

1. Call to Order
2. Quorum = Yes
3. Adoption of Agenda = Business, Civil Engineering. In favor=Yes. Opposed= none.

Chair: suggest we move the election up in the agenda. Motion= Civil Engineering & Business  
In favor=Yes Opposed=none. Item #8 moves to #4 = Yes. Proceed in alphabetical order.

VP Academic

Samar:

Completed undergrad in CS, has work experience, and is currently a graduate student in Business Administration. During undergrad was involved in student government and policy development, has worked with UNB administrators and the UNB Senate. Seeks to address funding for students so that it is consistent, relevant, and transparent for all students not just those in the technology sector. In addition, Samar wishes to represent the graduate students in the UNB Senate so that they have a voice in policy making. UNB exists primarily for the students and the students are the real stakeholders so there is a need to put our voice forward and stand up for the students. Students need funding to reflect the rising cost of education. In closing, International students should be covered by NB Medicare and then they would have \$900 to spend in the local economy as opposed to insurance.

Menelos:

From Greece and has completed a bachelor in Computer Science. Spoke with Christian and knows that accessibility is a hot topic to focus on as the Grad house moves forward. Has noted the greatest hits his predecessor has been working on and will pick up where he left off.

VP External

Ismael via Skype:

Feels like last year we lacked something in our Health and Dental insurance & bus pass. It was a tough job and took a long time to fully know our insurance provider and build a good relationship. Reviewed the Self-funded model that has been building for the last 5 years to know the benefits and disadvantages. Launch of the SAP which is a new service. Committed to students and would like the opportunity to finish what he has started.

Chris:

Interdisciplinary graduate student, the focus of research being education/sociological issues. History prior to grad school was a high school teacher, lots of community experience with strong abilities in that area. STU Director of Aboriginal Student Services and sat on the President's Advisory

Council working with university administrators. Big fan of the CSA and the issues they support and would like to work to have a national voice on campus, building solidarity and developing a grass roots approach. In a unique position as a bartender at the Grad house, enables access to people and the conversations on the issues they feel are important. GSA approach to governance is important in both a social media and face to face context. Moving into PhD @ UNB and will spend 6-7 years more at UNB. I am a member of the UGSW and hope to be a strong voice.

VP Finance

Bipin:

Goal over past 1.5 years is to promote student engagement in the GSA. Has been an active member of the Finance committee before becoming an executive. Promotes the need for both an Operational and a Capital budget for the GSA. Investigate the contingency fund and ensure proper allocation of the resources through clearer decision making. When society cheques are not picked up the GSA should determine what can be done with the money and possibly develop scholarships, bursaries, loans. Has met with CFS to investigate more funding options for students and will figure out how to best benefit from partnership going forward.

Thalia:

Graduate student completing PhD in Geomatics. Previous Treasurer in department. Has worked in hometown as a real estate agent and has strengths in Economics. Designed a clear Budget to submit to UNB. Honored to have been given this position and asking for vote again. Familiar with the process which will benefit going forward and has learned a lot over the past year. Loud voice on the GSA and CBC media and need to put best face forward so the GSA can decide what to do with our money. More and more efficient and will produce an even better budget. Honesty, transparency, integrity and it is always better to have different perspectives and different positions in the promotion of ideas. Proud to represent the GSA if given the opportunity in the coming year.

Q: Mechanical Engineering to Bipin: Why change position?

Resigning as VP Admin to run as VP Finance as feel have the skills and drive to do a very good job.

Q: VP Finance – who would be the new VP Admin? Chair, it will be by election at next meeting.

Approval of minutes: Education and Civil Engineering. Issues: none. In favor = Yes.

Election Results: counted three times and all scrutineers agreed with the CRO – the VP External will be Chris George (23-7=30); VP Academic is Samar----- (24-7= 31); and the VP Finance is Bipin Kumar (16-12- 1 no vote= 29). Congratulations.

Scrutineers: Devarghya Bhattacharya

Jason W Robertson

CRO: Sara Edwards

5. Summary of Executive Activities:

President: Working at the GSA office finalizing Orientation, issuing ISIC card and bus pass. Working with Cody in the development of his new position and it is going well. Sending out an Orientation survey results and high points soon.

VP Finance: Personal emergency and has been at home recovering. Upon returning I have been working with Krista and advertising to find an accountant for the GSA.

VP Admin: Orientation survey evaluated, modified bus pass survey adding questions about SafeRide. Developed both a council and a departmental secretary email list to use moving forward in hopes of reaching more students. Working with Brittany and Adi on CFS Day of Action Nov. 2, 2016.

VP Academic: nothing to report – refer to AGM minutes.

VP Societies and Events: Orientation finalized. Requesting volunteers for the Events Committee please.

VP External: not here last month, travelling. Working on the development of the Preferred Practitioner Network and helping with student insurance problems.

Executive Director GSA: Working hard to help each student opt-in or out of both the Health and Dental and the bus pass, finalizing Orientation finances with GSA/WCB, working with Cody to develop new position for growth and special events. Preparing to close yard for the Fall and clean basement/office. Working on finalizing Payroll compensation, HST, GSA Incorporation paperwork, H&D/bus fees financial accounts, finalizing enrollment with StudentVIP and UNB Financial services, and regular bar day to day and building repairs/accessibility issues.

Finance Committee: No meeting.

Events committee: Nothing additional to add.

6. New Business: Self-Funded model – numbers as requested presented by President:

\*Insert Document???

Chair: council needs to make the decision on this question so that the Executive can move forward.

President: the rate stabilization fee being charged now can be eliminated if council determines that is how best to proceed.

Comments VP External: If GSA goes to pay insurance and be like the insurance company this is a huge, huge, huge risk and the GSA will be in trouble if there is not enough money to cover the claims. Also, it would need to be maintained and the next executive would need to be involved and on top of it. Also, student fee increases are unpredictable, it is too risky and the GSA goal should be to keep fees stable and not to have increases as we are a non-profit organization. This model does not pay back for what we are getting. Think seriously, not enthusiastic about this model.

Forestry: we are a small organization and this seems like a big risk.

Motion to end Self-Funded model so the Executive can go back and decide what to do with the money collected? Forestry and Mechanical Engineering. Questions: none. Call the question – in favor of stopping and directing the executive to report back – majority: Yes. Opposed: none.

Fall reading week plebiscite: Student Union for the undergraduates are exploring the possibility of amending the UNB calendar to incorporate a Fall reading week. Exploring with the Dean and determining if GSA wants to support this plebiscite.

Motion: does the GSA support and as such ITS will include GSA on the pebiscite? Yes.

Opposition: none. Move: VP Admin and seconded by Forestry. In favor: majority. Opposed: 2.

9. Announcements: Orientation Survey – results will be summarized and posted online

10. Motion to adjourn: Interdisciplinary and Civil Engineering