**Date:** November 07th 2013  
**Time:** 5.06 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Attendance:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JESSICA NGUYEN (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOSH LE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORY HODGSON</td>
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<td>WILLIAM LAU (left at 5.19 pm)</td>
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<th>Excused Absence:</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABDULLAH HAMID</td>
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<th>Others in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>SIRINA HAMILTON</td>
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<td>HAILEY MARKOWSKI</td>
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<td>SACHITHA KUSALADHARMA</td>
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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** -

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
   - NGUYEN added “Future changes to the access fund” to the agenda under part b) of New Business.
   
   LAU moved to approve the agenda for November 07, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded by HODGSON.
   
   Vote on Motion 4/0/0  
   CARRIED

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   - HODGSON moved to approve the minutes for September 18, 2013 as tabled.
     
     The motion was seconded by LAU.
     
     Vote on Motion 4/0/0  
     CARRIED
NGUYEN: We have a new member for the Grant Allocation Committee (GAC), councilor Abdullah Hamid. However, he’s not present today.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I’m going to give you a small test on the standing Orders next meeting. This is done to encourage you guys to go over the Standing Orders. As you all know, our Standing Orders are quite long.

MARKOWSKI: Our awards program is open now. It’s closing at the end of the month, and is available online. This program is really unique, and recognizes student groups, professors, and students with financial needs. Only a few awards actually consider the Grade Point Average (GPA). There are quite a lot of diverse awards, and I was hoping that you guys can spread the word. We have posters and slides which we are sending out. Student groups also have their own program. I don’t think those have a monetary component. So, it will be a recognition.

Most of the awards are around $1000, and we can recognize 90-100 awards. Last year, not all the awards were given out because people in financial need didn’t apply.

HODGSON: I was trying to apply, and I kept getting error messages. Finally, the program crashed. I think there may be version errors.

MARKOWSKI: We will look into that and correct the technology glitches. As GAC members, you guys can’t apply because you will be ratifying the winners.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Packaging Funding Standing Order Changes

HAMILTON gave a brief recap of what was discussed in the previous meeting (September 18) about packaging funding, and the need to amend 51) of the Standing Orders. The committee discussed about possible wordings for the amendment, and concluded to look into it further at a future meeting.

HODGSON asked why so many items were in GAC’s standing orders, as opposed to being in bylaws. HAMILTON replied that it has been done to provide extra flexibility. She further emphasized that if those items were in bylaws, changing them frequently would be a tedious task. HODSON said that while clauses regarding the Access Fund could be in the Standing Orders, other items such as Student Group Granting could be incorporated into a bylaw.

Access Fund: Covering Costs of Academic Conferences
HAMILTON explained the need to cover the costs related to academic conferences. MARKOWSKI said that those experiences should not be limited to a certain group of people.

LE asked whether this would be in line with the original mandate of the Access Fund. HAMILTON replied that, as the mandate was to help students in financial need, this will be a cost that will be factored into the overall budget.

In response to a question posed by NGUYEN about how much money was reasonable to cover the costs of attending academic conferences, HAMILTON replied that it was up to the committee to decide. She further said that proof would be required to ascertain whether the student had gone to, or plans to go to the conference.

LE asked whether students of every discipline are able to go to academic conferences. HODSON replied that students of most disciplines would be able to.

HAMILTON said that currently, she would say no if a student asked for money to cover the cost of an academic conference.

Access Fund: Covering costs of new tuition deposits

HAMILTON explained about the new tuition deposit, and said that she was looking at allowing the cost of the new tuition deposit for 2nd and 3rd year students. She further said that according to her understanding, the deposit must be made every year, and that it would negatively impact students who are short of money. HAMILTON also said that if it was only a one-time payment at the start, there wasn’t a mechanism to help the students as they wouldn’t have paid into the access fund.

6. CLOSED SESSION  NIL

7. NEXT MEETING  -

8. ADJOURNMENT  -