

Graduate Students' Association  
Special General Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, October 18, 2011  
GSA Lounge, 217 University Centre

Present: 42 graduate students

The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Nawrot** – noted that Ryan Lussier from RBC Wealth Management will be providing a presentation, and should be added to the agenda.

**Motion: BIRT the agenda be amended to include a presentation by Ryan Lussier of RBC as the first order of business.**  
***Scofield-Singh (Nursing)/Cowie (Political Studies)***  
**Carried**

**Lussier** – presented a short film on the global financial situation. He presented an overview on the GSA's financial situation, and noted that the GSA's financial position is stable, and in excellent condition. He noted that the GSA's investment accounts are yielding positive interest.

**Nawrot** – noted that interest accrued is going towards an increase in Conference Grants.

**Motion: BIRT the agenda be approved as amended.**  
***Haglund (City Planning)/Gislason (Microbiology)***  
**Carried**

**3. Introduction of GSA Executive Members**

The Executive introduced themselves, and explained the roles of their positions.

**4. Approval of minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 SGM**

**Motion: BIRT the Minutes of the April be approved as amended.**  
***Armstrong (Anthropology)/Scofield-Singh (Nursing)***  
**Carried**

**5. Presentation of GSA finances**

**Nawrot** – explained that the GSA received autonomy this past summer, and the Board of Governors agreed to keep the GSA student fees stable at \$68.88 per semester and \$8.37 for other student fees, including Gradzette, UMREG, UMF. He noted that because the GSA was not autonomous from UMSU, some of the fees in the past were directed through UMSU. He said that BDO remains as the GSA's

auditors. He noted that because of autonomy, the GSA also has to take out insurance. The GSA sought quotes from insurance companies, and ultimately purchased insurance from Western Financial Insurance for the amount of \$4,140/year, including \$150,000 in content insurance. He said there is also a \$5,000,000 board and trustee liability insurance.

He said that UMSU is developing the Hub Pub. He said that the GSA is investigating a sponsorship for the pub, that would allow the GSA to have free parties in the bar for grad students. It would include two free drinks and food, but is still being negotiated.

He said money has been invested from the GSA Endowment funds in RBC, and the GSA is receiving monthly cheques of \$3,593, which is going towards the travel grants.

**Motion: BIRT the GSA membership approve the investment of the endowment and capital funds with RBC.**

***Gamble (Anthropology)/Hamid Zadeh (Linguistics)***

**Nawrot** – presented a PowerPoint, explaining the existing fee structure. He noted that this presentation is available in the GSA office for members not present. He provided an overview of the fee structure, and provided definitions of each fee. He explained the referendum process in place for adding, or removing particular fees.

**Scofield-Singh** - called quorum.

**Nawrot** – noted that with 31 people, and a quorum of 34, quorum has been lost, and the business component of the meeting will have to end. He said he will continue providing an update, as information.

**Freeman** – provided an overview of the GSA's fee structure in comparison to other similar organizations, available for members not present at the GSA office. She noted proposed changes to the GSA's 2012 fee structure.

**Nawrot** – announced that quorum is now achieved, and the formal business of the meeting can continue.

He noted that the overall goal of the fee restructuring is to provide for a doubling of the Departmental Grants and to double the amount allocated to the Special Projects Grant. He said that as a not-for-profit, the GSA is required to spend the money it receives on programs and services for its members, rather than to accumulate large amounts of unused money in endowment funds.

**Motion: BIRT the GSA membership approve the financial fee structure of membership dues as presented at the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 SGM.**

***Cowie (Political Studies)/Armstrong (Anthropology)***

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT the GSA membership approve the Endowment Fund intended solely for travel grants to be renamed as the GSA Student Initiative Endowment Fund whereby the income and market gains of the GSA Student Initiative Endowment Fund would be used to meet the needs of the Association and its members as determined by the GSA Council within its approval process of the annual GSA Budget.  
*Haglund (City Planning)/Sharpe (Geological Science)*  
Carried

**6. Other business**

There was no other business noted.

**7. Announcements**

**Nawrot** - noted that there will be a GSA Council Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> immediately followed by the annual Haunted Thesis Halloween party, both taking place in the GSA Lounge.

**Freeman** – reminded councilors that Departmental Grants are due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**8. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 6:22pm.**

**Scofield-Singh (Nursing)/Gislason (Microbiology)**

Carried