

**Federation of Students
STUDENTS' COUNCIL
June 5, 2016, SLC MPR**

Present: Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Christos Lolas, Deanna Priori, Sarah Wiley, Adrian Machado, Alexander Liu, Antonio Brieua, Antonio Clarke, Aryeh Fortinsky, Charles Teasdale, Denton Liu, Deanna Darby Barton†, Jeremy Spira, Matthew Gerrits, Midori Armstrong, Muhammed Tahir, Patrick Melanson, Quentin Cheung, Razan Qaoud, Spencer Dobrik, Tomson Tran, Tristan Potter.

Absent: Akriti Agrawal, Alexa Fuentes Valdez*, Brian Schwan*, Ilia Sucholutsky*, Jackie Ketchener, Jason Copeland, Marcus Abramovitch*, Mistry Harsh, Natasha Crasto*, Norman Hu*.

†*Non-Voting Member*

**Excused*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of Students' Council assembled at 12:30 in the SLC MPR. Speaker Alexander Wray took the Chair, and Sacha Forstner acted as Secretary. The Chair verified that 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 12:36.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve the agenda.

Vice President Wiley noted that it was President Lolas, not her, who had submitted the proposal to nominate members of the Bylaws Cleanup Committee.

Melanson and Tran. Carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda including:

1. That the minutes from the Council meeting on May 15 2016 be approved;
2. That Monica Gromala and Hannah Beckett be appointed to the Internal Funding Committee as at-large members;
3. That Council accept all submitted reports for information.

The Secretary noted that the May 15th minutes misspelt Councillor Fuentes-Valdez' name as Fuentez, and promised to correct the error.

Vice President Priori informed Council that Hannah Beckett wished to have her name withdrawn from consideration for IFC.

The Chair informed Council that he had received two additional reports, from Councillors Armstrong and Fuentes Valdez, and promised to circulate them accordingly. The report of the Academic Affairs Commissioner was also circulated prior to the meeting.

Wiley and Lolos. Carried.

III. REPORTS

President Lolos:

The SLC/PAC Feedback Sessions were successful, with 40-50 attendees per session providing detailed feedback. The Expansion Steering Committee will be looking to implement that feedback in the days ahead.

The University has met with some controversy in response to proposed revisions to their Smoking Policy, which would see the current restrictions on smoking applied to ecigarettes as well. The controversy seems to revolve around the proposed \$50 fine for violating the policy, and \$75 fine if there is a failure to produce ID. The Faculty and Staff Associations have expressed concerns that the campus police will go “looking for fines.” Will continue to monitor and report back.

Vice President Internal Priori:

The new Society Relations Commissioner is settling into her role as Feds prepares to host the first Committee of President’s meeting of the year next Thursday. The Internal Administration Committee and Internal Funding Committee have been trained, and successfully completed their first meeting. Feds has hosted successful events in recent weeks, including an ICSN trip to Niagara Falls, and the Feds Open House.

A Councillor asked a question about the MATES MOU, and why Wellness Services hasn’t signed it yet. Priori responded that this is not due to any controversy, it is simply something Wellness Services has yet to get to.

Vice President Education Wiley:

OUSA held its transition conference and first Steering Committee meeting. Jamie Cleary (Western University) has been elected President of OUSA for 2016-2017.

A new part-time Executive Assistant has been hired, and will be assisting the VPED with research work in the days ahead.

The new student email domain has been selected, and is edu.uwaterloo.ca. Feds will host a Q&A session with the University’s Interim Chief Information Officer Bruce Campbell. The session is currently slated for June 28th in the MPR. Feds will continue to interface with IST about student technology issues, now via the newly reincarnated Student Technology Advisory Committee.

Feds recently delivered a report to the University’s Coop Education Council with suggestions for improving the coop program.

Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan (delivered in absentia by Speaker Wray):

The Bombshelter Pub will be introducing new menu items soon. Feds Used Books is preparing for an expected Fall rush. The Fed Bus continues to look into new locations, so research and surveys should be coming soon.

The Budget Committee should be meeting soon and should be prepared to deliver the budget by the next meeting of Council.

Preliminary testing of the new website should be undertaken in a couple of weeks, and the new site is planned to launch in January 2017.

The Community Kitchen is nearly complete, and Council can expect to receive a proposed policy on the use of its space in the near future.

Councillors with follow-up questions can email vpof@feds.ca.

Speaker Wray:

In his role as Chair of the Board, the Speaker informed Council that Board has struck a Bylaws Cleanup Committee and finished populating the SLC Management Advisory Committee.

The Speaker reminded all Councillors that they are expected to submit monthly reports to Council, yet only three submitted reports this month. Submitting reports as a constituency group, rather than individually, is permitted.

IV. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

Council heard a motion to elect members to fill vacancies on the Student Technology Advisory Committee, the Co-op Students Council, the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, the Education Advisory Committee, and the Bylaws Cleanup Committee.

Tran and Gerrits.

Student Technology Advisory

Nate Manns and Patrick Melanson were acclaimed to the two at-large seats on this University Committee.

Co-op Students Council

Hannah Beckett, Jacky Zhai, Vicky Jiang, and Muhammed Tahir were nominated for the two at-large seats. Zhai and Tahir were elected by secret ballot.

Government Affairs Advisory

Heather Bone, Reba Nauth, Anne Marie Hayman, and Ethan Chandler were nominated for the two at-large seats. Bone and Nauth were elected by secret ballot.

Education Advisory

Jason Small, Reba Nauth, Anne Marie Hayman, Fardeen Chowdhury, and Ethan Chandler were nominated for the two at-large seats. Nauth and Hayman were elected by secret ballot.

Bylaws Cleanup

Razan Qaoud was acclaimed to the one at-large seat on this Board Committee.

After a five-minute recess to verify the results of the secret ballot votes, the question was called, and the motion was carried.

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

Gerrits and Machado. Carried.

V. COUNCILLOR OFFICE AND HOURS

President Lolas initiated a discussion about office space and hours for Student Councillors. The idea of Councillor Office Hours was proposed in the last Governance Review, and the topic has received some discussion in recent years as a result. However, there is some concern that the space and the hours will go unused.

Lolas proposed the idea of Councillors participating in the Student Society Office Hours. Councillors expressed interest in the idea, believing that the plan will work well if their presence is advertised. Concerns were raised about the lack of an effective office hour space in Arts, the need to better-connect Councillors with constituents via digital means, and the existence of space on satellite campuses. It was suggested that the office hours could be listed on feds.ca. Seeing general enthusiasm for the idea, Lolas committed to discussing the idea with the Committee of Presidents later this week.

VI. REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

Speaker Wray initiated a discussion about accommodation for Councillors residing outside of the 100km travel zone for meetings. Councillors praised the idea, highlighting, in particular, engineering students whose work terms takes them far away. Some Councillors suggested the possibility of allowing for attendance via conference call or Skype, or for proxying votes to members within the same constituency.

Some Councillors expressed reservations about remote participation, in particular around the standard of accountability for Councillors phoning in to the meeting, and the lack of engagement in discussion inherent in proxied votes.

Council heard a motion to task the Policies and Procedures Committee with investigating the topic of remote participation.

Gerrits and Potter. Carried.

VII. DRAFT UNIVERSITY POLICY – PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Council heard a presentation from President Lolas regarding the draft of University Policy 42 – Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence.

Lolas explained that the Provincial Government passed legislation in March requiring every campus in Ontario to have their own Sexual Violence Policy by January 2017. At Waterloo, this will require approval at the October Board of Governors meeting, September Senate meeting, and each of the various relations committees before that. The Undergraduate Student Relations Committee is meeting on June 28th to approve the policy.

Lolas highlighted the key points of the policy, including the creation of two new positions: a Sexual Violence Response Coordinator and specialized Investigator. The Policy details a risk assessment process to be undertaken following each report of sexual violence, which will dictate further action and the necessity of an investigation. Escalation to the Waterloo Regional Police will be required if there is a perceived danger to student safety, if there's evidence that the case may be related to an ongoing investigation, or if there's evidence that the complaint in question is vexatious (made in bad faith), as per the Campus Police contract with the WRPS. The policy does not handle discipline, as it applies to more than just students, and so student discipline will continue to happen in accordance with University Policy 71. The policy also does not cover sexual harassment, which will continue to be dealt with under University Policy 33.

Councillors asked questions about the role, availability, and selection of the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator. Lolos expressed hope that the Coordinator will be available 24/7, and that students will be involved in the hiring process, clarifying that their role will be to act as a support person within the Equity Office for all survivors.

Councillors expressed concerns that the policy is primarily focused on sexual violence response and not prevention, that the line between sexual harassment and sexual violence is unclear, and that the draft flowchart detailing the process is difficult to understand. Lolos committed to taking Council's feedback under consideration and escalating their comments to the appropriate individuals.

A gallery member asked a follow-up question about the standards for evidence under the proposed policy. Lolos explained that, while the criminal process seeks to determine guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the University need only act based on a balance of probabilities. Therefore, the policy states a belief in the natural principles of justice. Furthermore, the policy does not prescribe disciplinary measures – but those steps are outlined in University Policies 71 and 72.

Lolos promised to distribute a copy of the draft to all Councillors for constituent consultation before the next meeting of Council.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – CAMPUS LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council heard a motion to appoint a student at-large to fill a vacancy on the Campus Life Advisory Committee.

Vicky Jiang, Monica Gromala, and Fardeen Chowdhury were nominated for the seat. Jiang was elected by secret ballot.

Priori and Brieva. Carried.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Travel Reimbursements

President Lolos apologized for a delay in issuing travel reimbursements to Councillors, citing the absence of multiple signing officers for cheques in the past week. Lolos reminded Councillors

that travel costs are covered for those living outside of Waterloo Region but within a 100km radius. If the distance travelled is over 100km, only the final 100km will be covered.

Election Dates

President Lolas explained to Council that he was considering moving the General Election dates back into January in order to increase turnout, and committed to bringing the topic forward for discussion at the next meeting.

Health and Dental Plan

President Lolas informed Council that Feds' Health and Dental providers are offering a legal liability insurance service. This service would provide access to a free legal hotline for students in need of legal advice on any topic. The cost would be bundled into the Feds Administered Fees and would cover legal expenditures of up to \$100000 per year per student.

Lolas asked Councillors to talk to constituents about this program, and promised further information and discussion at the next meeting.

Other Announcements

Councillor Gerrits informed Council of a project being undertaken by Knowledge Integration alumni to get support for a travelling undergraduate degree. He committed to bringing forward further information another time.

Speaker Wray informed Council of a pending study and design proposal on campus safety being conducted by a class in the School of Planning, and committed to bringing forward further information once the project receives ethics clearance.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved at 15:00

Gerrits and Potter. Carried.