

Council Meeting Minutes – 15th of March 2017

Date: Wednesday, 15th of March, 2017

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Tilley Hall 104

Chair: Cody Waite

Recording Secretary: Krista Harris

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call/Call for Quorum = Yes
3. Wolastoq Acknowledgement – The Graduate Student Association at University of New Brunswick recognizes and honours the Wolastoq Nation and their unceded territories where we have gathered today.
4. Adoption of Agenda (1) VP Finance (2) Biology. Chair: Issues or changes = none.
5. Adoption of the February Minutes (1) Civil Eng. (2) Business Admin.
6. Summary of Executive Activities (All Executive Members)

VP Finance – Attended national graduate Caucus & discussed CFS best practices on the issues. Attended UNB Budget meeting. Continued to work on GSA operating financial accounts and with the new bookkeeper.

VP Clubs and Societies – Organized Mactaquac Park Winter Fun day and held another Dooly's pool night. Q= How many people attended these events? Approximately 25 to each event.

VP External – Met with the Dean of Graduate Studies and prepared report. Attended the Budget meeting and preparing strategic plan.

VP Admin – GNB announcements as pertains to education – new program, but it only pertains to undergraduates. Working with CFS to demand of NB government that graduate students be included.

VP Academic – Good news, International students will be covered under NB Medicare. Many students emailed and called their MLA's. Mention this as an example that if we try hard enough we will make progress. Next step will be to

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address the Cap. Previously grad students in Ontario were not eligible & after hard work they are now recognized.

Q= Mechanical Eng. – As international students how can we help? Continue to be active and involved. Q= Chemical Eng. – Is the biggest benefit not having to pay upfront and to not to pay the \$1000 extra to access Medicare? Yes.

7. Committee Reports

- Executive Director's report (Krista Harris) – Met with the Insurance providers from Ontario and reviewed the year-end report. Continued to work with the book keeper to organize and update records.
- Finance Committee (Bipin Kumar, VP Finance) – Budget updated and submitted, determined the amount of GSA surplus, assessed payments to CRA, \$55,000.
- Events Committee (Brittany, VP Societies and Events) – March 18th will be the annual Graduate research conference – schedule is posted online and all are welcome to attend.
- Constitution and Bylaw Committee (Benoît, VP Administration) – 2 changes – Executive Announcements and VP Societies and Events merger updated in bi-laws.

8. Motion to change the agenda to add bi-laws – first reading under GSA surplus? (1) VP Admin (2) Forestry. In favor = Yes. Opposed = none.

9. New Business

- Discussion on supporting Fredericton as a Sanctuary City – GSA adopted a motion to support the City of Fredericton as a Sanctuary city. Moved by VP Finance (2) VP Academic. In favor = Yes. Opposed + none.

- Discussion about GSA surplus – Power point presentation by VP Finance.

Question: Mechanical Eng. – Is the bottom line the amount in account? Yes, 435,961.

Question: Electrical Eng. – Should the legal fund be more than \$5000? This amount is sufficient as it is a yearly fee and the amount accrues.

Mechanical Eng. – Building fund? VP Finance: \$5000 every year is put aside though the bi-laws & previous \$6000 is now \$2000 for bar infrastructure and it is put into a roll-over fund.

Mechanical Eng: Buy a building on campus? Response: No – off campus.

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Mechanical Eng: Money from h& D over the years has been overcharged by \$180 – we should contact all people. VP Finance – impossible, people are all over the world, logistically impossible. GSA is trying to resolve these issues so that students going forward can benefit as we do not have the resources to attempt to track down these individuals. Supported by Electrical Eng. And VP Academic – there is no sensible way to do this, impossible to carry out functionally. Hopefully, there will be bursaries available to students next year.

Forestry: Feel that we have heard enough on both sides of this issue to move forward. Seconded by Electrical Eng.

Motion by Executive to move forward with this plan. Forestry calls the question. Seconded by Electrical Eng.

Executive recommendation on the floor. In favor = Yes. Opposed = 1 Abstentions = Business Admin.

Presentation #2 – Recommendations for 2 best long term investments – RBC and The Investors group.

Mechanical Eng: Are we able to have more time to review presentation and decide going forward? Yes.

Civil Eng: it looks like the only real difference is that RBC puts 3% into cash – can you explain? Yes, keep it for investment opportunities as no return on cash.

Civil Eng.: what are the risk levels? Both are medium risk.

VP Academic – can we get composition of this – Yes, chart provided.

Motion by Mechanical Eng. To take info back and study and make best informed decision. Seconded by Forestry. In favor = yes. Opposed = none.

By-law changes:

Addition of line to combine the role of VP clubs and societies. Motion by VP Admin. Seconded by GGE. In favor = yes. Opposed = none.

Removal of red and yellow items, approved by the CRO – reflecting the easiest operation of electoral process. First reading. Moved by the VP admin. Seconded by Mechanical Eng. In favor = Yes, opposed = none.

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10. Announcements – Question from IGSS – requesting exemption to the Winter/Summer allocation due to loss of information in position change of council members. Bi-law #5. Motion by IGSS, seconded by Earth Sciences and Geology. In favor = yes, opposed = none.

11. Adjournment – motion by VP Finance, seconded by Forestry

***Note to Students:** PLEASE SEND any inquiries or questions you have regarding these agenda items (prior to the meeting!) to the appropriate GSA Executive and please cc Krista Harris (gsa@unb.ca) in your email!