October 2024 Council Meeting Summary

October’s meeting started with a presentation and discussion on dGSA operational requirements and guidelines, related to the push to better unify communications between dGSAs and the overall GSA. This presentation detailed the requirements, benefits, financial support, advocacy opportunity, admin support, and comms support of this push and how the dGSAs can recieve these benefits.

The next item was the update to the GP-08 policy and feedback on current CP-06 policy. Due to logistic barriers, Council earlier in the year (May) decided to appoint the duties of deputy speaker to VP Admin. This change was deemed to be beneficial and thus the policy was updated to reflect that VP Admin would also be ‘default’ deputy speaker of the Council going forward. CP-06 (Council Monitoring Report) outlines the report that Council has to complete at the end of the year as part o their self-monitoring. However, many items in this report were unclear to Council as to how to measure and justify and thus the discussion on CP-06 shifted on how to better create a more focused self-monitoring tool. This will be discussed in future Council meetings.

The discussion then led to the topic of the next Council meeting which would be the annual Council and Associate Deans meeting. Council was informed by the Speaker that Associate Deans from each faculty alongside co-interim AVPs of the GSPA would be invited to the meeting as an open discussion forum on any issues pertaining to the overall graduate student experience. Council was tasked to think about specific topics and themes to discuss and bring them to the Speaker prior to November meeting.

The Council feedback survey results were reported by the Speaker. Positive results in engagement, speaker’s performance, and efficacy of the Council meetings were found. Barriers to bring up specific topics were also reported on by Council members.

Following a break, VP Admin gave an update to Council from the exec team, highlighting the 2024-2027 strategi plan launch, hiring of event coordinator and office coordinator, update on the free masks and COVID test kits provided in the grad lounge and GradHouse and an update on the MOU (memorandum of understanding) between GSA and UW.

Board Chair then gave a quick summary on the roles and responsibilities of the board.

The last point of discussion was a reminder to Council members to fill in their remuneration contract and return it to the General Manager.

Adjournment.