

## **GSA Council Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, 13 May 2020 Chair: Cody Waite

Time: 5:30 pm Recording Secretary: Krista Harris

Location: 'Zoom' Meeting – Link in email

1. Call to Order 5:32

2. Roll Call/Call for Quorum = Yes.

3. Wolastoq Acknowledgement – The Graduate Student Association at the University of New Brunswick recognises and honours the Wolastoq Nation and their unceded territories where we have gathered today.

4. Adoption of Agenda – No changes required. Moved by VP Admin. & seconded by the President.

5. Approval of minutes – February & April meeting minutes. Any issues? Seeing none the motion is put forth by the VP Admin and seconded by the President.

6. Summary of Executive Activities (All Executive Members). Please refer to the GSA Website.

President

VP Admin.

VP Societies & Events

VP External

VP Academic

No questions of the above Executive members.

VP Finance not in attendance.

7. New Business

- Update to Health and Dental – President reported on where the process has gone since we last met. Motion to terminate agreement drafted by our lawyer and sent to the insurance broker. This was with accounting for the 120 day notice clause. Undetermined if this may have a legal impact as this is just the start of the process. We will see when we have more conversations with the broker in the coming weeks.

Post-doc insurance plan update, before what would happen is that Post-docs would opt-in to our plan. The GSA administrated the plan but the post-docs did not pay fees like the graduate students - \$60. This created anti-selection and on an insurance plan loss needs to be random, but when we let even one individual opt-in it skews the model.

Addressed these concerns with UNB Director of research: (1) post-docs need to be treated as a group, like the GSA members. We would like to help but cannot as structure exists. (2) The group would need to pay fees. (3) The majority of existing contracts are not sufficient to qualify for NB Medicare, which our plan requires (basic insurance) and thus we cannot sell our insurance without.

Thanks to Krista, commendable job negotiating these challenges. Thanks. Hoping for a resolution that is fair to the GSA membership, which works for the post-docs too.

- Update to Covid-19 response – President adds to previous updates from Executive members. Right now we are focused on two priorities. To minimize the impact on graduate students. Having said that, we know this is still a very challenging situation and we do not fully know what will happen moving forward. We are looking at government programs, both provincial and federal, that are accessible to students. We were trying to get a tuition waiver, but received a written response that there would be no waiver. We are now discussing the possibility of bursaries and other options for support.

If any of you encounter specific issues please let us know and we will try our best.

Questions? Business Admin. What do we know about online classes for the Fall semester? Chair states that we should be given more direction from UNB by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Summer meeting dates (June 24, 2020). Any issues, seeing none. Moved by President and seconded by VP Academic. Question as to the time, responded with 5:30pm. Anyone not receiving emails please reach out and we will help.

8. Announcements – none.

9. Adjournment – 6:09pm. Motion by Education and seconded by VP Societies and Events.

\*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 ([office@unbgsa.ca](mailto:office@unbgsa.ca)) in your email!