



JULY MEETING SUMMARY

The July Council meeting was held on the 13th of July 2023. The meeting started at 5:30pm and ended at 8:23pm. The meeting was attended by 23 Councillors and was held in a hybrid mode. The meeting began with the land acknowledgement, declaration of interest, adoption of June meeting minutes, July agenda and the introduction of newly elected councillors.

The meeting proceeded with a presentation from Glen Wepler, the Director of Housing, and Franco Solimano. They discussed the Campus Housing Facility Renewal Strategy, focusing on the criteria students use to choose housing, such as privacy, price, proximity, and cleanliness. Safety was highlighted as an important factor, though it may vary depending on the time, day, and surroundings. The Housing Strategy Development process started in 2019 and aims to revitalize residences due to shrinking occupancy and declining satisfaction. The options for revitalization are to maintain, renovate, renew, or rebuild. The next housing facility is expected to open in 2026, with a focus on graduate and upper-year students. No priority is given to international students, but the Housing department is open to this discussion.

The next presentation was on GradWIL (Work Integrated Learning) by the Professional Development Program team led by Andrew Brunet. The objective of GradWIL was highlighted, and the process included an environmental scan, campus consultations, WIL models, pilots, operationalizing, and communication & tracking. The GradWIL Models encompass program-level, course-level, and student-level WIL, approved by the Senate in June 2023. The GradWIL program is meant for all grad students who are interested in developing industrial skills, collaboration and building professional networks before graduation. It was highlighted that the GradWIL models for course-based programs and thesis-based programs have different opportunities. The process for students from different departments to get involved in projects was explained. Financial incentives and experienced students are offered to employers who hire students.

Sana Shah, the new GSEF Coordinator, presented information about the Graduate Studies Endowment Fund (GSEF) and the support it provides to graduate students through partnerships. There are three types of projects: small projects, large projects, and environmental sustainability projects. The small project amount is \leq \$600 and the application for this funding opportunity is every month. The other funding opportunities have a different set of criteria which are shared on

the GSEF website. The GSEF structure includes graduate student members, a project review committee, a board of directors, and three officers. The GSEF will be hiring a Vice Coordinator.

The Board Chair provided updates on the VPNC (Vice President Nomination Committee) and JPRC (Judicial and Presidential Review Committee). The ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) transition work is in progress. The Council Chair and the Councillor of Physics & Astronomy volunteered for roles in the VPNC, while a Councillor of Kinesiology volunteered for the JPRC.

The VP Administration shared detailed instructions and a timeline for the Coffee & Donut Project for dGSAs' constituents. The GSA is planning focused groups due to a recent hate-motivated attack on campus. They conducted a TA/RA survey and are preparing a report based on the insights. Applications for the Graduate Award for Black & Indigenous students are currently being reviewed. The SGRC is seeking an Engineering representative.

The remaining business included updates from the OUW (Ontario Universities Workers) Representative, who reported progress in creating a union for Sessional Instructors and sought volunteers for their campaign.