

Federation of Students' Council Minutes

QNC 2502, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: RICHARD WU *Secretary:* SENECA VELLING

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

- Altaf, Subhan (Muhammad)
- Akhtar, Bilal
- Easton, Benjamin*
- German-Doucet, Jacque*
- Cadler, Ethan*
- Codini, Jack*
- Chen, Junru*
- Hou, Yu Chen*
- Mbandi, Joshua
- Baik, Vincent
- Cheng, Linyi*
- Mohan, Andrew
- Hua, Deon*
- P'ng, Jason (President, Mathematics Society)
- Small, Jason
- Gerrits, Matthew
- Arnold, Katie (President, Engineering Society B)
- Umuhoza, Elisa*
- Velling, Seneca*
- Wu, Richard
- Kocko, Christopher*

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Shimoda, Mariko (President, Engineering Society A)
- Richardson, Savannah*
- MacMillan, Kurt*
- Tran, Tomson* (AHSUM President)
- President of ASU
- Eyre, Alexander
- Hak, Daniell (President, Environment Student Society)
- Sirwani, Rahul
- Saleh, Rana
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth*

- Walden, Kiana (President, Science Society)
- Cortes, Amandreo*
- Campbell, Oliver*

* excused

The following gallery was present:

- Town, Megan
- Duqoum, Awn

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Seneca Velling noted that the Special Meeting had been called by the President and was in congruence with procedural requirements.

A quorum being present for the conduct of business, Richard Wu called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM.

ABSENTEEISM AND COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Prior to approval of the agenda, the Speaker presumed a privileged motion to those members of Council eligible for removal of at the next regular meeting. Secretary Seneca Velling reminded the assembly that there may only be two (2) unexcused or four (4) total absences before any member of the assembly may move for ejection proceedings.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold inquired as to how this practice applies to *ex officio* members, such as Society presidents and Feds executives. Secretary Seneca Velling clarified that while the requirements would be upheld — that being that members of the assembly may be removed from the station on Council — this would not affect their societies, commissions, or other charges save in some circumstances. The Secretary emphasized that participation in Council was a mandatory requirement for all members (voting and nonvoting) unless otherwise offered in procedure, however the penalty for such action can only be issues for what Council has charge of (*viz.* Councillors who are *ex officio* would be ejected from chambers and unwelcome at Council). The Secretary also noted that ejection for Society Presidents who turn over is tied to the individual, not the institution; therefore the Society was not ejected rather the abstentee representative.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold also inquired as to whether both Engineering A & B Societies were required to be in attendance when only one could vote. Secretary Seneca Velling informed her this was the expected practice.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi inquired if this protocol prohibited re-running of these persons and potentially re-election. The Secretary explained that the electorate (constituency of the Federation) was eligible to re-elect any member they wished within the limits of the elections procedure, and so after ejection they could always be re-elected if their constituency wished it.

APPOINTMENT OF SPEAKER *Pro Tem*.

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.

Assumed as privileged by the chair.

Motion carries unanimously.

The Deputy Speaker relinquished the chair to President Richard Wu.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Be it resolved that Council approve the [August 26th, 2018 Special Meeting agenda](#), as presented.

With no opposition, the President adopted the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTION DATES

Be it resolved that Council approves the 2019 General Election dates.

President Richard Wu and Vice President Matthew Gerrits.

Secretary's Note: original memorandum for 2019 General Election dates from President Richard Wu can be found [here](#).

Councillor Joshua Mbandi sought reasoning for the nomination period is being increased by thirty-one (31) days while the campaign period was reduced by seven (7) days. The president re-iterated the question for the callers on the conference line. President Richard Wu spoke to numerous factors which constrained the executives and marketing. In particular, the President called attention to the bylaws which provide that no election days cannot occur during the reading week or meetings of Council. President Richard Wu noted that from a marketing and promotion standpoint, the second week of classes is always drowning out nominations because of the buzz of the start of the term. The Campaign period was shorted because based on prior data there was not substantial activity

past the first week. The executive decided to have the election occur at the point of highest interest and engagement. The president spoke that this model had been used at other student unions.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi disagreed with the notion of expanding the nomination period at the cost of campaigning period. He emphasized that increasing interest in nomination — more people running — might require more nomination and participation. Shortening the campaigning period and increasing nominations are counter to one another.

Secretary Seneca Velling expressed support for Councillor Joshua Mbandi's point but also thanked Richard for extending the nomination period to generate more interest and opportunity for students on co-op to participate. He asked for same campaigning period but keeping a longer nomination period as a balance of the two ideas.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi acknowledged that striking a reasonable balance would be difficult but again he believed that the compromise of shortened campaign time for additional nomination period risks having additional candidates from increased engagement. He would rather increase the campaign period in length as well.

President Richard Wu noted his respect for this point and asked for other Councillors' thoughts.

Councillor Benjamin Easton requested a final motion to amend to avoid continued circular debate.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi put forward an amendment that would increase the nomination period by fifteen (15) days, but then have the campaign period extended by shaving time off the nomination. The Councillor emphasized that this allows for more campaigning period for the additional candidates and that if the organization expected more involvement from a longer campaign period, then it must provide candidates time to talk about their platforms and goals.

Be it resolved that the nomination period be shortened from the proposed 31 day increase to a 15 day increase resulting in a nomination period of 73 days;

Be it further resolved that the all-candidates meeting be pushed back by 2 weeks but keeps duration the same;

Be it further resolved that the interim period be moved back by 2 weeks but keep duration the same

Be it further resolved that the campaigning period be increased by +13 days from President's proposal (+6 days from last Year's campaigning period);

Be it further resolved that the voting period starts and ends on the same dates as the original motion; and

Be it further resolved that the announcement of results happens on the same day as in the original motion.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi and Councillor Bilal Akhtar.

Secretary's Note: the table below highlights the proposed changes for each element of the election:

Nomination Period	Friday, October 26th, 2018 to Monday, January 14th 2019 (16:00) (+7 days from President's proposal) (+16 from last year)
All-Candidates Meeting	Monday, January 14st, 2019 (18:00) (moved 1 weeks earlier)
Interim Period	Monday, January 14th, 2019 (16:00) to Sunday, January 20th, 2019 (moved 1 weeks earlier)
Campaigning Period	Monday, January 21th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019* (+6 days from President's proposal)(+0 from last Year's election time)
Voting Period	Tuesday, February 5th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019* (same date as in the proposal)
Announcement of Results	Friday, February 8th, 2019 (same date as in the proposal)

Councillor Seneca Velling requested the campaign period be set for the same period as last year in length rather than the requested 24 days.

Councillor Benjamin Easton raised concerns with returning co-op students not having sufficient time to nominate or prepare to run.

Point of Clarification: Councillor Jason Small notified the assembly that the First day of classes for the Winter term was January 7th, 2019.

Councillor Seneca Velling asked for information on how many students electronically sign nominations rather than in writing, as he believed this could influence the conversation regarding handicapping those students who are not on campus in the Fall term.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi recalled that when he ran for Council, even while on term, a gross majority of his nominations were done electronically.

Point of Privilege: Councillor Seneca Velling requested sharing the screen via the teleconferencing tool for Councillor's calling in to see the information in the motion and proposed amendments.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar inquired as to how marketing for the nomination period would be affected, when would information be posted. Vice President Matthew Gerrits said the original dates were set in consultation with marketing, but this can likely be shifted with marketing department. The Vice President, Education also spoke to there being some issues with promotional overlap with municipal elections and the general meeting.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar said that given the importance of the later part of the nomination period for co-op and students not on campus in the fall as well as competing demands in the fall, the nomination period is important in early January. Councillor Joshua Mbandi responded that he was attempting to find a balance between priorities. He understands the concerns raised by Councillor Bilal Akhtar, but if a greater number of students seek to nominate (in theory) then a shorter campaign period would disable time to filter out content. Councillor Joshua Mbandi also noted that students do not plan to run for Feds Executive within the first week, they plan it early in advance.

Point of Information: Secretary Seneca Velling recalled that many councillors tend to run on much shorter notice than the executive; so while executive plan to run early

in advance other positions such as Senate and Council still need nomination time.

Secretary's Note: Connection was lost for teleconferencing, the President recessed the meeting temporarily to allow contact to be restored.

Be it resolved that Council recesses until the connection is re-established for telephonic and electronic meeting.

Assumed as privileged by the chair.

Recessed at 1:09 PM.

With connection being re-established and a quorum still being present, the President called the meeting was called back to Order.

Be it resolved that Council reconvenes.

Assumed as privileged by the chair.

Reconvened at 1:31 PM.

Councillor Seneca Velling re-iterated his point on nomination for non-executive positions and UW Senate positions. Councillor Joshua Mbandi expressed understanding this point, but emphasized that making the campaign period shorter increases chaos (more people running but less time to get out the message). The Councillor asked for reasonable balance. Short campaign periods disadvantages both the candidates and the students for understanding the complexity and extent of arguments made.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar agrees on the duration of the campaign period, however he stated that Councillor Joshua Mbandi's points failed to address the period of time for Winter term for nomination. This would be the most productive period for nominations for non-executive nominations would be in the last few weeks in Winter term. Councillor Bilal Akhtar also spoke that currently paper nominations are required for Senate positions.

Councillor Jason Small inquired about the possibility for a shorter interim period. Secretary Seneca Velling noted that this period allowed for development of Campaigns and websites and materials for campaigning, however the Secretary offered that the All-Candidates Meeting could be put at the end of the interim period, allowing some nominations in the interim period.

Councillor Seneca Velling suggested increasing the campaigning period to the amount of time last year and allowing more days in the nomination period during Winter term.

Be it resolved that the amendment is stricken and replaced with:

Councillor Deon Hua and Councillor Jason Small.

Secretary Seneca Velling asked if this amendment adequately addressed Councillor Bilal Akhtar's concerns regarding early time on campus to get nominations.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar voiced support for the amendment.

Motion is considered friendly and adopted by Councillor Joshua Mbandi.

The Speakers list being exhausted, the amendment in question moves to the floor.

Motion carries as amended, twenty-two (22) in favour, two (2) in opposition, with no abstentions.

Nomination Period	Friday, October 26th, 2018 to Thursday, January 17th 2019 (16:00)
All-Candidates Meeting	Thursday, January 17th, 2019 (18:00)
Interim Period	Thursday, January 17th, 2019 (16:00) to Sunday, January 20th, 2019
Campaigning Period	Monday, January 21th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019*
Voting Period	Tuesday, February 5th, 2019* to Thursday, February 7th, 2019*
Announcement of Results	Friday, February 8th, 2019

Councillor Seneca Velling proposed an amendment, based on the forgoing discussion to request the secretariate allow online nomination for UW Senate via vote.feds.ca with immediate effect:

Be it resolved that the President, Speaker, and Secretary write a letter on behalf of Federation to the Secretariat and President of the University requesting allowance of online nomination for the undergraduate Senate seats on vote.feds.ca.

Councillor Seneca Velling and EngSoc B President Katie Arnold.

Vice President, Education questioned the need for Speaker and Secretary to be included in such an action. The parliamentarian spoke to precedent with other Council letters and to the role of Secretary and Speaker to be signatory to or author of all communication on behalf of Council.

Motion is considered friendly and adopted by President Richard Wu.

Councillor Jason Small mentioned that the Council cannot hold meetings during the election period. Secretary Seneca Velling noted that Speaker Elizabeth O'Sullivan would put out a poll for January to find available dates that did not conflict with this period.

The main motion moved to the floor.

Motion carries unanimously, as amended.

APPOINTMENT OF REFERENDUM OFFICIALS

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

President Richard Wu and Councillor Bilal Akhtar.

Councillor Jason Small spoke to his resignation from ERAC due to his inability to stay neutral on the matter of the Fall Reading Week referendum. He moved to amend the main motion:

Be it further resolved that Council appoints _____ to the vacant seat on Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee.

Councillor Jason Small and Secretary Seneca Velling.

Nominations for ERAC:

- Councillor Jason Small nominates Vice President Matthew Gerrits. The nomination was withdrawn.
- Councillor Seneca Velling nominates Aisha Shibli. The nomination was withdrawn.
- EngSoc B President Katie Arnold nominates Jennifer Chen.

Without any other nominations, the role on Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee proceeds by acclamation.

The motion now reads:

Be it further resolved that Council appoints *Jennifer Chen* to the vacant seat on Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee.

Motion is considered friendly and adopted by President Richard Wu.

The motion now reads:

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

Be it further resolved that Council appoints *Jennifer Chen* to the vacant seat on Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee.

With debate exhausted on the main motion, it is called to a vote.

Motion carries with five abstentions. Secretary Seneca Velling and Councillor Joshua Mbandi noted in abstention.

FALL READING WEEK REFERENDUM

Council heard a motion for approval of the language of the Fall Reading Week referendum.

Be it resolved that Council approves the language of the referendum question.
Vice President Matthew Gerrits and President Richard Wu.

Secretary's Note: please find proposed language [here](#).

Secretary Seneca Velling noted grammatical error pertaining to the subject of the sentence: "...Feds is conducting a referendum to ask students what you would like to see implemented for Fall Break." The Secretary moved to strike the word "students".

Be it resolved that "students" is removed from the language of the question in the first sentence.

Secretary Seneca Velling and President Richard Wu.

Motion is considered friendly and adopted by Vice President Matthew Gerrits and President Richard Wu.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi asked what the information campaign for the referendum would look like. The Vice President, Education noted that Feds is doing its best to stay out of the actual referendum, and would leave it up to the referendum committees who promote their preferred outcomes.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar asked if Council could make changes to the landing page. President Richard Wu stated that the landing pages has been developed extensively already and he would prefer not.

Point of Information: the Secretary notified the assembly that Council could make approval of the language contingent upon changes to the landing page or other aspects of the referendum.

Be it resolved that Council amends the original option to read “Eliminate fall break and expand orientation to one week”.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar and Councillor Jason Small.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar spoke to the need to highlight positives of the options.

Secretary Seneca Velling inquired to the Speaker if the amendment was *out of order* on the grounds that it was beyond the scope of the question. President Richard Wu spoke to increasing the information in the landing page rather than the actual question.

Motion is ruled *Out of Order* by the chair.

Secretary Seneca Velling suggested Councillor Bilal Akhtar make approval of the referendum question contingent upon the landing page including text to the impact of each option on orientation to achieve the same end within the limits of procedure. Councillor Bilal Akhtar moves the same:

Be it resolved that amends the main motion to make approval of the referendum contingent upon the landing page including text to the impact of each option on orientation.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar and Secretary Seneca Velling.

Vice President Matthew Gerrits clarified this would specify orientation, and not orientation week.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold asked if orientation was within scope of the orientation or not and expressed belief that the two questions were coupled. The President stated this is about the Fall Reading Week, but it may indirectly affect orientation.

Councillor Benjamin Easton stated that for many students this will be about getting a break and not about orientation.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold stated that current students should not decide the fate of future students, as they have already been benefactors of orientation. EngSoc B President Katie Arnold yielded time to Member-at-Large Awn Duqoum, the Speaker approved the delegation of time. Member Duqoum spoke to the idea that this shorter Fall Reading Week affects orientation and was supposed to be a trail and there has been no presentation of data or discussion of the end of this pilot period.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi emphasized that all referenda will be only of the current student population and that this cannot de-legitimize the question.

Vice President Matthew Gerrits noted that the decision on the reading week would be made by the University Senate, and the University has no authority over orientation. Matt spoke that if no referendum was held then the decision would be made without much input from Feds or undergraduates on the Senate. Secretary Seneca Velling asked where the staff association and faculty association stood on this matter in the Senate. Vice President Matthew Gerrits spoke that the University is inclined to go to a full week. He stated that the staff and faculty associations do not have formal stances on the issue, but they have discussed what affects this will have on their members.

Councillor Jason Small agrees that a referendum must be the way this occurs because there's no clear other alternative.

Point of Order: Vice President Matthew Gerrits inquired what Councillor Bilal Akhtar's original motion was; the Secretary re-read the motion. The President requested debate be limited to the scope of the motion on the floor.

Councillor Joshua Mbandi spoke to the value of orientation for him personally and how additional time may not be better used or if it was even necessary.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold inquired that if this question is not explicitly about orientation week, then why was the assembly debating orientation? Councillor Joshua Mbandi interjected asking why this should matter when students on campus are the persons who will inevitably have to decide. EngSoc B President Katie Arnold asked to continue her point and spoke to the point that orientation as a full week as a separate question might be better suited. The Vice President, Education suggested voting against the motion and allowing the committees themselves to inform students on this matter. EngSoc B President Katie Arnold stated that as Vice President Matthew Gerrits had Council that the control of Orientation by Feds and control of Fall Reading Week by the UW Senate, then there was room for this to be addressed as two entirely separate questions. Vice President Matthew Gerrits asked what this would look like in Council's approval of the language. Specifically, the Vice President and President Richard Wu spoke to the difficulty in having both a full orientation week and a fall reading week. The questions are inherently different but also interrelated. Vice President Matthew Gerrits expressed his preference was to proceed with the referendum regarding academic programming (Fall Reading Week). This would allow an informed position on having a full week orientation because we would know the limits of where students stand on the Fall Reading Week.

Councillor Bilal Akhtar expressed concerns that asking the question only pertaining to academic programming to decide on Fall Reading Week would impact and bias the outcome of any decision pertaining to orientation. Neither question can come before the other as it would risk the integrity of the other question. Vice President Matthew Gerrits asked if this was better being explicit in the landing page or in the question.

Councillor Seneca Velling spoke to this problem being a zero-sum game given the limitations on scheduling in the Fall Term. Council should reasonably provide students as much information as possible to make an informed position, but simultaneously

Council cannot fault students for prioritizing their breaks to orientation if this is their wish. The Councillor noted this was the challenge with plebiscites and immediate democratic process.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold stated if we are allowing a question on Fall break then why not include discussion of the impact on orientation in the question itself. The councillor yielded time with the permission of the Speaker to Member Duquoum who asked why Council or a body of experts was not better placed to make this decision rather than punt the question to the students with so much information needed to inform debate. Councillor Benjamin Easton spoke to allowing students to have a say to students and for the members of the assembly to respect the democratic process and not bias the outcome in favour of Orientation.

Some Councillors noted there may be a solution which does not require treatment as a zero-sum game. The Secretary informed the assembly that, unless the University moves away from floating scheduling based on Labour Day which is highly unlikely, there was no scenario beyond those being discussed available to Council. Secretary Seneca Velling highlighted the complexity of negotiations with the faculty and staff associations and competing demands; authorizing Sunday exams and moving both orientation and start of term up a number of days was already a huge compromise by these groups and they would not likely bend further.

President Richard Wu urged the Council to remain on scope to the motion to amend the landing page. Secretary Seneca Velling highlighted the options available to the assembly:

- landing vs. splitting the question; and
- amending the question to include the orientation (requires overruling the chair).

The President of Engineering Society B continued to emphasize the that if the referendum was related to orientation that the options should be given equal weight in the question. Councillor Joshua Mbandi rebutted that there are multiple things affecting orientation and fall reading week, where these are indirectly linked, and not everything can be given its own question. EngSoc B President Katie Arnold disagreed stated that ignoring orientation is biasing the question. President Richard Wu concurred that the questions were linked intrinsically, but that as the University Senate was considering the motion to adopt a full Fall Reading Week in October, the question needed student input in short order.

Point of Information: Secretary Seneca Velling asked the Vice President, Education and President if there was a guarantee that the elimination of fall reading break would result in a full orientation week. Vice President Matthew Gerrits stated this was not the case, and it is unclear that the University would extent programming.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold stated that it was clear then a second question about orientation would be worthwhile given the debate and acknowledged linkage between the two items. She emphasized that evaluating the costs and rewards of the fall break is reasonable for current students, but only if the students truly know the cost of the extension were orientation this could affect the voting.

Point of Information: the President notified the assembly that the proposed exten-

sion of Fall reading break would not be at cost to orientation and so such treatment was unwarranted.

Councillor Benjamin Easton asked EngSoc B President Katie Arnold that if a question of upper year students to change the length of orientation occurred and they voted decisively to eliminate the orientation, would that outcome be respected? He claimed including orientation's potential gains in the question was biasing the outcome in favour of the elimination of fall reading. The Councillor expressed concern this privileged only the outcome the Engineering constituency wished and would amount to suppression of democratic decision making by the student body.

Debate being exhausted, the President moved to a vote on the amendment to make the approval of the question contingent upon the landing page including the impact on Orientation.

Motion carries with eight (8) in favour, one (1) opposed, and four (4) abstaining. Councillor Jason Small, Councillor Bilal Akhtar, and Secretary Seneca Velling, were noted in favour.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold suggested that adding a second question on Orientation and a third question as well to allow prioritization of Fall Break or Orientation would be reasonable.

Secretary Seneca Velling moved for an unmoderated caucus for Council to develop the language of such questions for consideration.

Be it resolved that Council moves into unmoderated session for fifteen (15) minutes for development of the language pertaining to such additional questions.

Secretary Seneca Velling and EngSoc B President Katie Arnold.

Assumed as privileged by President Richard Wu.

Secretary's Note: minutes were not taken during this session.

President Richard Wu called the assembly back to order in moderated session.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold moves the language as amended:

Be it resolved that Council amends the referendum language to include a second question stating:

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

- Shorten Orientation structure
- Continue with current 3-day Orientation structure
- Return Orientation to a full 5-day structure

OR Decline

Be it further resolved that Council amends the referendum language to include a third question stating:

Please rank these three in terms of your priority for advocacy on your behalf with 1 being the highest priority.

- (1-2-3) Orientation Week
- (1-2-3) Reading Week
- (1-2-3) No Opinion

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold and Secretary Seneca Velling.

President Richard Wu said he would be amenable to this if Council wished to include such a question, provided it did not limit his capacity to vote in October on the Senate question of extending fall reading week.

Vice President Matthew Gerrits stated that presumably if the results were implement a full week break and return to orientation 5 day structure and the preference was orientation week, then would President be advocating for removal of reading week.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold yielded time to Member-at-Large Megan Town with consent of the Speaker. Member Town stated that if what the Vice President, Education was to come to pass, the President would advocate for a full 5-day Orientation week, and if that were achieved he would then advocate for fall reading week.

Point of Information: Secretary Seneca Velling asked if this would unduly burden the President or prohibit him from voting on the matter if it came up on the floor of the Senate in October.

Vice President Matthew Gerrits expressed concerns with amendment, but knows it will likely pass. He is concerned that when he talks about advocacy to change the length of orientation that the timeline simply will not work out; the Fall Reading Week will land on the floor of the Senate in October; this will not give enough time for orientation committee to inform Richard how to actually support orientation in addition to reading week. The President must first consider Reading Week because of limitations in the Senate process. Putting both of these on the plates of students might set Feds up to fail on the matter. The matter is being called as a referendum because it is contentious. The Vice President, Education noted he is aware people have very strong attachments to Orientation, but the advantage of an referendum structure is that the committees can allow this to move forward. It states clearly what the options are and we should leave it up to the committees to advocate for each of their purposes.

Councillor Benjamin Easton echoed the Vice President, Education's comments. He noted that the amount of people in this chamber that have interest in protecting Orientation far exceed those in the student population. Having a question about fall reading week is completely legitimately independent of the Orientation and should be what is being discussed.

Councillor Seneca Velling expressed support for Vice President Matthew Gerrits's comments, but stated he intended to support the amendment provided that it did not hamper the President's capacity in the Senate to vote on the Fall Reading Week question. EngSoc B President Katie Arnold responded that the new third question

with ranked voting would help President Richard Wu if he were backed into a corner by two opposing opinions. Secretary Seneca Velling stated that either way, if Feds must support both items can only reasonably achieve one of them (given the UW Senate will likely be voting to support the Fall Reading Week in October), Feds could look "like the bad guy" and receive the brunt of student discontent for being quite literally incapable to achieving both ends. The Secretary stated he intended not to vote for the amendment unless he had assurances that the President would not be hampered and as long as it was made clear to students that these are advocacy goals and the University, not Feds, is responsible for what comes of them.

EngSoc B President Katie Arnold concurred with the Secretary. She emphasized that in this case two questions is a more accurate way to gauge student desire.

Secretary Seneca Velling expressed further concerns over the return of Orientation to a full 5-day structure when Council knew full well the University intended not to follow suit. He requested an amendment to change the language to reduce risk to the Federation in the event that the full 5-days couldn't be returned:

Be it resolved that Council amends the referendum language to include a second question stating:

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

- Shorten Orientation
- Continue with current 3-day Orientation
- Extend Orientation

OR Decline

Secretary Seneca Velling and EngSoc B President Katie Arnold.

Motion is considered friendly and adopted by EngSoc B President Katie Arnold.

The question moves to the floor for the final amendment, as amended:

Be it resolved that Council amends the referendum language to include a second question stating:

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

- Shorten Orientation
- Continue with current 3-day Orientation
- Extend Orientation

OR Decline

Be it further resolved that Council amends the referendum language to include a third question stating:

Please rank these three in terms of your priority for advocacy on your behalf with 1 being the highest priority.

- (1-2-3) Orientation Week

- (1-2-3) Reading Week
- (1-2-3) No Opinion

Roll call vote is ordered by the President with support of 1/5th of the body.

- In favour: EngSoc B President Katie Arnold, Councillor Bilal Akhtar, Councillor Vincent Baik, Councillor Junru Chen;
- In opposition: Vice President Matthew Gerrits, Councillor Benjamin Easton, Councillor Deon Hua;
- Abstentions: Councillor Jason Small, President Richard Wu, Secretary Seneca Velling, , Councillor Jacque German-Doucet, Councillor Yu Chen Hou, Councillor Yussef Ourchane, Councillor Linyi Cheng.

Motion carries

Debate returned to the main motion.

Secretary Seneca Velling requested an amendment he has spoken to before regarding providing liberties to the President to vote in October based on the outcome of the Fall Reading Week question.

Be it resolved that Council orders the President to act in accordance with results of the referendum, insofar as he is able, at the University Senate and he shall be explicitly authorized to vote in accordance with the result of the specific question on Fall Reading break.

Secretary Seneca Velling and Councillor Benjamin Easton.

Point of Information: Councillor Jason Small asked what the practical consequences of this motion would be. Secretary Seneca Velling explained that in the aforementioned cases where both questions are supported and the Orientation is given priority that the President shall still be able to exercise his duties in leading the undergraduate senate caucus based on the Fall Reading Week question specifically.

Debating being exhausted on the amendment, the President called for a vote.

Motion carries with a four (4) in favour, two (2) opposed, and five (5) abstaining.

The President called the question on the main motion, as amended.

Motion to Call the Question on the main motion as amended.

Motion carries

The vote proceeds on the main motion, as amended:

Motion carries with three (3) abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Jason Small inquires how members assembly into referendum committees. Vice President Matthew Gerrits explained that a referendum meeting will allow for this.

Secretary Seneca Velling requests that the President and Vice President, Education include in the landing page explicitly that Sunday exams would allow for religious exemption as is the case for Thursday through Saturday exams for the Muslim and Jewish community. After minor discussion, the Vice President, Education says this will be added to the landing page explicitly, as requested.

Secretary Seneca Velling moved to allow minor editorial, grammatical, and formatting changes to be made to the language that was developed on the floor for the new questions:

Be it resolved that Council authorizes the *executive board* to make minor editorial and formatting changes to the language of the additional questions provided no such changes violate the spirit of the questions.

Secretary Seneca Velling and Councillor Jason Small.

Motion carries with seven (7) votes in favour, zero (0) votes in opposition, and three (3) abstentions. President Richard Wu and Vice President Matthew Gerrits abstained from the consideration of the question.

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting.

Councillor Seneca Velling and Vice President Matthew Gerrits.

With no new business the meeting was called to adjourn at 4:31 PM.

Motion carries unanimously.

Secretary's Note: the next scheduled meeting of Council shall occur on 16 September 2018 at 12:30 PM in the SLC.