

GSA Council Minutes – December 6, 2016

Tilley 404 – 5:30pm

1. Call to order
2. Call for Quorum, Yes
3. Wolastoq Acknowledgement – Graduate Student association at University of New Brunswick, recognizes and honours the Wolastoq Nation and their not-ceded territories where we have gathered today.
4. Adoption of the Agenda -moved by VP Finance, seconded by Electrical Engineering. Discussion, none. In favor, Yes.
Winter Meeting Dates:
January 18
February 15
March 15
April 5
In favor, Yes
5. Adoption of October and November minutes - moved by VP Finance, seconded by Electrical Engineering. Discussion, none. In favor, Yes.
6. Summary of Executive Activities:

VP Finance – Working on HST, Payroll Compensation to finalize returns from 2011, finding a new bookkeeper to do year-end report, completing requests for financial information from KPMG and Shannon and Buffet, attended UNB Budget meeting, attended CFS National General Meeting.
Questions, none.

VP External – Finalized bus pass numbers, attended provincial pre-budget meeting at Fredericton convention center and spoke about international student health issues. The next resulting step will be to identify what are the GSA's priorities and develop a strategic plan to mobilize students. Feedback requested, what are the issues? Identification will facilitate an engaged and more meaningful involvement.
Questions, none.

VP Academic – Starting off by apologizing if you did not receive a reply to email sent as VP Academic was one of the emails lost during the recent migration and as such has not been functioning. Would like to build on the comments of the VP External and add that change depends upon student engagement and the GSA has room to improve here. At the Senate level, individuals have the opportunity of providing questions in writing, that in this format must be answered. Willing to receive and put forward, without judgement, any questions you may have and by the rules the Senate is

obligated to reply. This will allow the establishment of a running record of issues we feel are important. The more people that we have will demonstrate to the administration that we as students need to be taken seriously, and that we are trying to have our voices heard at the highest level.

With respect to the International Student Health plan, hope to have a definite idea of how to proceed by January although ultimately the decision rests with the province. Other provinces have seen direct benefits from changes they have made.

Questions – none.

VP Societies and Events- GRC official call for submission of abstracts is out and the date will be the March 18th, following Reading Week. Please check out the Website as it is now live.

Questions, none.

President – Finalized society allocations, attended meeting with Shirley Cleave regarding the accessibility issue at the Grad House, met with Cindy Flynn to discuss International Health Insurance options, Contacted Kelly Richard to strategize on GSA book keeping, Finalized payment to the City of Fredericton for the Bus contract, prepared and distributed Newsletter to GSA students, released the bus pass survey. SERC Committee meeting, Tech Fee meeting. Next will follow-up with Cindy Flynn regarding International Health Insurance, will work with UNB regarding future of ISIC, and will finalize the 2015-16 with the help of the VP Finance.

Question, none.

7. Committee Reports:

Executive Director – Finalized cheque for the bus pass with the President, working with RBC representative to facilitate Executive change-over, HST payments made, Payroll Compensation paid and both are up to date. Next will set up a pre-authorized payment schedule to streamline payments going forward. Administrated late registrations, bus passes, and health and Dental claims. Happy to report the bar has had a busy term and the holiday spots for events are filling up so please do not wait to late to book your society event. Completed repairs of the basement stairs and had our annual building Health and safety assessment and received highest marks to date.

Questions, none.

Finance Committee – Preparing the Budget for February submission, meeting with RBC to organize finances, investigating options to maximize returns of Health and Dental account, plan to have completed the re-organization of accounts by year end.

Events Committee – not in attendance.

8. Elections - no volunteers for VP Administration. Open now to the members on the council floor if someone would like to run.
Question Mechanical Engineering: should it be a member of council? Chair: it is tradition.

Running a new election call for January meeting.

9. Announcements - UGSW Ratification vote has been completed - abolition of 10h/week maximum. Not yet signed. Back pay 3-4 months after UNB ratifies. AGM December 8 at 5pm at the Grad House.
10. Questions: is there still a cap? VP Finance - no minimum or maximum now even if part-time. President: cap removed the only new thing.

Motion to adjourn made by VP Finance and seconded by VP Academic.
Discussion, none. In favor, yes. Opposed, none.