



JUNE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The June Council meeting was held on the 8th of June 2023 and was attended by 17 councillors, who gathered to address a range of important issues. One of the key topics discussed was the recurring problem of missed counseling appointments, which not only hampers access to services but also wastes physicians' time. To tackle this issue, Campus Wellness proposed implementing a missed appointment fee, and the specific details of this fee were deliberated upon during the meeting.

Another significant presentation was made by a representative of The Senate Graduate Research Committee (GSRS), who shared information about the NSERC CREATE program aimed at enhancing the graduate student experience. The council inquired about student involvement in the program.

Policy 70, which deals with petitions and grievances, was also brought to the attention of the Council by Jeff Casello, who provided an overview of the initial draft of the policy. Feedback was sought from the Councillors to further refine the policy before its final presentation for approval.

Updates on the GSA Board and various initiatives were shared by Kaylee Biggart, the GSA Board Chair. New directors had joined the Board, and efforts were focused on the ONCA transition. The council was informed of the need for Councillors to join different Board Committees, particularly the Joint Policy and Review Committee (JPRC).

The Vice President of Administration presented updates on several matters, including recommendations for "coffee chats" to promote interaction between Departmental Graduate Student Associations (dGSAs) and their constituents. They also sought students to join the Graduate Student Relations Committee and provided updates on ongoing councillor elections. Furthermore, the council was informed about the upcoming Pride Month celebrations at the grad house.

Finally, a brainstorming session took place where the Council generated ideas for yearly themes and stressed the importance of having access to prior information on recurring topics. Issues related to funding, vacation periods, inter-departmental research, workshops, and supervisor relationships were also discussed, highlighting the need for improved strategies and transparency regarding available funding sources.

The June Council meeting addressed a range of important topics and fostered meaningful discussions to address the needs and concerns of the graduate student community.