



## International Development and Global Studies Graduate Student Association

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Opening:**

Shannon Fournier called the meeting to order via videoconference at X on Tuesday, March 17.

### **Present:**

Shannon Fournier

Lukas van Aragon

Abby Vandzura

Jennifer Bonti

Rebecca Dick

Kursheed Sadat

India Roberts

Kayla Richardson

Janet MacParland

Eric Dupuis

Gabrielle Marseille

Remy Bargout

### **Absent:**

Saoussane Rifai

Étienne Côté Vaillant

### **Approval of Agenda**

Yes.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Yes.

### **1. New Business**

#### 1.1. Turning the Tables speaker (Kayla)

- The launch event was scheduled for April 1st, and the committee wanted us to find a speaker for that. DSA was going to do everything, we were just going to help with

promoting the event. The event will probably be cancelled, or minimized to online only. Shannon has already sent them an email saying we were all busy right now, and that was reiterated by Kayla.

## 1.2. Constitution vote (Eric)

- Eric took the feedback he received from the other executive members and made changes in the document. As a group, we should go over the different elements and discuss the proposed changes.
- The name of the constitution is different in English and French; we should vote on a name to be consistent in both languages. Kayla asked what the legal name of the Association is. Shannon explained that its difficult to change since there are 4 different names on different things.
- Document translation should be given out as needed and shouldn't be put in a specific role in the constitution.
- The following are the changes made to the constitution and the votes for each change.
- Add: translation is everyone's responsibility, should be divided to who can translate
  - Vote: Yes - Unanimous
- 4.1: Vote - Unanimous
- He/she/they? for pronouns:
  - What's easier in French? Masculine; we can add (e) after to make it feminine too
  - In French, we will add a line saying that the masculine will be used in a neutral form
- 4.1.1: Unanimous
- 4.1.2: Unanimous
- 4.1.3: Merged academic and professional development reps
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.4: Shannon Should we give a timeline for when minutes should be done and agenda comes out? Add: in a timely manner decided by the executive committee
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.5: Unanimous
- 4.1.6: Remove that they will support the academic and professional reps; "They will provide advice..."
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.7: Unanimous
- 4.1.8: a new role for the English version of the Constitution; added language that this person had to be an international student or have experience being an international student in Canada
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.9: Unanimous
- Treasurer removal: Unanimous
- Professional Development and Alumni Relations Rep removal: Unanimous
- 4.1.10: adding "and social needs"
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.11: Unanimous
- 4.1.12: Unanimous
- 4.1.13: add that they can be a Masters or PhD student

- Vote: Unanimous
- 4.1.14: add that they can be a Masters or PhD student
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.2: Unanimous
- 4.3: Unanimous
- 4.4: Unanimous
- 4.5: add “and responsibility” and “annual”
  - Unanimous
- 4.6: Unanimous
- 4.7: created a new article to outline how resignations would be dealt with in the future
  - Vote: Unanimous
- 4.8: created a new article to outline what would happen for interim members
  - Unanimous
- Should we include an article about interim positions? If someone leaves on field work, have to resign and hold an election
- Vote to accept the new constitution:
  - Bryn: Yes
  - Kayla: Yes
  - India: Yes
  - Lukas: Yes
  - Rebecca: Yes
  - Jen: Yes
  - Eric: Yes
  - Abby: Yes
  - Janet: Yes
  - Remy: Yes
  - Kursheed
  - Gabrielle: Yes

### 1.3. COVID 19 and support to students (Eric)

- Gabby asked if we should push for social distancing and relay some messaging from the school or government. Eric suggested sharing a list of resources and things to do while in quarantine. Abby suggested sharing something fun and we don't need to share official stuff since we get it from everywhere else.
- Bryn reminded the executives that we have to think further about the elections because they will have to be done online now. Kayla mentioned that we have to figure out how to do it online, but we don't have how outlined in the constitution. Eric explained that he has done elections online before, and Google Forms would be the best way to do it. Communications will be important in promoting how we're going to go about this. We would have to submit nominations via internet as well.
- Shannon confirmed that we would share a list of Netflix top picks and mental health resources with people. We will create a poll in the Facebook chat of things to do and other suggestions to share.

- Janet suggested that we should only post an acknowledgment of what is going on now since we are not experts in this situation. We should post something from people who are more knowledgeable.
- We could give them resources for who to talk to about academic progression and how the situation may affect these things.
- The message can be something along the lines of “As peers, we can support you/here to talk”.