**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 04th November 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: Naga Venkat Palaparthy (VP Academic and External Affairs), Deepthi Gudapati (VP Student Life), Bhargav Sai Nakkina (VP Finance)

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

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues   | * Naga Venkat started the session informing everyone that GSA executives have interacted with the MLA’s of Alberta government as part of ab-Gpac advocacy week.
* He told that the meeting with MLA’s was mainly about discussing four advocacy priorities namely mental health, caregiving, digital infrastructure and professional development.
* Naga Venkat raised a point by informing about the email GSA received from Jemima (GRC of public health) asking whether GSA is partially funding the pool course in public health program during the winter.
* He added that she was informed by Cecilia that GSA is normally funding 50% of the fees of pool course for all the environmental students who take it.
* Dr. Barb told that in the past GSA subsidized certification training for MISSM/MISAM program students so in reciprocation they also did for environmental students. She added that extra course students can take is pool course
* Dr. Schmidt told that GSA is moved out from subsidizing the certification for graduates since it is cost prohibited and also it is available to certain program, degrees or students which is problematic
* He added that since January the GSA is moved out of subsidizing the certifications for any program and told yes GSA has paid for
* Mr. Quinn told that last year GSA subsidized the ISACA tickets, but he is not sure about subsidizing the certification. He further added that it’s better to look in the documentation for better understanding
* Deepthi informed everyone that she received feedback from the management about the GSA horror night event, it was mentioned that during the initial part of the event directing the students to respective halls and maintaining 15 people per place was challenging.
* She said that’s the only major issue of the event apart from that everything went well.
* Deepthi told that most of the students are interested in the international events like Diwali, Africa day and so on.
* She added that GSA informed that currently due to the covid-19 restrictions those will be on hold until further notice and informed everyone that Christmas event plan is underway.
* Deepthi raised a point about a concern of 10-15 students for charging 106$ for a particular course financial account. She said that the charge was about the lab fee and the students have emailed to student department regarding the same.
* Dr. Schmidt asked Deepthi whether the course name is mentioned in the fee statement or the fee is charged as lab fee?
* Deepthi told that she did received the fee statement from the one student and they told that the only took one course apart from their research
* Bhargava told that GSA talked to financial department about the GSA scholarship and bursary, cheques will be handed in next few day,
* Dr. Barb asked all the council members about how GSA is standing in terms of budget since the GSA funds for spring and summer has been disbursed
* Dr. Schmidt told that portion of those funds are aligned to GSA scholarships and bursaries
* Bhargava told that as per the bylaws 90% of the GSA levy can be provide and GSA is thinking to give the 90% to all the students for GSA scholarships and bursaries
* Dr. Schmidt told everyone about the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) award which is opened now to apply and told that it is eligible only full-time degree students and not for part time enrolled students.
* He further added told about another scholarship called Richard Kramer with the virtually identical criteria, students can apply to richar Kramer scholarship if they are not successful for (AGES)
* Naga Venkat told everyone that GSA will promote those scholarships via various platforms with all the graduate students so that maximum people can get benefit.
* Dr. Barb informed everyone that about the nineth annual lightening tree event on 28th of November from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.
* She added that the event is free and is particularly for international students who are experiencing the Christmas for the first time
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