



**GSA COUNCIL**  
Notice of Meeting  
 March 3, 2021  
 4:00PM – 7:10PM

Zoom Meeting (Details in Outlook Invitation)

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
4:00PM	<b>1. SPEAKER'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>	-
4:02PM	<b>2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	For Approval
4:03PM	<b>3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	
4:03PM	<b>4. ATTENDANCE</b>	For Information
4:04PM	<b>5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> a. February 3, 2021	For Approval
4:05PM	<b>6. UPDATE FROM THE BOARD – Reid (5 mins)</b>	For Information
4:10PM	<b>7. PROPOSED BYLAW/POLICY CHANGES – Small groups (20 mins)</b>	For Information
4:30PM	<b>8. GSPA @ COUNCIL – Casello (30 mins)</b>	For Information
5:00PM	<b>9. PROPOSED BYLAW/POLICY CHANGES – Small groups (15 mins)</b>	For Discussion
5:15PM	<b>10. 10-HOUR CAP – Billedeau (15 mins)</b>	For Approval
5:30PM	<b>11. GRADUATE HOUSE FEES – Billedeau (15 mins)</b>	For Information
5:45PM	<b>12. BREAK (5 mins)</b>	
5:50PM	<b>13. GSA WELLNESS – Ryan (20 mins)</b>	For Information
6:10PM	<b>14. ORGANIZE UW UPDATE (5 mins)</b>	For Information
6:15PM	<b>15. RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE - Hampton (10 mins)</b>	For Information
6:25PM	<b>16. FUNDING PRINCIPLES/TRANSPARENCY – Small groups (35 mins)</b>	For Discussion
7:00PM	<b>17. QUESTIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL KPI REPORT (10 mins)</b>	For Information
7:10PM	<b>18. ADJOURNMENT</b>	-
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## **MINUTES:**

**1. Speaker's Welcome and Opening Remarks** **4:00pm**

*Robbins takes the chair and calls the meeting to order at 4:00pm.*

**2. Adoption of the Agenda** **4:03pm**

*Motion to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.*

**3. Declaration of Interests** **4:03pm**

*No conflicts of interest are declared.*

**4. Attendance** **4:04pm**

*Chugh takes the attendance.*

**5. Approval of Minutes** **4:04pm**

*The minutes of the Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.*

**6. Update from the Board- Reid** **4:04pm**

*The Board Chair gave an update from the Board. She mentioned that the Board passed a few motions in February meeting to prepare for the AGM. The Board accepted some Bylaw changes, and it changed the Bylaw 3 to include new legal e-service. The Board Executive committee was included in the bylaws as a committee created by the Board. The Board accepted the job description of the Chief Returning Officer. The Board accepted by the job description of the Speaker as distributed to the Council by the Speaker. The AGM date was set to April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

*She mentioned that the Board made some amendments to the Bylaw 7 and EL-11. The Board would be discussing GP-17 in a future. The Board had a short discussion on organisational changes. She mentioned the Board had a special meeting to talk about the health and dental plans from Studentcare. The Board was made aware about the changes in the health and dental plans with the ongoing Covid19 pandemic. The discussion included certain risks and decisions on health and dental plans.*

**7. Proposed Bylaw/Policy Changes** **4:07pm**

*A Director presented a difference between bylaws and policy. He mentioned the bylaws are more generic and hence are amended less frequently, whereas the policies are more specific as talks about roles and responsibilities and hence are amended more frequently.*

*He presented the proposed amendments to the Bylaw 7. This was done to keep it inline with other policies and Executive Limitations. The proposal to EL-11 was to put a timeframe on whenever Council is requiring some decision to be made. For GP-8, the Board has been added to represent a connection between the Board and the Council.*

*The Councillor from Master of Peace and Conflict Studies asked for clarity on GP-8's statement which says that GP-8 declares political positions on behalf of graduate students. The Speaker clarified that the Council has a series of political positions which talk about mental health, sustainability, student funding, making sure that the students have the right supports to do research at UW. These political positions implicitly guide all of Council's actions.*

## **8. GSPA @ Council – Casello**

**4:35pm**

*Casello gave an update on the status of the changes in the graduate student funding. He mentioned most of the students were concerned about the tax implication of the change in graduate student funding. He mentioned that when this issue was brought up at the GSRC, there was an acknowledgement that the shifting of the way that the students receive their support would result in a different taxable income. It was very difficult to estimate the tax implications that might be working for the students because it depends upon the total income and on the deductions that are available to the students.*

*In general, the change that the GSRC was promoting would result in a better overall outcome for the students in terms of regularity and consistency in the funding that students would receive on a month-by-month basis. There were questions on how this would influence the build of the tuition and there were concerns because the students who would get the large lump sum in the first term would have their tuition deducted against that large lump sum. He mentioned that they have been working with finance team to change the way the tuition is built such that they can ensure that there is consistency in good expectations for students.*

*The Provost has received a proposal to increase the overall minimum support for the PhD students. Casello mentioned that along with the GRC and some special members, a recommendation was made to the Senior Administration of University to increase the minimum rate to 1.86%. The cost estimates that were put forward last time showed that the domestic students saw about a 0.53% increase in the costs and International students would experience a 1.86% increase in costs.*

*The Council raised concerns about the way the institution was calculating the shelter costs, in which they are anecdotally noting that the estimates do not match up with the students' experience. He mentioned that the GSRC and the Council can come together collectively on calculating the shelter estimates and can agree in principle*

on how to calculate the upper and lower bounds on the shelter costs estimates. He added that the Councillors were concerned about the Bill 124's influence on graduate students. Bill 124 requires that whenever a public sector organisation is considering increases in support levels to any cohort that is a part of that public sector organisation, there should be a moderation period. This means that during that time, there is an upper bound on the changes of the support for any cohort that is involved in the public sector institutions. So, the University must decide when its moderation period begins in its relationship with the graduate students and that moderation period cannot start no later than January 2022.

The Speaker asked what the moderation period meant. Casello mentioned that the Province defines the moderation period and during this period, any changes in the support levels is bound by a 1% increase and the moderation period lasts for three years.

The Councillor from Germanic and Slavic Studies asked how the students' concerns on managing student budget in the beginning of the term was taken into consideration and where was the data collected from on these concerns. Casello replied that he does not have any formal data collection mechanism. He mentioned that the mechanism of the funding transfer from University to the students is overly complex. He mentioned different awards, scholarships and TA wages are reflected in the student accounts and GSRC received regularly received feedback from department co-ordinators and student staff that they do not have any idea on how much money they were getting month over month. This was a motivation which led to a change in the funding levels. He mentioned there have always been conversations about the funding simplifications. The graduate students get GRS (funding by the supervisor) in the first month of term as a lump sum value. This cannot be done for the TA income as it is tied to the performance and the course. He mentioned that when he proposed to have a standard payment method for the University either in installments or as a lump sum method, the finance team did not agree to it. For the TA's, equal monthly installments look like a better fit.

The Councillor from Recreation and Leisure Studies asked for clarification if there was any mechanism by which the overall living costs be calculated and will 1.86% increase in the funding be appropriate for the graduate students with the increased cost of living in Waterloo. Casello replied that 1.86% is an estimate which the University makes on how year over year, costs are going to change. This is done based on three calculations: tuition costs, housing costs and other costs. Tuition costs are fixed whereas shelter and living costs vary. He suggested that working collectively would help reach a level of confidence on calculations of these shelters and living costs. He mentioned that they have been trying to adapt the funding loosely to year over year costs which makes sense only if the base funding is correct. The University has a series of metrics which it uses to calculate whether, the

*last year's funding is adequate. Firstly, the University puts its funding levels relative to the peer institutions and the results show that the University has been performing well in terms of support levels. Secondly, the demand for programs also plays a major role. The results presented in the last Council meeting demonstrated that the University has been getting consistent number of applications. Students are finding the value proposition for the education and funding support they are receiving to be positive. Thirdly, the University is regularly looking backwards as well to estimate the changes in the costs.*

*The Speaker asked for clarification if the moderation period applies to scholarships. Casello replied that he will have to check with the legal team to have an accurate answer.*

*The Deputy Speaker asked for an explanation on how Bill 124 is connected to graduate student funding. Casello replied that the Province has said if anyone is receiving support in the public sector must go through a three-year period where any year over year change in that public sector support is limited to a maximum of 1%. There is a time limit where the University will have to implement this, and it cannot be later than January 2022. It does apply to graduate students and the moderation period can be set in a flexible manner on when it begins.*

*The Councillor from English Language and Literature asked if there was any connection between the growing acceptance rates and lack of transparency in acceptance letters in terms of how the funding is awarded. Casello mentioned that when the offer letter is provided, it is presented in such a way that the student understands things like the minimum amount of funding the student will receive for the time they are a graduate student in UW. The University also provides a clear picture of how the student will receive the funding. He mentioned that this is the optimal level of transparency that is conveyed through an offer letter. The Councillor from English Language and Literature pointed that a lot of students are unaware about the changes in the awards given to the graduate students specially in the cases where the awards are contract based. Casello replied that the students should not see any difference in the IDSA award from the University's perspective. The University Centre pays for the IDSA award in the first period of time. In the second period of time, the award is shared between the Centre and the home faculty. The students should not feel any change or decrease in the award. This is a commitment from the University as mentioned on the offer letter to receive IDSA award and there should not be any activity on student's part on this. The Councillor from English Language and Literature asked if the awards are to be taxed with the TA's rate increase, will that be reflected on the offer letter. Casello replied that the offer letter will mention the TA rate, but it would not show the income after deduction of taxes as the range of outcomes is very big.*

*The Councillor from Pharmacy commented that if there is a disagreement in the adequate amount of funding which could be sensed as presented in the slides that graduate students were operating on a deficit, it shows that the funding would not be adequate. This would be unfair on the graduate students' part who generate income for the graduate school. The research work is of great value to the University, and it is not measurable in terms of dollars. Casello acknowledged that the graduate students would like the funding levels where they would have financial freedom and well-being. Casello asked if the University deviated from what was promised in terms of funding. The Councillor from Pharmacy replied that there are transparency issues related to the tuition as the University takes a certain portion back from the funding it offers.*

*The Councillor from Physics and Astronomy suggested that the offer letter mention take-home funding after the deduction of tuition as this would be of help to the graduate students. Casello replied saying it was a good suggestion and this would help the graduate students to decide if it is financially feasible or not for them to join the graduate school. The Councillor from Physics and Astronomy noted that many students are unaware of the tool available to calculate the graduate student expenses. He suggested if this information is provided in the offer letter, it would be helpful. Casello committed to make this change.*

*The Councillor from Accounting and Finance mentioned that there has been a lot of confusion about OGS and SSHRC. The School advertises about the minimum funding and students can apply for OGS and SSHRC. She asked for more information on how to deal with claw back. She also asked if it is only UW which sets a blanket policy on the claw back. Casello replied that when a student is awarded a scholarship under OGS or SSHRC, this becomes a primary vehicle for funding for that student. Essentially, when the scholarship gets into the institution, it is distributed amongst the students as a support. He said he is unsure about how this is handled in the peer institutions.*

*The Councillor from Germanic and Slavic Studies raised a concern about how much a graduate student takes home. He pointed out that the graduate students have been asking for money from the University to pay for the rent and living expenses. The graduate students have started to feel that they have been asking for luxuries from the University. He pointed out that being a graduate student at UW is difficult the amount of funding received makes it difficult to manage the budget when one lives in the region of Waterloo. The decisions being made on funding at UW are based on what the partner institutions are doing, but it should be guided by the factors relating to living costs. The constant worry about the expenses is affecting the research work and mental health of the students. The University Administration should value the work and sacrifices being done by the graduate students. Casello highlighted that he has been advocating and innovating in every situation where he*

feels the graduate students are supported the most. He clarified that he speaks to the GSA Council on behalf of the Provost and the President. He mentioned that they both will be speaking to the Council to address the concerns.

## **9. Proposed Bylaw/Policy Changes**

**5:17pm**

*Within small group discussions, the Councillors expressed their supports/oppositions for the proposed change in the Bylaw 7 and EL-11:*

- *The proposed changes clarify the role of Council, especially in Bylaw 7. It is reflective to what the Council does, and it would be of a great help to read it before applying for a Councillor's position.*
- *Many Councillors felt that the timelines were adequate for the change in EL-11.*
- *Councillors asked about the accountability behind Bylaw7 and EL-11.*
- *Councillors suggested some changes to item (d) of GP-8. Councillors felt that this was a new responsibility and could not be implemented efficiently. The Councillors suggested to be a point of contact instead which would help students to navigate the research students at the University.*
- *The Councillors asked to have information more in advance than two weeks (for EL-11).*
- *In terms of GP-8 (d), the Councillors expressed disagreement that the Councillors serve as a means rather than being the only means to inform the overall student membership of the GSA-UW updates.*
- *There were concerns that the amendments correspond to what Council is doing now, but is it what Council should be doing?*
- *There were concerns about leaving the entire power of the GSA in the hands of the Board.*
- *Council and Executive have more information, so they should be the one with the decision-making authority as opposed to the Board.*
- *For EL-11, Councillors suggested to have clear timelines to let the Councillors be informed, but it is difficult to ensure that the Councillors will get enough time to consult with their constituents.*
- *With respect to Bylaw 7, Councillors expressed that there is a bit of confusion. The word 'cooperation' should be used in the proposed change. This would give a sense for the Council and the Board to work more collaboratively.*
- *For EL-11, the Councillors suggested whichever is more reasonable and sooner should be used, instead of (a) and (b).*

*The Speaker asked if the Councillors wanted to provide vote on amendment as was presented or amendment contingent after a couple of changes for EL-11.*

*The Councillor from Germanic and Slavic Studies suggested to “add in two weeks or two business days, whichever is sooner” in the timeline for EL-11. This would ensure that the President is releasing the information to the Council at the earliest. A Director replied that if the information comes late to the President, then it would lead to the violation of the EL-11 and the suggestion is not very practical.*

*A Director added that for the Bylaw 7 proposal, it comprises of three things: Board Committee, Job Description of Council, and Advising. His group suggested to add a collaborative sense to the proposal by doing some language changes.*

*The Board Chair asked if it was feasible to have information from the President at the earliest. The President agreed that the Council needs to have information at the earliest as they are directing a lot of activities of the GSA. The limitation is that the information must pass through a lot of groups before the President can deliver it to Council, so it is not always feasible to deliver the information to Council in a timely manner. So, any changes to EL-11 would not result in any material shift.*

*A Director suggested to leave EL-11 (b). The Council was in favour of it.*

*The Board Chair asked for clarity if the amendment supports the President’s words for EL-11 proposed changes. She mentioned that there were concerns on changing ‘govern’ to ‘advice’ in the Bylaw 7 and whether it changes anything. Legally, Council currently is a committee of the Board. Council is an advisory committee in nature. If Council wants to take on Board responsibilities, Council would need to be made into a Board. She mentioned that nothing major is being changed but they are trying to add accountability to the Council.*

*A Director clarified the intent of Bylaw 7 is to reflect what the Council does and what the Council is. The wording cannot tell the Board and the President what to do. He mentioned that adding the word ‘collaborate’ would not change the intent of the Bylaw but at the same time, adding it would not lead to misrepresentation of the bodies.*

*The Councillor from History pointed that the current Bylaw 7 gives power to the Board only and it gives the permission to the Board to ignore Council. Adding ‘collaborative’ term helps to give an idea that everyone is working together. It signifies the Council’s value. A Director clarified that he wants the Councillors to feel that the political positions, strategic objectives etc. that are mentioned in the Bylaw 7 are a part of the Council’s role.*

*The Councillor from Germanic and Slavic Studies highlighted that the way GSA operates, as read from the bylaw, is not collaborative. The Councillors want this to be officially declared on a paper. They want it to be future proofing. Even if the Councillors do not have any legally binding decision-making powers, the Councillors*

want the Bylaw 7 to highlight that the President and the Board collaboratively works with the Council.

The Speaker suggested to take the proposal changes to Slack channel for EI-11 and Bylaw 7.

### **10. 10-Hour Cap- Billedeau**

**5:45pm**

*The President mentioned that there is a policy around campus that the Graduate Students should not be employed around campus for more than ten hours a week for any term during which they are enrolled as a full-time graduate student. This policy stemmed from the Ontario Council of Graduate Students.*

*The President mentioned that there could be a possibility of a change in this policy with some restrictions. The revisions in the policy would be around 20-30 hours a week at a maximum. On the other hand, if the students want to work more, approval from Supervisor would be required (if the policy is eliminated). In the latter case, there would be academic oversight and students can excel in their degree.*

*The President presented a pathway to the approval process on getting rid of the 10-hour cap and fixing it. It would first be approved by the GSA-UW Council, then GSRC would review the Council's approval and approve it by passing their own motion which would then go to SGRC and Senate. After this process, the policy revisions would be implemented for September 2021 (next academic year).*

*The Councillor from School of Pharmacy mentioned that the 10 hour per week maximum should be protecting students rather than draining them. He mentioned that the students should be compensated appropriately if they are working for more than 10 hours but a maximum of 20- 30 hours per week would affect the studies of the graduate students. He mentioned that the recommendation was not perfectly codified and getting rid of the 10-hour cap may not be in the students' best interest. The President agreed that the recommendation must have been poorly communicated. He clarified that the intent of the revision was not to force the graduate students to work for more than 10 hours but if the student wants to work additionally for more hours in the TA room or work over-time, they could receive the compensation for it. The revision policy will allow the students to gain additional income if they choose to without be having any departmental funding and graduate full-time status reduced.*

*The Councillor from School of Planning mentioned that the 10-hour cap should provide protection to the students and the students should be compensated appropriately if they work for more than 10 hours per week. She asked if asking for more TA funding was even a feasible proposition. She mentioned that the research work gets affected due to the number of hours being spent on the TAship and the*

*supervisor suggested to have a conversation with the respective Professor with regards to the workload of the TAs. She asked for clarity on how to deal with situations like these. The President replied by clarifying that the intent of the policy revision was not to force the graduate students to work for more than 10 hours a week. This policy change would allow for overtime experience and TA positions to be properly compensated. He added that there would be a written draft for the revised policy and this would be brought back to the Council to have everyone on the same page.*

*The Councillor from Germanic and Slavic Studies pointed out that the nature of the TAs is such that one must work for more than 10 hours per week. He asked if there was an assumption being made while framing the policy that if there is someone who works independently to make sure that the graduate students are only working 10 hours per week. This would help in the situations where the students inform their supervisor that they have been working for more than 10 hours, as no one can force the supervisors to sign off on paying off for more than 10 hours. He mentioned that the Co-ordinators of his department did not believe him when he said that he had been working for more than 10 hours per week.*

*The Councillor from School of Pharmacy raised a concern that removing the policy would encourage students who are planning courses to plan essentially in a way that the students can work for more hours and asked whether this is an intended outcome. He mentioned that there could be a possibility to work more hours. He suggested if the students want to work more hours, that should be voluntary. He suggested that the supervisors can put whether, it is necessarily required to work for more than 10 hours per week.*

*The Councillor from Global Governance mentioned that the 10 hours per week becomes problematic because Finance cannot pay students for more than 10 hours per week. She suggested by taking this limitation away, it would help to claim money over TA overtime.*

*The Councillor from Physics and Astronomy mentioned that International students working on a Student Visa have a limit on the number of hours they can work off campus. He asked if these changes in policy would affect the on campus work hours and have they been taken into account for the domestic and international students to be treated fairly.*

*The Councillor from Accounting and Finance pointed out that some Universities already have this option where students can opt-in to work for more than 10 hours. She asked for clarification if the intention of the motion raised above was completely voluntary. The President replied that the intent of the motion is voluntary.*

The Councillor from School of Pharmacy clarified that the students should be fairly compensated for the over-time hours and the intent of the motion should be voluntary.

**11. “BIRT the GSA-UW Council supports revising campus policy currently restricting fulltime graduate students from working more than an average of ten hours per week and directs the GSA-UW President and Speaker to advance supporting policy revisions at the Graduate Student Relations Committee.” (Billedeau/Yeung) (33-0-1)**

## **12. GSA Wellness - Ryan**

**6:05pm**

GSA Student Wellness Coordinator briefed her role as a Wellness Coordinator. She mentioned that does confidential advising sessions, organizes wellness events and sits on committees that talk about wellness initiatives across campus. She listed committees like Committee on Student Mental Health which was a group that was created to fulfill the 36 recommendations from the President’s Advisory Committee on student mental health, Wellness Collaborative Advisory Committee which was a group which makes sure that the campus is moving towards an inclusive environment and takes wellness into consideration as a holistic manner. There are biweekly meetings held with Counselling Services.

The importance of the stakeholder engagement is to leverage the existing resources and to make sure that the graduate student needs are prioritized within the university administration.

GSA Student Wellness Coordinator listed some upcoming events like Grad Heart2Heart Discussions which would cover topics like Graduate Student Caregivers etc., Family Friendly Cooking Classes, Information and Education Sessions about the resources on campus like equity offices, information on how to navigate policy etc. These resources would help the university to be more accountable. She mentioned that during the Wellness Week, there would be events like Motivation Monday, Wellness Wall and Speaker on Self-care. She also mentioned that BIPOC student community is run and hosted by Equity Co-ordinator.

She mentioned that her role as a GSA Student Wellness Coordinator is also to improve the advising sessions. They were doing an internal review of the service for BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ students and working towards improving the meeting protocols. She mentioned that they were looking for better ways to reduce burden on students as students are often confused between different offices providing different types of services. They were working towards reducing the efforts being done by students to jump and navigate through different services so that the students can get

*what they need as fast as possible. She mentioned that they want to address the concerns of the students who do not want to take a formal policy route as some students are not comfortable in launching and complaining under policy 33 which is an ethical behaviour policy.*

*She mentioned that she has seen students from all the faculties on campus from both master's and PhD programs out of which the larger proportion is of the Engineering faculty. There are great fluctuations in the number of appointments on a monthly basis. Issues like supervisor conflicts like inappropriate comments, lack of support etc, Course/Professor issues are commonly brought by the students.*

*She mentioned that the GSA Student Wellness Support is aligning their services with the Okanagan Charter. The Okanagan Charter was signed by University of Waterloo in 2018 and is a framework for post-secondary schools to promote and follow well-being in all aspects of life. The main idea behind it was to keep inclusivity, accessibility and taking a holistic approach. It is meant to promote the overall wellness. The Wellness Collaborative Advisory Committee is responsible to ensure that the University of Waterloo follows the Okanagan Charter.*

*GSA Student Wellness Support was trying to improve the sense of community amongst graduate students. The areas where this was being done was within the discussion groups as well as with the idea of community strolls where the idea of coming together was to go for walks.*

*GSA Student Wellness Support has also collaborated to host the Research Conference on Student Mental Health.*

*The Vice-President (Administration) added that in terms of research reports done by the graduate students essentially the one with the International student caregivers, who are really asking for appropriate counselling services which means the representation of International students in BIPOC community in different groups across campus. This also means that the students felt cultural discomfort in learning and vetting process in the graduate society. The caregivers feel that campus wellness needs to have more support for the entire family.*

*The Councillor from Biology asked if there was a way out to get direct counselling where the student would call and talk to someone immediately when in need. GSA Student Wellness Coordinator replied that Empower me was a 24\*7 helpline through Studentcare. The Vice-President (Communication) mentioned that there was a big difference between Good2talk and Empower Me. Good2talk is accessible to graduate students gear between 17-25 years of age. It is a 24\*7helpline and there are councillors on the other side of the line. You do not get same councillors each time you need a counselling service as the councillors are anonymous. Empower Me is a service that is provided through GSA through student care where you get better*

*range of supports like life coach, financial advice, nutritionist etc. If the student needs direct counselling, an intake form is to be filled and an appointment is set up to help the student. They do have better help desk and long-term appointments where there is no limit to the counselling services one can access. The students can talk to a particular counsellor when they are accessing a specific form of counselling. Empower Me is better structured and range of services are covered by the health plan provided by Studentcare.*

*The Councillor from Recreation and Leisure Studies mentioned that Empower me offers succession after which the person asking for the service is evaluated and their intake is exceptionally limited. She asked if the University does any sort of quality control follow-up with Empower me when the people are assigned to councillors. The Vice-President (Communication) clarified that Empower me is not connected to the University and is through Studentcare. The University just promotes it on the behalf of WUSA and GSA. There is a Studentcare office on campus for accessing the services. She mentioned that people will have to self-advocate and will have to ask for what they need to Empower me.*

**13. Break**

**6:28pm**

**14. Graduate House Fees- Billedeau**

**6:34pm**

*The President gave an update on the Graduate House Fees. He mentioned that one of the main concerns of the Council was that if the students pay the Graduate House fee, they want certain sections of membership not to be levied the fee, like students at satellite campuses. He suggested that the mandatory GH fee would not be charged to the satellite campuses or online programs, but it would be charged to everyone else. The President mentioned that the optional \$23.50 GH fees would be re-instated for the spring and fall terms. This optional opt-out fee would be charged irrespective of whether the GH is open or closed. If the opt-out percentages are above 50%, then the fall term will have discussion about instituting the mandatory GH fee.*

*The Councillor from School of Pharmacy asked how the GSA came to a fee of \$23.50 that is charged to the graduate student's account. The President replied that the fee structure was made several years ago past Graduate House Management. It was a finger to the wind approach, approximating how much the GSA had to charge based on potential opt-out rates for the fee.*

**15. Organize UW Update**

**6:38pm**

*The Councillor from Recreation and Leisure Studies gave an update on Organize UW. She mentioned the next upcoming event will be Unionization Town hall which will be hosted by Faculty of Mathematics on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

*Organize UW also hosts new media on their website including links to recent webinars. A recent statement was released regarding the TA wage increase proposal. The purpose of this statement was to re-affirm that any announcement on the wage increase that happens during the union drive will be taken seriously by Organize UW, CUPE, as well as Labour Board of Ontario.*

*Organize UW has developed a recent survey concerning International Student Funding as it is concerned about significant and unexpected reductions to international student funding packages in their fourth year.*

*The Vice-President (Communication) provided the links for accessing the wellness service supports.*

*The Councillor from Peace and Conflict Studies asked for the link to access the International student survey. The Councillor from Recreation and Leisure Studies will post it on Slack channel.*

#### **16. Recruitment Task Force- Hampton**

**6:45pm**

*A Director asked the Councillors to run for the seats for Board of Directors. He highlighted that former Councillors on the Board provide valuable insight and feedback on issues brought before the Board. He mentioned that a Director's responsibilities include many of the same as Councillor's including advocating for the student body.*

*A Director presented a timeline for the nomination process. He requested to engage with the Council on the nomination process.*

*The Board Chair asked if there was an option for the shorter term for the master's students who are discouraged by a 2-year timeline. A Director mentioned that the ideal case was to strike a balance between the continuity for the Director's position and continue to impart the knowledge turnover to the next cohort. This is the reason for the two-year long term. He mentioned that the master's student can apply for the position by maintaining a balance between the knowledge continuity and the student should represent the actual realities of student experiences. First year master students can apply for the Directorship. He mentioned that this concern will be addressed in the campaigning session.*

#### **17. Questions on Presidential KPI Report**

**6:54 pm**

*No questions were asked on Presidential KPI Report.*

#### **18. Adjournment**

**6:55pm**

*Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.*