

Budget Meeting Agenda – Feb. 21, 2018

Carleton Hall – room 139 @ 5:30

Chair: Cody Waite Minutes: Krista Harris

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call/Quorum = yes
3. Wolastoq Acknowledgement – The Graduate Student Association at the University of New Brunswick recognizes and honours the Wolastoq Nation and their unceded territories where we have gathered today.
4. Adoption of the Agenda (1) President (2) VP Admin. In favor = yes; opposed = none.
5. Elections & Speech – VP External - Chair: Any opposition to voting by a show of hands? None, then the candidate will leave the room and we will vote. Congratulations to Khaleel. No opposed and no abstentions.
6. Health & Dental Plan – VP Finance – Bipin – Responses to Questions from Council Meeting on Feb. 15, 2018: Cap for the CNS stimulants removed = \$4.03 & the addition of RMT Massage services would be \$14.73 or 415.11. The Executive recommends these changes and the new rate would be \$511.00. In response to the query from UNBSJ regarding the number of students who are Dental Only = 56 as they wanted to take this into consideration with respect to the ability to only opt-out of Dental with equivalent coverage. Q? Sociology – how many are from SJ – none.

\$33.00 increase in total price for both. This year H&D was \$478.00; last year \$498.00 reduced through bargaining.

RMT: Q? GGE – Do we have any numbers on how many people have requested this type of coverage? No hard numbers at this time. Q? CS – So coverage would be 80% up to the \$00.00 Cap? Bipin – yes, 10 visits/year @ \$40.00/ visit.

Chair: the two options have been presented and the Executive recommends the same option to keep it simple. We need to make a decision on this so we need a motion. Q? – EE – please explain the two options. Q? – based on the data why \$33.00 increase? Q? GGE – Is it \$400.00 combined – no, each.

Motion by Sociology for the second option. Chair: any more discussion needed? CE – do not know if I agree with the removal of the CNS Cap. EE – do not agree with the wording, and not sure I agree with the removal of the Cap. Cap is there for a reason and should stay as individuals can apply to have the Cap increased/removed? Want to see the Cap not removed, maybe only increased. GGE – the Cap can be removed by either a Physician or Pharmacist? Yes.

Chair: Motion has been moved – we need a vote – moved on option 2 – raise and not remove the Cap – increase to \$700.00. Moved by CE and seconded by EE. All those in favour of the amendment 14 & opposed = 12. Original mover and seconder still content? Yes. All those in favour = yes, opposed = none.

7. Budgets
 - a. GSA Assets
 - b. GSA Operating
 - c. WCB Operating

Presented by Bipin

Assets:

Q? Sociology – GSA & Faculty Club? Chair responds by saying nothing concrete has been planned – proposed to increase services to GH. Same rationale as putting money away every year for the building fund when the lease expires in 5 years. If no progress, the Executive will decide to renew or move the allocated funds. Legal fund line item also developed, as a result of litigation expenses incurred in 2013, – now building a legal fund. Bar equipment & GSA contingency funds if not used go back into GIC. These are the current savings amounts and will keep building assets. The amount for current liabilities \$26,101 and could be as much as \$10000 more once closed out, ideally by August.

Q? Sociology – Current liabilities is a projection? This is the balance – not projection, as it is the only amount we have at present and it is based on a compilation report.

GSA Ops:

Q? EE- how is this not a reduction instead of an increase – 30 to 25? Scott – lower percentage of a higher number.

Q? GGE – with respect to increase in GRC numbers is it distributed across all departments? Bipin – there was a large number, 40, added by the Forestry department with Kinesiology proposing an addition of 40-50 next year.

Q? Sociology – Advocacy costs - money to move people back and forth to conferences? Yes.

Q? EE – 24,300, is that a deficit? Bipin – we have not received the Winter fees from UNB yet.

Q? GGE – with all the increases this year is it the best year to increase the advocacy fee? Bipin, if we do not & it is needed, then it would have to come from the contingency fee. Membership fees have stayed close to the same for 6 years while all other costs have gone up – would need to take from reserve. Chair: this is already happening, it is just the first time it has been reflected in the budget.

Q? Sociology – Is advocacy even the correct term for training our own members, not outside parties?

Bipin: we are calling it advocacy because we want more people to participate and we will need to feed/house people. Training or Lobby may be a better word.

Q? Forestry – please be advised that we are being told by our department that we need to participate in the GRC. Bipin: we are not asking departments to force participation – we are simply trying to increase participation and numbers. EE: Forestry just wanted you to be aware of this situation. Bipin: the main reason for the increase is the move from a one day to a two day conference, and yes, the GSA should encourage not force engagement to increase participants.

WCB:

Q? – GGE- can we explore other cable options? Chair: yes, underway.

Chair would like to thank Bipin for the first Budget that has been accurately prepared in a long time – a lot of thought, time, and hard work has gone into this budget.

8. New Business

Chair – we have two different motions:

(1) GSA Budget moved by VP Finance and seconded by VP Administration. All those in favor = yes, opposed = none.

(2) WCB Budget moved by VP Finance and seconded by VP Administration. All those in favor = yes, opposed = none.

Chair: one more thing, New Business, our broker StudentVIP is trying to get a contract to cover the international component of the health insurance – Guard.me. Would be VIP = \$205 & UNB \$200 – the issue is UNB coverage tops off at 2 million while VIP tops out at 5 million & out of province coverage with UNB is 30 days while VIP is up to a year & VIP supports coverage for 30 days upon return to home country. We are looking for a directive from council that supports VIP moving forward with their inquiries with UNB.

Moved by VP Finance and seconded by CE. All those in favour = yes, opposed = none.

9. Announcements: UGSW: Meeting to be held to discuss the budget with pizza & drinks afterwards at GH.

Bi-election for Chief Stewards – May to Oct. at least required.

10. Adjournment (1) Sociology (2) VP Admin.