

STUDENTS' COUNCIL
MAY 15TH, 2016, SLC MPR

Present: Christos Lolas (Chair *Pro Tempore*), Deanna Priori (Secretary *Pro Tempore*), Brian Schwan, Sarah Wiley, Tomson Tran, Natasha Crasto, Antonio Brieva, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Jeremy Spira, Antonio Clarke, Adrian Machado, Denton Liu, Spencer Dobrik, Midori Armstrong, Matthew Gerrits, Alex Liu, Tristan Potter, Patrick Melanson, Charles Teasdale, Razan Qaoud, Akriti Agrawal.

Absent: Jason Copeland, Muhammed Tahir, Norman Hu, Ilia Sucholutsky, Mistry Harsh, Quentin Cheung, Aryeh Fortinsky, Jackie Ketchener, Marcus Abramovitch

Note: As Councillor Training had not yet occurred by the deadline to send regrets, the Chair has ruled that all absences are to be considered excused for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Federation of Students Council assembled at 12:30 in the SLC MPR. In the absence of all Council Officers, President Christos Lolas took the Chair *Pro Tempore*, and Vice President Internal Deanna Priori acted as Secretary *Pro Tempore*. The Chair verified that the meeting was properly constituted in accordance with the Federation's bylaws, policies, and procedures, that due notice had been given, and that a quorum was present.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32.

I. ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

Council heard a motion to elect a Speaker. Alexander Wray and Razan Qaoud were nominated for the position. Wray was elected *in absentia* by secret ballot.

Potter and Tran. Carried.

II. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Council heard a motion to elect a Deputy Speaker. Antonio Clarke and Tristan Potter were nominated for the position. Potter was elected by secret ballot.

Melanson and Schwan. Carried

Lolas yields the Chair to Potter.

III. ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY

Council heard a motion to elect a Secretary. Reba Nauth and Sacha Forstner were nominated for the position. Forstner was elected by secret ballot.

Melanson and Priori. Carried.

Forstner replaces Priori as Secretary.

IV. ELECTION OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Council heard a motion to elect an Assistant Secretary. Reba Nauth was nominated to the position.

Melanson and Schwan. Carried.

Council heard a motion to destroy the ballots from the elections for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Secretary.

Lolas and Schwan. Carried.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

President Lolas proposed amending the agenda to add "XI: Spring Meeting Dates." The Speaker found unanimous consent for the motion.

Tran and Crasto. Carried.

VI. REPORTS

President Lolas:

The SLC/PAC expansion project has moved out of the conceptual phase and into the detailed design stage, including: lighting, dimensions, floors, and precise placement of things within the building. Six student consultation sessions are being held, the first of which has already taken place, and the next four of which will be in the coming week. Students who cannot attend those sessions but wish to provide feedback are encouraged to email pres@feds.ca or slcpac@uwaterloo.ca.

The University's new Sexual Violence Policy and Ethical Behaviour Policy are both drafted. The hope is that the drafts will be released soon for student consultation and feedback.

Vice President Internal Priori:

The new MATES program is in the process of being finalized, and has been submitted to Council for approval as an official service. A Society Relations Commissioner has been hired for the purpose of assisting the Societies in achieving their goals and liaising between Society Executives and Feds. Other tasks have included work with the President on the draft Sexual Violence Policy as a member of the Provost's Advisory Committee on Equity, and the development of a plan to create a Societies Resource Manual for future use by Student Society Executives.

Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan:

The first Bomber Wednesday of the term was very busy, and the new VIP Package in particular was very well-received. International News is now serving Fair Trade Organic Tea, and Campus Bubble/Bento have rolled out a series of daily specials.

Talks are underway to find new locations for the Fed Bus to travel to – particularly those not currently covered by GO Transit. The Feds website is in the process of being redesigned. The Budget Committee is planning to meet within the next two weeks to have a budget to prepare a budget for approval by Council. The Services Kitchen renovations are underway, with a soft completion date set for early June.

Council asked questions regarding the solicitation of student feedback regarding the Services Kitchen, as well as its use. Schwan explained that the operational layout for the kitchen hasn't been finalized yet, and the plan will be for clubs and services to be able to use the kitchen for events and fundraisers, with the supervision of a single staff member. Those wishing to solicit feedback may email vpof@feds.ca. Schwan committed to bringing all relevant policies and procedures regarding the use of the Kitchen forward to Council for review at a later date.

Vice President Education Wiley:

Feds is in regular talks with University CIO Bruce Campbell regarding the student email domain replacement plan. The University has extended voting for the new subdomain name until the end of the day on May 16th. Discussions are ongoing with the University regarding communication with students on technology issues, including the likely return of the Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC), which was discontinued a few years previously. At the Partners in Higher Education Dinner hosted by OUSA last month, the Feds Teaching Award was presented to Michelle Ashburner.

Sarah has hired three part-time staff to assist her this year. Together with the Academic Affairs Commissioner, she recently attended the Town and Gown Symposium in Guelph, and explored new ways for municipalities and students to work together.

Council asked questions regarding the student e-mail issue, specifically regarding the possibility of stopping the subdomain change or continuing the aliasing of “@uwaterloo.ca” for a longer period of time, as well as the University’s communication of the change. Sarah expressed that it is extremely unlikely the University will change its mind at this point, but they have agreed that current students will get to keep their current emails for another four years. Feds has suggested that voting for the subdomain name shortlist should be on portal in order to reach more students. This change was not communicated to Feds until shortly before it was announced to students, and that is part of why there is a renewed attempt to bring back STAC. The hope is for STAC to consist of the VPED, two undergrads, the CIO, an IST staff member, and three grad students.

There was no Speaker’s report presented at this meeting.

VII. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

Council heard a motion to elect members to fill vacancies on the Policies & Procedures Committee, the Campus Life Advisory Committee, the Internal Administration Committee, the Education Advisory Committee, the President’s Advisory Committee, the Internal Funding Committee, the Governmental Affairs Advisory Committee, the SLC Management Advisory Committee, and Coop Students Council.

Gerrits and Tran.

Policies and Procedures

Matthew Gerrits and Razan Qaoud were acclaimed to the two Councillor seats. The one at-large seat was unfilled.

Campus Life Advisory

Antonio Brieva and Tomson Tran were acclaimed to the two Councillor seats. Jeremy Spira was acclaimed to one of the two at-large seats, with one seat remaining unfilled.

Internal Administration

Antonio Brieva, Antonio Clarke, Jason Copeland, and Jeremy Spira were nominated for the two Councillor Seats. Fardeen Chowdhury and Reba Nauth were acclaimed to the two at-large seats. Brieva and Clarke were elected by secret ballot.

Education Advisory

Antonio Clarke, Ilia Sucholutsky, Matthew Gerrits, and Tomson Tran were nominated for the three Councillor seats. Gerrits, Sucholutsky, and Tran were elected by secret ballot. At the request of EAC Chair Wiley, unanimous consent was obtained to elect the at-large seats at the next regular meeting of Council.

President's Advisory

Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Antonio Brieva, and Razan Qaoud were nominated for the two Councillor seats. Deanna Darby Barton and Fardeen Chowdhury were acclaimed to the two at-large seats. Brieva and Fuentes Valdez were elected by secret ballot.

Internal Funding

Alexa Fuentes Valdez and Tomson Tran were acclaimed to the two Councillor seats. Fardeen Chowdhury was acclaimed to one of the two at-large seats, with one seat remaining unfilled.

Governmental Affairs Advisory

Antonio Brieva, Matthew Gerrits, and Patrick Melanson were nominated for the two Councillor seats. Council heard that Brieva is already a non-voting member of this committee by virtue of his role as Government Affairs Commissioner.

Gerrits and Melanson were elected by secret ballot.

At the request of GAAC Chair Wiley, unanimous consent was obtained to elect the at-large seats at the next regular meeting of Council.

SLC Management Advisory

Adrian Machado and Jeremy Spira were nominated for the Councillor seat on this Board Committee. Spira was elected by secret ballot.

Coop Students Council

Council was reminded that only coop students may sit on this body. Akriti Agrawal, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, and Charles Teasdale were acclaimed to the three Councillor seats. The two at-large seats remain unfilled.

The question was called, and the motion was carried.

Council heard a motion to destroy the ballots from all committee elections.

Lolas and Schwan. Carried.

VIII. AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURES (SERVICES)

Council heard a motion to amend the Procedures to include all recently approved Services, as per the attachment circulated in the agenda package.

President Lolos stressed that this was simply a routine update to the procedures to reflect the reality of decisions already made by Council. Council has recently approved the creation of several new services, and those changes need to be reflected in the Procedures.

Lolas and Priori. Carried.

IX. APPROVAL OF M.A.T.E.S.

Council heard a motion to approve the MATES Program as a new Feds Service.

Vice President Internal Priori explained that MATES began in 2006 as a program hosted by Health and Wellness Services. Under former President Burt, Feds began exploring ways to expand mental wellness services on-campus, and agreed with the University to collaborate on MATES. The Federation and the University have drafted an MOU which is awaiting a signature from Counselling Services. MATES – which stands for Mentoring Assistance through Educational Support – will be a joint service. Counselling Services will do the training and provide the expertise, while Feds will provide volunteer attention and appreciation, as well as structure and marketing.

Councillors asked questions about volunteer signup and oversight. Priori explained that volunteers will be able to sign up using the University's LEADS system. Feds will provide the volunteer structure. Ultimate oversight of the program will fall to the VP Internal, via the Services Manager, just like any other Feds Service.

Councillors asked questions about the metrics used for measuring the success of the program, and the use of future evaluation data. Priori stressed that the focus for the time being will be getting more students to use the service. The University will collect evaluation data for the program and share it with Feds. The results will be analyzed by both groups and used to set per-term goals.

Priori and Wiley. Carried.

X. RATIFICATION OF SERVICE COORDINATORS

Council heard a motion to ratify the Service Coordinators for the Spring 2016 Term.

Priori and Lolos. Carried.

XI. STUDENTS' COUNCIL SPRING MEETING DATES

President Lolos initiated a discussion regarding moving the standard start time for Council meetings from 12:30 to an earlier or later time. Councillors discussed the challenges of travelling to and from the GTA, reduced attendance at earlier meetings, and potential conflicts with church on Sundays at earlier times. Arguments in support of earlier times were: an increased ability to do more with the rest of the day, less traffic on the roads. Arguments in support of later times were that many people coming from out of town don't have their own vehicle, and are reliant on bus schedules.

Lolos indicated his support for 8am meetings, but other members did not echo that support. By an informal show of hands, it appeared that most Councillors present favoured a start time for meetings that was the same as, or earlier than, the present start time. Lolos committed to maintaining the present start time, but consulting further with Councillors via informal channels.

Council heard a motion to set June 5th, June 26th, and July 24th at 12:30pm as the Spring Term Regular Meeting dates.

Lolos and Schwan.

Lolos explained that these dates were set based on the Spring examinations schedule, and the last day of Spring lectures, for the purpose of avoiding meeting during exams.

The question was called, and the motion was carried.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Brieva raised a question regarding possible content for the next meeting. President Lolos responded that no items for the next meeting have yet been received; however, he is hopeful that UW's new Sexual Violence Policy will be ready for consideration by that date.

The President reminded Councillors that those who are not on a committee but wish to attend a committee meeting may e-mail the committee's chair to ask for permission to attend.

The President further reminded Councillors that council@lists.feds.ca is a public mailing list that anybody can read; therefore, Councillors should be aware of what they choose to say in e-mails to that list.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved at 14:30.

Schwan and Lolos. Carried.