Fourth meeting of the General Council 2018-2019 of the Science Students' Association

University of Ottawa

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 19th, 2019

**Time:** 3:00 pm

**Location:** MRN133

Attendance:

Executives

Thao Dao

Marwa Ibrahim

Nina Hadžimustafić

Jane Arciszewski

Morgan Lynds

Kimmy Yang (absent)

Jesse Lesniowski (absent)

Brittany Love

Lauren Massey

Lauren Desilets

Alex Harrison

Kevin Roy (absent)

Managers

Sophie Gregoire-Mitha

Doan-Nghi Dam-Le (absent)

Logan Barr

Stephen Harrigan (absent)

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| --- | --- |
| **BCH**  Denis Qeska  Amanda D’attolico | **BPS**  Océanne Comtois  Muyiwa Womiloju |
| **BIM**  Pawrnaa Perinpanayagam (absent)  Eleni Sokou  **PHY**  Asha Francis  **BIO**  Mahmoud Adi (Left at 4:35)  Sanaz Karimi  **BCG**  Anjaliya Sonnilal | **First Year Reps**  Samantha Yee  Yazmin Olla  Rahat Sheikh (arrived 4:34)  Clarissa Ngo  Joaquin-Andres Ackland-Snow (arrived 3:46)  Nichole Dai  **CHM**  Victoria Ogden | **EVS**  Rachelle (Rae) Landriau  **MAT**  Liam Kenny  Marie Rose Jerade (absent)  **GEO**  Katherine Powers (absent) |
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1. Opening of the meeting
   * The meeting starts at: 7:35
   * Land acknowledgment
2. Motion to start the meeting
   * Seconded by Morgan
   * Meeting starts at 3:14
   * Land Acknowledgment
3. Motion to adopt agenda
   * Motion to add motion for special elections to point 16 seconded by Liam
     1. 10Y 0N 2A
4. Approving last meeting’s minutes
   * Seconded by Nina
5. Question period
   * No questions
6. Executive Updates
   1. Senator
      * January senate meeting on Monday – most likely approve creation of major in life sciences, and major modifications in geology courses ; also going to discuss action plan for francophones in university
      * Went to formal committee meeting
      * Thao: about major in life sciences, is there a minimum GPA?
        1. No don’t think so – just above academic probation
   2. Senior Advisor

* uOSatisfaction meeting on the 19th, getting Kimmy and Doan-Nghi to promo it
  1. Internal
     + Updated the locker list
     + Worked out key-card issues
     + Cleaned office
     + Booked Marion basement for some clubs
     + Ordered ink and toner and receipt paper
       1. Services committee
          - Planned all events for the semester – see the meeting minutes for event details
          - Jan 30 – Doughnuts for 1 dollar
          - smoothie swednesday
          - Back to school breakfast
          - And more – see committee meeting minutes
  2. External
     + Approved subsidy requests for clubs
     + Went to scholastic events committee meeting
     + Working on OSG budget with Kevin
     + Discussed flying over break – Kevin purchased tickets
       1. Clubs committee
          - Meeting soon
       2. OSG committee
          - Had a meeting last week to discuss team selection – names and identifying info will be blacked out and will go through applications with Victoria and Muyiwa
          - Discussed having a bar night
          - Morgan is talking to John about getting tshirts
          - Liam is designing a logo
          - If anyone has good fundraising ideas let her know
          - Everybody keep promo-ing OSG!
          - Nina: I have the guy for the bar night’s number so talk to me later
  3. Academic
     + Learning tools bursary for fall awarded
     + Did lab tinder
       1. Scholastics committee
          - Have a room and date for wine and cheese!
  4. Social
     + No SRT – it got canceled
     + Working on bar night with pulsar collective
     + Working with Eleni for her event
     + Going through 101 week payments
       1. Formal committee
          - Hasn’t met
       2. Gradball committee
          - Yesterday had a meeting
  5. Bilingualism
     + Translated motions and last meetings minutes
     + Proofread posters, and texts for events
  6. Promotions
     + I sent a bunch of faculty wide emails, some for SSA (lab tinder, OSG, BPS Stream Night), some for clubs.
     + I made posters for PHY "Cards and Kahoot", BPS "Stream Night", Ontario Science Games, Gradball
     + I attended gradball committee yesterday, I sent out the meeting minutes to all the members of the committee
     + I approved posters for some clubs
     + I'm about to start making posters for the events of February--please tell everybody to read over the email I sent out yesterday carefully before emailing me about their events
     + Mahmoud: I don’t have details for my event yet?
     + Thap: just have a blurb ready and talk to her
       1. Promotions committee
          - Not met
  7. Finance
     + Thao: motion to ratify Kevin as VP finance seconded by Liam
       1. Y21 0N 1A
     + Kevin is ratified!
  8. Philanthropic
     + No update
  9. Logistics
     + Did science sweater sale and distributed them – mostly gone
     + Attended a bunch of committee meetings
     + Looked into OSG merch
     + Booked room and date for wine and cheese (room deposit being payed Monday)
     + Booked rooms for us, reps and clubs
     + Sorted issues with bus payments
     + Cleaned storage room – when you sell something in office please put through POS system to keep track of inventory – and please let me know if you want to put anything in storage room
  10. President
      + Dealing with lots of grants – faculty has finally reimbursed
      + Made a grant summary sheet to keep track of grants
      + Contact with faculty about STEM office – asked if faculty would be willing to finance computers for us – we don’t have a firm answer but sounds positive
      + Attended an equity committee meeting where we discussed events and making stem more accessible
      + Attended a bank meeting with Kevin and he got official signing authority
      + Signed cheques
      + Working on statement for SSA stance with SFUO referendum
        1. At the last PRT, that we weren’t able to attend, the main important thing is that the SFUO is looking for volunteers and wants us to help them with referendum – but I don’t personally want the SSA to – want to remain impartial – but if you want to as a non-SSA member you can
        2. Elections committee:
           - Will meet soon
        3. Constitution committee
           - Has not met
        4. Sponsorship committee
           - Has not met
        5. SSA2020 committee
           - Has not met

1. Managers Updates
   1. Secretary
      * Made office hours schedule
      * Updating Constitution – halfway through bylaw 3
      * Updated calendar
   2. Social Media Manager
      * No update
   3. Webmaster
      * Stephen finished all French translations– huge thanks to Lauren D
      * Updated lab info tinder
      * Don’t refer people to ssaaes.com without the dash it doesn’t belong to us anymore
   4. Finance Assistant
      * Working with Kevin and counted stock
2. Departmental Update
   * + Eleni – BIM
       1. Held cocoa and cram with BCH – success!
          - People enjoyed making the stress balls
       2. Have approached social sciences of health prof to brainstorm topics for an interdisciplinary panel – meeting coming up
       3. Meeting with Dr. Louis to plan BIM info night
       4. Reached out to several people to speak at info night
       5. info night will be held Jan. 29th location pending
       6. Sent out a survey monkey to chair of biology for profs recruiting for honours projects
       7. Approached by bio chair to build database of profs recruiting for honours projects (for 2021 year)
       8. Went to CDC for BIM career night
       9. Contacted someone at Bruyère to give BIM students a shadowing experience
       10. Met with Dr. Chapleau with Jane and Kevin for open textbooks
       11. Planning a med school night
     + Océanne – BPS
       1. Had bps stream night – good turnout!
       2. Working on planning next event – career night on March 7th – reaching out to people to come speak – let them know if you know anyone!
     + Anji – BCG
       1. They are re- evaluating Biotech program – you can’t apply to it right now but you can switch in
       2. Working with Dr. St-Amant to structure explanations of biotech
       3. They might reopen applications next year if they come to conclusion in time but don’t know yet
       4. Would that affect the rep position?
          - Thao: no – there are still 2nd, 3rd and 4th years in biotech, so next year wouldn’t be affected but the year after could be
       5. It’s on hold due to the number of people who switch out after first year – students need to know what is expected of them by applying into program
       6. Due to popular demand, in process of creating t shirt, going to be sent to company Morgan suggested, can sale be in office? Yes (Thao) but logos have to be approved by Joanne so send them to Thao so she can approve them
     + Mahmoud – BIO
       1. Meeting with BIO chair to discuss info session in February – 14th at 530 potentially but logistics not worked out yet
       2. Going to get grad students to talk about the life of a researcher
       3. Will present research practicum
       4. Also planning a social event
     + Liam – Math
       1. Starting to look into math sweaters
       2. Trying to plan movie night with physics and biotech probably in March
     + Rae – EVS
       1. Katherine and her planning a bowling night for geo and evs
3. Equity Update
   1. Emailing Dr. St-Amant and discussing equity related things – tried to set a date for stem accessibility tour
   2. He said if Dave doesn’t get back to him it’ll be me, Thao and him
   3. Very receptive to equity ideas – started a doc with accessibility related things and will send them if you’re interested
   4. Equity committee met, discussed what we’d like to see for future - thanks Thao for drafting motion!
   5. Will meet with social media to do a campaign for bell let’s talk
4. First Reading: Motion to Amend Manager’s Attendance at Association Council Meetings
   1. Presented by Thao, Seconded by Jane
   2. Discussion
      * Liam: should it be they’re not required to attend association council meetings unless stated in their specific mandate
        1. Also if they want to use their manager term as a year on council to qualify for certain positions
      * Thao: Currently in the constitution it only talks about the inaugural trial year counting as a full term on council because it wasn’t official at the time
      * Brittany: I feel like you should have to attend meetings if you want to use the term as a year on council so maybe put in a clause that they have to attend meetings in order to use that year
      * Nina: when someone is running for president – do people normally check attendance for regular gen council members?
        1. Brittany: in order to remain a member of gen council they have to attend meetings, if they haven’t been impeached then they attended the meetings
      * Eleni: I feel like this makes things so unnecessarily complicated
      * Thao: Most people who run for president – it’s clear how many meetings they attended usually – thinking about whether or not they were present
      * Liam: Reps are also mandated to attend meetings so by adding this you’d have to just check manager attendance
      * Brittany: think this motion makes sense as managers have a special role – they can attend but since they’re under a specific exec who can keep them updated they don’t have to be at meetings so we can just change President and VP finance eligibility
      * Morgan: should there be something about if the exec isn’t present the manager should be? Thao: not allowed proxies in association council meetings
      * Vic: if you have a proxy you have to tell secretary in advance but since were a non-profit, the law is changing but the transition hasn’t occurred – but you’re not allowed proxies in the new law
      * Denis: the proxy doesn’t necessarily have to be an official proxy just go to keep people updated
      * Thao: that might be an ideal situation but it would be difficult to constitutionally mandate it – it’s the execs job to be updated on council affairs
      * Brittany: the manager also doesn’t necessarily know about the execs full mandate and know everything they are doing
      * Eleni: the minutes are pretty comprehensive, but not every detail makes it into the minutes so being present at meetings is kind of important even though they don’t have voting rights
      * Thao: I feel like it’d be important if they want to run later on but not really for their specific jobs
      * Brittany: feel like certain positions – webmaster and social media, if in a meeting you want to discuss how to improve the association or discussing branding or events etc… maybe having these people at meetings is actually important – they could potentially gain things through meetings
      * Liam: wouldn’t, at least for social media, that be covered by the execs updating the managers
      * Océanne: agree with Brittany, the managers can put their point of view forward and it would be valuable to have them there
      * Anji: even though you have execs updating managers, the managers might have different ideas of what they want to do it would be good to have them at meetings
      * Liam: can’t all science students speak at meetings? No they can just attend
      * Morgan: maybe lower it to having to attend 50% of meetings
      * Jane: they can still come if they want to
      * Thao: They can speak to their execs about their ideas too and while this communication might be slower it could work
      * Brittany: the only person who isn’t receiving direct orders is finance assistant – most reps/execs communicate with the managers directly and don’t go through the exec in charge of them so having them in meetings allows them to directly communicate with said managers
      * Liam: I don’t necessarily think they have to be there for us to communicate what we want from them – email is a more effective form of communication anyway so people don’t forget things
      * Mahmoud: what’s the point of having meetings anyway then?
      * Liam: it is for governing all the science students and discussing things relevant to science students
      * Océanne: to rebut, and add to Brittany’s point, what’s the point of the managers then if they don’t come? Then the managers’ responsibility is just to take orders form their execs, but why not have them sit on the meetings and take that responsibility?
      * Lauren M: personally, I think the conversation has derailed so I think we should move on
      * Brittany: I think if we bring it down to nothing then people might not even know who they are so they should have to come to at least the first meetings – I agree with Océanne that they don’t have to come but I do think they have valuable things to bring to meetings- they’d know when applying
      * Thao: currently as a manager you are included in association council does that mean you are required to be at meetings? So then if they’re not required to then theyr’e not technically a part of council?
      * Alex: why are managers not mandated to go to exec meetings but they do come to gen council meetings? So barring the consideration for face to face contact, I don’t see how not having them would hurt
      * Thao: why do they not have to?
      * Logan: to qualify them as gen council members but they wouldn’t have to go to exec meetings because they wouldn’t have enough work
      * Anji: they have 75% attendance, so is that 25% attend classify as summer meetings?
   3. Motion to amend seconded by Jane - add “unless stated in their specific mandate” in 3.15.8.2
      * Vote on amendment: 22Y 0N 1A
        1. Amendment passes
   4. 6Y 12N 4A
   5. Motion fails
5. First Reading: Motion to Add Vice President of Equitable Affairs to Constitution
   1. Presented by Thao, Seconded by Liam
   2. Discussion
      * Lauren M: what do we consider an equitable campaign?
      * Thao: I based this on philanthropic mandate so it’s at the discretion of the VP equity
        1. Logan: maybe for example making the braille real?
      * Océanne: I don’t know if what Logan said falls under equitable campaign – had more in mind equitable event/meeting – and when I spoke to Dr. St-Amant I mentioned this motion and he asked about eligibility and he was kind of iffy that anyone could do it
      * Thao: in the phil mandate, campaign does entail events/fundraisers, and when this was brought up by SFUO they did try to amend it to, at the discretion of associations, make it a not voted in member but it failed
      * Liam: could you add possibly like “one campaign promoting equity”
      * Océanne: can we say “event and/or campaign”?
      * Logan: what about not necessarily running a campaign but something like the braille thing
      * Thao: that could fall under the next point though
      * Morgan: could say equitable action
      * Alex; or initiative
      * Thao: so under point 2 we would add initiative? Yes
      * Eleni: to clarify point 3.12.1.3, would that mean reps would have to talk with VP equity to make sure their events are accessible?
      * Thao: possibly, the mandates are meant to not be super specific - the way they want to complete the mandate is at their discretion
      * Sam: the first part of point 2 is something VP equity should do but also encourage all members of council to also promote equity
      * Thao: I see the value in that but does it need to actually go in the constitution?
      * Nina: could be similar to bilingual in promoting bilingualism
      * Sam: yeah, encouraging all members of council to promote equity
      * Thao: my only concern with that is that it could be taken the wrong way
      * Sam: also the point about informal training to council about equity could also cover that idea
      * Morgan: yeah agreed the VP would be doing that anyway
      * Océanne: the way I saw it doing the training was that I didn’t want to tell people how to do their jobs – it’s up to people’s personal values but if you choose not to listen or take the information that’s fine – we would prefer if they were but you can’t force people
      * Nina: on the topic of accessibility – because this is VP equity, why do they have to be full time students, and this should maybe be changed in other mandates too
      * Océanne: I agree with that
      * Victoria: definitely a conversation constitution committee has had
      * Liam: one of the points raised at the committee was that full time means they’d be exposed to the state of things on campus all the time and would know what’s going on more – but there are students who take a part time load because the faculty does accommodate for people with accessibility needs – this conversation could possibly involve the faculty so we know what the requirements are for being a full time load
      * Alex; maybe amend it to say a full time student as deemed by the faculty
      * Anji: 2nd point on motion – they’d have to be working with SASS so theyd’ have to be considered a full time student by SASS
      * Océanne: I’m not sure about the SASS thing as well – there are other organizations to be worked with – not just SASS
      * Thao: we could remove the point about SASS and change it to organizations? Are they specific ones or should we remove it altogether?
      * Océanne: there are many different organizations to promote equity and not just accessibility for example mental health etc…
      * Thao: that point could be removed and could be in transition reports what organizations to work with
      * Denis: does it say you can only work with SASS?
      * No
      * Alex: you can add “and pertinent organizations” or take out sass and just say “pertinent organizations”
   3. Motion to amend: 3.12.1.1 “one campaign or event promoting equity” 3.12.1.2 “advocating for equitable rights and initiative...” “…from pertinent organizations”. Seconded by Liam
      * 22Y0 N 1A
   4. 21Y 0N 2A
   5. Motion passes
6. Second Reading: Motion to Clarify Powers of Managers
   1. Presented by Victoria, Seconded by Liam
   2. Discussion
      * No discussion
   3. 21Y 0N 2A
   4. Motion passes
7. First Reading: Motion to Amend 6.2.2. of By-Law No. 6
   1. Presented by Lauren M, Seconded by Denis
   2. Discussion
      * Victoria: did you change it and what changed?
      * Yes – removed clauses and put “if a space should open”
   3. 20Y 0N 2A
   4. Motion passes
8. Second Reading: Motion to Give Secretary Powers to Restructure the Constitution
   1. Presented by Thao, Seconded by Jane
   2. Discussion
      * Liam: should it be adding or removing motions?
      * Thao: that would fall under updating
   3. 22Y 0N 1A
   4. Motion passes
9. Second Reading: Motion to Add Full-Year Logistics to Formal Committee
   1. Presented by Liam, Seconded by Morgan
   2. Discussion
      * No discussion
   3. 20Y 0N 3A
   4. Motion passes
10. First reading: Motion to clarify special elections procedures
    1. Motion to read this motion despite not being sent 2 business days prior - seconded by Brittany 21Y 0N 2A
    2. Presented by Victoria, Seconded by Lauren M
    3. Discussion
       * Rahat: can you explain in layman’s terms?
         1. Victoria explains
       * Clarissa: so we would go to elections committee first? Yes
    4. Y21 N0 A2
    5. Motion passes
11. SSA Skate Night (Anji)
    1. Planning an event with other reps – but not many people responded to poll about dates but we made it Feb 2nd – its biotech, biochem, chem, biomed event – those programs just get priority at first but it isn’t limited to them
    2. Would like feedback/suggestions for this as there would be tickets involved
    3. Would be during Winterlude – two options: one is regular beavertail 5.50$ incl HST and SSA ticket would be 4$ - would need a min. of 51 people – second option is a combo – 7.50-8$ depending on drink and we’d sell for 5.50$ which works the best - which option to people prefer?
    4. Marwa: I would suggest maybe instead of selling tickets for people to come have hot chocolate in the basement beforehand and everyone walks to the canal together and people will come for the hot chocolate and it would also be a social event in MRN basement
       * Thao: or have an event after in MRN basement as well with hot chocolate and such
    5. Rahat: Would they still be paying then? Marwa: No
    6. Rahat: if they don’t have skates?
    7. Anji: You are allowed to walk on canal and also there are skate rentals
    8. Liam: what time would it be?
    9. Anji: 530-7 event as there is a genetics midterm that morning
    10. Anji: making it free would work and I like that idea – beavertail had been asked for by biotech but if people were willing to help hot chocolate and cookies
    11. Victoria: even if there’s a really big push we could have a raffle to win a free beavertail – I think between us that we can purchase stuff or cook ourselves - we’d be okay
    12. Eleni: We could meet on campus with whoever wants to walk over and give them a voucher and others could meet later, I think both could work but that would be complicated – Having a social after coming back would be better
    13. Liam: since it’s a Saturday would have to talk to protection
    14. Eleni: I like the raffle idea too
    15. Liam: if we say 530-730 and if you have hot chocolate after people can go at their own rate and come back at different times
    16. Anji: Ottawa is expected to be very cold for a while – do you think if we make it free people wouldn’t come if its super cold?
    17. Thao: if it is that cold people would sacrifice their money not to go
    18. Thao: Why don’t you guys discuss it and update us on your decision
    19. Anji: yeah, just wanted to bring it up to ask your guys’ opinions
    20. Thao: there was one a couple years ago and it worked well – Brittany: it was on a school day and she provided hot chocolate
12. Bilingualism for Events and Meetings (Lauren D)
    1. Alex and I were talking about making it mandatory to say parts of their update (their title) in French and maybe the land acknowledgement in French to promote more French
    2. For events, if people want me to be there to introduce their events in French let me know
    3. Thao: I like that idea
13. Internal Social Events Coordinator (Nina)
    1. This has been discussed before with some people
    2. I don’t think it is necessary to have a social manager but I would personally like to have someone to help me this semester
    3. Océanne is willing
    4. Eleni: what would you want them to do?
    5. Nina: a lot of tasks coming up with major events and such – someone who can communicate with people when I’m unavailable – a lot of things that come up that you don’t know of in advance - would function much like a manager position but not constitutional
    6. Morgan: I think that would be a great idea – if Nina can’t make a phone call or drop in somewhere
    7. Sam: I could help too
    8. Everyone who wants to help put up their hand
14. Departmental Social Events Comment (Nina)
    1. Would appreciate being kept in the loop on rep social events
15. Next meeting
    1. In the next three weeks
16. Varia
    1. Morgan: about filling out WIGs for meetings - pls fill out asap so I can book rooms
17. Motion to end meeting
    1. Seconded by: Muiywa
    2. The meeting ends at: 5:33