

**Federation of Students  
STUDENTS' COUNCIL  
September 25, 2016, SLC MPR**

**Present:** Christos Lolas (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Brian Schwan, Sarah Wiley, Alex Liu, Antonio Clarke, Charles Teasdale, Denton Liu, Matthew Gerrits, Marcus Abramovitch, Midori Armstrong, Patrick Melanson, Razan Qaoud, Spencer Dobrik, Tomson Tran.

**Absent:** Alexander Wray\*†, Adrian Machado\*, Alexa Fuentes Valdez\*, Antonio Brieva\*, Aryeh Fortinsky\*, Deanna Priori\*, Ilia Sucholutsky\*, Harsh Mistry\*, Jeremy Spira\*, Muhammed Tahir\*, Natasha Crasto\*, Norman Hu\*, Tristan Potter\*.

**Electronic:** Quentin Cheung

†*Non-Voting Member*

\**Excused*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of Students' Council assembled at 12:30 in the SLC MPR. In the absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, President Christos Lolas took the Chair *Pro Tempore*, and Sacha Forstner acted as Secretary. The Chair verified 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 12:37.

### **I. SPECIAL ORDER – LIBRARY PRESENTATION**

Council heard a presentation regarding proposed renovations to the University of Waterloo Dana Porter and Davis Centre Libraries. The presentation outlined the core principles and vision underlying the renovation project, its ultimate goals, and a general timeline with the caveat that work will take place as funds become available.

Councillors expressed general support for the project, praising the plan's emphasis on creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century library space that significantly differs from the libraries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The presenters received and answered questions regarding inclusivity, group study space, personal safety, and the use of reference materials. In their answers, they highlighted the importance of the library being a safe space that is open to flexible uses, absorbs noise, and is comfortable for all students to use.

Councillors were urged to email any additional thoughts or feedback to President Lolas.

### **II. ELECTION OF SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE***

Council heard a motion to elect a *Pro Tempore* Speaker for the duration of the meeting.

Sacha Forstner was nominated and acclaimed to the position.

*Lolas and Tran. Carried.*

*Lolas yields the Chair to Forstner. Nauth replaces Forstner as Secretary.*

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Council heard a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting.

*Abramovitch and Gerrits. Carried.*

### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. That the minutes from the meeting on July 24 2016 be approved;
2. That Council ratify the Fall 2016 Service Coordinators, as presented;
3. That Council accept all submitted reports for information.

Councillors Tran and Gerrits drew attention to the fact that their absences for the July meeting should have been excused. The Secretary committed to correcting the minutes to reflect that fact.

The Chair reminded all Councillors that they have an obligation to submit a report to Council every month regarding their activities.

*Schwan and Melanson. Carried.*

### **V. REPORTS**

*President Lolas*

Students have been receiving unsolicited emails from third-party companies sent to their uwaterloo inboxes. The University is searching for the root cause. Students are encouraged to report offending emails to the Government, and pass on details regarding the emails to Chris.

*Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan*

The Commercial Services have been very busy since the start of term. New menu items have been launched at Bomber, and a series of events have been planned. Wasabi Sushi has now been running for two months and is receiving positive feedback. Guelph and Markham locations have been launched for the Fed Bus.

The website has received some cosmetic updates, and staff are currently working towards a winter term launch of a new website.

This is the last week for students to opt-out of the health and dental plan. Feds is preparing to undertake a survey regarding the merits of the legal insurance add-on.

Councillors asked questions regarding the increased volume of patrons at the commercial services. Schwan reiterated that this increase in traffic is unprecedented, and Feds is working to update its forecasts in order to meet demand.

Councillors asked additional questions about the legal insurance add-on to the Health and Dental Plan. Schwan explained that the add-on would cost \$27-35 per year and provide students with access to a legal hotline for up to four \$100000 cases per year.

#### *Vice President Education Wiley*

It is now easier for students to change their names on-campus. Wiley has been named the undergraduate representative in the UN HeforShe Campaign. Student housing has been the primary issue lately: Feds has made several media appearances, sent a letter to City Council, and is trying to set up a meeting with the Ontario Minister of Housing. General lobby meetings took place with Minister Chagger, MPP Lorne Coe, and the Mayor, to discuss a range of student issues regarding international and indigenous students, and housing issues.

Regarding academic affairs: The Associate Commissioner, Feds Teaching Awards has been hired, and Feds is in ongoing discussions with administrators regarding public syllabi.

*No reports were presented from the Vice President Internal or the Speaker at this meeting due to the absences of Vice President Priori and Speaker Wray.*

#### *Bylaws Cleanup Committee*

Forstner presented the report from the Bylaws Cleanup Committee on behalf of the Chair of the Board.

The report highlighted the Committee's goal of updating the Corporation's bylaws in order to close gaps, resolve structural issues, and clean up the language. In general, the revisions will clarify the role of Council Policy in Feds governance, clean up the language surrounding General Meetings, overhaul Elections and Referenda, clarify the roles of Directors, Officers, and Councillors, and establish an amending formula.

Forstner further highlighted specific changes to the sections of the bylaws governing Students' Council, Elections and Referenda, and the new amending formula, stressing that the changes are intended to empower Council, bring clarity to the powers and duties of the actors within the Corporation, and address current anachronisms in the referendum process.

Councillors asked questions regarding Council's current role in the referendum process.

Forstner explained that a referendum currently requires ratification at a General Meeting in order to bind the Board of Directors, but that doesn't preclude Council from supporting the result and determining that to be Feds' official stance on the issue.

## **VI. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES**

Council heard a motion to fill vacancies on the Internal Funding Committee, Co-op Students Council, the Feds Teaching Awards Committee, and the OUSA Delegate Selection Committee.

*Tran and Schwan.*

#### *Internal Funding*

Razan Qaoud was nominated and acclaimed to the one councillor seat.

### *Co-op Students Council*

Antonio Clarke, Charles Teasdale, and Midori Armstrong were nominated and acclaimed to the councillor seats. Alex Liu and Jacky Zhai were nominated and acclaimed to the at-large seats.

### *Feds Teaching Awards*

Antonio Clarke, Matthew Gerrits, and Tomson Tran were nominated and acclaimed to the councillor seats on this committee of the Academic Affairs Commission.

### *OUSA Delegate Selection*

Tomson Tran was nominated and acclaimed to the councillor seat.

*The question was called, and the motion carried.*

## **VII. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA PROCEDURE**

Councillor Abramovitch led a discussion about increasing voter turnout in elections and referenda. He stressed the importance of sending an email to all students about the issue, so that they know to vote.

Council heard a motion to task the Policies and Procedures Committee to incorporate mandatory communication requirements into the Elections and Referenda Procedure.

*Abramovitch and Lolos.*

President Lolos expressed his support for the motion on the grounds that it will see an important unwritten rule codified.

*Gerrits and Abramovitch* move to amend the motion to change “task” to “refer.” *Carried.*

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

## **VIII. QUEST AND LEARN**

Vice President Wiley briefed Council on the University’s plan to update Quest to make it more user-friendly, and the Academic Affairs Commission’s goal of investigating common student issues regarding the LEARN system. Discussion topics included the value of having degree audits on Quest, the problems with exam-time LEARN outages, and some program-specific course selection issues.

Councillors were encouraged to send Quest or LEARN-related feedback to the VP Education or the Academic Affairs Commissioner.

## **IX. SATURDAY MIDTERMS**

Vice President Wiley briefed Council regarding the University’s plan to normalize Saturday midterms. Currently courses are allowed to hold midterms on Saturdays, but are required to make alternative arrangements for students who request it. The proposal being put forward would remove that requirement through the use of Saturday test slots on Quest.

Councillors expressed mixed support for the proposal. Those in support cited the value of having additional exam preparation time. Others raised concerns regarding extra-curriculars on Saturdays, or the possibility of poorly-timed Saturday midterms.

Council heard a motion to bring the Saturday Midterms issue forward for a formal discussion at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, following consultation with constituents.

*D. Liu and Schwan.*

Wiley clarified that this issue will likely be up for approval at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate Undergraduate Council.

*Wiley and Abramovitch* move to amend the motion to encourage Councillors to submit feedback to the VP Education prior to October 11<sup>th</sup>.

*The Chair finds unanimous consent for the amendment.*

Councillors discussed the value of discussing this item following Senate Undergraduate Council approval. Wiley clarified that final approval of the change would be left to the University Senate in November.

The final amended text of the primary motion was as follows:

**Resolved**, that the University's plan for Saturday midterms shall be formally debated at the October 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting; and

**Further Resolved**, that Councillors are encouraged to submit feedback to the VP Education prior to October 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

## **X. UNIVERSITY AVENUE STOP SIGNS**

Councillor Melanson led a discussion regarding the intersection at University Avenue and Lester, where a great deal many students reside. There is only one crosswalk in this high-traffic area, and a lot of people jaywalk, which is highly dangerous. Councillors expressed concerns regarding the safety in this area, and the potential need for a set of lights or stop signs at this intersection.

Council heard a motion to task the Vice President Education to engage with City personnel on this issue in order to ensure appropriate safety measures for pedestrians are put into place.

*Melanson and Gerrits. Carried.*

## **XI. UNIVERSITY SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

President Lolas presented an updated draft of University Policy 42, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response. Changes included some additional text regarding prevention, with the caveat

that the University believes it would be inappropriate to put specific prevention details into policy. Instead, the goal is to have specific departments develop prevention plans. Councillors expressed general support for the changes, but concerns that the policy still needs work. In particular, the importance was stressed of having Feds work with the campus units developing implementation plans for the policy. Lolas reiterated that the current text of the policy is up against a strict deadline set by the Province, but the first review of the policy will begin in one year and additional changes will be an option at that time.

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor D. Liu drew attention to a recent stance passed by the Engineering Society against the reuse of old exams from term to term.

Vice President Wiley expressed general support for having Feds address this issue at a campus-wide level, but highlighted some challenges, such as getting support from the Faculty Association on this issue.

Councillors expressed support for giving this issue a more detailed hearing at the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was moved at 14:43.

*Abramovitch and Lolas. Carried.*