



York Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021

Date: Wednesday 28th August 2021

Time: 6 pm

Location: Zoom

In attendance:

Alfath Bagus Panuntun El Nur Indonesia (Student)
Barry McGuire (Student)
Cameron Clark (Student)
Clara Garcia (VP Wellbeing)
Daniel Figg (Student)
Darryl Butcher (GSA CEO)
Ekansh Kapoor (Student)
Emily Thompson (Student)
Georgia Lown (Student)
Hazel Lawrence (GSA Staff)
Helen Coombs (GSA Staff)
Jasmine Kiaying Tan (Student)
JiaYing Tan (Student)
Juan Ramon Candia (Student)
Katherine Smith (Student)
Keoni D'Souza (Student)
Lauren Atha (Student)
Natalie Wong (Student)
Sarah Lapacz (Student)
Sherry Iqbal (GSA Staff)
Simon Sandison (GSA Trustee)
Song Yaling (Student)
Thomas Armstrong (Student)
Wei Song (Student)
Xiang Yang (Student)
Yiwen Tian (Student)

Minutes

Chair: Purnur Altay, GSA President

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by members.

2. Ratification of the Previous AGM Minutes

Member, W Song, raised a point of correction over the previous minutes; the formatting of attendees names and point 4 paragraph 3 relating to the financial transparency. Question was raised as to whether the GSA has any involvement in the allocation of Student Support Fund (SSF) funding. The GSA President confirmed that the GSA had no role or authority in the allocation of ESSF funding.

Member W Song asked how much money had been allocated under the ESSF and for further details on the funding allocation process. The Wellbeing Officer clarified the process and outlined the desire to create a specific committee for support funding allocation.

C Garcia proposed the ratification of the previous minutes, followed by Danny Figg seconding this. Members unanimously approved the minutes from the 2021 GSA AGM.

3. Receiving of the Trustees Report

P Altay provided a summation of the Trustees report to members. No questions were raised regarding the Trustees Report.

Members approved the Trustees Report for the 2020/21 academic year.

4. Receiving of the Financial Statements

The CEO clarified that the GSA had a financial surplus for the 2020/21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the ability of the GSA to host in-person events. Focus for the year was instead on online events, which have lower operating costs.

The CEO outlined that the financial surplus would be reserved for the creation of a postgraduate social space, in-line with the previous year's obligations which were unable to go ahead due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members raised the concern that the university may reduce contributions to the GSA, or claim back some funding, as a result of the growing reserve funds. The CEO explained that a financial plan has been presented to the university to recirculate those surplus funds which should satisfy the university.

Members questioned the low pension contributions in the financial report. The CEO clarified that the team is small and many of the staff are part-time. Members were satisfied and assured that the GSA is compliant with all pension regulations. The CEO then confirmed that the GSA is conscious and committed to correctly allocating pension funds.

Members approved the Financial Report for the 2020/21 academic year.

5. Appointment of the Auditors

The GSA President confirmed that Karen Wood ACMA CGMA, Chartered Management Accountant of Outsource Accounting Services & Independent Examinations has been working as an independent auditor for the GSA and called for their confirmation as auditor for year ending July 31, 2020..

Members approved the Auditors.

6. Approving the List of Affiliations of the GSA

The GSA President explained that there were no affiliations for members to approve.

7. Open Questions to the Trustees

Members asked whether, given the GSA's rapid growth, there is a development plan in place for the future. The GSA President, P Altay explained that a strategic plan is currently being formulated, and that the GSA is committed to providing increased services to students as the organisation grows. The CEO affirmed this commitment and encouraged student engagement in the consultation period..

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

Members asked if any by-laws were rewritten and required approval. The CEO clarified that bylaws are continuously reviewed and approved through the appropriate channel.