

**Federation of Students
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 29, 2017, SLC Great Hall**

Noted Directors and Councillors: Christos Lolas (Chair), Sacha Forstner (Secretary), Alexander Wray, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Marcus Abramovitch, Matthew Gerrits, Tomson Tran, Tristan Potter.

Other Members Noted in Attendance: Alexander Eyre, Brittani Brown, Bryan Kristiono, Cheryl Pflug, Katie Turiff, Seneca Velling, Tatiana Fortelli, Vaishnavy Gupta, Zhe Chong Tang.

CONSTITUTION OF MEETING

The initial notice of the meeting was announced to all members of the Corporation on February 27, 2017, in accordance with the Bylaws, with an invitation for any member to submit proposals by March 6, 2017. The second notice and agenda for the meeting was published on March 15, 2017.

At the meeting, voting members of the Corporation were signed in and provided with voting placards at the entrance to the meeting after providing identification. Voting members who had received a proxy vote were provided with a proxy placard.

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual and March General Meeting of the Federation of Students, University of Waterloo assembled at 17:00 in the SLC Great Hall. President Christos Lolas took the Chair, and Sacha Forstner, Assistant Secretary and Member of the Board, acted as Secretary. The Chair verified the meeting was properly constituted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation, that due notice had been given to all members, and that a quorum of 200 voting members was present, in person or represented by proxy.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 17:27.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The assembly heard a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting, as presented.

Moved by M. Gerrits, Seconded by T. Potter. Carried.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The assembly heard a motion to approve the minutes from the General Meeting of March 23, 2016, as presented.

Moved by A. Wray, seconded by M. Gerrits. Carried.

III. 2015-2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Manager Cheryl Pflug presented the audited financial statements from Fiscal 2015 to the assembly, noting that she had previously provided an in-depth presentation at the Annual Meeting in October that did not reach quorum. Pflug noted that the Corporation took a

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loss in Fiscal 2015, but identified that the loss was planned in order to align the Corporation with CRA recommendations regarding not-for-profits.

The Chair thanked Pflug for her presentation.

IV. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair called for nominations for the At-Large and Councillor seats on the Board of Directors.

Members Tomson Tran and Tristan Potter were nominated for the two Councillor seats on the Board.

Members Abdullah Barakat, Alexander Wray, Brittani Brown, Bryan Kristiono, Katie Turiff, Marcus Abramovitch, Matthew Gerrits, Vaishnavy Gupta, and Zhe Chong Tang were nominated for the five at-large seats on the Board.

The assembly heard a motion to acclaim **Tomson Tran** and **Tristan Potter** to the councillor seats on the Board of Directors, and to elect five at-large Directors from the nominees presented, for a term beginning May 1, 2017 and proceeding in accordance with the Bylaws.

Moved by S. Forstner, seconded by B. Schwan.

The at-large nominees were given the opportunity to present themselves to the assembly. Each nominee identified the nature of their qualifications and their expected areas of focus on the Board. Due to not being present in person, member Barakat's statement was read to the assembly by Vice President Priori. Items highlighted by the nominees included past campus experience, the need for fiscal insight, executive accountability, governance reform, and maximization of value.

A brief question-and-answer period followed. The nominees were asked about their strategic priorities on the Board, and the values which they would use to identify the best interests of the Corporation. Responses included enhancing transparency, long-term goals and accountability, heightened dialogue with the student body, a review of the Long Range Plan, and the maximization of budgetary value.

Nominees were also asked questions, to which answers were provided, regarding the streamlining of services for student clubs, the nature of the Board's role, and the meaning of fiduciary responsibility.

*The question was called, and the motion carried. After all ballots cast were counted, the members elected to the at-large seats on the Board were **Abdullah Barakat, Alexander Wray, Matthew Gerrits, Vaishnavy Gupta, and Zhe chong Tang.***

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V. RATIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

The assembly heard a motion to ratify the election of Antonio Brieva for President, Andrew Clubine for Vice President, Education, Brian Schwan for Vice President, Operations and Finance, and Jill Knight for Vice President, Internal, as the Federation of Students Executive commencing May 1, 2017.

Moved by M. Gerrits, seconded by T. Potter. Carried.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT: 2017 TEACHING AWARD WINNER

Vice President Wiley announced and congratulated Dr. Frankie Condon as the winner of the 2017 Federation of Students Teaching Award.

VII. CHANGES TO MEMBER FEES

The assembly heard a motion to increase the Federation of Students fee by \$0.79 corresponding to CPI of 1.4% for 2016, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Bylaws.

Moved by B. Schwan, seconded by T. Potter.

Vice President Schwan presented the increase motion, noting it was a routine increase in line with the rate of inflation.

Debate ensued on the motion. Members expressed a desire to see a temporary freeze on fee increases in order to verify spending efficiency. Other concerns expressed included the need for greater transparency in the Federation, and the need to address the simultaneous accumulation of expenditure and wealth.

A member asked what would be cut if the CPI increase was not approved. Schwan responded by identifying that club funding, event budgets, and annual goods for services would be cut.

Member Wray, Chair of the Board, spoke in favour of the increase, noting that inflation is a necessary fact of life, and that growth in the student body also means growth in the costs of the organization.

The question was called, and the motion carried.

Noted in Favour: S. Forstner, T. Potter, T. Tran, A. Wray.

Noted in Opposition: M. Abramovitch

The assembly heard a motion to recess until the call of the Chair.

Moved by A. Wray, seconded by T. Tran. Carried.

The General Meeting recesses, and is called back to order at 18:50.

The assembly heard a motion to approve an increase of \$1.48 for the Orientation Fee, corresponding to CPI of 1.4% for 2016.

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Moved by A. Wray, seconded by M. Gerrits. Carried.

The assembly heard a motion to approve an additional increase to the Federation of Students Fee by \$0.35, in accordance with the provisions in the Bylaws.

Moved by D. Priori, seconded by T. Potter.

Vice President Priori provided the rationale for the proposed increase. 25 cents of the increase would be allocated for the purpose of increasing honoraria for Service Coordinators, while the remainder would be used to hire a part-time staff assistant for the Feds clubs.

Debate ensued on the motion. Arguments in opposition claimed the increase was the wrong solution to the right problem, and identified a need for alternative action to reduce bureaucracy in the clubs environment. Arguments in favour noted the sizeable time commitment demanded of the service coordinator roles, for limited compensation, and the present difficulty of filling certain positions.

S. Velling and M. Gerrits move to amend the motion by adding a proviso stating: "this must go towards increased service coordinator honoraria and a part-time student staff to aid with clubs administrative tasks, in the distribution determined by the Vice President Internal, and cannot be spent elsewhere in the Feds budget."

Debate ensued on the amendment. A member voiced concerns that the restriction would introduce unnecessary complications into the Feds budgeting process. It was noted that the motion would ultimately not bind the Board in the event that the wellbeing of the Corporation demanded a budgetary adjustment, but that the amendment would impose a social obligation on the Board nevertheless. Members in favour of the amendment highlighted the importance of distribution of funds, and its link to fiscal responsibility.

The question was called on Member Velling's amendment, and it carried.

Debate continued on the primary motion. Members in favour spoke to the need for increased service coordinator honoraria, and a number of coordinators spoke to the potential effects of the increase.

A member moved to call the question. Carried.

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

Noted Abstentions: S. Forstner, T. Fortelli, T. Potter.

VIII. RATIFICATION OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Alexander Wray, Chair of the Board, presented the Board's changes to the bylaws of the Corporation. Highlighted were the removal of gendered language, the reorganization of clauses and other administrative changes, and the addition of society presidents to Students' Council.

The assembly heard a motion to ratify the proposed amended bylaws as the new Bylaws of the Corporation.

Moved by A. Wray, seconded by S. Forstner.

Debate ensued on the motion. Member and director S. Forstner spoke in favour of the changes

S. Forstner and T. Potter move to amend the proposed bylaws as follows:

1. Append "not in conflict with these bylaws" following "a member's proposal" in Article 5.3(3); and
2. Append "with the exception of an external political organization in which the Federation of Students holds membership" following "Corporation" in Article 9.2(3).

Member Forstner provided a brief technical overview of his amendment.

The question was called on Forstner's amendment, and it carried.

Debate continued on the primary motion, as amended. Some members expressed concerns regarding potential structural changes in the new bylaws concerning the role of Board and Council. Directors present provided clarifications on the proposed amendments. Other members expressed concerns that the assembly was insufficiently prepared to debate and vote on the bylaws package.

M. Abramovitch requests a quorum check.

Upon checking, it was determined that a quorum was no longer present.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 20:04 due to lack of quorum.