

Federation of Students

October 2017 Annual General Meeting Agenda

*Tuesday, October 24 @ 12pm
SLC Great Hall*

Chair Chris Lolas

Opening remarks from Feds President, Antonio Brieva

Agenda Items

Topic	Action
1. Approval of Agenda*	Decision
2. Approval of minutes from the March 2017 General Meeting	Decision
3. Receiving the Auditor's Report	Information
4. Ratification of Bylaw Amendments	Decision
5. Feds General Meeting Online Voting Proposal	Decision
6. Task Force Proposal	Decision
7. Feds Pay Restructuring Member Proposal	Decision
8. Other Business	Information
9. Adjournment	Decision

*Under section V. General Meetings of the by-laws, items 1 through 3 are required to remain in this order. Items 4 through 7 may be rearranged.

General Orders

1) Approval of the agenda

Motion:

BIRT the General Assembly approves the agenda.

2) Approval of the March 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Motion:

BIRT the General Assembly approves 2017 March General Meeting Minutes.

3) Receiving the Auditor's Report

For Information

4) Ratification of Bylaw Amendments

Motion:

BIRT the General Assembly ratifies proposed amended bylaws as the new Bylaws of the corporation.

5) Feds General Meeting Online voting proposal

Motion:

WHEREAS the Federation of Students (FEDS) should seek to best represent students democratically and transparently through the use of General Meetings to set policy priorities, ratify bylaws, and elect the Board of Directors,

WHEREAS the General Meeting, the most powerful tool to ratify changes in structure, policy, and bylaws of the corporation, requires quorum of at least 200 members present in person or represented by proxy out of an undergraduate population of more than 30,000 undergraduate students¹, thus allowing less than one percent (<1%) of students to dictate the rules and policies of the Federation of Students which can potentially lead to a lack in accountable governance,

WHEREAS the manner of General Meetings is prohibitive to effective student engagement, disenfranchising² the vast majority of students by inability or lack of desire to participate,

¹ Waterloo Headcount Data, <https://uwaterloo.ca/institutional-analysis-planning/university-data-and-statistics/student-data/student-headcounts>

² Students cannot attend principally due to student part-time employment, co-op work terms, late classes/labs, and other priorities in student life. Nearly twenty percent (20%) of students are on co-operative education work

WHEREAS each voting member of the Corporation shall at all meetings be entitled to one (1) vote according to the Federation of Students Bylaws (*Section V, subsection E*), however these bylaws are routinely broken due to physical space limitations³ of holding the General Meeting in the Student Life Center Great Hall,

WHEREAS General Meetings may be unduly interrupted due to loss of quorum and this has severe negative repercussions on the operation of the Federation of Students,

WHEREAS the referenda and the election of Executives and Councillors are conducted through fair and open *electronic ballot* voting process,

WHEREAS numerous online shareholder corporations governed by the *Corporations Act* and the the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*⁴ (2010) use online shareholder meetings and online voting/proxy voting methods in Ontario to reach their shareholders across the province, nation, and globe,

BIRT the Assembly *tasks* the Executive & Board of Directors to, in a manner *consistent with the best interests of the Corporation* and *respecting the guidance of legal counsel* where appropriate, implement a verifiable electronic ballot and participation method for all decisions made in General Meetings in compliance with the *Corporations Act*; and

BIFRT the Executive & Board of Directors *shall* oversee the development of any such electronic ballot and participation method in consultation with Students' Council, and *shall* seek Council's approval-in-principle of the method prior to its implementation, including the passage of related bylaws and bylaw amendments; and

BIFRT the Assembly *recommends* the Board of Directors *explore* a system, complying with the *Corporations Act*, which could allow members to vote either pre-hoc or post-hoc in relation to all primary items of business at the meeting; and

BIFRT each member of the corporation *shall* remain be entitled to one vote, which shall be cast either by physical or electronic ballot; and

BIFRT the aforementioned action *shall* be taken and completed prior to the 2018 Fall General Meeting; and

BIFRT the Executive *shall* provide Council with a progress update each academic term until completion; and

BIFRT the Assembly *urges* the Board of Directors to investigate and develop additional options for General Meeting reform and engagement, including but not limited to Meetings of Delegates in accordance with the *Corporations Act*.

terms in the Fall term, and nearly twenty-six percent (26%) of students are employed during the Winter work term when General Meetings occur.

³ The SLC Great Hall allows an occupancy of no more than 850 persons (Fire Code).

⁴ Not yet in force, implementation underway.

6) Task Force Proposal

Motion:

BIFRT the General Assembly recommends that the Board of Directors strike a task force specifically to research feasible recommendations to address concerns around engagement at General Meetings and the potential role of Students' Council as a Meeting of Delegates of the corporation, in compliance with the Corporations Act; and

BIFRT the General Assembly recommends that the task force shall be comprised of the following peoples:

1. The President,
2. The Chair of the Board,
3. The Speaker of the Council,
4. Two Directors,
5. Two Councillors,
6. One at-large member as chosen by the task force, and
7. Including any other people(s) as deemed necessary by the task force; and

BIFRT the General Assembly recommends the scope of the task force to include engagement in General Meetings and is limited to the following:

1. Electronic Ballots,
2. General Meeting engagements,
3. Structure of GMs, and
4. Role of Council and relationship with General Meetings ; and
5. Relationship between Referenda and General Meetings

BIFRT the General Assembly recommends the task force to present their findings at the March 2018 General Meeting; and

BIFRT the General Assembly recommends the task force present regular updates to the Students' Council and report their findings at the Winter 2018 General Meeting; and

BIFRT the General Assembly requests solutions and necessary bylaw changes to be prepared in time for the Fall 2018 General Meeting.

7) Feds pay Restructuring Member Proposal

Motion:

WHEREAS the University of Waterloo's Federation of Students (FEDS) earn an average executive salary of nearly forty-eight-thousand dollars (\$48,000.00 CAD) and benefits of nearly

four-thousand-eighty dollars⁵ (\$4580.00 CAD), one of the highest across Canada⁶, levied on the nearly thirty-one-thousand (31,000) undergraduates⁷ through the FEDS fee,

WHEREAS the Assembly acknowledges that the corporation is led by only four (4) executives, the second fewest of any student union's leadership across Canadian universities,

WHEREAS paying executives ensures student leaders can effectively work full-time in the best interests of students at the university and attracts skillful students to these position⁸,

WHEREAS the Board of Directors & Student Council receive no financial remuneration for services rendered to the corporation and student body for their term in office,

WHEREAS no compensation of elected officers should further increase student fees, the Assembly thus believes a moderate reduction of executive salary sufficiently allows for remuneration of other elected officers of the corporation, increasing the value of and engagement in student governance, without significantly reducing the appeal for skilled executives,

BIRT the Board of Directors shall, in the all future fiscal years, reduce the salary of the Executive officers of the corporation to thirty-eight-thousand-five-hundred dollars (\$38,500 CAD), subject to annual increases not more than CPI; and

BIFRT the Assembly authorizes the Board of Directors to allot stipend payments to all non-Executive members of the Students' Council of *no more than* \$80.00 CAD per mensem (pm) for services rendered in representation of their constituents, development of organizational policy, and oversight of university institutions on behalf of the student body; and

BIFRT the Assembly authorizes the Board of Directors to allot stipend payments to all non-Executive members of the Board of Directors of *no more than* \$120.00 CAD pm for services rendered to the corporation in the conduct of its operational affairs; and

BIFRT those non-Executive members who serve on more than one of these bodies shall be entitled to all remunerations, in the form of stipend, they may claim; and

BIFRT the Assembly tasks the Board of Directors to prepare such changes to the bylaws of the corporation as are necessary to implement this resolution in full.

8) Other Business

⁵ Based on FEDS budget *Actuals* from the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 Fiscal Years and the Students' Council approved 2017/2018 Fiscal Year budget.

⁶ Student Union Salaries Across Canada, Jack Hauen et al.; UBC's *The Ubyyssey*, Western University's *Gazette*, and the University of Toronto's *Varsity*: <https://www.ubyssey.ca/features/student-union-executive-salaries-canada/>

⁷ Waterloo Headcount Data, <https://uwaterloo.ca/institutional-analysis-planning/university-data-and-statistics/student-data/student-headcounts>

⁸ Executive Salaries were raised by Board of Directors under recommendation of the General Manager of the corporation in the past to attract skilled more capable individuals to the position.

9) Adjournment