



## GSA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Needles Hall 3308/3318

University of Waterloo

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### Attendance:

AGM Chair: Norman Kearney

Chief Returning Officer: Chris Pugh

Adam Schneider

Aimee Gunther

Aishvarya Bakshi

Allison Sachs

Amritha Stalin

Anton Mosunov

- proxy for: Chadi Hamzo

- proxy for: Ehsaan Hossain

- proxy for: Manoj Kumar

- proxy for: Anthony McCormick

- proxy for: Tyrone Ghaswala

- proxy for: Shabham David-Vedi

Ashley Ross

Beth Timmers

Carolyn Earnest

Christopher Van Bommel

-Proxy for: Jamie de Jong

Daniel Grimmer

David Choi

Elizabeth Milne

Emily Cyr

Evan Andrews

Garrett Mombourquette

Ghazal Memartoluie

Gokul Raj Pullagura

Graham Mayberry

Indi Madar

Jackson M. Tsujo

Jae Kang

James Campbell

- proxy for: Maya D'Alessio

Jashdeepsingh Jadeja

Jason Lajoie

Jessica Brake

Julia Goyal

Karsten Kilnas

Kissan Mistry

Laura Henderson

Long Ting Chan

Mahdi Beedel

Matt Morison

Matthew Perrone

Max Salman

Mike Mansfield

Milena Urbanajx

Mon Zhu

Naime Samuel

Ramy Tannous

Rebecca Mayers

Richard O'Brien

Rob Pangborn

Robert Bruce

Robert Gooding-Townsend

-proxy for: Lindsey Daniels

Rodrigo Querraz

Romain Ruhlmann

Russ Freure

Ryan Amos

Salha Alhanthi

Savio D'silva

Serxho Selmani

Sondra Eger

Stephanie Barr

Varadharajan Tayanima

Zohreh Hosseinace

Farrah Bulsara, AA, resource

Rose Vogt, GM resource

1. Chair's Welcome  
Mr. Kearney welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of procedures and voting procedures.
2. **Motion to adopt the agenda. (Pugh/Amos) Carried Unanimously**
3. Declarations of interest.  
– Mr. Pugh declares a conflict of Interest in regard to the auditor. His family works for the auditor's firm, although in another province. Mr. Pugh further explained that he abstained from matters dealing with the audit.
4. **Motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2016 AGM. (Freure/ Memartoluie) Carried.**
5. Annual Report:  
Ms. Brake reports on the highlights from the past year and on projects that the GSA is working on and will continue to work on for the coming year. These items are outlined in the Annual Report found on-line.

*Questions to the Annual Report:*

The members heard that the Graduate Student Initiatives funding approved received thirty-four requests and granted thirty. Requests included social events, symposiums, and academic events. The program was very successful with \$15K of funding allocated for the year, which is \$5K/term. The GSA kept the expenditure within budget, and there is \$5K remaining for the Spring 2017 term. The GSI funding is separate from Graduate Studies Endowment Fund (GSEF), and is an initiative that was developed as part of the GSA Annual Budget.

**Motion to receive the Annual Report. (Amos/Myers) Carried unanimously.**

**Motion to receive Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report. (Mayers/Sachs) Carried**

6. **BIRT the GSA-UW members appoint MNP, LLP as the auditor for the fiscal year ending August 31.2 017. (Amos/Memartoluie) Carried - Mr. Mosunov and Mr. Pugh abstained.**
7. Bylaw amendments, *Mr. Norman Kearney*  
Mr. Kearney summarized each of the amendments:
  - a. Bylaw \$.6.0  
Two new policies have been initiated to address the appointment of

the President and Vice President. The nomination committees forward their recommendation to GSA Council and GSA Board of Directors who must both approve the appointment. Directors are elected and Councillors are appointed or elected by their unit association. These members carry a high level of engagement and responsibility within their roles and are best qualified to appoint the President.

Members also heard the outline of the process for re-appointment of the President, who may serve up to two years if approved.

4.6.0: Board and Council are empowered to appoint the President

- b. By-law 5.2.0 – change directors from 8 to 11. Due to a change in the number of officers and an increase in support staff, the balance for the board requires an increase to the number of elected directorships. There is also more empowerment of Council and Board to guide direction of the organization. Continuing with the process that began two years ago, these amendments are trying to distill a lot of organizational changes and create a workplace with less administration and more work opportunities for graduate students.
- c. Bylaw 6: These amendments are in line with the changes to bylaw 4. Cleaning up the bylaw by removing reference to officer positions that no longer exist. All the tasks in the previous officer positions have been redistributed to the staff and the officers. The VP will not be a member of the board. Only the president is a member of the board. All staffs contact to the board is through the President.
- d. Bylaw 7 Council: These amendments clarify the language and strengthen the role of Council to be a governing body on social and political/academic issues are brought to council. Council appoints its own Chair to bring some independence to Council. VP will be a member of Council.

**BIRT the GSA-UW members approve amendments to Bylaw #4.6.0-Annual General Meeting, Bylaw #5.2.0-Election of Directors, Bylaw #6.1.2-Officers, and Bylaw #7.1.0, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, and 7.1.4.**

(D'Silva/Amos)

#### *Questions/Discussion*

Directors are responsible for the Organization and its financial operations. Council is also a governing body. Board oversees the President, risks, human resources (discipline), and operations under provincial law. Board's duties are determined year to year. The Chair of Board and directors will have special duties, based on their skills.

Board and Council will appoint the President. Council and the Board set the direction of the organization and the role of the President could considered to be Executive Director. The GSA is looking to hire a President that will have the skills to execute the directions of the Board.

**Carried**

Abstained: Mr. Bruce, Mr. Tannous, and Mr. Ruhlmann, and  
Abstained by proxy: Ms. D'Alessio, and Mr. Hamzo

8. GSA Director Elections, *Mr. Chris Pugh, Chief Returning Officer*

The CRO explained the process for the election.

An on-line ballot was held from April 10<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>. Those that chose to vote on-line were not issued a paper ballot at the AGM. For those present who did not vote on line, the votes will be cast by secret ballot.

There are four candidates that are nominated for a one-year term, and four candidates that are nominated for a two-year term. Candidates gave a brief statement in no particular order:

For one-year term:

**Richard O'Brien**  
**Ramy Tannous**  
**Beth Timmers**  
**Matt Morison**

For two-year term:

**Sondra Eger**  
**Norman Kearney**  
**Allison Sachs**  
**Evan Andrews**

The CRO reports that each candidate received more YES votes than NO votes and are duly elected. Congratulations to all the candidates. The CRO acknowledges that Mr. Serxho Selmani is continuing his second term as a Director

**Motion to destroy ballots (Salman/Amos) Approved unanimously.**

9. Mr. Kearney thanks everyone for attending and acknowledges the work of Ms. Farrah Bulsara and Ms Rose Vogt for their assistance with the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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*NMK:rv*  
*April 12, 2017.*