**CMM/NSC GSA Meeting: Monday, October 30th, 2023**

Attendance:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aisha Saleh | P | Elham Salehisiavashani | P | Richard Kohl | A |
| Alex Brown | P | Devansh Saraf | P | Rachel Piché | P |
| Stephanie Lofaro | P | Kelly Xu | P | Somayah Alsayadi | A |
| Caroline Part | A | Arghavan Nepton | A | Simran Rakhra | P |
| Cameron Gibson | P | Alberto-Camacho-Magallanes | P | Tara Naji | P |
| Ajanta Chatterji | P | Anastasia Pisanko | A | Victoria Hamilton | A |
| Yalun Zhu | A | Brittany French | P | Zacharie Saint-Georges | A |
| Vanessa Jabr | P | Elmira Safaie Qamsari | P | Noah Robert | P |
| Alberto Francisco Fuentes Alvarenga | P | Reham Khaled Fawzi Abu Hijjleh | P |  |  |
| Mariam Almasaad | P | Rachel Friesen | A |  |  |

**President (Aisha/Alex)**

* Council social!!!
  + Social happened on Friday, thanks to everyone for coming out!
* Curling event happening on December 15th, details still to be worked out.
* General assembly on November 15th, will need all the VPs in attendance.
* VP external/election
  + Will be open until November 26th for public voting, reps should circulate posters.
* Change constitution to include the ASE members officially and add new position.
* FMGSC meeting
  + Changes to TMM courses (increased list of optional courses).
* NSC finance meeting
  + Had students meet with Dr. Legace to discuss the financial survey and what we are trying to do to increase the stipends.
  + Suggestion: add a forum for students to report issues. (working on it)
* Department meeting
  + Dr. Lagace did the CMM/NSC stipend presentation.
  + Requesting that faculty vote on stipend increase, with the following choices:
    - 1. No change, 2. $1000 increase for both MSc and PhD, 3. Increase MSc for $2000, PhD $1000, 4. Increase MSc and PhD by $2000 – to match OHRI, without COL increase by year. 5. Match OHRI, with COL.
      * Suggested only COL as well!
      * Chose not to vote at that meeting but a vote will occur later online.
      * Stipends not discussed for ASE program, should be investigated.
  + Top-up policy, following choices:
    - 1. Yes or No. 2. By award amount or fixed value.
    - One point brought up against this policy was that international students have different access to awards.
  + Hiring a new PI in one of the following areas: theoretical behaviorist, genome regulation, chromatin regulation, brain cancer, kidney/cardiac dysfunction.
  + Problems with med-pay roll: Email [med.pay.roll@uottawa.ca](mailto:med.pay.roll@uottawa.ca) (cc: Blanche or Pascal)
* Graduate Student Survey
  + Will be sent out soon, there will be an opportunity for council to give feedback on questions.

**VP Academic (Cameron/Ajanta)**

* Scholarship workshop/TAC workshop
  + Mid November date was suggested involving Dr. Maxime Rousseaux.
* November beyond grad series replacement
  + With help from Nathaniel on November 16th there will be a seminar and question period to replace beyond grad series for this month.

**VP Wellness/Student Support (Vanessa)**

* Grad Buddy System is going well.

**VP Social (Alberto/Mariam)**

* Halloween event
  + Set up at 8:30am if anyone is available to help set up.
  + Trick or treat starting at 10am and runs all day.
  + BBQ sign-up sheet ready for volunteers to pick roles.

**VP Athletic (Elham)**

* Monthly/bi-weekly yoga event
  + Contacted yoga instructor from main campus and others but most are busy. Will talk to a different instructor at Minto to see if we can have a class at our campus.

**VP Communications (Caroline)**

* Make sure reps send their meet the reps post information to Caroline as well as their email (if comfortable).

**VP Website Design (Devansh)**

* Cleared space on the website and meet the council has been updated but still need to get the meet the reps info and put up VP external election poster.
* Name of the council will be updated to include ASE.

**VP Finance (Kelly)**

* No updates.

**VP Administration (Stephanie)**

* No updates.

**GSAED Director (Arghavan)**

* Unable to attend due to a lab meeting.

**Reps (OHRI, CHEO, uOSIC, Royal, Heart, CMM, NSC, Masters, New Student, MD/PhD)**

* Main responsibility of all reps is to communicate with students in their respective location to overall help students and promote events.
* Rachel (ASE rep) - Dr Ramanan is interested in doing some anatomy events, possibly in lab anatomy events if people are interested.
* Alberto (PhD rep) - Some students are looking to potentially leave labs or move universities and are looking for resources on what the process would be like.
* Alberto (PhD rep) - Students are wondering why events don’t happen at satellite locations and would like to see more integration amongst campuses. The answer to this is that RGN is central and has the most students without restricted access.
* Noah (BMI council) - BMI looking to get help from CMM to give the grad lounge a clean-up/makeover to make the space more welcoming for hosting social events and be a central location for information on GSA events. A form can be sent out to get this going.

**NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2023**