

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	General council Meeting		
Date of Meeting:	22 nd November 2023	Time:	10:00AM – 11:00AM
Minutes Prepared By:	GSA VP Academic & External Relations - Ramya Nekkanti	Location:	GOOGLE MEET
1. Meeting Objective	General Council Meeting		

2. Attendees

Council Members: Khalid Iqbal (President), Ramya Nekkanti (VP Academic Affairs and External Relations), Shihab Sharar Isa (VP Finance & Services), Kavya Sathya (VP Student Life)

Management: Dr. Patrick Kamau, Nadine Curtis

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic	Discussion
General Council Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khalid initiated the meeting stating that the GSA team has questions regarding the budget and AGM meeting. With respect to the email sent to Dr. Patrick regarding the scholarships, Shihab informed the team that currently we have 35k as our budget and asked Dr. Patrick how much we can allocate to the GSA scholarships and bursaries. And Dr. Patrick replied 5k would be allocated to the GSA scholarships and bursaries, since more than 90% of the budget shouldn't be used, so at the max we could spend only \$4500. Shihab discussed that last year they spent around 2.5k out of the allocated 6/7k for scholarships. Shihab asked how the pay outs will be done, and Dr. Patrick replied saying that the amount released for the current period will be used for next term, and the budget released for fall will be the highest, compared to spring and winter terms. Shihab asked Dr. Patrick about the finance standing committee and informed him that last year the GSA team had just prepared the budget and passed it through GRC. Dr. Patrick responded saying that as per bylaws section 8.5, finance committee should go through the budget and the finalized budget should be presented at the AGM meeting. Committee must include, GSA President, VP Finance as the chair, GSA member and one other person. Dr. Patrick mentioned that because of the exams and many of the students graduating in April, it was tough to meet the GRC team, so he suggested having a Finance committee (FSC) to pass the budget and not through the GRC. Shihab informed Dr. Patrick that the payout for the winter term last year was done in the month of February and the amount released was 18k and asked Dr. Patrick if he had any idea of the payout for this year so that we could allocate some funds to the training/certifications which would

help students in their career growth. Dr. Patrick mentioned that he would check with Margie about last year's pay outs and let us know.

- Dr. Patrick highlighted that we need to focus on all the Masters programs and see if they have any concerns or had a plan of doing any certifications that GSA can help with.
- Shihab informed Dr. Patrick that we spoke to the GRC last week, and we are planning to do something for other master's courses as well other than MISSIM, MISAM and MSc IT.
- Shihab discussed the concern raised by the program representative of Master of Psychology, Margaret, that the student health insurance was not included in their tuition fees, and it was a concern from all the students of their program. Dr. Patrick replied saying that he would contact her regarding that and let us know about it.
- Dr. Patrick informed the team that he would follow up on the GSA student fees for each program if they are registering for one or multiple courses and get the standard fees for the programs.
- Khalid mentioned that the Program Representative of Master of Education, decided not to continue with the GRC, so we are not sure if we could elect someone from the program or we can go ahead with the rest of the committee, and Dr. Patrick responded saying that he would check with program council and let us know.
- Khalid mentioned that he had a meeting with CSA this Thursday, and informed that they would be discussing about the Upass and the student tuition fees for each programs, and update us by the next meeting.