

Federation of Students' Student's Council Minutes

SLC MPR, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

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

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

- Altaf, Subham
- Eyre, Alexander
- Clubine, Andrew
- Clarke, Antonio
- Easton, Benjamin
- George, Rebecca
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Jowhari, Nickta
- Knight, Jill
- Mills, Cameron
- Mohan, Andrew
- Mistry, Harsh
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth
- Potter, Tristan
- Schwan, Brian
- Shibli, Aisha
- Simpson, Abigail
- Small, Jason
- Terzian, Hagop
- Tran, Tomson
- Velling, Seneca*
- Xu, Wenyu*
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Brieva, Antonio

* excused

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Be it resolved that Student's Council approves the agenda for the July 16, 2017 meeting as presented.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor George.

Motion carries unanimously.

CONSENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Be it resolved that Board approve the minutes from May 28, 2017.

Councillor Potter and Councillor Velling.

There was one minor correction, which will be emailed and corrected in the final version.

Motion carries unanimously.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Environment Councillors made a report, touching on some renovations that were occurring and some changes they were pushing within the university.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Action plans are still being developed, and will be presented at the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President was not present, but submitted a written report (attached).

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL

The Vice President, Internal reported that a Feds Wellness Committee had been created, comprised of 3 people internal to Feds. They are continuing to connect with stakeholders on campus and being careful not to overstep. The aim is to ensure Feds is doing the best they can to support students, including reaching out to various university services

to have more partnerships. The committee is also doing a critical analysis of wrap-up week and mental health week.

They also reported that one service, the Women's Center, had reached out about centralizing advocacy efforts. The Vice President, Internal is hoping to have the other 5 services become part of this pilot initiative as well.

Feds on Tour did not happen; instead, the Vice President, Internal is investigating how to make it more effective for all students, and is reaching out to satellite campus' and societies to improve outreach.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

The Vice President, Operations and Finance highlighted that special bomber events were a success, with over 200 people attending on average. As well, Beerfest was similarly successful, with students providing the feedback that they preferred that it was an relaxed evening event instead of a day or night event.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance continues to push to make the Bomber more sustainable, improving environmental practises within the organization.

Feds also provided wrap-up week deals for all commercial services, which was well recieved by students.

Wasabi and campus bubble are re-doing their menus, students are invited to taste test the new ideas being introduced, with samples being provided in the great hall.

In external news, the Vice President, Operations and Finance is continuing to monitor the ongoing discussions around Pharmacare plus. The government has not released any new updates.

The budget committee was officially formed at the last Board meeting, and the budget has been compiled. It is in the process of being finalized, and will be presented at the next meeting.

A councillor inquired what was meant by action planning, specifically whether that was long or short term planning. The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that they were annual plans to accomplish their platform points, to provide strategy for accomplishing goals, and to provide students with transparency to hold them accountable.

Finally, the Vice President, Operations and Finance reported that Councillor Velling was elected as councillor representative, Mathew Gerrits as board representative, and Graham Barnes as at-large representative to the budget committee.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

The Vice President, Education began by apologizing for the lack of written report.

They unvieled a land-acknowledgement plaque, which is the first public action in response to the truth and reconciliation commission. There will be a report that goes to the Provost's Advisory Committee on Equity about further actions.

The Vice President, Education also reported that the Municipal Affairs Commissioner is starting a project on what transit and safety should look like on campus, and how that will integrate with the transit solution in the rest of the region.

The Academic support has gotten a lot better, the commission is improving their back end processes to increase capacity so that the commission can help more students with their grievances.

Additionally, Feds has met twice with the university committee behind the coop fee review. They are creating a student advisory board that will be appointed for a year, made of at-large students. More information will be presented at a later date.

OUSA priorities have been set, they will be: sexual violence prevention and response, data collection, open education (open materials, reduce costs), mental health funding, experiential education (including coop), and a funding review.

Advocan has also set its priorities for the year, which will be focussed around indigenous students, mental health, international students, and the financial aid system. The goal of the last priority is to re-work the available aid money to make it more accessible.

Finally, there has been continuing work on course evaluations. For context, a committee of Senate has been meeting to discuss how course evaluations happen for the last three years. After these three years, they have submitted a report to the provost that was met with heavy opposition from faculty. Professors seem to think that student feedback is not a valid way to judge teaching. A more formal report will be going to senate soon, and the Vice President, Education is expecting it to be a lively meeting. Student senators will be meeting to talk through the report and ensure that students are well informed to debate it on the senate floor. The Vice President, Education can provide the report to councillors who are interested.

A councillor asked a question about international tuition hikes, and whether that was a federal concern. The Vice President, Education responded that it is, and that the main concern is (in addition to the high prices), that it is very in-consistent and that students should have stable costs. Another concern is what extra services international students receive in exchange for the high prices they pay, and how many services are inaccessible to them.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RATIFICATION OF AT-LARGE MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Be it resolved that Council ratifies Vaishnavy Gupta as an at-large member of the Presidents Advisory Committee, and

Be it further resolved that Council ratifies Hannah Sesink as an at-large member of the Internal Administration Committee.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Tran.

Motion carries unanimously.

GENERAL ORDERS

FALL READING BREAK

After advocacy from the Vice President, Education and a referendum of students, a pilot of a fall reading break was started. The implementation of the break is now being reviewed, and a committee was created to this purpose.

The results from surveys show that stakeholders were generally dissatisfied. It seems inevitable that we will get a 1 week break at some point, but there is currently no clarity on how that will be implemented.

The Vice President, Education would like councillors to poll their constituents and determine:

- Are students in support of a full week fall reading break, as a pilot?
- What are the things we should give up in order to make that happen?

The Vice President, Education expressed that first years of the class of 2021 got short changed with orientation, and doesn't think we should cut any more into orientation.

A councillor inquired about how other schools in the province have solved this problem. McMaster pushed orientation earlier in the year. Some councillors expressed support for that, but most schools don't go this route. Many schools start classes on wednesday, which is undesirable since it cuts further into orientation week.

The main options being considered are:

- introducing sunday exams, and/or
- removing one study day.

In terms of the purpose of the break, there is a conversation to make the week more academic. The Vice President, Education is looking for there to be an explicit list on what the break is a break from. They are looking for feedback specifically on what things students should be expected to be doing during the break (i.e assignments, coop interviews, checking email, etc).

The Vice President, Education took some in-person comments, but encouraged councillors ot email.

A councillor expressed that coop interviews were totally unreasonable to happen during a break, and that minor assignments over the break were fine, but there should be no deadlines during or immediately after (since services/assistance is not accessible during the break).

The Vice President, Education wrapped up that this was ongoing, and that he would appreciate emails on the subject. He also would like everyone to contact their societies and students about what they would like fall breaks to look like, particularly what teh expectation of students should be over the break.

WATERLOO NANOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Speaker read out a blurb from the Waterloo Nanotechnology Club (WNC).

A councillor asked about what kind of support Feds was giving WNC. They were informed that WNC is pursuing funding through the internal funding committee. If they are looking for more support they can reach out to the Vice President, Operations and Finance or Vice President, Internal.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO PPC AND IAC

Be it resolved that Council appoints Antonio Clarke to the at-large seat on the Policy and Procedures Committee and the Internal Administration Committee.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Tran.

Motion carries unanimously.

COMMITTEE INQUIREES

A Councillor inquired about when the Education Advisory Committee and the Government Affairs Advisory Committee would be meeting. The responded that they were looking to make those committees more functional, as in the past those committees had been a token gesture. A proposal for potential changes will be coming to those committee before it is brought to Council.

Another Councillor wished to know the status of the investigation into the functionality of General Meetings, and the push to implement online voting.

Some Directors in the room gave a brief update on the legal framework behind it, and encouraged councilors to modify or write a policy expressing Council's support for online participation in General Meetings.

MEETING TIMES

A discussion on the date and time of Council Meetings began, and the possibility of having them earlier on Sunday or moved to another day. It was determined that the Speaker would send out a poll to determine the best date and time for future meetings.

MEETING FREQUENCY

Council discussed the possibility of having meetings less than monthly. Including the possibility of cancelling the August meeting.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance informed Council that the budget would need to be approved by August, but that Council could delegate approval of it's section of the budget to be approved by the Board instead.

MEETING DATES

Be it resolved that Council task the Speaker to send out a doodle poll to select the meeting dates for the fall.

Vice President Schwan and Vice President Knight.

Motion carries unanimously.

CANCELATION OF THE AUGUST MEETING

Be it resolved that Council designate the power to approve its portion of the budget to the Board, subject to it being brought back for information at the next Council meeting, and

Be it further resolved that Council allow the Speaker to cancel the August meeting if there is not enough agenda items.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Tran.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance stated that they will provide a session to allow Councillors to ask questions in person

Motion carries unanimously. Councillor Small abstains.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting as determined by the Speaker.

With the agenda exhausted and no other business, the Speaker adjourned the meeting at 1:53PM