

# Federation of Students' Student's Council Minutes

SLC MPR, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

*Speaker:* COUNCILLOR O'SULLIVAN    *Secretary:* COUNCILLOR POTTER

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## ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

- Altaf, Subhan (Muhammad)
- Brieva, Antonio
- Easton, Benjamin\*
- Eyre, Alexander
- George, Rebecca
- Guillen, Jennifer
- Jowhari, Nickta\* (late)
- Knight, Jill
- Li, Tianqi
- Mohan, Andrew
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth
- Pazzano, Lauren
- Potter, Tristan
- Richard, Austin (Acting President for Science Society)
- Simpson, Abigail
- Small, Jason\*
- Velling, Seneca
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Schwan, Brian

\* remote

The following members were absent:

- Tran, Tomson
- Clubine, Andrew
- Clarke, Antonio
- Mistry, Harsh
- Terzian, Hagop
- Xu, Wenyu

\* excused

# PRELIMINARIES

## CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:43 PM.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Be it resolved that** Council approve the agenda as presented.

*Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.*

**Be it resolved that** Council move the last item on the agenda to be the first item in general orders.

*President Brieva and Vice President Knight.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

# CONSENT

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Be it resolved that** Council approve the minutes from January 14, 2017.

*Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Please see the attached written reports for the full reports from the Executive to Student's Council.

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President has been busy working on mental health issues, the President's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health, and accessibility on campus. They have been addressing concerns that Councillor Jowhari had on the possibility that the University of Waterloo had a mandatory leave policy for those diagnosed with mental illness; a policy that is currently implemented at the University of Toronto despite a ruling from the Human Rights Commission that the practice was unconstitutional. More broadly, the President has been investigating how the University and Feds can make education accessible and what is needed to accommodate people with physical and mental disabilities.

Regarding the President's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health, the committee took the recommendations they have been collecting and are constructing real advice. President is working on two sections, and expects the final report will go to the President's office on Friday.

Additionally, the General Meeting Taskforce has met twice so far. They had a planning meeting, and are now moving into working groups related to each issue and possible solution. The President is expecting that they will present preliminary findings at the next General Meeting.

The Policy and Procedures Committee is still investigating ways to expedite and improve the process of creating and implementing council policies. The policy and research officer has drafted a report on best practises from other unions.

Finally, the President reported that international students will have a predictable increases to tuition in the future. This year, it will be a 8.5% increase for incoming students, and then 5% per year after that for current students. A councillor asked if increases affected enrolment, and the President responded that they did not.

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

The Vice President, Operations and Finance had a meeting with MathNEWs and Math-Soc about two weeks ago, they came to a good resolution with the current Memorandum of Understanding. They Vice President, Operations and Finance also had an individual meeting with MathNEWs that was very positive. MathNEWs voiced concerns with financial oversight, and recognized their shared responsibility with Feds for cooperating with audits and ensuring liability coverage. Going to continue to meet each month for updates including steps to improve within Feds and MathNEWs. They are working together to open channels for feedback and more transparent communication.

The legal service survey will continue to be open for responses, and the Vice President, Operations and Finance asked Councillors to encourage their constituents to submit their opinion. They would like to receive between 500 and 800 responses. Councillors can expect a report for the next council meeting, including whether there is sufficient interest in the proposed service.

Feds also held a job fair for Feds paid opportunities. About 175 students visited with applications to apply for Feds part-time jobs. The event will continue to run at least twice a year, maybe three times. The Vice President, Operations and Finance will continue to make sure hiring practises meet student's needs.

Email issues continue to affect groups across campus. The university implemented a security feature that automatically marks forwarded emails as spam, without informing or consulting key stakeholders. This means that internal emails from the "@edu.uwaterloo.ca" and "@feds.ca add" email domains are blocked.

OHIP+ started in January, and is being marketed as "free prescriptions", but it only covers 4400 prescriptions that mainly target older populations. Since Feds Health and Dental Plan is an annual program, Feds had already bought in to another year due to a lack of information from the provincial government before the official release in January.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance will be investigating how the changes will affect the current Health and Dental plan, they will make adjustments to the structure of

the plan as necessary. Councillors should keep in mind that not all students are eligible for OHIP+, and that the current Feds insurance is much more relevant to students than the current implementation of OHIP+. Feds will also be working to communicate the opt-out system that is a part of the plan.

A councillor commented that the student care opt-out system is circuitous and it should be a two-click process where students can just log in and opt out. Councillors also expressed that the onus to provide proof of supplementary coverage is often difficult to overcome, although they recognized this is a necessary part of the process.

A councillor commented that they would like to see opinion editorials in Imprint from Fed's, MathNEWS', and MathSoc's perspective. The Vice President, Operations and Finance agreed to reach out to all parties with the suggestion, and expressed that they personally have no issues with the suggestion.

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL

The Vice President, Internal continues to meet with societies at the Committee of Presidents (COPs). Last meeting they passed a COPs procedure document to formalize what COPs is and how it should operate.

They have also finalized all the events for this term, including a collaborative society event that will consist of karaoke in the Bomber on March 2, 2018.

Societies also now have permission from IST to access the podiums in classrooms at no cost.

Finally, the society relations commissioner has compiled a goals document which is attached.

On the topic of wellness, "Bell Lets Talk" day happened, Feds partnered with athletics to spread awareness on campus with toques. They are also working with health and wellness on an event that will help raise awareness and reduce stigma associated with mental health through song, art, and other mediums.

The Vice President, Internal reported that Feds continues to unite campus on the crusade for wellness under one brand, to ensure that wellness initiatives have similar experiences and branding.

EOY has been rebranded in an effort to get more awareness and uptake.

Internal Administration Committee has met, the Vice President, Internal will distribute minutes for next meeting.

The Vice President, Internal continues to meet with service advocacy directors. Working on Policy 42 review with them and the President.

Provost's Advisory Committee on Equity (PACE) has held an open advisory panel. They are deciding how to decide the working groups, including which issues will be prioritized. They are also determining how voting will work on the committee, collecting feedback from all relevant parties (faculty, staff, and students). They have received feedback on current policy and procedures, student employment rights, security for first year students, and international issues. The Vice President, Internal encouraged councillors to reach out to her if they had any questions. The Vice President, Internal highlighted that we need more student consultation groups, as students are the largest body on campus.

The Vice President, Internal reported that deadlines had been set for the Student Life Endowment Fund (SLEF) and Volunteer Awards.

After a consultation with students at the Cambridge campus, Feds will be prioritizing reducing bike theft in Cambridge and broadening the athletic opportunities available for the Cambridge campus. The Warrior Tribe is also working on the Cambridge campus to help bridge the gap between the remote campus and the central one.

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

Was not present. A councillor mentioned that EAC occurred, and that it was awesome.

## REGULAR

### RACIALIZED STUDENT SERVICE

**Be it resolved that** Council approves the creation of a new student-run service catered to meet the needs of racialized students on campus, pending an approved fee increase of approximately \$1.20 at the March General Meeting.

*President Brieva and Vice President Schwan.*

This campus has not been good at meeting the needs of racialized students on campus and the Equity and Diversity office has done poorly at meeting the needs of these students. President and Vice President, Student Life have been working with BASE and other equity groups on campus to try and meet these needs through Feds.

A councillor voiced support for the idea of improving our work on equity on this campus, and in particular the idea of a racialized student service.

**Be it resolved that** Council ammend the motion to read:

**Be it resolved that** Council approves-in-principles the creation of a new student-run service catered to meet the needs of racialized\* students on campus, pending an approved fee increase of approximately \$1.20 at the March General Meeting and a service use creation proposal submitted to council for approval at the next regular meeting.

*Councillor Velling and Councillor Guillen.*

Councillors raised concerns that the wording implies that council will later prevent the creation of the service despite the fee increase and approval-in-principle.

Councillors voiced support for Council's right to say no to proposals that are bad, or when it is not in the best interest of students-at-large.

**Be it resolved that** Council ammend the ammendment to add:

**Be it further resolved that** Council recommends to the Board of Directors the inclusion of an agenda item for the General Meeting to approve a \$1.20 fee increase expressly contingent to Council's approval of the creation of said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council shall include as an agenda item for the March 25th meeting to review the service use and creation proposal and executive cost assessment report (as presented to the General Meeting) for said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Campus Life Advisory Committee (CLAC) to review and recommend appropriate service execution of equity, diversity, and inclusivity services provided by the Federation of Students in their annual review of services and student life.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Executive Board with the exploration and negotiation of future funding arrangements for equity, diversity, and inclusivity services currently provided by the Federation of Students with the UWaterloo Equity Office in a manner similar to the joint resources of the UW Mates service cost-model.

*Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.*

**Motion carries .**

The current ammendment is to change the motion to read:

**Be it resolved that** Council approves-in-principles the creation of a new student-run service catered to meet the needs of racialized\* students on campus, pending an approved fee increase of approximately \$1.20 at the March General Meeting and a service use creation proposal submitted to council for approval at the next regular meeting.

**Be it further resolved that** Council recommends to the Board of Directors the inclusion of an agenda item for the General Meeting to approve a \$1.20 fee increase expressly contingent to Council's approval of the creation of said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council shall include as an agenda item for the March 25th meeting to review the service use and creation proposal and executive cost assessment report (as presented to the General Meeting) for said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Campus Life Advisory Committee (CLAC) to review and recommend appropriate service execution of equity, diversity, and inclusivity services provided by the Federation of Students in their annual review of services and student life.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Executive Board with the exploration and negotiation of future funding arrangements for equity, diversity, and inclusivity services currently provided by the Federation of Students with the UWaterloo Equity Office in a manner similar to the joint resources of the UW Mates service cost-model.

**Motion carries .**

The motion now reads:

**Be it resolved that** Council approves-in-principles the creation of a new student-run service catered to meet the needs of racialized\* students on campus, pending an

approved fee increase of approximately \$1.20 at the March General Meeting and a service use creation proposal submitted to council for approval at the next regular meeting.

**Be it further resolved that** Council recommends to the Board of Directors the inclusion of an agenda item for the General Meeting to approve a \$1.20 fee increase expressly contingent to Council's approval of the creation of said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council shall include as an agenda item for the March 25th meeting to review the service use and creation proposal and executive cost assessment report (as presented to the General Meeting) for said service.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Campus Life Advisory Committee (CLAC) to review and recommend appropriate service execution of equity, diversity, and inclusivity services provided by the Federation of Students in their annual review of services and student life.

**Be it further resolved that** Council tasks the Executive Board with the exploration and negotiation of future funding arrangements for equity, diversity, and inclusivity services currently provided by the Federation of Students with the UWaterloo Equity Office in a manner similar to the joint resources of the UW Mates service cost-model.

**Motion carries** . Councillor Small notably abstains.

## MATHNEWS/MATHSOC UPDATE

**Be it resolved that** Council remove this item from the agenda.  
*Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.*

This item was addressed earlier.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## VARIOUS MOTIONS BY COUNCILLOR JOWHARI

**Be it resolved that** Council remove the following items proposed by Councillor Jowhari from the agenda due to her absence:

- Discussion on revalidating the student health and dental plan
- Discussion on "University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy" that was recently withdrawn at the University of Toronto
- Discussion on introducing a mentorship program for new members of the FEDS council

*Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY CHANGES

**Be it resolved that** Council amends Policy 25 (Sustainability) by adding the following provisions to the existing policy:

**Whereas** the University of Waterloo supports “practices and processes to reduce consumption of resources, minimize output of waste, and mitigate upstream and downstream environmental impacts from campus operations” (UW Policy 53, Environmental Sustainability, section 5.5),

**Whereas** bottled beverages are the cause of large volumes of plastic waste; and

**Whereas** the use of cheap reusable bottles filled with tap water is a low-cost, safe, and sustainable alternative;

**Be it further resolved that** the University of Waterloo, the Federation of Students, and the businesses that operate on campus should produce as little food waste as possible, including disposable containers, plates, cutlery, and bottles; and

**Be it further resolved that** the University of Waterloo should provide convenient and easy access to water fountains and water bottle refilling stations in all buildings.

*Councillor Small and Councillor Velling.*

**Be it resolved that** Council amend the motion to add the following clause:

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students and the University of Waterloo should operate on campus should educate the campus population about the benefits of sustainability and the environmental damages associated with food waste.

and remove:

**Whereas** the University of Waterloo supports “practices and processes to reduce consumption of resources, minimize output of waste, and mitigate upstream and downstream environmental impacts from campus operations” (UW Policy 53, Environmental Sustainability, section 5.5),

**Motion carries** as a friendly motion.

**Motion carries** .

## REFER SUSTAINABILITY POLICY TO PPC

**Be it resolved that** Council direct the sustainability policy to PPC to address potential clerical issues and the operability of the policy.

*Councillor Velling and Councillor George.*

**Motion carries** .

## STUDENT LIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (SLEF) APPOINTMENT

**Be it resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the SLEF council seats, and

**Be it further resolved that** Council allows the executive team to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the SLEF at large seats.

*Vice President Knight and Councillor Velling.*

The Vice President, Student Life gave a brief overview of the committee.

Councillor Velling nominates Councillor Ye-Mowe to a Council seat. Councillor Velling nominates Councillor O’Sullivan if Councillor Ye-Mowe does not want the seat. Councillor Velling nominates himself to a Council seat.

Councillor Velling and Councillor Ye-Mowe fill the blanks. *Secretaries note: Councillor Ye-Mowe accepted the position.*

**Be it resolved that** Council amend the motion to add “in consultation with the Speaker”

The motion reads:

**Be it resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the SLEF council seats, and

**Be it further resolved that** Council allows the executive team in consultation with the Speaker to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the SLEF at large seats.

**Motion carries** as friendly.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Be it resolved that** Council adjourn until the next meeting.

*Councillor O’Sullivan and Councillor Velling.*

With no new business the meeting was called to adjourn at 2:32PM.

**Motion carries** unanimously.