

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday April 16, 2019

4:00-6:00 p.m.

NH Senate Board Room

Agenda & Minutes



AGENDA

	Item	Action
1.	Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks	
2.	Adoption of the Agenda	Decide
3.	Declarations of Interest	Declare
4.	<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u>	Decide
5.	Consent Items* a) <u>Annual Report</u> b) <u>Audited Financial Statements</u> BIRT the consent items be received.	Present Review Decide
6.	<u>Appointment of the Auditor</u> BIRT MNP, LLP be appointed as the Auditor for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2019.	Present Review Decide
7.	<u>Ratifying the Chief Returning Officer</u> BIRT the Board's appointment of Daniel Grimmer as Chief Returning Officer be ratified.	Present, Decide
8.	GSA Director Elections : <i>Chaired by Daniel Grimmer, CRO</i> a. GSA Director Candidates’ statements. b. Voting c. Report of election results.	Present Decide
9.	Adjournment	

MINUTES

1. Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks 4:10

Clay Dasilva calls the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda 4:13

Under consent items, the Strategic Report and the Rose Vogt Excellence Award were added.

3. Declarations of Interest 4:13

No declarations of conflicting interests were made.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4:14

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 2018 AGM (Kearney/Samuel). Vote (y/n) 13-0.

5. Consent Items

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Strategic Report, Rose Vogt Award of Excellence, Annual Report, Audited Financial Statements

BIRT the consent items be received.

a) Strategic Report 4:15

High level overview of work performed by the board, council and management throughout the past year was provided (e.g. divestment of fossil fuels, grad house restructuring, etc.). Strategic plan is now online for graduate students to review; there are seven main strategies reflecting the core priorities of the GSA.

b) Rose Vogt Award of Excellence 4:18

The history and purpose behind the Rose Vogt Award of Excellence was described. Vogt joined the stage to accept the award, share her history with the GSA, and highlight the importance of generosity of spirit and building a community of dedicated grad students.

c) Annual Report 4:24

Student Choice Initiative is being implemented in September; as a result, certain fees will become optional for graduate students to pay as part of their tuition. Health & dental, as well as bus passes, will remain mandatory. Details on which fees will be made optional are still being deliberated upon. Data analysis and results from the Vital Signs Survey are being compiled by management and will be made available to the public. One focal point of the survey revolves around cost of living and funding packages received as part of RA, TA and sessional positions; the GSA will use this data to advocate for adequate financial compensation for grad students. Experiences of loneliness were touched on (24% of grad students reported that they felt completely socially isolated). GSA advocacy services were outlined,

as well as community and social events. Request for any potential missing services to be brought to the attention of the GSA.

In the vital signs survey, questions were included asking students to identify their academic department; some analyses can be stratified by this variable however, some departments have a small sample size that cannot be reliably analyzed. Cuts to the international masters student award was discussed; some supervisors may not be able to take on new grad students due to this.

d) Audited Financial Statements

The audit is complete and the audit report was received by members.

Break commenced at 4:43. Meeting reconvened at 4:53.

6. Appointment of the Auditor

4:53

Third party auditor returned to conduct an audit of the GSA.

BIRT MNP, LLP be appointed as the Auditor for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2019. (Revington/Russ). Vote (y/n) 16-0.

7. Ratifying the Chief Returning Officer

Discussion surrounding the role of CRO in relation to board membership; is it necessary to have one for overseeing the election of board members? It was suggested to investigate existing policy on the matter.

BIRT the Board's appointment of Daniel Grimmer as Chief Returning Officer be ratified. (Revington/Stirling). Vote (y/n) 17-0.

CRO takes the chair to conduct elections portions of AGM.

8. GSA Director Elections

5:00

Valid nominations of Evan Andrews, Teghan Barton, Isidora Gievski Sidorovska, Kareem Tarek Mostafa has been received in advance.

Mostafa described his history as a PhD student, qualifications, and goals as a prospective director. Andrews was not available to present his statement; Vogt offered an endorsement on his behalf. Candidates Barton and Sidorovska were not able to attend the meeting and provide a statement.

Voting on nominated candidates was conducted. All candidates were elected.

Motion to destroy all voting ballots (Stirling, Dasilva). Vote (y/n) 17-0.

The CRO extended a second call for nominations to those attending the meeting. Dmitrii Marin, Jennifer Reid, Tyler Hampton, and Douglas Singe nominated themselves for the role of director; they all described their interest in the position, status as PhD students, history working in relevant roles, and the unique qualifications they bring.

Motion to accept the second call for nominations (Dasilva/Revington). Vote (y/n) 18-2

Voting on self-nominated candidates was conducted. All candidates were elected.

Discussion was held about the CRO's right to put out a second call for open nominations from the floor. Concern was expressed that a second call for nominations was too abrupt and that voting members would not have enough time to make an informed decision. Reference was made to GSA Bylaw 4.8.0 and the Corporations Act. Although not explicitly included in the agenda, director nominations can be extended to the floor, since the CRO has the ability to put out a second call for nominations. The President provided further clarity on GSA policy as it pertains to this issue. Going forward, it was suggested that procedures for nominating and voting of directors at the AGM should be defined prior to release of the agenda.

Motion to record the vote tallies for director candidates in the public minutes (Wass/Mostafa).

- Amendment to record only the total votes that were cast; votes for individual nominations will not be included in the minutes (Samuel/Stirling). Vote (y/n) 7-2.

25 ballots were cast for voting altogether.

Motion to destroy names associated with votes (Revington/Mostafa). Vote (y/n) 19-0.

9. Adjournment

6:56

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.