

**Federation of Students  
STUDENTS' COUNCIL  
December 4, 2016, SLC MPR**

**Present:** Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Christos Lolas, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Sarah Wiley, Antonio Brieva, Antonio Clarke, Charles Teasdale, Harsh Mistry, Jeremy Spira, Marcus Abramovitch, Matthew Gerrits, Midori Armstrong, Muhammed Tahir, Razan Qaoud, Spencer Dobrik, Tristan Potter.

**Phone-In:** Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Ilia Sucholutsky.

**Absent:** Adrian Machado\*, Alexander Liu\*, Aryeh Fortinsky\*, Denton Liu, Hayley Barnes, Injeong Yang, Natasha Crasto\*, Norman Hu\*\*, Patrick Melanson, Quentin Cheung\*, Reba Nauth†, Tomson Tran.

*†Non-Voting Member*

*\* Excused*

*\*\*Arrived Late (After 30 minutes)*

**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 12:46.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

*Lolas and Schwan. Carried.*

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. The minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting;
2. All submitted reports;
3. The list of Winter 2017 Service Coordinators, with a student status exemption for Rachel Yavnai as GLOW Coordinator;
4. January 15<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup> as the Winter 2017 regular meeting dates for Council.

*Gerrits and Schwan.*

The Chair noted that the Secretary had circulated to all Councillors a set of draft edits to the minutes, and obtained Council's consent to adopt those changes as presented.

Vice President Wiley noted a conflict between the proposed date for the March meeting of Council and the OUSA Spring General Assembly.

*Wiley and Gerrits* move to change the proposed March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting date for Council to March 12<sup>th</sup>. *Carried.*

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

### **III. REPORTS**

#### *President Lolos*

Details for the SLC/PAC Expansion are nearly finalized, and contract proposals will soon go out to tender. It has been established that rooms in the building will have motion sensors, light sensors, as well as a watcard “tap” system for room access. During construction, an entrance will always be open near Campus Bubble/Wasabi, and the food court will be open most of the time as well.

The Lieutenant Governor visited campus recently to announce the launch of the Visionaries Prize, in which all students are encouraged to participate: <https://thewalrus.ca/lg-visionaries-prize/>.

#### *Vice President Internal Priori*

Feds On Tour visited the satellite campuses, and handed out popcorn on main campus. The Committee of Presidents end-of-term meeting was well-attended, and plans are in motion for the annual cross-campus winter trip.

Service Coordinators have been hired, and are presently undergoing training. The appreciation dinner for the Fall Coordinators was held recently.

#### *Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan*

The nightlife survey concluded with over 650 respondents. In order to avoid creating competitive disadvantages for Feds, the data will not be released publicly.

The Bombshelter Pub is currently seeking new hires for the kitchen. International News has launched in-house sandwiches, which are receiving good feedback. Feds is currently exploring options for a grab and go counter for hot food items in the new year. Campus Bubble continues to sell sushi at a high rate as a result of lower prices. The Used Bookstore is experiencing a last-minute rush of pre-exam purchases.

The SLC recently underwent a waste audit in conjunction with the University. Feds will receive a report with changes recommended to improve sustainability.

#### *Vice President Education Wiley*

OUSA’s annual Lobby Conference happened last week at Queen’s Park, prioritizing Sexual Violence Prevention & Response, Tuition Regulation, and Data Collection. Suggestions were received well during lobby meetings, including a meeting with Minister Matthews. Feds also participated in OUSA’s #myWILis campaign.

Feds recently hosted, at the University’s request, a visit from the Lieutenant Governor, setting up a meeting with her and the Feds Executive, Society Presidents, and Student Senators.

An International Students Working Group is being set up under the VP Ed portfolio for the purpose of drafting a policy on international students. There will be one seat for a Councillor.

Councillors asked questions regarding the level of international tuition at Waterloo in relation to other Ontario schools. Wiley responded that such comparisons have been noted, and will influence future policy development.

#### **IV. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORKING GROUP**

Council heard a motion to name one Councillor to the International Students Working Group established by the Vice President Education.

Councillor Muhammed Tahir was nominated and acclaimed to the vacant seat.

*Wiley and Priori. Carried.*

#### **V. COMMERCIAL SERVICES POLICY**

Council heard a motion to approve the Commercial Services Policy as presented.

*Schwan and Abramovitch. Carried.*

#### **VI. NEW CLUBS PROCEDURE**

Council heard a motion to revoke the existing Council Procedure 3, Federation of Students Clubs, and to replace it with the text of the new procedure as presented.

*Priori and Potter.*

*Potter and Tahir* move to refer the motion to the Policies and Procedures Committee for final approval.

Councillor Potter explained that the intent of the referral would be to signal Council's endorsement-in-principle, and then to allow the Committee to make minor revisions intended to ensure alignment with the rest of Feds' procedural framework.

*The question was called on the motion to refer, and it carried.*

#### **VII. STUDENT HOUSING PROTECTIONS**

Council heard a motion to task the VP Education with:

1. Developing a policy that would forbid landlords from marketing unfinished buildings in the Student Life Centre;
2. Explore the development of a Feds approval program for landlords and rental agencies;
3. Run a campaign highlighting tenants' rights, the dangers of renting unfinished buildings, and best practices for self-protection in moving; and
4. To report back to Council regularly on all items.

*Abramovitch and Clarke.*

Councillor Abramovitch presented his motion, as per discussions at previous Council meetings.

*Schwan and Potter* move to amend the motion to strike the second resolution clause.

Vice President Schwan expressed concerns about the practicality of maintaining an approvals list given the quantity of landlords in the city, noting his opinion that a policy against marketing unfinished buildings in the SLC would sufficiently fulfill the intent of the motion.

Councillors expressed mixed opinions regarding the amendment. Those in favour noted the possibility that an “approved landlords” list would expose the Corporation to legal risks, and expressed concerns about potentially high staffing costs for such a program. Those opposed emphasized the program’s ability to act as a source of information for students and an incentive for greater diligence by landlords. Some Councillors also expressed a desire to see the issue and possible alternatives investigated and reported on at a future meeting.

*The question was called on Schwan’s amendment, and it carried.*

*Wiley and Potter* move to amend the first resolution clause by replacing “Council tasks the Vice President Education with developing a policy” with “Council requests the Board create an operational procedure to prevent”.

Councillor Potter noted his belief that the amendment would heighten the effectiveness of the primary motion.

*The question was called on Wiley’s amendment, and it carried.*

Discussion resumed on the primary motion. Councillors emphasized the importance of the issue. It was noted with some concern that some Feds Services had engaged in partnerships with rental agencies, even to the extent of promoting unfinished buildings on social media.

*Gerrits and Potter* move to amend the first resolution clause by replacing “in the SLC” with “in Federation-controlled property or through Federation-controlled channels of communication.”

*The Chair sought and found unanimous consent for Gerrits’ amendment.*

The final text of the motion read as follows:

**Resolved,** Council requests the Board create an operational procedure to prevent housing companies from marketing unfinished buildings in Federation-controlled property or through Federation-controlled channels of communication; and

**Further Resolved**, Council tasks the Vice President, Education with delivering a campaign on the following items:

- Renting unfinished buildings and the dangers this presents;
- Tenants' rights (no withholding key deposits, subletting rights, etc.);
- Advice upon moving in (video/pictures documenting the state of the apartment upon moving in to protect against damage claims, etc.); and

**Further Resolved**, the Vice President, Education should report on the progress towards these tasks as part of their updates to Council.

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

### **VIII. COMMUNICATION OF WINTER 2017 WPIRG REFUND OPPORTUNITY**

Council heard a motion to task the President with communicating information to students regarding the process of refunding of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) fee for Winter 2017.

*Armstrong and Potter.*

*Potter and Tahir* move to amend the motion to replace “the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group fee” with “all refundable fees.”

Councillor Potter highlighted the importance of fee refunds as a topic that all students should be informed about, noting that his own efforts to centralize refunds had not met with success, and stressing Feds' responsibility to take ownership of the issue through clear communication.

Councillors expressed some concerns regarding the amendment vis-à-vis the intent of the original motion in light of the prolonged process for removing the WPIRG fee from students' fee statements following the referendum in September. In response, it was noted that Feds always runs a “how to get your refunds” campaign at the start of term.

It was proposed that the amendment be further adjusted by adding the words “with specific messaging relating to the WPIRG fee refund” after “for all refundable fees.” The Chair found the proposed subamendment to be friendly with the mover and seconder, and deemed it adopted.

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

Discussion continued on the primary motion. Councillors stressed the importance of the motion, and also asked for an update on the preparation of amendments to Policy 24 by the Policies and Procedures Committee, which would contain text similar to the motion. President Lolas affirmed that such updates are being worked on.

*Lolas and Abramovitch* move to call the question. Carried unanimously.

The final text of the motion was as follows:

**Resolved**, Council tasks the President with communicating to all undergraduate students in the Winter 2017 term on how and where to secure a refund for all refundable fees, with specific messaging relating to the WPIRG fee refund.

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

#### **IX. GENERAL MEETING PROXIES**

Council raised from the table the motion moved and seconded on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 by Councillors Clarke and Armstrong requesting that the bylaws be amended to allow Student Councillors to hold multiple proxies from their constituency at General Meetings of the Corporation.

Council also raised the amendment moved on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 by Councillors Mistry and Melanson to change the text of the motion by replacing “Student Councillors” with “students” and striking “for students within their constituencies.”

Discussion ensued on Councillor Mistry’s amendment. Councillors expressed concerns regarding the legal and practical implications of the amendment, particularly the risk that special interest groups might “hijack” general meetings under such a system. The representative duties of Student Councillors, as well as Faculty proportionality, were both noted as a reason to preserve the text of the original motion as presented.

Councillor Mistry responded to the concerns by highlighting the role of general meetings as a forum for students to convey their concerns, stressing the importance of having Feds enforce proxy votes being cast as specified on the proxy form.

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

Discussion continued on the primary motion. Councillors presented varying opinions on the issue. Those in favour of the motion noted that the purpose of general meetings is to open up issues to the public to see which approaches are popular. Those opposed highlighted the same issues with the motion as with the recently-defeated amendment to the motion, as well as the possibility of selective proxy-holding by Councillors. Issues with proxy votes in general were also identified, specifically the inability of proxy-givers to account for the real-time discussions and amendments at General Meetings.

President Lolas noted that the legality of the motion remained an open question, and stressed the Board’s commitment to improving general meeting participation overall.

*The question was called via a roll-call vote at the discretion of the Chair.*

**Yea:** Abramovitch, Armstrong, Clarke, Dobrik, Fuentes Valdez, Hu, Spira, Sucholutsky, Teasdale.

**Nay:** Brieva, Gerrits, Lolas, Mistry, Potter, Priori, Qaoud, Schwan, Wiley.

**Abstain:** Tahir.

*The motion failed on a 9-9-1 tie.*

## **X. CHANGES TO ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA PROCEDURE**

Council heard a motion to approve changes to Procedure 10, Elections and Referenda, as presented.

*Lolas and Wiley.*

*Lolas and Gerrits* move to amend the proposed changes by changing “or one hour after the end of the polling period” to “or three hours after the end of the polling period” in Section 4.3.6, and by adding “Senate” after “University of Waterloo” in Section 6.8, and by replacing “ERAC” with “ERO and the Research & Policy Officer” in sections 9.9.1 and 9.9.2. *Carried.*

Councillors expressed general support for the changes, and highlighted the importance of transparency in elections proceedings, particularly the appointment of the adjudication committees.

Councillors proposed changing “misrepresenting the character” to “purposefully and significantly misrepresenting the character” in Section 4.4.5. The Chair found the proposed amendment to be friendly with the mover and seconder, and deemed it adopted.

*Gerrits and Lolas* move to amend the proposed changes to add “while those allegations are under investigation” after “make public allegations that other candidates or committees have violated the rules” in Section 4.4.5.

Councillors expressed concerns with the amendment, noting that the existing language in Section 4.4.5 prevents candidates from publicly slandering their opponents even before an allegation is filed.

*The amendment moved by Gerrits and Lolas was withdrawn.*

*Gerrits and Lolas* move to amend the proposed changes by adding “until a decision has been delivered by the ERO or the ERAC” after “allegations that other candidates or committees have violated the rules” in Section 4.4.5. *Carried.*

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

## **XI. APPOINTMENT OF THE ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Council heard a motion to appoint the members of the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee pursuant to Procedure 10 for the 2017 General Election.

*Lolas and Priori.*

It was noted that no applications had been received to sit on this committee, nor were there gallery members present at the meeting who might fill the at-large seats.

*Gerrits and Lolos* move to table the motion to January. *Carried.*

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Secretary informed Council of the planned development of a tutorial guide for future Council Secretaries. Councillors interested in viewing or revising the draft were encouraged to contact Council's administration.

Councillors were reminded that nominations for the 2017 General Election include nominations for the University of Waterloo Senate. The Senate is the highest-ranking decision-making body on matters of educational policy, and includes all members of the University's senior administration. One at-large seat is opening, as well as seats in AHS, Engineering, and Math, all for two-year terms. Interested Councillors were encouraged to seek a nomination.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was moved at 14:23.

*Tahir and Mistry. Carried.*