

Council Meeting Agenda – Feb. 15, 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.

Chair – Clean-up the agenda. (1) The VP External nominee – nominations have closed. The candidate is away for this meeting. Move to push the election to the Budget meeting next week. (2) Move the discussion of the Health & Dental plan to the top of New Business. (1) VP Finance (2) GGE. In favour = yes. Opposed = none.

4. Adoption of the Agenda (1) VP Finance (2) GGE In favor = yes; opposed = none.
5. Approval of the January Minutes (1) VP Admin (2) Education. In favour = yes. Opposed = none.
6. Summary of Executive Activities:

VP Finance: Attended University Budget Advisory Committee – January 22, 2018. Worked with CFS Representative to discuss about lobbying schedule and other general issues. Lobbying to be in January. Waiting to confirm the final dates. Tentative dates January 29-31, 2018. Met with Fredericton Transit Master Plan consultants to discuss survey results, usage and our suggestions on ways to improve the service according to usage of our membership. - January 23, 2018. Went to CFS National Executive meeting January 22-24, 2018. Attended Lobby meetings on January 30, 31, 2018 with the opposition caucus. Met with the Dean of Graduate Studies. Internal review of accounts and banking. Internal Administration. Developed the Bus Pass and Safe Ride Survey and analyzed the results. Looking into details of new employment contracts. Working on the GSA budget. Attended GRC Planning Committee. Worked on getting the workshops in the lead up to GRC. Mactaquac Winter Wilderness, January 27, 2018 – Had almost 2 buses full of people for the event.
Questions = none

VP Academic:

Jan 17, GRC committee meeting
Jan 17, GSA Council meeting
Jan 18, Meeting with university secretary consulted the roles of graduate student representatives on senate committees.
Jan 24, Senate Nominating Committee meeting.
Jan 30, Fredericton Senate meeting.
Feb 8, SGS Executive committee meeting.

Jan. 25, Meeting with Fredericton STANTEC regarding the bus pass survey and experiences with city transit system.
Fredericton lobby week.

Jan 29, Pre-lobby meeting with CFS representative
Jan 31, lobby meeting with provincial government on graduate student issues

Graduate Research Conference committee
Fredericton Senate
Senate nominating Committee
SGS Executive Committee

Making sure every presenter at GRC get feedbacks from peer reviewers in February

Questions = none

President:

Consultation and Representation:

GSA Council Meeting – January 17, 2018. Meeting with office manager to organize Orientation kits for new (2018) graduate students – January 9, 2018. First 2018 newsletter sent out for January. Contains info useful to grad students (conference, events, health and dental, etc.). Worked with VP Finance to complete www.unbgsa.ca website updates. New edits and updates to reflect information for 2017-18 year. o Health and Dental, Bus Pass, Contact Info, Safe Ride, GSA-SJ Lounge, etc.

Research and Legislation:

Fredericton lobby week. NB's first CFS lobby document. o Gave initial feedback on lobby document draft. Met with CFS Maritimes Organizer (Grant MacNeill) and CFS Treasurer (Peyton Veitch) along with GSA exec to prepare for government lobbying. Discussed lobby document and organized meetings – January 29, 2018.

Lobbied government on graduate student issues – elimination of tuition fees, funding for graduate students, fairness to international students, seat on the UNB Board of Governors, and mental health services – January 30-31, 2018. Met with: Dominic Cardy, Ernie Steeves, Pam Lynch, Trevor Holder, David Coon. Meeting with STANTEC over Fredericton bus system improvements – January 25, 2018. Discussed bus pass survey and issues faced by graduate students.

Attended additional STANTEC transit meeting for community members – January 25, 2018.

Graduate Research Conference -Call for abstracts was extended until January 31, 2018.

Website: www.grc.unbgsa.ca

GRC committee meeting was held January 17, 2018 ▪ Discussed updates and peer review process.

Met with ASRJ (Atlantic Student Research Journal) and Age Well National Innovation Hub to go over workshop requirements. Workshop is available for all students in the lead up to GRC.

Fredericton Budget Advisory Committee – January 29, 2018

Events Hosted:

Collaborated with Mactaquac Park on Winter Wilderness – Jan 27 2018. Answered email-questions from participants. Attended event and helped organize participants/transportation.

Picked up extra snowshoe rentals from Public library and returned. Will continue Dooly's night & karaoke night on semi-monthly basis

Projects and Goals: Working on monthly newsletters. Please send newsletter items and updates to president@unbgsa.ca for inclusion.

Announcements: Upcoming Karaoke Night at the Grad House, March 2nd 2018, 8pm.

Collaborating with UNB Faculty of Arts and Windsor Castle Bar to promote 'Pints and Perspectives.' Will feature short research talks from graduate students at UNB. o March 1st, 4pm

March 29th, 4pm

Questions = EE – Did you discuss the fees for International Graduate students? Yes.

VP Administration:

Questions = none

7. Committee reports:

Executive Director: GSA: Worked with David at VIP to verify and process Winter term online Adds. Conference call with Preston & Mark to discuss SAP & marketing options. Accessed the new MBC portal and completed orientation. Distributed bus passed to out new Winter students and finalized the second group of opt-outs online. Met with the City of Fredericton to discuss new contract 7 ongoing survey. Met with Student VIP team lead to review the Mid-year report/new contract. Allocated fees to UNBSJ. Reached out to Susan Wilson at UNBSJ to discuss opportunities to work together to enhance student engagement on the SJ campus. Completing payments to WorkSafe NB based on the split of the 2 HST numbers for GSA & WCB. Quikbooks training continues and all files are now being uploaded for the year to Goggle Drive to enhance institutional memory.

WCB: Training complete now with respect to out new bar staff. Gahan Brewery has been added to our offerings. POS contract renewal has been completed. Liquor License renewal in progress. Building inspection completed and as a result the basement stairs have been repaired, front door repaired, exposed electrical & door frame repaired. Working with Cody to design new contract roles and responsibilities. Updated to the new ANBL online ordering platform. Will be the GSA representative, on the re-vamped Alcohol Policy/Cannabis on Campus committee.

Events: Brittany – Annual GRC is coming up – March 23rd, 2018. Mactaquac Park Winter Wellderness -Jan 27, 2018.

Bi-laws: Not all revisions have been completed but will be done by March and sent out for review before the second readings. CRA Honoraria needs to be dealt with the same way as “income”, which essentially means less per position after taxes. In addition, the GSA needs to account for these taxes/payments retroactive to Jan. 1st. Q= EE – how much is the tax? CPP & EI both, dependant upon an individuals tax bracket. The goal of this being to make running for the Executive more attractive as we have been operating sometime with vacant positions. Moved by VP Admin. And seconded by Interdisciplinary. In favour = yes, opposed + none.

Finance: Bus Pass survey was sent out to the membership, questions asked, and responses categorized. Fredericton Transit has proposed a one year extension to the current contract with no increase in fees. This will allow a year to build on the Transit Survey independently being conducted by Stantek. It may also be possible at the end of this time to work with the Undergrads who are contemplating joining the Bus Pass plan. This will ideally increase opt-out options moving forward if we can work together. The executive recommends the 1 year extension. Moved by Sociology and seconded by CS. Q= none. In favour = yes, opposed = none.

Lobby Document with the province of NB has been provided for review. Any feedback on the document = no questions. Chair: was the document emailed out? Yes.

8. New Business

Health & Dental – Chair: provided documentation of the plan options and presented the plan recommended by the Executive. The change to MBC is a positive one for graduate students. Widely recognized with more services and potential for targeted growth moving forward. With the last contract our broker Student VIP/C&C Insurance, took away a lot of their fees to help keep the price the same for students (previous executive negotiations) so now the price needs to go up or the services covered need to decrease.

Questions: Sociology – Would the addition of RMT massage and Osteopathy be possible?

VP Admin. - How much to add?

EE – Requested clarification of the amount to pay?

SJ GSA – Is it possible to get a copy of the presentation chart to take back to UNBSJ?

Physics – CNS Stimulants, can we discuss the Cap and why it is in place?

Rate Stabilization Fund: Essentially it is a reserve collected in case the plan has an unpredictable claim year. If the plan cost jumps (ie. due to addition of Biologics) the reserve can be used to maintain stability & offset student costs. In addition, the GSA Executive coverage is paid out of the rate stabilization fund.

There is always a maximum, then it needs to comeback down and decrease the payment. Not this year, in the upcoming year. No fee this year as per the contribution of the GSA Operating budget. Will be 16\$, down from 32\$. Instead of a huge jump in one year the increase will be incremental over 5 years with a clause built in to allow options after 3 years if not satisfied with the company.

Motion by Chair to move further discussion to Wednesday's meeting once we have the price line for removal of the CNS Cap and addition of RMT services. We will get an answer to these questions and report back.

Q= Will you send it to Saint John Exec.? Moved by EE and Seconded by VP Admin. In favour = Yes, opposed = none.

9. Announcements: UGSW website advertising the Winter General Membership Meeting. Thurs. Feb. 2, 2018 @ 5:30 – pizza & refreshments later at the Grad House will be provided. Please refer to the website for bi-laws and the budget. Also, a reminder to fill out your PSAC cards to be eligible. Q = none.

10. Adjournment – (1) Biology (2) SJ rep.