

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

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Clarke, Antonio
- Clubine, Andrew*
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Mills, Cameron*
- Mistry, Harsh
- 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 Student's Council approves the agenda for the September 17, 2017 meeting as presented.

Vice President Schwan and Vice President Knight.

Motion carries unanimously.

CONSENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Be it resolved that Council approve the minutes from July 16, 2017.

Councillor Potter and Councillor O'Sullivan.

Councillor Velling noted that he was recorded as absent, but was present.

Motion carries unanimously.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No reports were given.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President reported on the completion of a successful Orientation Week; they spoke at several events, and were requested to be present at many faculty events.

The Mental Health Committee has posted the panelists who will be consulted for the 5 main panels. The President attended a launch event that introduced everyone; the panels will begin investigating mental health on campus in the near future. A Q&A panel will be available to take student questions after the General Meeting.

Working with Andrew and the other U15 student associations to develop briefs on the student loan program, and aid for indigenous students. They also will be advocating for increased access to undergraduate research funding and for undergraduate work placements

to count towards international student residency. These priorities will be advocated between November 6th to the 10th in Ottawa. The Vice President, Education is also working on a brief to better define the coalition and explain why the coalition is unique to decision makers.

The Policy and Procedure Committee has been meeting bi-weekly. Overall looking at expired and soon-to-be expired policies and determining how to consolidate and reduce the number of policies.

A councillor asked if the Fall General Meeting had been scheduled. The meeting will be held on October 25, 2017 at noon, first notice will be sent to students on September 25th, 2017.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL

The Vice President, Internal organized three major events.

- They spoke at events during Orientation Week, working with various stakeholders and Orientation leaders to ensure the success of the week.
- Shortly after, Welcome Week greeted students back to campus. It was very successful, with high attendance.
- Finally, preparations are underway to ensure Wrap-up Week is as successful as the beginning-of-term events.

In their work towards increasing campus wellness, the Vice President, Internal is working actively with Campus Wellness and uWaterloo Athletics to create a coalition and unified front surrounding the wellness initiatives on campus. Wrap up week will likely change to be focussed as a wellness week, and Feds and the other campus partners are aiming to be more preventative in their approaches to campus wellness.

The societies commissioner is still being hired, but the Vice President, Internal will be scheduling the first Committee of President's meeting soon. Will be discussing the events and issues that each society is focussed on and how they can collaboratively run events and support students.

Volunteer appreciation is also being redone, and the Vice President, Internal is beginning by investigating how other unions appreciate volunteers and how we can do better, there will be a presentation to the Campus Life Advisory Committee with some preliminary ideas.

The Gender and Sexual Diversity Workgroup has been meeting, beginning with education; later there will be 16 days of activism against gender violence, and more efforts to increase the visibility of this initiative and the issues faced on this campus.

The Clubs Assistant that was hired at the beginning of the fall is now actively supporting clubs and working diligently.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

The Vice President, Operations and Finance submitted a detailed report, and encourages those interested to read it and reach out with any questions. Some highlights include:

- A new Bomber menu has launched, with more food options and more options for restrictive diets;
- An update to International News' express menu is set to launch in the winter, to allow students to get in and out quickly;
- Fazing our straws at Bomber to eliminate plastic use;
- More grab and go items (including possibly fried chicken and potatoe wedges) will be available at International News, as the existing options are very successful;
- Feds Used Books is very busy, there is a strong push for affordable textbooks on campus;
- Revisiting efficiencies on entry and exit to the Student Life Centre to address the traffic around campus bubble from construction;
- Executive action plans have been posted online;
- The new website will launch soon, it will be much better organized and accessible on multiple devices;
- The budget was emailed to councillors and all concerns were resolved prior to Board approval, it will be posted when the new website is released;
- The opt-out period for the health and dental plans, is September 5, 2017 till October 7, 2017; and,
- A legal insurance survey will be launched in October to re-visit whether students want legal coverage.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance also shared some updates on Pharam-Plus:

- PharmaPlus has released a list of prescription drugs that will be covered and is set to launch in January;
- the Vice President, Education and Vice President, Operations and Finance went to an OHIP meeting to determine more informaiton on the PharmaPlus initiative;
- Feds is creating documentation to inform students on the changes;
- The are monitoring the current health and dental plan and investigating potential changes for the future, however there will be no changes in the short term since PharmaPlus will launch in the middle of a term year.

A councillor inquired why Council was not asked to approve the budget, and was informed of the motion at the last meeting when Council delegated approval to the Budget Committee, provided that the budget was emailed to Council for comments.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance is also re-working how the budget is constructed and presented to make it more accessible to students and make the budget process more streamlined.

A councillor also asked about executive salaries, and why they were so high compared to other student unions. Salaries are set by board, so the executive are not privy to those discussions due to conflict of interest. Councillors are encouraged to reach out to the chair of the Board of Directors to find out more on this process.

A councillor asked what prompted the menu changes in commercial services, the Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that they are always looking to improve. A major concern was that students couldn't get the food they wanted in the Bombershelter Pub, and Feds wants to serve a variety of students. It is important to ensure that people have food to eat, so making sure that there are adequate vegetarian and vegan options is important to Feds. The changes were also meant to address continual changes in the restaurant industry, and optimizing the menu based on which items were unpopular.

The councillor was concerned due to the food selection at the Cambridge campus. The Vice President, Operations and Finance will touch base with the Cambridge councillor and University administrators to find out more about how this problem can be resolved.

A councillor inquired about what happens if Council doesn't approve the budget, and if it would be similar to a government shut-down. An unapproved Council budget would result in no funding for clubs and services, but salaries and commercial departments would still have funding since those are corporate areas with legal requirements.

A councillor asked about halal options at Feds commercial services. The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that Grab-and-Go chicken was halal, and they were adding more halal options to the Bomber menu.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

The Vice President, Education was not present.

GENERAL ORDERS

HOURS OF TEACHING BUILDINGS

Be it resolved that Council renews Policy 2. Hours of Teaching Buildings.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Velling.

Councillor Pottergave a brief overview of the policy.

Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SERVICE COORDINATORS

Be it resolved that Council approves the service coordinators for Fall 2017 as presented.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Easton.

These are for one term.

Motion carries unanimously.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The Library gave a brief update on the ongoing renovations, see the attached slide-show. There were no comments.

FALL READING BREAK

Councillor Velling gave a brief feedback on the independent survey he held.

Science constituents, the Science Society, Environment, Engineering, and Arts also participated.

When asked what uWaterloo should do to compensate for adding days to the Fall reading break,

- 43% said class and orientation should start early,
- 38% said that exams should be allowed on sundays,
- some student did not want to extend reading week, and some wanted to get rid of it, and
- the least popular option was to shorten the time between the end of classes and the start of exams, with weekend classes also being very unpopular.

In terms of what students thought they should be expected to do,

- most students wanted to study and prepare for midterms,
- many students wanted reading week to be for mental health or relaxation,
- a limited amount of students said that they should be able to do interviews during reading week,
- a little under half responded that students should check email daily,
- very few students thought that exams or quizzes should happen during a reading break,

The vast majority of students supported the Fall reading break in its current form, or as an extended break. Many international students wanted a full week to go home, but an important consideration for these students is that sacrificing days at the start of the term results in no gain for them.

Almost 550 student made comments, which will be sent to the council mailing list.

A councillor voiced support for the data and work, and the policy that was created (see attached).

A councillor agreed with the plight of international students, and added that it was impossible to move orientation sooner, as students arrive to Waterloo and immediately move into orientation week as is. The councillor also inquired if demographic data was recorded in the survey.

Councillor Velling responded that there was no demographic data gathered with the survey. This was intended as an preliminary poll to get some data on the issue, and the amount of data gathered ended up being slightly overwhelming as-is.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance reassured councillors that the executive had discussed some of the points of the working group and had come to the same conclusions as the data that was presented. The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed gratitude for the data the was collected, as it will be useful, and encouraged councillors to reach out to the Vice President, Education with any questions.

An environment councillor expressed that they had also collected data, and would like to add it to the data pool.

A councillor asked about the timeline for this policy and how much time there was to gather data and propose policies; since University calendars are set pretty far in advance there is not much time.

A councillor expressed that Feds should make another poll to gather more official data. Another councillor countered that this was a representative body that could make decisions in the best interest of students with student input. Another councillor asked that councillors talk to their student societies and gather feedback from them, and potentially send out emails about it.

RESOLUTION ON THE EXTENSION OF FALL READING BREAK

Be it resolved that Council perform a first reading of the presented Resolution on the Extension of the Fall Reading Week, and

Be it further resolved that Councillors will communicate with constituents and societies to gather more feedback on the proposed resolution, and

Be it further resolved that the Vice President, Education will draft a survey to distribute to constituents, and

Be it further resolved that the Policy and Procedures Committee will work with stakeholders to create a more formal standing policy on mid term breaks.

Councillor Velling and Councillor George.

Motion carries unanimously.

RENEWAL OF POLICIES

Be it resolved that Council renews policies 1, 3, 16, and 31 as presented by the Policy and Procedures Committee.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Councillor Velling gave a brief overview of the policies in question. They are fairly unmodified, with the exception of the policy on student study space where it is recommended that the percent of space allocated as study space be increased to the standard determined by post-secondary research into study space on university campuses.

Motion carries unanimously

PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE POLICY

Based on a policy that was made at a recent Engineering Society Council meeting, a councillor would like to create a more general policy at the Feds level on how commercial services distribute bottled water, in the effort to make Feds and the uWaterloo campus more environmentally sustainable.

A councillor voiced opposition to the policy due to the lack of water fountains in older buildings, a consideration for students ingesting excessive amount of alcohol, and a view

that the Federation shouldn't dictate the drinking choices of students. The councillor instead would ask that Feds advertise reusable options to students, but not stop the sale of bottled water.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed support for the removal of plastic water bottles from campus, citing the successes had on McMaster's campus with this initiative. However, the Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed concern that there were very few reusable bottle filling stations on campus, and that maybe Feds should take a leading stance on this but it was a concern that it would be difficult for students to refill the bottles. The Vice President, Operations and Finance would like to investigate this further as a campus wide stance on bottled water. The Vice President, Operations and Finance also brought forward a potential middle ground of boxed water, which is much more efficient. Finally, he expressed that there should be a phase out period, as otherwise bottles will still end up in landfills.

A councillor brought up that other liquids in bottles would likely see increased sales, and so proposes that perhaps we should take a stance on all bottled liquids.

Councillor Small expressed interest in meeting with the Vice President, Operations and Finance about this policy, as well adding additional clauses to the policy regarding water-filling stations on campus. He also expressed disagreement that Feds removing water bottles does not infringe on student choice rights.

The President added that this policy is very internal focussed, so may not pass the Council procedure definition of policy, so this should be kept in mind throughout policy development.

A councillor suggested keeping bottled water sales in buildings that did not have water-filling stations. Another suggestion was that Feds re-usable water bottles present a great branding opportunity.

The councillor that was earlier opposed suggested that this was the wrong solution to the right problem, re-iterating that students would likely be upset at Feds for discontinuing the sale of water bottles and re-iterating that advertising is a more individualized solution.

A councillor inquired about precedent for this kind of policy. The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that some items had been banned by the provincial government, but that it was rare for Council to bring forward explicit bans against certain items. They also mentioned the existing policy on environmental sustainability that Councillors should read for context.

A councillor brought up that it may be better to modify the environmental sustainability policy, and that the Policy and Procedures Committee could work to create a more comprehensive policy proposal.

Another councillor expressed that a large number of students would be happy with this policy, however expressed that they were representing environment students. They also mentioned there was likely only a small number of students that would be unhappy with Feds for discontinuing bottled water.

A councillor added that if we are modifying the environmental sustainability policy we should add clauses for recycling, as there are many buildings that have no recycling facilities.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance will move water bottles out of the fore-

front and will bring in boxed water instead. He will also investigate bringing in cheap but quality reusable water bottles.

Councillor Small and Vice President Schwan will connect to discuss this, and bring a more formal policy to the Policy and Procedures Committee.

REVOKE POWERS OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Be it resolved that revokes the authority of the Policy and Procedure Committee to ratify policy or procedures without the approval of Council.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Councillor Potter proposed an ammendment to make this motion specific to the policies that were previously delegated to the committee, as the committee never had approval authority over all policy and procedure. This was done to clarify the exact effect of the motion.

This was friendly with the mover and seconder. The policy now reads:

Be it resolved that Council revokes the authority of the Policy and Procedures Committee to ratify ammendments to the

- Ancillary Fees,
- Preventing Discrimination, and
- Strong Representation

policies without the approval of Council.

Motion carries unanimously.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

Be it resolved that Feds adopt the distributed policy on Freedom of Speech as presented.

Councillor Ayre and Vice President Schwan.

The mover expressed that this policy is meant to treat all clubs the same regardless of their political belief, to allow campus police to intervene if protests happen, and to prevent protests from happening that would shut down events.

Councillors expressed that polls show students are interested in seeing this policy be explicit on what speech is allowed, and there was concern optics of passing the policy in its current form. There was general support for a policy around free speech, and an interest in seeing a revised policy.

The President expressed that the Policy and Procedures Committee was currently working on a policy on free speech based on one that had just expired, and invited Councillor Ayre to come to a future meeting to discuss his thoughts further.

There was further concern for protections to the rights for campus community members to be on campus, particularly those who belong to marginalized communities.

The mover made the argument that freedom of speech allows our community to address and confront those who believe hateful things about other people. He is also open to working with the Policy and Procedures Committee in the future.

The President expressed support for the idea of this, but that the policy should be rolled into our current policy on freedom of expression.

Another councillor expressed support for this policy to exist, but that what constitutes as free speech does needs to be defined.

The mover responded asking who decides what constitutes as hate speech, and that students should stand up and address when they are uncomfortable.

A councillor expressed that there were enforced reasonable limits on freedom of expression, and that the law had precedent to any policies developed by Council.

A councillor would like to see an investigation into the safeguards that will be put into place for marginalized groups on campus.

Councillor Potter proposed an ammendment to make this a first reading of the motion. The ammendment is seen as friendly, and the motion now reads:

Be it resolved that Council conduct a first reading of the Freedom of Speech policy as presented, and will recieve a revised version at the next meeting.

Councillor Velling proposed referring the motion to the Policy and Procedures Committee for further development.

Be it resolved that Council refer this to the Policy and Procedures Committee to develop in concert with the current Freedom of Expression policy and the mover.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Motion carries unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Be it resolved that Council set the dates for the Fall Council meetings

President Brieva and Vice President Schwan.

Motion carries unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT COUNCILLOR REPORT

The councillors representing the faculty of environment submitted a report during the meeting. See attached.

There is concern that students making expenses for student societies are not being repayed on time, and the possibility of societies having other bank accounts.

It was noted that some societies do have external bank accounts, but most expenses are still processed through the societies accountant.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed that the societies accountant now had a credit card to make society purchases easier.

A councillor also inquired if there was any investigations into online reimbursement forms.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that it was a project going on at the moment, and that he could bring an update at the next meeting.

Councillors also expressed a desire to see more outreach from the Student Life Endowment Fund, as the fund seems under-utilized by societies.

OPEN SEATS ON THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A councillor inquired about open seats on IAC, the Vice President, Internal responded that there were none.

OPEN SEATS ON COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

A councillor inquired about open seats due to the term changing. They were informed that Councillors and at large students will continue in their seats unless replaced.

The architecture representative on Council raised the issue that students on their campus feel neglected by Feds, and see a lot of attention during the election but would like to see more attention during the year.

The councillor would like to see executive office hours on their campus for a day at least once a month, ideally more frequently.

They would also like more support from the Feds and the University, as students are feeling a lot of pressure and many are working till 3am every night.

The executives responded that they would be looking into that, and to reach out with any other concerns or suggestions.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting.

elizabeth and brian.

With the agenda exhausted and no other business, the Speaker adjourned the meeting at 3:07PM

Motion carries unanimously.