

**Federation of Students
STUDENTS' COUNCIL
July 24, 2016, SLC MPR**

Present: Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Christos Lolas, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Sarah Wiley, Adrian Machado, Alex Liu, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Antonio Brieva, Antonio Clarke, Aryeh Fortinsky, Charles Teasdale, Denton Liu, Iliia Sucholutsky, Jeremy Spira, Marcus Abramovitch, Midori Armstrong, Harsh Mistry, Muhammed Tahir, Norman Hu, Patrick Melanson, Quentin Cheung, Razan Qaoud, Spencer Dobrik, Tristan Potter.

Absent: Akriti Agrawal, Jackie Ketchener, Jason Copeland, Matthew Gerrits*, Natasha Crasto*, Tomson Tran*.

†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 12:32.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Council heard requests from Vice Presidents Priori, Schwan, and Wiley to transfer the Volunteer Appreciation Procedure, Community Kitchen Procedure, and Syllabus Policy, respectively, off the consent agenda. In accordance with Council Procedure, the Speaker granted their requests.

Council heard a request from Councillor Melanson to move the stop sign discussion to a future meeting. The Speaker found unanimous consent to grant this request, in accordance with Council Procedure.

Potter and Armstrong. Carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda, including:

1. That the minutes from the meeting on June 25 2016 be approved;
2. That Council accept all submitted reports for information;
3. That Council approve the Policy and Procedure Committee's proposed amendments to Council Procedure 9, Meetings of Students' Council, as presented;
4. That Council:

- a. Recommends that the Board of Directors amend the bylaws to allow for elections of Executive and Councillors from January 23 to 25, 2017;
- b. Upon such amendment, sets the following dates for the 2017 election:
 - i. Nomination Period: Open at Fall General Meeting until Monday January 9, 2017;
 - ii. All Candidates Meeting: Monday January 9, 2017 at 17:30;
 - iii. Campaign Period: Tuesday January 10, 2017 at 22:00 until Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 22:00;
 - iv. Polling Period: Monday January 23, 2017 at 10:00 until Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 22:00;
- c. Empowers the Policies and Procedures Committee to make any necessary procedural amendments to accommodate these changes, and to report to Council on all amendments.

Sucholutsky and D. Liu. Carried.

III. REPORTS

President Lolas

For information about the President's recent activities, see the written report submitted to Council.

Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan

Bento Sushi is going away and Wasabi is coming back. The price of sushi will be coming down now that Feds is making it in-house. For further details regarding activity in the VP Operations and Finance portfolio, see the written report submitted to Council.

Vice President Internal Priori

Feds is working on developing an idea for Feds at the Reunion Weekend. Any student input is appreciated. For further details regarding activity in the VP Internal portfolio, see the written report submitted to Council.

Vice President Education Wiley

This past week, Feds was host to a visit by the Honourable Deb Matthews MPP, Deputy Premier of Ontario and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. This was an excellent opportunity to lobby the Government on student issues.

Wiley fielded a request for elaboration on the reference in her report to Co-op 2.0. Co-op 2.0 is a revamp of Waterloo's Cooperative Education Program currently underway, which will expand the scope and effectiveness of co-op. It is, however, still in the preliminary planning stages. Feds is working closely with CECA and will update Council as more information becomes available.

Speaker Wray

The Speaker reported on member absences. Due to accumulating two unexcused absences, the following Councillors are eligible for removal:

1. Councillor Akriti Agrawal (Kitchener);
2. Councillor Jason Copeland (Applied Health Sciences);
3. Councillor Jackie Ketchener (Renison University College).

Council heard a motion to remove the three councillors named in Wray's report.

Potter and Sucholutsky.

Discussion ensued on the motion. Councillors discussed the importance of attendance at meetings, and the Chair verified that none of the Councillors named have contacted him with explanations for their absences. Since the three Councillors eligible for removal were absent, no explanation or defense was provided.

Melanson and Mistry move to split the question. Failed.

The question was called, and the motion carried on a secret ballot vote.

IV. SPECIAL ORDER: WATERLOO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (WPIRG) PRESENTATION

At 12:50, in accordance with the agenda, Council heard a presentation from a delegation of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG).

The delegates presented WPIRG as a student "incubator" that uses a solidarity model to support students who conduct research and take action on issues of social and environmental justice. Since its founding in 1973, every student is a member of WPIRG, and therefore is entitled to participate in the organization's workshops, governance, monthly members' meetings and general meetings, including standing for election to its Board of Directors. Students can also get involved in WPIRG by forming action groups, of which there are currently eight, assisted by a small team of staff. These groups host panels, screenings, discussions, and speakers, with the goal of raising awareness about their issue.

The delegation expressed a desire to connect with Feds, its Councillors, and their constituents, with the goal of increasing the organization's visibility on campus through engagement, collaboration on applied research projects, and efforts to support issues education. The delegation highlighted current ties to Feds, such as the fact that 10 cents of the \$4.75 levy goes to the Aboriginal Students Association to support solidarity on indigenous issues. WPIRG's vision is to be a flexible and multifaceted resource for everyone on campus to grow their ideas about social justice, even in circumstances that don't lend themselves naturally to the action group model.

The delegation faced questions from Councillors regarding WPIRG's efforts to better connect with students, and the likelihood that these efforts will continue into the future. Delegates responded that, while engaging students is always difficult, showing leadership on key issues is important, and WPIRG's core focus is on collaborative work. It was pointed out that greater outreach to students tends to bring in students who want to further improve that

communication. A highlighted example was the recent introduction of members' meetings in 2013 to improve grassroots activity.

The delegation faced further questions from Councillors regarding the definition of "public interest," and the benefit of having a group on campus other than Feds that is responsible for advocating on student issues. Delegates explained that the public interest is determined in a variety of interconnected ways, from the results of the research itself to the views expressed at members' meetings, which tend to focus the organization's activity. The importance of grassroots activism and the solidarity approach was again highlighted, with delegates emphasizing that this approach is very different from that of Feds, and yields different results.

V. PROPOSED STANCE RE: UNIVERSITY SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

Council heard a motion to refrain from endorsing the University's proposed sexual violence policy in the absence of a greater commitment to sexual violence education and training.

Councillor Brieva encouraged Council to support the motion, stressing the importance of taking a strong stance to put pressure on the University for the right cause.

Councillors asked questions about the practicality and timing of the stance. President Lolas explained that the Policy has not yet been approved to go to the University Senate, so there is still time for changes to be made. Though the Policy must be passed by January, the University desires student support. Once approved, the review cycle for the Policy will be once every three years.

Councillors expressed general support for the motion, specifically the prioritization of sexual violence prevention measures ahead of sexual violence response. It was indicated that the new policy is the subject of current media attention, and so it would be more effective to take a strong stance now, rather than to pass it and wait three years to lobby for changes.

The final text of the motion was as follows:

Resolved, Whereas the University's proposed Sexual Violence Policy (Policy 42) fails to incorporate preventative measures such as consent training and bystander intervention training; Council does not approve of the policy until it includes a greater commitment to sexual violence education, awareness and training.

Brieva and Potter. Carried.

VI. ONE STOP SERVICES SHOP (DISCUSSION)

President Lolas consulted Council on a plan for the University to create a "one stop" location for all students to ask for assistance or service. This location would effectively function as a "triage centre" capable of fulfilling the basic functions of all University services – with the exception of Counselling and Health Services – sending students to the correct secondary location if necessary. The one-stop would apply to the services of the Registrar's Office, Student Success Office, and possibly even Student Awards and Student Accounts. The University is currently pushing for a partial launch date of next September, with the level of service and coverage to be scaled up over time. Consultation will begin this Fall to determine student priorities for such

a service. No student fee will be levied to pay for it, and the hours will be broader than simply 8 to 4 on weekdays.

Councillors expressed concerns about the scalability of the service, and the high potential for failure if executed improperly. It was suggested that the University should consider designing a student assistance digital application rather than implementing the service directly. Further concerns were expressed about the potential for inconsistent messaging in different spots across campus performing similar functions, such as the Turnkey Desk. Lolás committed to taking Council's feedback under consideration in ongoing discussions with the University.

Council heard a motion to recess for ten minutes.

Lolas and Abramovitch. Carried.

Council recesses from 13:40 until 13:54.

Council heard a motion to destroy the ballots from the Councillor Removal vote.

Potter and Sucholutsky. Carried.

VII. COURSE SYLLABUS POLICY

Council heard a motion to approve a new Policy on Course Syllabi, as presented.

Wiley and Lolás.

Vice President Wiley presented the Policy, highlighting the fact that it calls on the University to make course syllabi public, and specifies Feds' general expectations regarding the content and approval of syllabi. Wiley explained that this is something she has been working on with the Academic Affairs Commissioner for several months now. It has been determined that a current policy window within the University exists, and so Feds would benefit from a policy stance on this issue.

Wiley and Lolás move to amend the policy to insert "the undergraduate calendar at the" before "University of Waterloo" in the first whereas clause. *Carried.*

Potter and Abramovitch move to amend the policy to change "following the immediate end of the first week of classes" to "prior to the first day of class" in the first resolution clause.

Councillor Potter expressed his belief in the importance of students having access to the syllabus for their course prior to the start of term.

Wiley and Melanson move to further amend the Potter's amendment by changing "all syllabi" in the same resolution clause to "a preliminary syllabus."

Wiley explained that this subamendment will accommodate instructors who work with their classes to finalize the syllabus during the first week.

The question was called on Wiley's subamendment, and it carried.

The question was called on the amended text of Potter's amendment, and it carried.

Debate ensued on the primary motion. Councillors expressed general enthusiasm for the policy, and the idea of making course syllabi publicly available in general.

Some concerns were expressed regarding the demand that changes to syllabi following the first week be approved by unanimous consent of the class. It was explained that the call for unanimous consent is current Feds Policy. A discussion on potential mechanisms for obtaining unanimous consent ensued; Wiley pointed out that the policy is meant to signify high level belief, not technical logistical expectations.

The question was called on the primary motion, and it carried.

VIII. COMMUNITY KITCHEN BOOKINGS PROCEDURE

Council heard a motion to approve the new Community Kitchen Bookings Procedure, as presented.

Vice President Schwan presented the procedure, explaining that it will regulate the use of the Feds Community Kitchen by student groups. The use of the Kitchen will be split such that 50% of its time will be devoted to making Grab & Go items for International News, and 50% of its time will be for use by student groups. Highlights of the procedure include the requirement for a FoodSafe-trained supervisor to be present at all times to ensure safety. A usage fee of approximately \$15/hour for all student groups will be used to pay the supervisor an hourly wage and to subsidize the operating costs for the space itself. The procedure will also require groups to file their booking request two weeks in advance.

Schwan and Lolas. Carried.

IX. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PROCEDURE

Council heard a motion to approve changes to Council Procedure 24, Volunteer Appreciation, Skill Development, and Team Building, as presented.

Vice President Priori presented the procedure, which she explained would make adjustments to the rules for volunteer appreciation in Feds' student groups. The primary changes involve a language clarification to remove "Society Presidents" from consideration under the procedure, as well as a shift from specifying funding per volunteer to encouraging and supporting skill development opportunities in the general sense.

Priori and Lolas. Carried.

X. WATERLOO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP FEE REFERENDUM

Council heard a motion to approve a referendum pertaining to the collection of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) fee, with the question and dates as presented.

Abramovitch and Sucholutsky.

Councillor Abramovitch presented the motion, stressing that this was a key election issue for many members of Council.

Councillors expressed concern with the motion, citing the recent General Meeting decision to oppose a referendum on the WPIRG fee, as well as the potential for bias in the phrase “non-voluntary fee” in the question. Supporters of the motion discussed potential methods of making voluntary donations and payments to WPIRG, in lieu of an automatic fee.

President Lolas noted that the Executive team would be opposing the motion, but promised to respect and support Council’s ultimate wishes.

Melanson and Brieva move to amend the motion to change the proposed referendum dates and campaign dates to match the timing of the 2017 General Elections.

Debate ensued on Councillor Melanson’s amendment. Melanson highlighted the fact that early Fall is a very busy time for Feds, and that holding the referendum concurrent with the General Election would avoid an unnecessary strain on resources. He expressed further concern that new students would be unable to make a well-informed decision if voting occurred during the second week of classes.

Councillors expressed general division on the question. Those in support of the amendment stressed Feds’ current obligations during the first weeks of September that would make it difficult to promote a referendum and encourage voting, and asserted that voter turnout would be higher if the referendum were to coincide with the General Elections.

Those opposed to the amendment drew attention to the WPIRG fee’s status as a current issue, as well as the importance of holding referenda when classes are not especially busy due to the high workload for those involved in running the campaigns. Councillors also expressed concerns that a Winter vote would be unfair to students away from campus on co-op, particularly first-year engineers. Finally, it was pointed out that a Winter vote would mean allowing the WPIRG fee to be collected from all students again, without the elected representatives on Council having acted on the issue.

Sucholutsky and Abramovitch move to call the question on Melanson’s amendment. Carried.

The question was called on Melanson’s amendment, and it failed.

Noted Abstentions: Lolas, Priori, Schwan, Wiley.

Lolas and Qaoud move to amend the motion to change the proposed referendum dates to October 4th to 6th, with the campaign period to take place from September 26th to October 4th.

Spira and Sucholutsky move to call the question on *Lolas'* amendment. Carried.

The question was called on Lolas' amendment, and it failed.

Councillors expressed further concern with wording of the proposed referendum question, in particular the risk of perceived bias in the results. Three methods of dealing with the question were discussed: amending it, asking the President to consult with an ethics authority to formulate it, or having the referendum Yes and No committees come to an agreement on the wording.

Potter and Brieva move to amend the motion to change the text of the referendum question to read as follows:

Do you support the continuation of the automatic refundable \$4.75 Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) fee charged to undergraduate students at the beginning of each academic term?"

Sucholutsky and Abramovitch move to split the question to debate "fee charged to undergraduate students at the beginning of each academic term" first and separately. Carried.

The question was called on the first part of Potter's amendment, and it carried.

Debate ensued on the portion of Councillor Potter's amendment that would change part of the question to read "Do you support the continuation of the automatic refundable \$4.75 Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG)". Potter reiterated his belief that the changes presented would create a reasonable, unbiased question.

It was further clarified for Council that any change to the WPIRG fee is not up to Feds to decide, but the University's Board of Governors, who is unlikely to act based on a biased referendum question.

Brieva and Sucholutsky move to call the question on *Potter's* amendment. Carried.

The question was called on Potter's amendment, and it failed.

Potter and Brieva move to amend the motion by removing the referendum question and tasking the President of the Federation to consult with a reliable third party knowledgeable in ethical surveys, the mover of the motion, and a representative from WPIRG, to develop an ethical and responsible referendum question.

Councillor Potter presented his amendment, stressing that this approach would include both the party bringing the motion, as well as WPIRG, and would likely involve consultation with the Office of Research Ethics via the President of Feds.

Councillors expressed some support for the amendment, in particular the involvement of a neutral third party in the development of the referendum question. There was general agreement that the phrase “in favour of a voluntary fee giving students the right to donate” was not an inherently balanced wording. President Lolas was questioned regarding the feasibility of developing the question in time for the start of the campaign period. Lolas promised it was viable to have the question ready by the end of August.

Sucholutsky and Potter move to further amend Potter’s amendment by changing “representative from the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group” to “undergraduate student representative from the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG).”

The question was called on Sucholutsky’s subamendment, and it carried.

Dobrik and Liu move to call the question on Potter’s amendment. *Carried.*

The question was called on the amended text of Potter’s amendment, and it carried.

Debate continued on the primary motion. Councillors reiterated concerns regarding the proposed referendum dates, and encouraged the movers to consider a compromise. Discussion turned to determining which parts of the Fall academic term are the busiest for students, and which are the lightest, in conjunction with the workload for Marketing and IT. It was determined, based on past survey data, that students are the least busy in the second, third, and fourth weeks of September, but are very busy beginning in mid-October.

Qaoud and Abramovitch move to amend the motion to change the proposed referendum dates to September 26th-28th, and the campaign period to September 19th-28th. *Carried.*

Abramovitch and Sucholutsky move to call the question on the primary motion. *Carried.*

Potter moves that a roll-call vote be held. *Carried.*

The final text of the motion, as amended, was as follows:

Resolved, Council, in accordance with procedure, shall call a referendum pertaining to the collection of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) fee; and

Further Resolved, Council tasks the President of the Federation to consult with a reliable third party knowledgeable in ethical surveys, the mover of the motion, and a representative from the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG), to develop an ethical and responsible referendum question; and

Further Resolved, the dates for the referendum shall be Monday September 26th, 2016 to Wednesday September 28th, 2016 with the campaign period occurring from Monday September 19th, 2016 to Wednesday September 28th, 2016.

The question was called on the primary motion.

Yea: Abramovitch, Armstrong, Brieva, Cheung, Clarke, Dobrik, Fortinsky, Fuentes Valdez, Mistry, Hu, A. Liu, D. Liu, Machado, Spira, Sucholutsky, Teasdale.

Nay: Lolos, Priori, Qaoud, Schwan, Tahir, Wiley.

Abstain: Melanson, Potter.

The motion carried 16-6-2.

XI. FALL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council heard a motion to schedule Fall meetings for September 25th, October 16th, November 20th, and December 4th, 2016, all at 12:30.

Abramovitch and Spira. Carried.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS – REFERENDUM ADMINISTRATION

Council heard a motion to delegate responsibility for the appointment of the Elections and Referenda Officer, the Elections and Referenda Committee, and the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee, for the upcoming WPIRG fee referendum, to the Board of Directors.

President Lolos explained that these positions need to be filled quickly in spite of the fact that Council's next meeting is on September 25th. The Board is meeting on August 3rd, and so is well placed to make competent and unbiased appointments, with sufficient time to advertise the positions.

Lolos and Abramovitch. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved at 15:44.

Lolos and Abramovitch. Carried.