

STUDENTS' COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING: AUGUST 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Federation of Students Students' Council at 12:30 PM on Sunday, August 3rd, 2014 in SLC 1120/1121. The Speaker in the chair was Doug Turner and Andrew Clubine served as Secretary.

The following members were in attendance: Councillors Koo, Knight, Lolas, McCready, A. Wang (ENG), J. Wang (ENG), Thakar, Hayman, Hamidzai, Khan, Gaffoor, Liu, J. Wang (MATH), Sidharta, Turner, Wan and Ramdev. President Burt and Vice Presidents Balfour and Hamade were in attendance. VP Yasin joined the meeting via Skype.

Councillors Nasif and Li were exempt from attending the meeting.

Unexcused absences: Councillors Yazdani, Nelson, Domingo and Balram.

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Turner called the meeting to order at 12:30PM.

PRELIMINARIES

ELECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The meeting began with a blank motion for the election of the Assistant Secretary:

1. **“BIRT Council elects _____ as Assistant Secretary of Students' Council.”**

No nominations for Assistant Secretary were made.

2. Moved by VP Hamade, seconded by Councillor Gaffoor:

“BIRT Council postpone the election of Assistant Secretary of Students' Council to the Students' Council Regular Meeting of September 2014.”

-Carried unanimously-

Councillor Gaffoor suggested posting the Assistant Secretary position on UW Leads.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Moved in amendment by President Burt, seconded by VP Hamade:

“BIRT the agenda for the August Regular Meeting be approved with the following amendments:

- **insert election of 2 councillors to the Internal Administration Committee in the Committee Appointments section.**
- **insert a 15 minute discussion about Waterloo SOS in New Business.**

-Carried unanimously as amended-

Speaker Turner allowed for two new councillors to be introduced. Councillors Kush Thakar and Allen Wang were recently acclaimed to fill the previously empty engineering seats.

Councillor Hamidzai entered the meeting at 12:38 PM.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **“BIRT Council receive and approve the Consent Agenda for the August 2014 Regular Meeting.”**
- Councillor Reports
 - i. Doug Turner (Arts)
 - ii. James Koo (AHS)
 - iii. Kianna Wan (Science)
 - iv. Julian Wang (Engineering)
 - v. Jill Knight (AHS)
 - vi. Elizabeth Liu (Math)
 - vii. Christos Lolas (Math)
 - viii. Anne-Marie Hayman (St. Jeromes)
 - Spring 2014 Elections Report (Councillor Hayman)

- Resignation from Council

“BIRT Council accept the resignation of Adam Assad (Sci.) from Council”

- Resignation from Committee Seats

“BIRT Council accept the resignation of Alanna Benson from the At-Large seat on the Government Affairs Advisory Committee and;

BIFRT Council accept the resignation of Chanakya Ramdev from the Councillor positions on the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, Student Technology Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors’ Ad-Hoc General Meetings Advisory Committee.”

-Carried unanimously-

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President

President Burt presented her Executive Report. Office hours will continue to be held by Executives.

Vice-President, Internal

VP Yasin’s Executive Report was presented via Skype.

Vice-President, Operations and Finance

VP Balfour presented his Executive Report, highlighting the success of the Feds open house.

Vice-President, Education

VP Hamade presented his Executive Report. Feds’ Municipal Platform will be presented in the first candidate meeting on Wednesday, August 7th.

Councillor Ramdev entered the meeting at 12:58 PM.

EXECUTIVE QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Koo asked for clarification of the format of the Fall Break vote. VP Hamade

responded that a referendum will occur. Details can be found in the Elections Report (see consent agenda).

Councillor Ramdev suggested that Council should receive full text of the proposed referendum question so that opinion on the wording can be gathered. A discussion ensued, however, Speaker Turner suggested that this item be brought up in New Business.

Councillor Hayman requested information from President Burt regarding e-textbooks and information from VP Hamade regarding the EPLE.

Councillor Koo asked about WPIRG's recent removal from its former SLC office. VP Balfour responded that he is speaking with the SLC Manager about providing an interim agreement that would allow WPIRG to book SLC space.

McCready asked Balfour about the brand audit. Balfour says he wants as much information as possible in order to make effective change in the way that Feds communicates with students.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

5. Moved by Lolas, Seconded by Ramdev

“BIRT Council limit all Councillor Reports to 30 seconds.”

-Carried Unanimously-

Verbal reports were presented by Councillors. Written reports were approved in the consent agenda.

SPEAKER UPDATES

Speaker Turner informed Council that moving forward, only Councillor who submit reports will be allowed to speak to their activity during the Councillor Reports section of regular meetings. Those who neglect to submit a report will not be allowed to speak to Council during this time. This decision stemmed from a recommendation from the recent governance review.

Speaker Turner also presented Council with proposed meeting dates for the Fall 2014 terms.

6. Moved by Speaker Turner, Seconded by Councillor Sidharta

“BIRT Council hold its Fall 2013 regular meetings at 12:30PM on the following dates:

- **Sunday, September 21,**
- **Sunday, October 19,**
- **Sunday, November 16, and**
- **Sunday, December 7”**

Council engaged in a prolonged discussion about possible Fall term meeting dates. Councillor Sidharta wished to amend the date of the proposed December 7th meeting to November 30th. It was thought that Council’s procedures did not allow this. Speaker Turner suggested that Council vote to temporarily suspend the rules so that the desired meeting dates could be approved.

Following the meeting, it was found that Council procedures do not rule out two meetings in one calendar month. Therefore, the first two amendments to motion 6 are superfluous, but are nonetheless recorded below.

Moved by Councillor Sidharta, seconded by Councillor Ramdev:

“BIRT Council suspend the rules of Procedure _____ in order allow for the approval of the preferred Fall 2014 meeting dates”.

Secondary motion moved in amendment by Councillor Sidharta, seconded by Councillor Ramdev:

“BIRT Council suspend the rules of Procedure _____ in order allow for the approval of the preferred Fall 2014 meeting dates and suspend procedure 3 weeks apart.”

A lengthy discussion ensued about the reason for suspending Council procedures. The amended motion was called to question.

-Amendment to secondary motion carried-

The motion to suspend the rules, as amended, was called to question.

-Secondary motion carried as amended-

Opposed
Koo

Abstentions
Thakar

Following the suspension of the procedure governing meeting dates, later found to be unnecessary, Council passed a schedule of meeting dates:

Main motion moved in amendment by Councillor Gaffoor and seconded by Councillor Khan:

“BIRT Council hold its Fall 2013 regular meetings at 12:30PM on the following dates:

- **Sunday, September 21,**
- **Sunday, October 19,**
- **Sunday, November 2, and**
- **Sunday, November 30”**

-Main motion carried unanimously, as amended-

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Due to Councillor Raahem Yazdani’s accumulation of 2 unexcused absences, a motion was brought forth to remove Councillor Yazdani from Council, as per Council procedures.

7. Moved by Councillor Ramdev, Seconded by Councillor J. Wang (ENG)

“BIRT Council remove Councillor Raahem Yazdani from Council”.

-Carried Unanimously-

RECESS

8. Moved by Councillor Koo, Seconded by Knight:

“BIRT Council recess for 10 minutes”

-Carried-

Council Recessed at 2:17PM.

Speaker Turner called the meeting back to order at 2:27PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

BUDGET

VP Balfour and Councillors Lolos and Ramdev presented the Student Services portion of the budget on behalf of budget committee. (The budget package can be found in the agenda for the minutes).

12. Moved by VP Balfour:

“BIRT Council approves the proposed 2014-2015 budget as a recommendation to the board of Directors”

Councillor Koo asked where the surpluses of student services go. VP Balfour reminded Council that it only approves the Student Services portion of the budget, and that any surpluses from this portion of the budget will likely offset any losses from the rest of Feds’ operations.

-Carried unanimously-

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

13. Moved by VP Yasin:

“BIRT Students’ Council approves Co-op Connection as a service to begin operation in September 2014;

BIFRT, Co-op Connection be added into Council Procedure 25 using the mission from the proposal;

BIFRT, the Campus Life Advisory Committee will ensure that all council procedures are updated to reflect the addition of the new Co-op Connection service”

Councillor Sidharta asked if Co-op Connection will be mixed with CECA. Yasin responded that it will not be mixed with CECA; university administration will provide info about where students are co-oping, and will allow Feds to run the service.

-Carried unanimously-

14. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council approve the terms of reference of the Entrepreneurship Committee of Students’ Council;

BIFRT PPC be tasked with adding intellectual property rights to these the

terms of reference of the Entrepreneurship Committee of Students' Council;

“BIFRT Council task PPC to include Entrepreneur Committee of Students' Council in Council Procedure 10: Committees of Students' Council”

-Carried unanimously-

15. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council approve the amendments made to Policy 1 and Policy 14 by the Policy and Procedure Committee.” [Attachment 20](#)

Justification for changes to enrollment policy stemmed from concerns about over-enrollment into co-op programs which caused registered students difficulty in finding jobs.

-Carried unanimously-

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A number of committee appointments were necessary at this meeting. Council appointed Councillor Ramdev and Secretary Clubine to facilitate the elections. Speaker Turner opened nominations for GAAC, STAC and GM committees.

16. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council appoint Councillor Anne Marie Hayman to the Government Affairs Advisory Committee.

BIFRT Council appoint Councillor Allen Wang to the Student Technology Advisory Committee of the University of Waterloo and to the Federation of Students' Board of Directors' Ad-Hoc General Meetings Advisory Committee.”

-Carried-

17. Moved by Hamade, Seconded by Burt.

“BIRT Councillor Ramdev and Secretary Clubine destroy the ballots from the committee appointment elections.”

-Carried unanimously-

NEW BUSINESS

SOS DISCUSSION

Student Offering Support (SOS) was funded by the University of Waterloo's Student Success Office (SSO) for several years. During the summer, the SSO removed its funding from SOS, citing various concerns, including that SSO was directly funding an off-campus organization that it was unable to monitor.

The SSO realigned its Organizational Chart to include 3 faculty liaisons in order to ensure consistency of proper tutoring offered by the SSO. Moving forward, Feds and the SSO will partner to seek more tutoring opportunities.

VP Balfour expressed concern about a lack of ability of the SSO to cover the breadth of topics that were previously covered by SOS. This concern was echoed by several councillors.

EXTENSION

18. Moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council extend the adjournment time by 30 minutes.”

-Carried unanimously-

SOS DISCUSSION (CONT'D)

VP Hamade suggested that Council take a stance on the provision of tutoring by SSO.

19. Moved by Ramdev, seconded by Koo

“BIRT Council task Chair Turner with writing a letter on its behalf to SSO outlining the importance of providing tutoring services.”

-Carried unanimously-

20. Moved by VP Hamade, seconded Councillor Sidharta:

“BIRT Council's official stance on the current on-campus tutoring issue

involving the Student Success Office (SSO) and Students Offering Support (SOS) be as follows:

WHEREAS SOS provided a necessary tutoring service;
WHEREAS the university view the accountability of SOS as a concern;
WHEREAS students want quality tutoring; and
WHEREAS the SSO cut off the SOS in the middle of the term:

BIFRT Students Council believes that the university should fill gaps before cutting a program that is benefiting students;
BIFRT the SSO should provide a tutoring service in time for the fall midterms at the same level that SOS provided; and
BIRT the quality of the SSO tutors should be assured by the university.”

-Carried unanimously-

NEW BUSINESS

FALL READING BREAK REFERENDUM QUESTION

Councillor Hayman picked up on the referendum discussion that occurred previously in the meeting. Councillors McCready and Ramdev requested that the potential question be emailed to council in advance of the release of the question.

EXTENSION

21. Moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council extend the adjournment time by 10 minutes.”

-Carried unanimously-

FALL READING BREAK REFERENDUM QUESTION (CONT'D)

An extensive discussion ensued about Council’s role in the development of the referendum question.

22. Moved by Councillor McCready, seconded by Councillor Lolas

“BIRT following the development of a referendum question, VP Hamade to send the question to councillors and allow Council to provide feedback.”

This motion brought about concern from VP Hamade and others who suggested that if a referendum question is approved, and then amended by Council, it may be deemed illegitimate by Senate. In the case of a successful referendum, Senate would have grounds to ignore the result if the question posed is not agreeable.

Councillor McCready rescinded her motion.

EXTENSION

23. Moved by Councillor Koo, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council extend the adjournment time by 10 minutes.”

-Carried-

Opposed
Sidharta
J. Wang (ENG)
Knight

FALL READING BREAK REFERENDUM QUESTION (CONT'D)

Speaker Turner allowed Secretary Clubine to address Council regarding the debate about Council input on the referendum question. Secretary Clubine explained that Council must follow the procedures set out by administration in regards to the creation of a question. Should Council choose to deviate from guidelines set out, it could compromise the validity of the outcome of the referendum. He suggested that any councillors wishing to provide input on the referendum question should speak directly to VP Hamade immediately.

24. Moved by President Burt, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT that councillors provide input about how to form the referendum question to VP Hamade by Wednesday, August 6, 2014; and

BIFRT VP Hamade will inform Council of the final question.”

-Carried unanimously-

ADJOURNMENT

25. Moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by Koo

“BIRT Council adjourn the August regular meeting”

-Carried unanimously-

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32PM.