**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 28th October 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   | * Deepthi started the session by talking about the new restrictions of 15 people for social gathering imposed by Alberta Govt. and continued how GSA is handling the situation for the Halloween event.
* She added that GSA is expecting 25 to 30 people for the event and told everyone that we got the approval to have the screening at two different places in the university at the same time to accommodate the more people.
* Deepthi also told that volunteers will be there for arranging the two set of props at two different locations but their presence at the event will depend on the number of people attending since there is a limit of 15 people at one particular location including staff and participants.
* Dr. Schmidt asked the council members how GSA will manage if there is a situation where couple of extra students appear since
* Deepthi told that GSA members are contacting the registered students individually instead of sending an email and did receive confirmation of students for their attendance
* Deepthi told that GSA planned for a pranking part at the evnt but its cancelled due to the new restriction.
* Sandeep told that sending an email will be show that there are lot of restrictions but deepthi come up with the idea of cont acting the students individually which is great.
* Sandeep asked Dr. ASchmidt if the particpants attendance exceed at the event location can the volunteers be accommodated at the GSA office not for the movie but for having snackts
* Dr. Schmidt told that two or three people would be fine by following the protocols but definitely 15 people restrictions won’t be applicable for each room.
* He told that he received message from president that the scheduled events should go on but should meet the new restrictions of 15 people limit at social gathering.
* Sandeep told that GSA will make sure that all the participants follow the rules strictly and GSA office will be used only if there are only two or four volunteers.
* Sandeep asked Dr. Schmidt about the query of graduate students count for sending to ab-Gpac for membership.
* He added that when sending the invite for AGM meet, we see that the count is around 365 students and asked management whether that count include the previously passed out students as well.
* Dr. Schmidt told that he will follow up with the student accounts to get the actual census data and told that their might be some lag in the student system and told that the number 365 looks current and said that he will send an email to GSA after contacting with student accounts.
* Sandeep told that as per bylaws the chair for AGM meeting will be the GRC chair which is Manroop and he won’t be the person who will be the chair.
* Dr. Schmidt said that chairperson should carry out the AGM meeting and told that he will be available to clarify any kind of questions going further
* Naga Venkat told that GSA received 6800 CAD from student levy fee and told that GSA is discussing to provide one more scholarship to all the graduate students.
* Bhargava asked Dr. Schmidt whether GSA executive members will receive a letter of service for their tenure in GSA board.
* Dr. Schmidt told that yes, each of the executive member will receive the letter of service and further added that it will be his responsibility.
* Sandeep told that Margie emailed about the amount that can be disbursed towards the scholarship and added that he emailed Margie that GSA is planning to have a greater number of awards which is still in discussion.
* He added that most of Govt. financial aid awards are aimed at permanent residents or for the citizens of Canada. So GSA is thinking to have more bursaries and scholarships so that most of the international students can benefit from it.
* The reason for international students not eligible for govt. aids is because before coming to Canada international students are required ro to show their financial stability which supports their study in Canada without any struggle.
* Bhargav told that during the financial aid meeting we were asked that GSA or CUE is having any funds for emergency situations
* Dr. Schmidt told that would be great thing to consider because GSA is funding by graduate student and the intent is it is used for all the graduate students.
* Dr. Schmidt said that he did had a conversation with management of student accounts the graduate student levy funds will be disbursed for fall term in the month of October and for the winter term it will be in February.
* Dr. Barb told all the GSA members that she won’t be attend the Halloween event since there is a restriction.
* She further talked about Concordia’s food bank and told tat food bank is available in campus for their urgent needs.
* If students are interested to have the access those facilities, they can email foodbank@concordia.ab.ca to avail.
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