

# 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
- Clubine, Andrew
- 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\*
- Tran, Tomson
- Velling, Seneca
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie

\* remote

The following members were absent:

- Clarke, Antonio
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Mills, Cameron
- Mistry, Harsh
- Schwan, Brian\*
- Terzian, Hagop
- Xu, Wenyu

\* excused

## PRELIMINARIES

### CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:42 PM.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

*Councillor Velling and Councillor Guillen.*

Vice President, Education inquired about the notes from Cooperative Education Council that were made by the Engineering Councillor and included in the agenda. It was noted that the items were included to inform councillors of the issue.

A councillor noted that the new agenda and minutes didn't include the new councillors from the past 4 months.

**Be it resolved that** Council add the approval of the October minutes to the agenda.

*Councillor Potter and Councillor Velling.*

**Motion carries** as a friendly ammendment.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## CONSENT

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Be it resolved that** Council approve the minutes from October 22, 2017.

**Be it further resolved that** Council approve the minutes from November 19, 2017.

*Councillor Velling and Councillor Pazzano.*

**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 reported that the President's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health had received a draft of the final report, and agreed that they were unsatisfied with it. They will be extending their deadline to create a final report to create more finalized recommendations and research. The President expressed that they would share the finalized report with Council as soon as it was publically available.

They also hired the elections officer, and there is a motion to ratify them later in the agenda. There is also a new Feds Promotions Events Coordinator, who is responsible for marketing Feds events, and will present at the all candidates meeting on ways to run a successful campaign, including the effective use of social media.

The Policy and Procedures Committee (PPC) is continuing its work, Aisha has submitted a report for PPC that outlines some of the routes that Council can take to facilitate the way that policy is created and reviewed. PPC will hear this report at its next meeting, and will provide options to Council later in the term.

The General Meeting Task Force that was created at the last general meeting to investigate potential changes to general meetings is meeting for the first time next week, and is aiming to have a presentation at the next general meeting. The committee will be deciding scope and structure of work.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL**

The Vice President, Internal reported that the mental health partnership with Athletics regarding mental health is progressing well, they are looking for wellness ambassadors and to create a weekly program dedicated to mental and general health and well-being. For more details, including long-term goals, see the Vice President, Internal's in written update. Both Campus Wellness and Athletics agree that this initiative needs to live on past the current Feds executives, and so will be managed by the special events coordinator.

A Society Committee of President's (COPs) meeting occurred and they have their first inter-society event booked. Moving forward, the Vice President, Internal is hoping to have a remote COPs meeting.

The Vice President, Internal is also working with the service advocacy directors to help them achieve their goals.

Finally, the executives are creating remote office hours, in order to be more available in-person at satellite campus's. This initiative may replace Feds On Tour, and creates more consistent availability.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE**

Not present.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION**

The Vice President, Internal Worked on the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance TextBroke campaign, and while the formal contest is over, the campaign continues as

long as people are buying textbooks. This marks the first outward step that Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance has taken regarding the next provincial election, and will be followed in March with a “Get out the vote” campaign. Feds will be sending out information about polling stations to students.

The Vice President, Internal reported that the fall reading break committee meetings keep getting moved, but the next meeting will hopefully happen in February.

Finally, the Vice President, Internal will update Council on the current co-op fee situation later in the meeting.

A councillor asked about e-registration to vote for students, and was wondering if there was any Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance or Feds advertising for the e-registration. It is stated that it is important for student unions to advertise e-registration, and advertising from both Feds and Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance will largely be online and start in March.

A councillor commented that there is \$5 million in the provincial budget that people is being allocated by a vote, and is wondering if we are also advertising possible higher education uses for that money. The Vice President, Education will be presenting to the house economic and finance committee about funding to universities not keeping up with inflation, among other topics.

A councillor suggested that Board should fill out the form for the provincial money, and promote it to students.

## REPORT OF THE SPEAKER

Science councillor Cameron Mills has resigned from his position effective immediately.

Councillor Li was acclaimed to the Science Councillor seat.

## REGULAR

### UPDATES ON PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: STUDENT SERVICES PANEL

The Student services panel recommended that the University follow Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance and Feds’ recommendations. The student services panel also recommended that Feds work to coalesce the efforts of the student societies.

### COOP FEE INCREASES

**Whereas** the Federation of Student acknowledges the UW Staff Association’s Memorandum of Agreement: Staff Compensation 20152018 which requested an increase in staff salaries,

**Whereas** the failure to inform student representatives about fees increases until less than 24 hours prior to the Co-operative Education Council (CEC) meeting does not

constitute a reasonable and expected level as transparency from a student-funded organization,

**Whereas** failing to inform the general student body before moving the co-operative education fee increase to Board of Governors for approval further violates expected transparency,

**Whereas** the proposed CECA fee increase is considerably higher than the Consumer Price Index adjustment and is primarily for salary increases,

**Be it resolved that** the Federation of Students protests any increase co-operative education fees prior to the completion of the Co-op Fee Deep-Dive analysis investigating the need for, and impact of, any such increases; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students requests a hiatus on any changes to co-op fees until the completion of the deep-dive investigation; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students requests decisions regarding changes in fees are conducted in a more transparent manner involving continuous dialogue with students (particularly through Co-op Student Council and Co-op Education Council); and

**Be it further resolved that** fees increases borne by students above the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment should have approval-in-principle by elected student representatives.

*Councillor Velling and Vice President Clubine.*

Councillor Velling and Vice President Clubine spoke to the motion. Vice President Clubine outlined that there were complicated issues with the review, and passed off his speaking term to Hannah Beckett, the Co-op Affairs Commissioner.

Commissioner Beckett expressed that the committee got off to a late start, and the staff member from co-op was pulled off after only a week or two due to a severe family emergency. Thus, the committee only started being productive in the fall term, due to staffing issues on CECA's side. The analysis of the current state took up most of the the fall term, and will be presented at the next meeting of the committee.

The report is meant to show the flows of money, including how much staff cost in each area, what do they do, and how much money goes into each "bucket" of service that CECA performs. This includes things like faculty relations, employer relations, student experience, etc.

There is also an environment analysis, which involves looking at other schools. Many schools have larger coop fees with less services, or coop fees broken out by faculty.

This report will then go to an advisory committee of students that was struck last year, who can request deeper dives into particular cost areas.

CECA is putting their most senior staff on deep-dive and they are working around the clock. Staff in the department recognize that students are upset.

Ideally, the report on the current state of the fee will go out to the student body this term. There is also a website that is tracking the progress and state of the project, as well as contact information so students can share feedback. This will likely be up in the next week or two.

The Vice President Clubine took back the floor, to explain that there was a good spirit to the motion and touched on how the trust of the student body was really important, and something that CECA took seriously.

A councillor voiced support for the motion, and talked about the lack of transparency that was being seen from students. Stated that the fee review project was great, but needs more of a stance from Feds.

Councillor Velling pointed out that there were “WHEREAS” clauses in the motion to outline that they recognize the responsibility for CECA to increase salaries. Increases of the fee to account for salaries shouldn’t happen if there is efficient staff management; the revenue goes up as there are more students. Since students are obviously unhappy with how CECA works, why do they deserve salary increases? If there is an MOU with staff about salary increases, then the institution should be paying the salary increases until they can provide better customer service.

A councillor echoed support for the motion, stating that if there is a deep dive happening then the perception of getting only 24 hours notice for a fee increase while a deep-dive is ongoing feels disingenuous and “throws the deep dive under the bus”. The expectation from students coming in is that they will have support from this department, but there are ongoing issues with students not getting help from advisors, from PD being unhelpful, among other issues.

The Vice President, Education explained that the motion being presented to Council was about capacity and not service, since the fee review is meant to address the service. Commissioner Beckett re-iterated that the current concern is around the fee increase and transparency, not about the services being provided to students. Running the world’s largest co-op program will have fee increases while the review is happening.

It was stated that there is an issue on the campus with shouting into the void of the internet without escalating issues to the decision makers who can change things. Commissioner Beckett also expressed support for the idea that CECA was borderline negligent with the way that they proposed the fee increase, but the issue was complex and they were hamstrung by other university admins.

Councillor Velling expressed his support for the points that Commissioner Beckett and the Vice President, Education had said, and that stated that the motion does not tie the hands of the executives.

Council was informed that the salary increase recommendation is a 2.5 year recommendation, and has been known about for a long time. CECA should have seen this coming and been more transparent. Councillor Velling expressed that while it wasn’t gross incompetence, but there is an amount of budgetary negligence.

Councillor Velling also expressed that there are great people at CECA, and stated for the record his opinion that “Franco Solimano is a great person who deserves a raise, and

has spoken to societies and CEC about issues in coop.” He would like it noted that just because CECA is raising fees and there are transparency issues in the institution does not imply that the people in the institution are “bad”. The department wants to raise fees given a positive economy of scale, while CECA claims there is a negative economy of scale. Students are entitled to hear justification that there is a negative economy of scale.

A councillor agreed with the mover, and stated that it was important for Council to have a stance on issues as they happen. They also agree that there is some nuance with the issue, and that Councillors have a responsibility to work with CECA and to maintain a positive partnership with the university departments. Council needs to be cohesive with how they frame Feds messaging on the issue.

Councillor Velling mentioned the possibility of having a letter signed by the executives, the speaker, and/or the secretary of Council that can be distributed to the student body. He also reiterated that while the fee increase motion would almost certainly pass the Universities Board of Governors, it was necessary to express that students were unhappy.

Vice President Clubine expressed that everyone should agree with the things that Councillor Velling was saying, or there may be problems with constituent representation. The issue comes when we try to understand the issues that are facing the internal departments of the university. We aren’t unionized, but we might as well be with the way salary negotiations happen on campus. The Vice President, Education is hesitant that the motion does not show that Feds understands the binds that the university is under. The Vice President, Education expressed support for a letter coming from Council, that goes over the issues with the process and the way that this fee change happened. They do not think it’s fair to be naive and expect a 0% fee increase.

Councillor Velling re-iterated support for a letter, but wants an official action from Council in addition to a letter. The process for this fee increase was awful; but that he is open to ammendments to the motion to express the complexity of the issue or to remove the clause that references the Consumer Price Index. It is the resolve of Council to express what their candidates want, and he does not want to unnecessarily bind executives.

Austin Richard (Acting President of the Science Society) sympathizes with the complexity of the issue, but expressed that it was tough to justify a fee increase when they didn’t have a clear understanding of where the fee was going.

Commisioner Beckett responded that in an ideal world the fee would be frozen while the fee review was happening, but the reality is that the costs would increase while the fee review was happening, and the fee review may result in completely different structure, services required, etc. The current process is what we have right now, but it is not too much of a stretch to imagine it will be completely different in a year.

Vice President, Education expressed that student expectations have fundamentally shifted over the last year and a half; it may be more valuable for Councillors to participate in the fee review, and asked councillors to share their expectations of how the process for the fee increase should happen.

**Be it resolved that** Council strike clauses 2 and 4 of the motion:

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students requests a hiatus on any changes to co-op fees until the completion of the deep-dive investigation; and

**Be it further resolved that** fee increases borne by students above the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment should have approval-in-principle by elected student representatives.

*Councillor Small and Vice President Clubine.*

Councillor Small withdraws his ammendment.

Council is considering the the original motion.

**Be it resolved that** Council strike clause 4 of the motion, modify clause two to add “requests to the Provost a”, and add a clause that requests the creation of a letter explaining the situation.

*Vice President Clubine and Councillor Velling.*

The motion would read:

**Be it resolved that** the Federation of Students protests any increase in cooperative education fees prior to the completion of the Co-op Fee Deep-Dive analysis investigating the need for, and impact of, any such increases; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students requests to the Provost a hiatus on any changes to co-op fees until the completion of the deep-dive investigation; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Federation of Students requests decisions regarding changes in fees are conducted in a more transparent manner involving continuous dialogue with students (particularly through Co-op Student Council and Co-op Education Council); and

**Be it further resolved that** Council, in conjunction with the Executive Board, draft a letter outlining and explaining the events surrounding the fee increase and the actions taken by Council.

**Motion carries** as the motion is friendly.

Vice President Clubine asked for clarification on what the letter should include, he and Commisioner Beckett can likely create a letter in the next few days. He would not expect Council to all be editors on the letter, but Council can provide high level feedback on the letter. He expects to see changes in process for next terms fee.

Vice President Clubine is also hoping to have an update on the process for February or March, and reiterates that it would be very valuable for passionate councillors to attend the review meetings.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA OFFICER

**Be it resolved that** Council ratifies the appointment of the Elections and Referenda Officer, Rency Luan.

*President Brieva and Councillor Velling.*



**Motion carries** unanimously.

## ELECTION AND REFERENDA APPEALS COMMITTEE

**Be it resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee (ERAC).

*President Brieva and Councillor Velling.*

It is customary for President and Speaker to be on this committee if they are not running.

- Vice President Clubine nominates Councillor O’Sullivan President Brieva.
- Councillor Velling nominates Councillor George.
- Councillor Jowhari nominates herself.

Councillor Jowhari withdraws her nominations.

Councillor O’Sullivan, President Brieva, and Councillor George are acclaimed to the blanks.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**Be it resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Campus Life Advisory Committee (CLAC).

**Be it further resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Internal Administration Committee (IAC).

**Be it further resolved that** Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_ to the Leadership Awards Committee (LAC).

*Vice President Knight and Vice President Clubine.*

Nominees for CLAC:

- Councillor Tran nominates himself.
- Councillor Ayre nominates Councillor Velling.
- Councillor Ayre nominates Councillor Jowhari.
- Vice President Clubine nominates Councillor Simpson.

Council heard the nominee’s platforms.

Ballots were collected for CLAC.

Councillor Velling and Councillor Tran were appointed to CLAC.

Nominees for IAC:

- Councillor Velling nominates Councillor Ayre.

- Councillor Velling nominates Councillor Guillen.

Nominees were acclaimed.

Councillor Ayre and Councillor Guillen were appointed to IAC.

Nominations for LAC:

- Councillor Ye-Mowe nominates herself.
- Councillor Tran nominates himself.
- Councillor Altaf nominates himself.

Council heard the nominee's platforms.

Ballots were collected for LAC.

Councillor Ye-Mowe was appointed to LAC.

The motion now reads:

**Be it resolved that** Council appoints Councillor Velling and Councillor Tran to the Campus Life Advisory Committee.

**Be it further resolved that** Council appoints Councillor Ayre and Councillor Guillen to the Internal Administration Committee.

**Be it further resolved that** Council appoints Councillor Ye-Mowe to the Leadership Awards Committee.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## RATIFY ON SERVICE COORDINATORS

**Be it resolved that** Council approve the service coordinators for Winter 2018.

*Vice President Knight and Councillor Velling.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## INDEGENOUS POLICY

**Be it resolved that** Council approves the Indigenous Policy as presented.

*Vice President Clubine and Councillor Velling.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## MATHNEWS

**Be it resolved that** Council postpones a in-depth discussion to the next meeting.

*Vice President Clubine and Councillor Velling.*

Vice President Knight gave a high level overview of the issue. There was a meeting with the Feds executives, MathNews, and MathSoc; everyone is now on the same page.

They are still working on the MOU between MathSoc and MathNEWs, and while Feds is not a signing authority, there is information on the MOU that needs to be corrected.

Feds has apologized for the miscommunications, and is moving forward with meetings to make sure that students are being well-served and that these kinds of mis-communications do not happen again.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### ELECTIONS AND FEDS EMAIL

**Be it resolved that** Council postpone the end of the nomination period for 48 hours.  
*President Brieva and Councillor Velling.*

The Feds email servers have been down, and they have possibly missed some nominations. It was noted that societies who align their elections with the Feds elections should be notified.

A councillor asked if this would also affect the Senate elections. President responded that they would inform the Secretariat and extend the nomination period.

**Motion carries** unanimously.

### SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND FEDS PRESIDENT

A councillor brought up a situation where a student is planning on running for both society and Feds president, and would like affirmation that this is a conflict of interest and a student cannot hold both roles.

Council agreed that this would be a conflict of interest.

### MEETING DATES

**Be it resolved that** Council meet on February 11, 2018 and March 25, 2018.  
*President Brieva and Councillor Velling.*

**Motion carries** unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Be it resolved that** Council adjourn until the next meeting.  
*Councillor Velling and Councillor Potter.*

With no new business the meeting was called to adjourn at 2:50PM.

**Motion carries** unanimously.