Student's Council

August 26th, 2018 – SPECIAL MEETING
QNC 2502

Chair	Seneca Velling
Secretary	Christopher Kocko
Attendees	Kocko, Christopher; Chen, Junru; Richardson, Savannah: Walden, Kiana (President, Science Society): Baik, Vincent; German-Doucet, Jaque; Cheng, Linyi; Mbandi, Joshua; Gerrits, Matthew; Hou, Yu Chen; Akhtar, Bilal; Altaf, Subhan (Muhammad); MacMillan, Kurt; Eyre, Alexander; Cortes, Amandreo; Small, Jason; Easton, Benjamin; Tran, Tomson; P'ng, Jason (President, Mathematics Society); Saleh, Rana; Wu, Richard; Campbell, Oliver; Arnold, Katie (President, Engineering Society B); Shimoda, Mariko (President, Engineering Society A); Candler, Ethan; Mohan, Andrew; Velling, Seneca; Drygala, Phillip (President, AHSUM Society)
Expected Absences	O'Sullivan, Elizabeth

Order of Business

In an effort to be clearer around the process being followed for the meeting, this agenda was constructed with notes from previous and current officers of Council.

Preliminaries

Adding items to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote, although new items of business can still be raised without needing that vote once the entire agenda is complete.

Call to Order

Be it resolved that the Speaker calls the Special Meeting convened by the President to order at 12:30 PM.

Appointment of Speaker Pro Tempore

Be it resolved that the Council appoints President Richard Wu as *Speaker Pro Tempore* at the recommendation of the Deputy Speaker *Seneca Velling*, for the duration of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that Council approve the agenda of **August 26th, 2018** Special Meeting as presented.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Pursuant to Federation Policy 50, *Indigenous Engagement and Inclusivity*, the Federation of Students' Council acknowledges:

> The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

General Orders

A general order is an item of business that is ordered to be taken up at a meeting. Time limits to discussions indicate the point at which the Speaker will end the discussion unless Council directs otherwise.

Approval of 2019 General Election Dates

Be it resolved that Council approves the 2019 General Election dates (see attached memorandum). — Richard Wu

Approval of 2019 General Election Dates

Be it resolved that Council approves **Angela Balasubramian** as Elections and Referenda Officer.

Be it further resolved that Council approves the language of the referendum question (see attached memorandum). — Matthew Gerrits & Richard Wu

New Business

Any Councillor may raise any item of concern during new business. Generally, long discussions without a specific motion before Council should be avoided, and are technically against the rules of procedure. If a Councillor has any questions about the procedure, form, or content, they should ask the Speaker.

Adjournment

Adjournment scheduled at 2:30 PM.

Acknowledgments

Some recognition of effort is required for the past and current officers of Student's Council, as their hard work has led to vast improvements to the efficiency and efficacy of this body, including in the improvements made in the construction of this agenda and the attached minutes. The following members in particular have devoted an extraordinary amount of time and effort to the cause of amplifying discussions on student issues and improving the clarity of debate:

- Alexander Wray (Speaker, 2016-2017), for his efforts to run concise and productive meetings.
- Andrew Clubine (Speaker, 2014-2015), for his efforts in introducing transparent procedure to the operations of Council.
- Sacha Forstner (Secretary, 2016-2017), for his efforts in bringing the operations and decisions of Council to the at-large student population.

ATTACHMENTS

- ➢ President's Call for a Special Meeting
- ➢ 2019 General Election Dates Memorandum
- ➢ Fall Reading Week Break Referendum Information

Call for Meeting: **Special Meeting of Council to Approve Election Dates, Approve Elections & Referendum Officer, and to Receive Referendum Question**

Date sent: 13:15; Wednesday, August 22th, 2018

From: Richard Wu, President

To: Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Speaker
Seneca Velling, Secretary

CC: Students' Council

I am calling a special meeting to be held in QNC 2502 and to begin at 12:30 PM for discussion of the following items of business:

Be it resolved that Council approves the 2019 General Election dates. The previously drafted memorandum will be distributed as an attachment. (*Richard Wu*)

Be it resolved that Council approves Angela Balasubramian as Elections and Referenda Officer

Be it resolved that Council approves the language of the referendum question. (*Matthew Gerrits, Richard Wu*)

FOR ELECTRONIC VOTE: Approval of 2019 Federation of Students General Election Dates

To: Students' Council
From: Richard Wu, President, Federation of Students
cc: Marketing Specialist, Advocacy; Research & Policy Officer; General Manager
Date: Thursday, August 9th, 2018

Per Article Eleven, Section 1(1) of the Bylaws of the Federation of Students, I would like to propose the following key dates for the 2019 General Election:

Nomination Period	Friday, October 26th, 2018 to Monday, January 21st 2019 (16:00)	**88 days**
All-candidates Meeting	Monday, January 21st, 2019 (18:00)	
Interim Period	Monday, January 21st, 2019 (16:00) to Sunday, January 27th, 2019	**7 days**
Campaign Period	Monday, January 28th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019*	**11 days**
Voting Period	Tuesday, February 5th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019*	
Announcement of Results	Friday, February 8th, 2019	

* Specific times for when the Campaign and Voting Periods officially open and close will be determined at a later date.

The timeline presented above was chosen based on data and feedback from previous General Elections and in consultation with the Research & Policy Officer, Advocacy Marketing Specialist, and with the members of the Executive Board.

For historical context, the following dates were used for the *2018 General Election*:

		<u>Change</u>
Nomination Period	Monday, November 20th, 2017 at 10:00 to Monday, January 15th, 2018 at 16:00	**57 days** **(+31 days)**

Nomination Period extended to allow more time for students to engage with elections to hopefully allow an increase in the number of nominations and overall voter turnout

All candidates' Meeting	Monday, January 15th, 2018 at **17:30**	From **17:30** to **18:00**

1. *To allow more time for RPO to determine official nominees*
2. *To allow the President to be in attendance - Board of Governors meeting scheduled for the same day*

Interim Period	Monday, January 15th, 2018 at 16:00 to Sunday, January 21st, 2018 at 22:00	**7 days**
Campaign Period	Sunday, January 21st, 2018 at 22:00 to Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 22:00	**18 days** **(-7 days)**

Per Article 11, Section 1(1) of the bylaws, elections are to take place in the Winter academic term before Reading Week of each year. To ensure bylaw compliance and to maximize undergraduate engagement by avoiding periods of academic evaluation, it is proposed that the campaign period be shortened.

Voting Period	Monday, February 5th, 2018 at 10:00 to Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 22:00	From **M-W** to **Tu-Th** voting period

A midweek voting period is proposed to allow candidates to regroup and campaign on a Monday after the weekend. Midweek voting period was furthermore preferred over a W-F voting period to allow Friday to be the day when results are announced.

At your earliest convenience, please consider the proposed timeline and accordingly submit an electronic vote between **Saturday, August 18th, 2018 at 00:00** and **Sunday, August 19th, 2018 at 17:00**.

The motion to be voted on is as follows:

> ***Be it resolved that*** *Students' Council approve the following key dates of the 2019 Federation of Students General Election:*
>
> I.   *Nomination Period*
> > *Friday, October 26th, 2018 to*
> > *Monday, January 21st, 2019 at 16:00*
>
> II.   *All-candidates Meeting*
> > *Monday, January 21st, 2019 at 18:00*
>
> III.   *Interim Period*
> > *Monday, January 21st, 2019 at 16:00 to*
> > *Sunday, January 27th, 2019*
>
> IV.   *Campaign Period*
> > *Monday, January 28th, 2019 to*
> > *Thursday, February 7th, 2019*
>
> V.   *Voting Period*
> > *Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 to*
> > *Thursday, February 7th, 2019*
>
> VI.   *Announcement of Results*
> > *Friday, February 8th, 2019*

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at pres@feds.ca or visit me during my office hours.

Landing page:

Background: Following advocacy by the Federation of Students, in spring 2014 the Vice-President, Academic and Provost set up a task force to examine the possibility of instituting a Fall Break at the University of Waterloo.

The result was a three-year pilot project. UWaterloo had its first Fall Break in 2016, and this year (October 2018) will be the final year of the pilot.

"Fall Break" is two study days held in October following Thanksgiving Monday. No classes are scheduled during these days.

The university states the purpose of a fall break: "Students are encouraged to use these days to prepare for upcoming midterms, catch up on readings and assignments, or take time for personal wellness (e.g. catch up on sleep, exercise) to prepare for the rest of the term." Campus remains open during the break and student services hold regular office hours.

Referendum: As the pilot nears its end, Feds is conducting a referendum to ask students what you would like to see happen with Fall Break. Feds President Richard Wu will advocate to the University Senate to implement the referendum outcome. The Senate's decision will be implemented beginning fall 2019.

For the referendum, you will be asked to rank the following three options:

1. Implement full-week Fall Break pilot
- Orientation and classes would begin one day sooner in fall term in most years*, with classes typically beginning on the Wednesday following Labour Day.
- An exam day would be added on a Sunday during the fall term exam period (exams are not currently scheduled on Sundays).
- There would continue to be two non-weekend study days between the end of classes and the beginning of exams in most years*.
- The pilot would last for three years, beginning in the fall 2019 term.
- The University would commit to further investigating ways to change academic practices to better accommodate the Fall Break.

*Due to the layout of some calendar years, this is not guaranteed, more details on the format of Fall Breaks can be reviewed here: _____

2. Continue with current Fall Break structure
- Classes will continue to begin on the Thursday following Labour Day.
- There will continue to be no classes scheduled on the Tuesday and Wednesday following Thanksgiving.
- The University would commit to further investigating ways to change academic practices to better accommodate the Fall Break.

3. Eliminate Fall Break
- The Tuesday and Wednesday following Thanksgiving would return to class days.

- As a statuary holiday, the Monday after Thanksgiving would remain a day off from classes.
- Fall term classes will begin the second Monday of September following Orientation Week. There will no longer be class days during the first week of September.

Regardless of option, there will be continue to be 60 days of class instruction each term.

Voting page:

Question Wording

<u>Referendum:</u>

As the pilot nears its end, Feds is conducting a referendum to ask students what you would like to see happen with Fall Break. Feds President Richard Wu will advocate to the University Senate to implement the referendum outcome. The Senate's decision will be implemented beginning fall 2019.

Please rank some or all of the following three (3) options, with 1 being the option you most prefer, or decline your ballot:

◊ Implement full-week Fall Break pilot
◊ Continue with current Fall Break structure
◊ Eliminate Fall Break
◊ OR Decline