Concordia standards.
* Considering everything, he proposed the salaries for GSA President being 800 CAD/month.
* Sandeep called for voting to all the council members to pass the budget proposal and the salaries proposed.
* All the council members were in favor and the proposed budget and salaries were passed for having more than 3/4th votes.
* GSA members told that last term 15,000 CAD was allocated to Covid support since the planned events for that term were canceled.
* They further added that most of the student funds received will go to student scholarships.
* Adam told everyone that Med program being part time and nature
* He further said last term he was approved for 400 CAD budget for planning a event among med students as part of student engagement. He asked whether he can get the same for coming term
* Sandeep replied saying that if its already approved budget then its not a problem, however he needs to check with management whether planning events specific to programs is allowed or not
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| Action Items | * Sandeep should email student accounts to find out the reason for fee discrepancy
* Naga Venkat should prepare resolution for approved new GSA Executive salaries.
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