

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, Subhan*
- Brieva, Antonio
- Clubine, Andrew
- Eyre, Alexander
- Easton, Benjamin
- George, Rebecca
- Jowhari, Nickta*
- Knight, Jill
- Mohan, Andrew
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth
- Potter, Tristan
- Schwan, Brian
- Simpson, Abigail
- Small, Jason
- Velling, Seneca
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Clarke, Antonio
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Mills, Cameron*
- Mistry, Harsh
- Terzian, Hagop
- Tran, Tomson
- Xu, Wenyu

* 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 Board approve the agenda as presented.
Councillor O’Sullivan and Vice President Clubine.

Motion carries unanimously.

CONSENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Be it resolved that Council table the minutes from October until the next meeting.
Councillor Potter and Vice President Schwan.

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 approximately 225 people came to the General Meeting, and that the Task Force for GM Engagement was created; the Board has appointed their members, Council will appoint members this meeting.

The committee pannel on student mental health that was meant to happen after the General Meeting happened, but the General Meeting ended early so in-person attendance was lower than expected about 30 to 60 people throughout. However, Facebook live recorded almost 2000 people watching, and those people stayed for almost the entire stream. The University President also attended, and stayed for most of the panel. The President noted that there was a good followup discussion from the panel, including emails from students who agreed and/or disagreed with some of the points that were made on the panel.

Thirdly, President Brieva and Vice President Clubine went to Ottawa from November 6th to the 10th, and attended about 15 meetings throughout the week. A brief overview of the advocacy that occurred is included in the written report.

A councillor asked what may have caused the higher attendance at the GM, the President replied that it was one reason was likely the timing of the meeting being earlier in the day. It was also hypothesized that social media sharing also contributed to the turnout, as councillors actively recruited people to come vote. The Vice President,

Operations and Finance mentioned that they streamlined the process to sign people in, so there was also less of a line and the meeting could start on-time.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT LIFE

The Vice President, Student Life reported that the Committee of Society President's was meeting every 3 to 4 weeks, and was almost having a problem of over-engagement as President's brought additional Vice President's. Some of the biggest things that societies needed was IT support, events support, and greater collaboration between societies.

The Vice President, Student Life has also been having one-on-one meetings with societies to make sure Feds is addressing their needs.

Student mental health continues to be a priority, as the Vice President, Student Life does research on how to implement Wrap up week to best meet students needs. They are meeting with athletics and counselling to make sure the week is effective.

Volunteer appreciation reached capacity this year, and the Vice President, Student Life is conducting an evaluation to make sure the appreciation event meets student needs.

There is continued work on centralizing the advocacy that services are doing. Particularly, the Vice President, Student Life is meeting with the advocacy directors of The Women's Centre and MATES to help them expand their contact lists and expand their work at the university level.

Feds is also running trial sessions on how to run an effective meeting, as well as conflict management sessions to better train student leaders on campus.

Finally, the Vice President, Student Life is holding more satellite campus office hours.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

The Vice President, Education reported that the co-op fee review is currently paused. There were some questions from Engineering due to A vs B Engineering Societies and how to handle consulting. Andrew will inform council and the Vice President Education/Academic of each society, and will provide resources to have broad consultation; however, it will be up to societies and councillors to figure out what that looks like in their faculty.

There were 10 policy papers at Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance including:

- system vision,
- accountability,
- open education,
- open licensing, and
- Indigenous students.

They are currently being edited and will be posted on Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance's website.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance also launched a publication, "In It Together", a 10 to 12 page report built in collaboration with primary stakeholders in the post-secondary education sector. This is the first time these groups have come together

on a project. The publication will be predominantly about mental health. When it launched, it was said to have had the largest turnout for a 7:30 AM reception, which was followed by a day of very well recieved lobbying. The government seems to be aware that they should be handling mental health as a structural issue and not just a funding one.

They have also created a new group for advocacy, which so far seems to have high impact. They are currently working on a new OSG-style (moving tax credits into up-front grants) federal funding structure. This is currently not appealing in terms of political movement, but everyone has suggested this would be good moving forward; the Vice President, Education hopes for some greater progress in the next few years.

A review of policies 70, 71, and 72 is currently ongoing. These are the policies that outline what happens when things go wrong for students. This review will likely bleed into next spring, but the committee is doing really well. They have decided to start from a blank slate.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance is moving into open educational resources, along with the campus bookstore. These are basically open resources, especially textbooks, that will be a great resource for students. The only cost will be if students want hard-copy versions of the resource. Faculty can edit, write, modify the content to fit the context. Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance will be running a (mostly a social media) campaign in January, which Feds will be mirroring, but Feds would like to also do a letter-writing campaign towards faculty. If councillors would like to get involved they should contact the Vice President, Education.

A councillor asked if there was a place or report to find what had been passed at Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. The Vice President, Education directed councillors to check the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance website, as all of the policies would be posted by the end of the month.

Finally, the Vice President, Education informed Council that there was an Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance survey out right now, which might be extended since other school's ethics boards took a while to approve it. This survey is done every two years to gauge student's experiences on campus.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

The secretary complimented the Vice President, Operations and Finance's mustache.

Based on feedback from student groups, particularly societies and employers doing catering in the Bomber, they have implemented a new catering menu that is more varied, and less fried.

Bottled water is being phased out by 500ml and 1L boxed water options, presented in non-prominent locations.

SLC Campus Bubble will need to close as window beams are removed due to construction.

Community Kitchen is doing well, and seems to have good uptake from student groups cooking and baking for their events.

The student legal survey will not be going out in November as previously communicated. There was a strategic decision to move it to the beginning of January. The survey is done and ready to launch.

A part-time job fair is planned for the beginning of January, and they are planning to do quick interviews and field questions about the open positions for students (professional development opportunities, responsibilities, etc). This was done in response to a questionnaire from the last open house. 80% of respondents wanted to know more about Feds part time jobs. They are also planning to have virtual options, and are considering integrating other part-time options on campus.

A student asked if there would be an information campaign prior to the legal survey, so students were aware what they were being surveyed on. The Vice President, Education responded that there will be some brief information shared with the survey, and there will be some social media information shared.

REGULAR

TASK FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Be it resolved that council appoints _____ and _____ to the two council seats on the Taskforce on General Meeting Engagement.

President Brieva and Vice President Schwan.

The taskforce will be looking into the structure and engagement at general meetings. Timeline will likely be a bi-weekly meeting, for an hour to an hour and a half.

Councillor Ayre nominates Councillor Velling. Councillor Small nominates himself. Councillor Ayre nominates himself. Vice President Clubine nonminates Councillor Easton.

There will be an election. Each candidate gave a brief overview of their goals and why they should be appointed to this committee.

Councillors voted, two nominees per ballot. The vote was counted. Councillor Velling and Councillor Easton were appointed to the blanks. The motion now reads:

Be it resolved that council appoints Councillor Velling and Councillor Easton to the two council seats on the Taskforce on General Meeting Engagement.

Motion carries unanimously.

ELECTION DATES

Be it resolved that Council set the nomination period for Feds' elections to start November 20 and end January 15;

Be it further resolved that Council set the campaign period to begin January 22, and end February 7 at 10PM.

President Brieva and Councillor Velling.

Motion carries unanimously.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLETS

Be it resolved that Council destroys the ballots from the previous election on the General Meeting Task Force.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Small.

Motion carries unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

MISINFORMATION ON FEDS WEBSITE

A councillor inquired about potential mis-information in the Feds reporting on the online voting motion of the General Meeting.

INFORMATION REPORTING REGARDING UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS

A councillor shared that someone in Science had received almost 1000 complaints with coop from students, and was wondering how these complaints should be shared. The councillor also suggested that Feds create a “complaints form” on the website so that students can submit complaints against the university.

The Vice President, Education replied complaints could be forward to themselves or Franco, that there was a focus in the coop department on the fee review, and that there is currently a reorganization of the department that defines CECA under the Provost instead of as an arms-length body. They are hoping that having a separate departments under the Provost will be a structure that works better for students.

Councillors expressed support for more centralized reporting within Feds.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES LOGGING HOURS

SciSoc requested Science Councillors to ask Feds Student Councillors, Executives, and Directors to log their hours.

Councillors expressed that self-reporting is often inaccurate. Executive reporting is under the purview of board.

Councillors generally feel pretty neutral on the idea of self-reporting their own hours.

OUSA BLOG

The Vice President, Education invited councillors to check out the topics posted on the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance blog, and invited Councillors to write for the blog.

JANUARY MEETING DATE

Be it resolved that Council meet on January 14, 2017 at the regular time.
Councillor Small and Vice President Schwan.

Motion carries unanimously.

STUDENT FUNDING INFORMATION

Councillors would like to see more communication and outreach for the various sources of funding that students have available to hold events and improve student life.

Also councillors would like to see an investigation towards speeding up the process for a group to get money, and more awareness so that Feds clubs aren't always reaching out to external sources like Faculty Endowment Funds.

The Vice President, Student Life responded that they are currently discussing how to best advertise and market the Internal Funding Committee (IFC) and relevant funds.

Currently IFC meets bi-weekly, and proposals almost always came in on an off week.

Most proposals came with less than 2 weeks notice, which is very difficult for students to work with as a time-frame.

In terms of the Student Life Endowment Fund, funding events doesn't come out of that fund, and it has historically been almost exclusively for investing in student lounges.

A councillor also asked if it would make sense for Faculty Endowment Funds to sit together as a committee. Councillors agreed this would be great, but would be up to those organisations.

Councillors also expressed wanting to see more information on Faculty Funds on the website.

CANCELATION OF DECEMBER MEETING

Be it resolved that Council cancel its December 3rd meeting.

Councillor O'Sullivan and Councillor Velling.

Councillors expressed that Council could vote on the Indigenous Student Policy over email if Feds needed to get that through early.

A straw poll was held on whether to have an online vote.

Motion carries .

Councillor Small, Councillor Ayre, Councillor Ye-Mowe are noted against.

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting.

With no new business the meeting was called to adjourn at 2:03PM.