**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Meeting:** | General Council Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Date of Meeting:** | 23rd September 2020 | **Time:** |  |  12:00 PM to 01:00 PM |  |
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|  | **Minutes Prepared By:** | GSA Secretary – Naga Venkat Palaparthy | **Location:** |  |  Individual home via Google Meet. |  |
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|  | **1. Meeting Objective** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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General Council Meeting



 **2. Attendees**

Executive Council Members: Sandeep Bonagiri (President), Naga Venkat Palaparthy (VP Academic and External Affairs), Deepthi Gudapati (VP Student Life), Bhargav Sai Nakkina (VP Finance)

Management: Dr. Schmidt, Mr. Blair.

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| 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues |
| Topic | **Discussion** |
| Other Issues   | * Sandeep told everyone that student accounts manager has mentioned that the spring and summer fee has been submitted to accounts payable last week and added that Bhargava will be following up regarding the process.
* Sandeep told that GSA is planning to have either CISSP training or an alternative of giving prize money to the students who clear the CISSP before 2021 August which is up to three months after graduation.
* He added that students who joined in Fall 2019 and winter 2020 didn’t had any kind of participation due to covid-19, so it would be an encouragement to students if we offer some kind of prize money say 20% to those who clear the exam given that CISSP costs around 935 CAD.
* He further talked about the meeting he, Naga and Deepthi had with Prof. Sergey where he told how CISSP certification fetch jobs
* He told that they were very less people who cleared CISSP from cue in the past year, so going further if we have 10 or 15 students who clear the exam before the mid of next year GSA will still be able to contribute that $3000.
* Dr. Schmidt told all the GSA members that he need to follow up and get back to GSA regarding this and he added that use of GSA funds dedicated to particular group is problematic because certain groups are getting benefits that may not be available to others say if other students are not interested in taking those certifications or trainings.
* He further added that Dr. Sergey is supportive of this becoz it has direct benefit to that particular studnets who clear it
* Dr. Schmidt told that use of GSA funds has to be benefit of all graduate students and said that doing things like giving scholarships means that all the grad students can apply and have that kind of support
* He told that there is a bylaw that may come to play which says about how this opportunity benefits a particular program which GSA and GRC members should consider before moving forward.
* He told that If GSA is offering targeted scholarships, they should work with finance department to meet all the requirements before moving further. For instance, if we are offering a particular grant or application for certification, we should think what an equivalent to other programs like IT would be and M’ed.
* Sandeep said that this is one of the reasons why GSA requested for student count of specific programs, so that we know the contributions from each department.
* He added that due to lack of student engagement in terms of conducting events due to Covid, there will some unused funds from students of 2019 and 2020.
* GSA thought of using those funds for other activities like trainings or other academic related things in place of having events.
* Deepthi said that she agrees with Dr. Schmidt point of having equal benefits to all the graduates given GSA is for all the graduate studnets and funds should be used equally.
* Sandeep asked Dr. Schmidt about the request of having student count for each program.
* Dr. Schmidt told that the request is still process and said that information is possible to get from registrar office.
* Naga Venkat told Dr. Schmidt that after the meeting with Dr. Sergey all the GSA members have planned to have a survey to all the graduate studnets to know what kind of certifications or trainings each programs has in demand juts like CISSP for MISSM, so that GSA can have offer grants to the students who clear them respective to their programs.
* Dr. Schmidt told that it’s a good planning process, but GSA should think about the policy interventions and bylaws before disbursing the funds.
* He added that before sending survey make sure that we have policy framework that will support that kind of action, he told that right person to contact is Margie Sheph who is the director of financial aid and awards unit.
* Naga told that GSA is still in planning stage and said that we will do our 100% research before going further.
* Naga told Dr. Schmidt about the startup Edmonton virtual session which GSA is planning to have, he said that he contacted the startup Edmonton representative Adam regarding the same and asked to have a session on 30th of September, Wednesday where we can expect majority of students given less number of classes.
* Naga invited Dr. Schmidt to the Meet and Greet event which is going happen on 25th of September.
* He told Dr. Schmidt that due to Covid circumstances none of the council members got the opportunity to you so all the GSA members would like to meet you in person if it works for you.
* Dr. Schmidt accepted the invitation and told Naga that he will confirm regarding it.
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