

**Federation of Students
STUDENTS' COUNCIL
October 16, 2016, SLC MPR**

Present: Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Christos Lolas, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Sarah Wiley, Alex Liu, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Antonio Clarke, Denton Liu, Hayley Barnes, Jeremy Spira, Marcus Abramovitch, Midori Armstrong, Muhammed Tahir, Norman Hu, Patrick Melanson, Tomson Tran

Absent: Adrian Machado*, Antonio Brieva*, Aryeh Fortinsky, Charles Teasdale, Harsh Mistry, Iliia Sucholutsky*, Matthew Gerrits, Natasha Crasto, Quentin Cheung, Razan Qaoud*, Spencer Dobrik*, Tristan Potter*

†*Non-Voting Member*

**Excused*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of Students' Council assembled at 12:30 in the SLC MPR. Speaker Alexander Wray took the Chair, and Sacha Forstner acted as Secretary. The Chair verified that the meeting was properly constituted in accordance with the Corporation's bylaws, policies, and procedures, that due notice had been given to all members, and that a quorum was present.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:40.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting, as circulated.

Lolas and Melanson. Carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda, including:

1. The minutes from the September 24 2016 meeting;
2. The updated list of Fall 2016 Service Coordinators for ratification;
3. All submitted reports for information.

Vice President Priori offered clarification regarding the updated list of Service Coordinators, explaining that the change was due to a resignation and replacement in one of the Services.

Clarke and Schwan. Carried.

III. REPORTS

President Lolas

The Needles Hall "One Stop Shop" services transformation continues to move forward. The project will start by including the Registrar's Office, Student Success Office, and Graduate Studies Office. Feds is currently pressing for it to include Student Accounts as well, but faces

some hesitation from UW Finance. Most of the hesitation stems from a desire by Finance to keep all their departments under one roof. Feds is suggesting some alternatives, including the idea of training someone in the Registrar's Office to respond to the most common student needs relating to Finance.

Orientation is conducting a small review to assess its position following the change in the schedule of Orientation Week. Minor tweaks are expected, but at this stage are unknown. UW's proposed Sexual Violence Policy will be presented to Senate on October 17th, and is expected to be formally approved by the Board of Governors on October 25th. Some internal disagreements are expected, particularly regarding the line management of the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator.

Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan

Bomber will be holding multiple events in the near future. Feds is carrying forward with the Legal Insurance survey for students, once the exec resolve several logistical issues. The Survey may be done by email, or through short in-person surveys.

Vice President Internal Priori

A survey has gone out to students in the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo, with the intent of assessing what services those students have access to and how they use them. Planning has begun for Feds On Tour and for Wrap-Up Week, the latter of which is expected to include satellite campuses this year.

Among the services, the Food Bank is preparing for its annual Trick or Eat event, Warrior Tribe is working with Athletics in preparation for the "Battle of Waterloo" at the Aud, and Women's Centre is preparing for its Love Your Body Week.

The Volunteer Extravaganza is on Monday November 14th; all Councillors are invited.

Vice President Education Wiley

The Stakeholder Relations Officer has been hired and will begin transitioning with the role; advocacy priorities are proceeding as per the report submitted.

Speaker Wray

The Annual General Meeting will be held on October 27th at 17:00, attendance is required for all Councillors.

Speaking as Chair of the Board – the Bylaws Cleanup has been completed and will be presented at the General Meeting for ratification. An amendment to the revisions will be proposed at the meeting respecting the amending formula, which would change the requirement that Council co-approve future changes to the articles respecting Council and elections to a requirement that Council be consulted by Board on the changes. Board could not reach a decision on this proposal, thus it will be decided at the General Meeting.

IV. WPIRG REFERENDUM STANCE

Council heard a motion to call on the University of Waterloo Board of Governors to cease collection of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) fee, effective Winter 2017.

Abramovitch and Spira.

Councillor Abramovitch presented his motion, which would call on the University to act immediately in the aftermath of the September 28th referendum results, citing the feedback included in the submitted Council reports as evidence of a student desire to see the WPIRG fee removed swiftly.

Councillors expressed general support for the motion on the grounds that it reflects the result of the recent referendum, however, President Lolas informed Council that it is unlikely the University will be acting to implement the change prior to the Spring. According to the University Vice President of Administration and Finance, there isn't enough time to implement the change between the Board of Governors meeting on October 25th and the posting of Winter fee statements. Thus the change will likely be voted on at the February Board of Governors meeting.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

V. QUEST AND LEARN

Councillors were thanked for including student feedback regarding Quest and LEARN.

A Councillor asked a follow-up question regarding a desire expressed by constituents to make it mandatory for instructors to upload their lectures online. Vice President Wiley responded that such a suggestion was certainly worth considering, but falls outside the scope of this project.

VI. WEEKEND MIDTERMS

Vice President Wiley updated Council regarding the issue of Saturday midterms tabled at the last meeting. The University's plan is to remove the requirement that instructors holding midterms on Saturdays be obligated to offer a weekday accommodation to students who request it. Religious accommodations would not be impacted. Feedback solicited from Councillors and their constituents has indicated a generally negative response to this proposal, though some have been favourable to the suggestion, even going so far as to suggest Sunday midterms as well, citing the benefit of having the entire class and the instructor in one room for the exam. However, Arts and Engineering in particular have taken strong stances against the topic. Fortunately, Senate Undergraduate Council did not have time to reach a decision at their October meeting, and so will be considering it in November.

Council heard a motion to take a stance against Saturday midterms.

Melanson and Spira.

Lolas and Fuentes Valdez move to recess for 5 minutes. Carried.

Council recesses from 13:20 until 13:27.

Schwan and Tran move to amend the motion to read as follows:

Resolved, Council delegates the responsibility for drafting and approving a formal stance against weekend midterms to the Education Advisory Committee.

The question was called on Schwan's amendment, and it carried.

Discussion resumed on the primary motion. Councillors expressed a desire to have EAC inform Council of its final decision in a timely fashion. Vice President Wiley committed to following up.

The question was called on the primary motion as amended, and it carried.

VII. STUDENT RENTAL ADVERTISING

Councillor Abramovitch led a discussion regarding student housing in the local community. The issue of high rise buildings not being completed by the time students need to move in has become an annual issue, and many of these rental companies advertise in-person in the Feds-managed Student Life Centre. Abramovitch suggested Feds consider barring those companies from advertising.

Councillors expressed general support for the intent, but had some reservations. Concerns included a fear that preventing them from advertising wouldn't solve the core issue, and that there is no effective way to prevent leasing companies from talking about unfinished buildings. Councillors agreed that Feds should take steps to educate students about housing issues, and make efforts to drive policy change. Pursuant to that, Vice President Wiley updated Council on her recent efforts regarding housing, including marketing campaigns, partnership with community legal services, media engagements, and outreach to the Ministry of Housing.

Councillors discussed the possibility of a housing forum involving students and Councillors to discuss these issues. It was agreed to discuss this topic in further detail at another time.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – CHANGES TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE

Council heard a motion to amend the Procedure XX, retroactive to May 2016, such that the elected membership on the Campus Life Advisory Committee, Internal Administration Committee, and Internal Funding Committee lasts for one year.

Priori and Melanson.

Vice President Priori explained that there is not sufficient time or resources to train a new set of members for these committees every 4 months, thus year-long seats are needed.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Lolas informed Council that the UWaterloo Brand Refinement Project team will be presenting at the November Council meeting with an update on their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved at 13:50.

Melanson and Tran. Carried.