

Latest Campus Buzz: 'GUSA' is Officially Back Together

By: Jonathan Marshall on October 6, 2015



After many years, aggravating legal sessions, and long nights on the phone with Carleton administration trying to calm them down, it appears the end of this multi-term travesty has come to a close.

And it's the cutest thing ever.

That's correct folks, local celebrity couple Carleton Undergraduate Student Association and Graduate Student Association have announced that they are officially back together. After the emotional split up in October 2013, the two parties have come to a mutual reconciliation.

Back in 2012, the CUSA decided to leave the joint healthcare plan that both groups had adhered to for several years, symbolically causing a rift between the two. The GSA was understandably shocked and kept trying to contact Alexander Golovko, former CUSA president in an attempt to 'just talk', but when he wouldn't return their calls, they took some rash actions.

Kelly Black was president of the GSA at this point, and remembers the conversations following their Oct. 2012 suit clearly. "I remember when we sued each other, the first time. Saying, 'This is it, I've had enough, cause like, we hadn't talked to each other in a month, when they said that they needed space [from the joint healthcare plan], what?'"

At the start of the following winter term, January 2013, Golovko filed CUSA's own suit over unpaid student fees from the GSA, which were withheld due to substandard service, claimed

Black. Legal counsel was involved at this point and it became difficult for the two groups to even walk past each other in the halls.

Golovko recalls shooting down negotiations at the time saying, “[The GSA can] go talk to your counsel, talk to my counsel, talk to me. But we, are never ever, ever, getting back together.” Clearly an emotional time for all.

Last October, previous president of CUSA (Folarin Odunayo) offered two settlements to Christina Muehlberger, then-president of the GSA in the form of a love song using the tune from a Backstreet Boys hit. “I Want My Mon-ey” was well-received by the indie rock scene, however it did not sway the GSA.

Muehlberger replied that she knew that to settle was right, but after their history, it was difficult ‘you know?’. In a press conference she made her position clear, “[Odunayo] now we got problems, and I don’t think we can solve them. You made a really big cut, and [CUSA] now we got bad credit, hey!” (It is believed the cut refers to the healthcare split).

While it has been quite the rollercoaster, students can now look forward to a bright future between the campus’ new lovebirds. Even last week, GSA and CUSA presidents Michael Bueckert and Fahd Alhattab were seen holding hands by the canal, organizing events late into the evening, and sharing a Pumpkin Spice Latte, with Bueckert wiping the froth of of Alhattab’s nose and giggling together.

Truly a marked change: will it be forever? Let’s hope so. The combined legal fees to settle this out of court cost students over \$10, 000, and come on, how often will this writer be able to use ‘GUSA’ throughout the year. We can only hope for the best.