

Minutes (October 9)

Attendance: Raj Banerjee, Craig Jacobs, Cal Smith, Katrina Vogan, Melanie Fishbane, Alia Wazzan

Land Acknowledgement - Raj

Introductions:

Introduced one another; Welcomed new Reps to the team; Preliminary queries regarding roles answered and clarified

Approval of the last meeting Minutes:

Salient points highlighted to ensure there are follow ups

However, it is clarified that minutes of the General Meeting during Congress '24 to be approved by the General Meeting next year

Matters arising from the Minutes:

The main concern and persistent issue has been communication

Melanie: as Reps, it is difficult to be in a position of not receiving timely responses from the Federation, ACCUTE, and/or GSC, especially since Reps do field questions and concerns from all grad students

Raj: Apologies for the fiasco during Congress '24. Under the circumstances arising from McGill and the Federation's transitions, it was difficult to keep a tab on everything. Such miscommunication will not continue further because the GSC exists precisely to mitigate miscommunication and to avoid the development of such issues during strenuous times. Even when/if concrete answers are not feasible, we will be in touch just to let reps know that we are working on a particular issue.

Congress and Conference 2025:

CFPs (both papers and panels) will go out shortly

Returning members should let GSC President or ACCUTE coordinator know of their interest

More updates will be available through *The Angle* (ACCUTE newsletter) fall issue
George Brown College rooms and spaces being booked during October

ACCUTE Online Events:

Webinar series and mini-interviews are to begin; keep an eye out for emails from info.accute

Contacts:

Raj: the GSC contact list is being updated in a meticulous manner

Craig: we are reaching out to each department and individual Reps / former Reps to ensure that we have all the current and updated contact information

Other Business / Discussion:

Cal Smith: when to expect *The Angle*; Raj: Members do receive the emails (Grad Reps,

whose memberships are no longer active need to renew asap)

Alia: Difficult for International Grad Students to pay the lumpsum that adds up quickly (conference fee, membership, congress fee); Raj: that is indeed a major concern and cause of anxiety for international students but not exclusively (all Grad students face this challenge). While more funding beyond grad student bursaries and reimbursements is not immediately possible, the GSC will compile a repository before the upcoming Congress to ensure that all relevant information pertaining to funding (through respective departments, ACCUTE, Federation, etc.) can be accessed by grad reps – and thereby – by grad student members.

Call to Adjourn:

Passes unanimously.