

STUDENTS' COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING: JULY 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Federation of Students Students' Council at 12:30 PM on Sunday, July 6th, 2014 in SLC 1120/1121. The Speaker in the chair was Doug Turner and Andrew Clubine served as Secretary.

The following members were in attendance: Councillors Turner, Nelson, Hamidzai, Domingo, Lolas, Sidharta, Liu, Li, Wan, Ramdev, Koo, Gaffoor, Balram and Hayman. President Burt and Vice Presidents Balfour and Hamade were present.

Councillors Khan, Wang (MATH), McCready, Assad, Knight and VP Yazin were exempt from attending the meeting.

Unexcused absences: Councillors Nasif, Yazdani and Wang (ENG)

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Turner called the meeting to order at 12:46PM.

PRELIMINARIES

ELECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The meeting began with a blank motion for the election of the Assistant Secretary being picked up from the table:

1. **“BIRT Council elects _____ as Assistant Secretary of Students' Council.”**

No nominations for Assistant Secretary were made.

2. Moved by VP Hamade, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT Council postpone the election of Assistant Secretary of Students' Council to the Students' Council Regular Meeting of August 2014.”

-Carried unanimously-

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Moved by VP Hamade, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT the agenda for the July Regular Meeting be approved with the following amendment:

- **Move Portal Presentation (Item 8) to 12:45PM”**

-Carried unanimously-

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June Regular Meeting were approved, pending the following corrections:

- Correct the spelling of last names of Councillors Li and Gaffoor; and
- Add of Councillor Sidharta to the list of Councillors present.

Councillor Ramdev entered the meeting at 12:45PM

SPECIAL ORDERS

PORTAL PRESENTATION

Pavol Chvala from Information Systems and Technology spoke to Council about the new UWaterloo Portal, a new widget-based “one-stop shop” for information about the University of Waterloo. The portal’s offerings will include personalized calendars and schedules, GRT routes, booking services, food services information, etc.

The portal will support widgets developed by students and will also be mobile-friendly. Notifications can be provided for all by the portal which will reduce the number of emails necessary. Feedback can be provided directly from portal. Testing is being done through Faculty of Environment. Over the next year, the portal will be released campus-wide.

VP Balfour will contact Mr. Chvala to discuss including Feds’ bookable space in the Portal.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **“BIRT Council receive the Consent Agenda for the July 2014 Regular Meeting.”**

-Carried unanimously-

REPORTS

5. Moved by Councillor Wan:

“BIRT Council limit the presentations of Executive Reports to 3 minutes each.”

-Carried unanimously-

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President

President Burt presented her Executive Report.

Vice-President, Internal

VP Yasin’s Executive Report was presented via Youtube.

Vice-President, Operations and Finance

VP Balfour presented his Executive Report, highlighting passing the budget as his primary focus.

Vice-President, Education

VP Hamade presented his Executive Report. Highlighted meeting with Deans about this year’s lobby priorities.

SPECIAL ORDERS (CONT’D)

LONG RANGE PLAN STAKEHOLDER LAB

Delaney Swanson of Overlap Associates led an interactive workshop as a part of the development of Feds’ Long Range Plan.

REPORTS (CONT’D)

EXECUTIVE QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Sidharta suggested that VP Balfour reconsider the proposed July 13, 2014 Special Meeting for the 2014-2015 Budget. Chair Turner requested that this be discussed under New Business.

6. Moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by VP Balfour:

“BIRT Council’s 2:30PM Recess be postponed until after the presentation of Special Order: Waterloo Works.”

-Carried-

SPECIAL ORDERS (CONT’D)

WATERLOO WORKS

Stephanie Tortorici made a presentation about the University’s new co-op job platform. Waterloo Works is an out-of-the-box, customizable system that is replacing JobMine. Ms. Tortorici guided Council through the system and highlighted differences from JobMine. Any questions can be sent to waterlooworks@uwaterloo.ca.

RECESS

7. Moved by Councillor Ramdev:

“BIRT Council recess for 5 minutes”

-Carried-

Council Recessed at 2:58PM.

Speaker Turner called the meeting back to order at 3:03PM.

REPORTS (CONT’D)

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Verbal reports were presented by Councillors Hamidzai, Domingo, Liu, Li, Wan, Ramdev, Koo, Gaffoor, Balram and Hayman. Written reports were approved in the consent agenda.

Councillors Gaffoor and Balram are moving forward with a video to introduce themselves to Faculty of Environment students. Councillor Hayman announced that campaigning for Faculty of Engineering vacancies will begin soon.

VP Yazin entered the meeting at 3:13PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council appoints Councillors Ramdev, Koo and Domingo to the University of Waterloo’s Student Technology Advisory Committee.”

-Carried-

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

9. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council appoints Councillors Gaffoor, Balram and Liu to the Sustainability Committee.”

-Carried-

CAMPUS SPACE AUDIT COMMITTEE

10. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council appoints Councillors Hayman, Turner and Lolas to the ad-hoc Campus Space Audit Committee.”

-Carried-

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

11. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council appoints Councillors Hamidzai and Nelson to the Mental

Health Committee.”

-Carried-

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL MEETINGS (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

12. Moved by Councillor Lolas:

“BIRT Council appoints Councillor Ramdev to the Board of Directors’ ad-hoc Committee on General Meetings.”

-Carried-

POLICY AMENDMENTS AND RENEWALS

13. Moved by VP Hamade, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT Agenda Items 16 to 20 be considered as one motion”

-Carried unanimously-

14. Moved by VP Hamade:

“BIRT Council renews Policy 19 (Co-op as Student Financial Aid) for five (5) years effective July 6, 2014; and

BIFRT Council amends and renews Policy 27 (Regional Transit), Policy 26 (Off Campus Housing Advocacy Strategy), Policy 11 (Academic Cost Recovery) and Policy 18 (Tuition Set-Aside) for five (5) years, effective July 6, 2014, to read as follows:

Policy 27 (Regional Transit)

***WHEREAS the Federation of Students is the body responsible for empowering and representing students on issues that affect the overall accessibility and affordability of their education; and
WHEREAS University of Waterloo students make up a significant proportion of transit users; and
WHEREAS the Federation of Students is responsible for the administration of the Undergraduate Universal Bus Pass (UPASS) at the University of Waterloo; and
WHEREAS the Region of Waterloo provides public transit for the campus communities in Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge and surrounding areas; and***

WHEREAS the City of Stratford provides public transit service for University of Waterloo students enrolled at the Stratford Campus. WHEREAS the Region of Waterloo is installing a Light Rail Train system that will significantly impact transit routes across the region:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students advocate to all relevant government bodies to ensure affordable, accessible, reliable, transit systems so that all University of Waterloo undergraduate students may safely and easily travel on public transit in an efficient manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students advocate for the University of Waterloo undergraduate students to be considered a key stakeholder in strategic discussions around public transit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students take measures to educate its stakeholders about the state of regional transportation issues and their associated costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Region of Waterloo, Grand River Transit and the Federation of Students collaborate in order to mitigate the impact of the development of Light Rail Transit on students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students communicate with the City of Stratford and students from the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus in order to better understand and advocate on public transit issues within the City of Stratford.

Policy 26 (Off Campus Housing Advocacy Strategy)

WHEREAS the Federation of Students is the body responsible for empowering and representing students on issues that affect the overall accessibility and affordability of their education; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Students believes that University of Waterloo students are a key stakeholder in strategic discussions around housing and land development; and

WHEREAS University of Waterloo students make up a significant proportion of rental housing consumers in the City of Waterloo, and the student population is anticipated to continue growing for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS there are a variety of stakeholders in the strategic discussions around housing, including but not limited to, University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University administration, Wilfrid

***Laurier University Student Union, City staff and officials, and permanent residents; and
WHEREAS the Federation of Students recognizes that all students have unique housing needs in terms of location, amenities, room sizing, roommates, number of bedrooms, and contract length;***

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students will advocate to all relevant government bodies to ensure affordable, accessible, quality, safe, diverse, and sustainable housing options are available to students attending the University of Waterloo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT municipal governments and other community stakeholders work with the Federation of Students to collect data in order to identify specific areas of concern for students living in off-campus housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students commit to providing direction to students who may be living in accommodations that do not adhere to relevant legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students commit to working alongside municipal governments and other community stakeholders to actively address student housing issues through programs and initiatives that improve the overall quality of life experienced by students in the community.

Policy 11 (Academic Cost Recovery)

WHEREAS post-secondary education is not a commodity but a real and substantial investment in people and society, which provides economic, social, and political benefits; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Students maintains that university funding should be based on the principle of shared benefit and shared responsibility; and

WHEREAS students have a responsibility to contribute a reasonable portion of the cost of their education; and

WHEREAS tuition must be predictable to allow students and families to engage in responsible and effective long-term financial planning;

WHEREAS market forces do not provide a stable or accurate notion of the monetary or market value of a post-secondary degree;

WHEREAS funding for post-secondary education in Ontario comes from the province of Ontario;

WHEREAS in 1988 Ontario domestic students paid 19% of the cost of their education as tuition;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students believes that tuition for all programs should be set by the Provincial Government, as they are publicly accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students believes all tuition must be regulated by the Provincial Government and that students should never pay for more than 30 percent of their education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Tuition should reflect a fair portion of the actual cost of program delivery, and not the perceived market value of the degree in question, nor the potential earnings of the student upon graduation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students does not support the deregulation of any tuition fees, and believes that any form of tuition deregulation is unjust.

Policy 18 (Tuition Set-Aside)

WHEREAS tuition set-aside is a policy that stipulates a percentage of students' tuition be reserved for use as financial aid at that institution;

WHEREAS the tuition set-aside policy was established to mandate institutions to use additional tuition revenue to provide financial assistance to students with need;

WHEREAS the tuition set-aside policy is a regressive system, as students are subsidizing students with need;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Student believes that the tuition set-aside should be repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students believes financial aid dollars for the public post-secondary education system must ultimately come from the Provincial Government and not from the students those dollars should assist;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Students believes that the Provincial Government must adequately fund student financial aid, instead of relying on the contribution of students who access the system.”

-Carried unanimously-

15. Moved by Lolas, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT Council amend and renew Federation of Students Policy 13 (Clubs) to read as follows:

Policy 13 (Clubs)

WHEREAS the Charter of Incorporation of the Federation of Students, as approved by the Board of Governors of the University of Waterloo, names the Federation of Students as the sole representative of ~~full-time~~ undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT any student organization applying for recognition by the University of Waterloo must do so through the Federation of Students, a ~~faculty~~ society recognized by the Federation of Students, the Graduate Student Association, or the Department of Athletics and Recreational Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students reaffirms the rights of students to form associations without undue interference from the University of Waterloo or the Federation of Students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students encourages contributions to the university community in the form of various student interest groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students adheres to the following principles in dealing with Clubs:

- ~~1. — The university has historically been one of the bastions of academic and philosophical freedom where new ideas emerge and old ideas are debated. This freedom and diversity gives universities a special place in society.~~**
- 12. Although the views expressed by members of our community are diverse and sometimes diametrically opposed, we respect the opinions of all those who respect the rights of others.**
- 23. The Federation of Students strives to aid in the ~~social and cultural~~ development of students on campus by providing forums for academic, artistic, social, political, spiritual and cultural exploration and communication, and personal well-being.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students will, when possible, assist its clubs to achieve their mandates by providing administrative, logistical, and financial support.”

Main motion moved in amendment by Councillor Ramdev, seconded by VP Balfour:

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- 12. Although the views expressed by members of our community are diverse and sometimes diametrically opposed, we respect the opinions of all those who respect the rights of others.**

- 23. *The Federation of Students strives to aid in the ~~social and cultural~~ development of students on campus by providing forums for academic, artistic, social, political, spiritual and cultural exploration and communication, and personal well-being.***

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Federation of Students will, when possible, assist its clubs to achieve their mandates by providing administrative, logistical, and financial support.”

-Amendment defeated-

-Main motion carried unanimously-

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Hayman expressed concern about Board By-law that prevents By-Elections from taking place after November 1 of any given year.

VP Balfour expressed concern that waiting until August to approve the new budget would hinder Feds operations. He suggested that Council consider other methods for budget deliberations and voting. A lengthy discussion about the possibilities of a Special Meeting or an email vote ensued.

RECESS

16. Moved by Councillor Wan, seconded by Councillor Ramdev:

“BIRT Council recess for 10 minutes”

-Carried-

*Opposed
Hamidzai
Hayman*

Council Recessed at 4:05PM.

Speaker Turner called the meeting back to order at 4:16PM.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

17. Moved by VP Balfour, seconded by Councillor Ramdev:

“BIRT Council task the Board of Directors with the approval of time-sensitive budget items, as determined by the VP Operations and Finance, until the budget is approved by Council.

BIFRT Council recommends that all Special Board Meetings related to this budget be conducted in open session.”

Main motion moved in amendment by Councillor Ramdev, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT Council task the Board of Directors with the approval of time-sensitive budget items that are under Council’s jurisdiction, as determined by the VP Operations and Finance, until the budget is approved by Council.

BIFRT Council recommends that all Special Board Meetings related to this budget be conducted in open session.

BIFRT the Board of Directors provide email updates to Councillors about any decisions made under the authority given by this motion.”

-Amendment carried unanimously-

-Main motion carried unanimously as amended-

VP Yasin reminded Council that obtaining quorum for Council’s August 3rd Regular Meeting is extremely important so that Council can approve the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Turner adjourned the meeting at 4:32PM.