

## Minutes for GSA Council Meeting, 13 May 2007

Officers Present: Carlos Diuk (President), Naomi Fleming (VP), Ryan Fowler (Treasurer)

Minutes recorded by: Benjie Peters

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### I. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Last month's minutes and today's agenda were approved by the Council.

### II. New Business

A. The Council voted on the proposed changes to the EAC Guidelines:

- 1) 38 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstention
- 2) 39 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
- 3) 36 for, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions

B. Election Results for 2007-2008 academic year:

Carlos Diuk – President  
Ignacia Perugorria – Vice President  
Pai-Hsi Huang – Secretary  
Naomi Fleming – Treasurer

Miriam Greenfeld – Senator  
Ryan Fowler – Senator

C. Election of third Senator:

During the meeting the Council voted to appoint Lulu Li as a Senator.  
37 for, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions

D. Volunteers for EAC:

Elric Kline, Sandra Sokowski, Ryan Fowler, Tamana Bhanot, Anil Jacob  
40 yes, 0 opposed

E. Election of Internal Committee Chairs/ External Committee Representatives

Social/Cultural: Loreto Valenzuel, Naomi Fleming, Carlos Diuk, Rebecca Steele

ISAC: Tamana Bhanot

Publications: Luis Ramos

Student Affairs: Lulu Li

Sustainability: Naomi Fleming

TA/GA: Rebecca Steele

Voted on *in toto*: 39 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

EC of Graduate School: Elric Kline and Alberto Garcia-Raboso

Voted on *in toto*: 40 for, 0 opposed

Transportation: Open

F. Proposals from the floor: None

### **III. Old Business**

None

### **IV. Reports**

#### A) Executive:

- a. Carlos reported on the meeting that took place between graduate student representatives (Carlos, Scott Bruton, and Lulu Li) and the Housing Department (Michael Imperiale and John Malley). During that meeting the grad student representatives advocated for affordable Housing and also expressed concern over occupancy checks, including unacceptable abuses. Housing answered by saying that in relation to the latter, they will retrain staff, draw up guidelines for inspections, and prepare information cards for those residents who do not speak English. The information cards will indicate to Housing staff that the bearer of the card is a resident and does not understand English.
- b. Carlos also reported that the Housing Department will make the changes necessary to allow residents to sub-let their apartments, for example during the summer when many students are away for internships or research.
- c. Carlos reported that until the early 1990s graduate housing was subsidized (through undergraduate housing costs). The GSA will work on a proposal that the university subsidize housing to some extent, though not necessarily from monies received from undergraduate residents.
- d. The GSA is planning student activities for the summer. Also the Graduate Student Lounge is reserved and available all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer.

#### B) Treasurer:

- a. Ryan passed out a report of the GSA allocations spent so far by group
- b. The sheet also included a report of the GSA Budget as of May 2007 that indicated income and expenditures to date.
- c. Ryan noted that the fiscal year ends on 31 July and that ALL remaining PERs must be submitted to our office by 4 July for processing.

#### C) GSA Committee Reports

- a. Social-Cultural: An event is being planned for 24 May, details will be coming soon
- b. Publications: No report
- c. Student Affairs: No report

- d. ISAC: Events will be held throughout the summer including a possible beach trip
- e. External Allocations Committee: No Report
- f. Sustainability: There will be an organic gardening workshop held next Saturday (19 May) on Cook Campus at the Environmental Science building. The event will include lunch and a community gardening experience.
- g. TA/GA: Scott reported that there is an on-going postcard campaign to lobby state legislators for increased funding of the university's budget. The campaign includes having the postcards available during the university's graduation ceremonies (twenty in all). Scott passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with the campaign.

#### D) External Committees

- a. RSC Governing Board: No report
- b. Douglass College Center: No report
- c. University Senate: Ryan Fowler was elected to Board of Trustees, which held a meeting at the Camden campus recently. At the meeting they discussed the Virginia Tech shooting and the Don Imus controversy. The BOT also noted that Rutgers is not implicated in the student loan scandal and has no 'preferred lenders'. Also the Greening of College Avenue is proceeding as planned.
- d. EC of the Graduate School: Brain Vancil reported that new non-thesis Masters programs are being developed. Also there is a new Presidential Fellowship program that carries a \$30,000 stipend. In addition, there are 20% matching grants available to those doing research that includes two universities. The Graduate School is also considering expanding the training of graduate students. That would be in addition to the training of TAs. Finally, UMDNJ and Rutgers are trying to resolve the disparities in their PhD-level programs since that is one of the remaining obstacles to their merger.

#### E) Administrative Assistant / Events

- a. Benjie asked that all GSO's make payment to the university billing office in a timely manner. Also, submitted PERs must include copies of event announcements as well as attendance sign-in sheets.

### V Questions and Announcements

Representatives from Chemical Engineering attended the Council Meeting and will email the Treasurer about becoming a recognized group.