

Council Meeting Agenda – 24 June 2020

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 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 – moved by Interdisciplinary, seconded by Education. All in favor, yes. None opposed.

5. Approval of minutes – May meeting minutes – moved by VP Society & Events, seconded by Interdisciplinary. All in favor, yes. None opposed.

6. Summary of Executive Activities (All Executive Members)

Please see Drive for reports.

VP Administration – Brittany. Questions, none.

VP Societies & Events – Shravani. Questions, none.

VP Academic – Ramine. Questions, none.

President – Samer. Questions, none.

*VP Academic – Alicia. Questions, none.

7. New Business

- Update on Health and Dental – VP External – Preparing RFP document. Receiving proposals from interested parties. Creating the process for evaluation year to year moving forward. Document and process close but not finalized yet. Criteria include: price, sustainability, technical capabilities, experience/reputation of the buyer.

President – How the RFP will work. Update on conversations with the current broker, six year multi-year contract term. Legal liability & outstanding fees for severing contract. Broker has expressed a desire to rework and continue based on our reasons to terminate. We have agreed on terms to date. Yearly contract moving forward. Nothing has been decided. Open to all proposals.

RFP is a long drawn out procedure with multiple stages. RFP limited and will be redefined even more for next year. Health & Dental has long been an issue and takes time to fix. Keep this all in mind. In the meantime, we will have health & dental insurance for everyone.

Chair adds, that we can tell Council that we are looking at 3-4 quotes, based on our needs and price point. These quotes will be examined using Ramine's criteria. The Executive will discuss and bring the findings to the next Council meeting. Ramine adds that he has no guarantee, but hopes to receive the quotes soon.

- Update on UNB Covid-19 response – previously discussed by President. (1) Funding. (2) Loss of office, research, gym/pool space. President discloses that UNB has told us that graduate students are the highest priority to access physical space. Faculty or GAU's to submit plans to UNB. This will be restricted and need based. Public Health directives are the issue. With the uncertainty of a second wave, and things could go back, it is a struggle as we navigate this macro event.

Question:

From Travis Hrubeniuk - Interdisciplinary to Everyone: 05:58 PM

Has the GSA been provided any information specifically on why this process is taking so long? I know for a fact that labs at McMaster and Dalhousie Med in Saint John are back open already.

Also, is there any information on tuition deadlines for students who were delayed/couldn't finish their work because of COVID-19? I know there are students in my lab that are at risk of paying an extra term of tuition because they couldn't finish their analysis on campus.

Just in response, Dalhousie Med is in New Brunswick. There are students in my lab that have already been approved to go there to finish blood work because they can't do it here

Thank you.

Reply: we can circle back to SGS. If you can send a specific question we can bring it to light and try to get an answer.

- Update on honorarium winter 2020 – Chair explains the process that is undertaken for allocations of Executive Honoraria. Since 'In Camera' is not possible, proposes that for Winter 2020 we forego the process and collectively come up with a process to complete online for the Fall. Motion: council to approve Winter 2020 Honoraria not happen. Moved by Education and seconded by Biology. All in favor, none opposed.

Question:

Skipping the process and paying out or holding payment as well – Rececca, Education.

- July meeting date – Wednesday, July 29th, 2020 proposed. Moved by History and seconded by Mechanical. All in favor, none opposed.

8. Announcements – none.

9. Adjournment @ 6:07. Moved by Biology and seconded by President. All in favor, none opposed.

*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) in your email!