

Federation of Students' Student's Council Minutes

SLC MPR, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: COUNCILLOR O'SULLIVAN *Secretary:* COUNCILLOR POTTER

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

- Brieva, Antonio
- Clubine, Andrew
- Easton, Benjamin
- Eyre, Alexander
- George, Rebecca
- Jowhari, Nickta
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth
- Potter, Tristan
- Small, Jason
- Velling, Seneca
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Altaf, Subhan
- Clarke, Antonio*
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Knight, Jill*
- Mills, Cameron
- Mistry, Harsh
- Mohan, Andrew
- Schwan, Brian*
- Simpson, Abigail
- Terzian, Hagop
- Tran, Tomson*
- Xu, Wenyu

* excused

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:39PM.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Please see the attached written reports for the full reports from the Executive to Student's Council.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

The Vice President, Education reported that a few more students can sit on the student advisory panel on the coop fee review, so if any councillors or students are interested than they can contact Vice President Clubineto get a seat.

He also announced that the director of CECA is retiring; she's been great for campus in getting the fee review and other coop initiatives started. There will be a transition as she leaves, and they are aiming for it to be non-disruptive.

Another student housing development in Waterloo was not ready for student move-ins, making it the 4th in recent history. The Vice President, Education is trying to get some municipal and provincial laws implemented that will prevent housing companies from leasing to students prior to the development being approved. This will be a government sponsored document that will be mandated for landlords to present to tenants, so that tenants know when their rights are being abused. Will likely include language such that if a development isn't ready a tenant won't be bound to stay.

Regarding fall break, the Vice President, Education talked with societies, including EngSoc. See email update to Council from Vice President Clubine he is working on a proposal to have a week break, but this should not infringe any further into orientation.

A councillor asked why the template existed if laws still took precedence, specifically how does the contract solve move-in issues. The Vice President, Education explained that the template outlines the scope of the terms that are allowed to be in a lease agreement, to avoid illegal terms. Pre-tenancy rights are maybe not going to be included in the template, but the hope is that if there are exact terms in an agreement there will be wording around what is allowed. The focus is mainly trying to put it on the governments radar.

A councillor asked if there was a system to prevent landlords from rejecting tenants if they asked for the government lease. The Vice President, Education responded that there would likely be bylaw fines if landlords were not providing the government lease.

A councillor asked how students will know about this, given that they don't know about the current laws. The Vice President, Education responded that it will largely fall on students to educate themselves and one another. The major benefit is that the onus shifts to the landlords to educate tenants as to why their leases are legal.

There is an ongoing discussion about whether to email all first year students about housing rights, and the role of Feds in educating students about housing; as opposed to uWaterloo housing and residence.

The Vice President, Education is also prodding the region to get more general student education to all the students in the city.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL

Not present.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

Not present.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President reported that there will be a progress report on the mental health panel on October 24th during the panel symposium. This will be a kind of mid-term report. This report will be livestreamed, and there is a QA panel happening right after the Feds GM, with online engagement through Twitter and Facebook. The panel will include the campus director of mental health and the associate provost of students will moderate. President Brieva and Feridun will have opening remarks.

The October General Meeting has been planned and organized, and members have submitted proposals. Board approved the agenda which has been distributed in an email to all students.

Federal advocacy week is coming up soon, and President Brieva and Vice President Clubine will be in Ottawa advocating on national issues that affect students at Waterloo. This will include issues like: student loans, indigenous student rights, and international student rights, among others.

Policy and procedures committee has been working with Councillor Ayre to refine the freedom of expression policy that's on the agenda today. They are also working on an equity policy, and President Brieva is communicating with the campus director of equity to ensure all the bases are covered. The final policy will likely amalgamate several current policies. Finally, PPC is working on a long term change to the policy development process to facilitate creating and using policy more effectively.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Velling reported that he had run some surveys on environmental sustainability, particularly regarding the question of plastic water bottles. He also ran a survey regarding the proposal on freedom of expression. Vice President Schwan asked about online reimbursement last meeting, and Councillor Velling reported that 64% of students polled were in favour of online reimbursement.

Councillor Small also gave a brief update: he will not be pursuing removing water at the Council level, but instead is working with the Vice President, Operations and Finance. Bottled water is being removed and boxed water is being sold instead, in a non-prominent location.

CONSENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Be it resolved that Council approve the minutes from September 17, 2017.
Councillor Velling and Councillor Potter.

Motion carries unanimously.

REGULAR

EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Be it resolved that Council dissolve the Government Affairs Advisory Committee (GAAC); and

Be it further resolved that Council dissolve the Education Advisory Committee (EAC); and

Be it further resolved that Council dissolve the Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee; and

Be it further resolved that Council create the Education Advisory Committee, according to the attached terms of reference.

Vice President Clubine and Councillor Small.

Historically, EAC and GAAC were one committee. This committee was split to have more specific discussions, but unfortunately ended up creating an environment where members were expected to have large amounts of context on policy issues. This made councillors ineffective on these committees, and the committees devolved into update committees. This is an attempt to bring back a structure that allows councillors to have a larger impact on the lobbying decisions being made.

Councillor Velling and Councillor Small (friendly) move to amend the motion to allow PPC to clean up the policy with grammar and structure changes.

Motion carries unanimously.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON CAMPUS POLICY

Be it resolved that Council adopt the policy on Freedom of Speech and Expression on Campus as presented, and

Be it further resolved that Council task the President to work with the University to ensure the University endorses the Chicago Principles by the end of April 2018; and

Be it further resolved that Council task the Executive to work with the University to ensure the University does not obligate clubs to hire security for their events; and

Be it further resolved that that Council tasks the Internal Administration Committee to amend Club Procedure to ensure that clubs themselves are not liable for costs of event security until such time as the University drafts policy on this matter.

Councillor Ayre and Councillor Velling.

The policy presented was refined with the help of PPC, and this version is much clearer and in line with other Feds policy. Councillor Ayre ran through the terms of the policy.

A councillor asked about the equity policy that was mentioned, President Brieva updated Council on the progress of the policy.

Be it resolved that Council split the clauses into seperate motions.

Councillor Small and Vice President Clubine.

Councillor Small expressed concern with the last item, as well as the provision stipulating that clubs should not have to pay for security if there is a cost associated with it.

The main intent with the grouping was to avoid connecting the policy with current campus lobbying.

Vice President Clubine Councillor Small motioned to vote on the first three clauses, and the last item seperatly.

Motion carries unanimously.

Motion now reads:

Be it resolved that Council adopt the policy on Freedom of Speech and Expression on Campus as presented, and

Be it further resolved that Council task the President to work with the University to ensure the University endorses the Chicago Principles by the end of April 2018; and

Be it further resolved that Council task the Executive to work with the University to ensure the University does not obligate clubs to hire security for their events.

Motion carries unanimously.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON CAMPUS POLICY, PART 2

Be it resolved that that Council tasks the Internal Administration Committee to amend Club Procedure to ensure that clubs themselves are not liable for costs of event security until such time as the University drafts policy on this matter.

Councillor Ayre and Councillor Velling.

There was some comments that clubs and Feds are the same pool of money, so either way Feds is paying. IAC is empowered to allow clubs to spend money in any way they deem appropriate.

A councillor brought up that the wording of this motion is pretty vague, and that referring it to a committee is a good way for it to never be seen again.

Be it resolved that Council postpone the motion till the next meeting.
Vice President Clubine and Councillor Ayre.

Motion carries unanimously. Councillor Velling abstained.

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVITY

Waterloo is at the industry standard on indigenous issues, and has only started to address the issues. Feds has put together a report to help inform that discussion.

A councillor agreed with most of the principles of the policy, but had reservations with the clause at the top of the second page:

Be it further resolved that the Federation of Students shall advocate for the hiring of tenure-track Indigenous faculty members and professional and administrative staff across various disciplines;

The councillor is concerned that this created the impression that Feds was promoting hiring people for their ethnicity as opposed to their qualifications.

The Vice President, Education inquired about what specifically was the issue, as the purpose was to mainly address parts of the university community where having someone with knowledge of indigenous communities would be valuable.

The President suggested “removing barriers” as opposed to “advocate for the hiring of”.

A few councillors expressed support for the original wording.

A councillor inquired about operational concerns, and wanted more consultation with non-indigenous students.

A councillor re-iterated their support for re-wording the clause on hiring.

A straw poll was held to inform how the Vice President, Education further develops this clause.

A councillor expressed great support for the major and minor, and provided an anecdote about the wait list for Mohawk language courses.

FALL READING BREAK PROPOSAL

Be it resolved that Council delegate the resolution and all relevant information regarding the Fall Reading Break proposal to the portfolio of the Vice President, Education, in consultation with the Policy and Procedures Committee.

Be it further resolved that Council empowers any Councillors who have opinions or feedback on the proposal to share these views directly with the Vice President, Education.
Councillor Velling and Vice President Clubine.

Vice President Clubine noted that orientation was not being targeted, and reiterated that people should bring any comments to the Vice President, Education. Vice President

Clubine emphasized that this this issue would be coming to the Education Advisory Committee for discussion.

Motion carries unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

RATIFICATION OF ONTARIO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ALLIANCE DELEGATES

Be it resolved that Council ratify the Fall 2017 OUSA General Assembly following delegates recommended by the selection committee:

- Antonio Brieva,
- Andrew Clubine,
- Steven Jia,
- Alexander Wray,
- Hannah Beckett,
- Matthew Gerrits,
- Connor Plante,
- Daihane Zhu,
- Marcus Abramovitch, and
- two others to be appointed by the selection committee.

The selection committee was comprised of the Vice President, Education, President, and Councillor O'Sullivan.

Vice President Clubine and Councillor Easton.

Vice President Clubine gave a brief introduction on what the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance is to the councillors, and encouraged students to email him if they wanted to be a delegate, or if they just want to stop by. The General Assembly will be at Laurier, next weekend.

Motion carries unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Be it resolved that the members of the previous EAC and GAAC committees become members of the new EAC.

Councillor Small and Vice President Clubine.

Motion carries unanimously. 1 abstention.

WATCARD/UPASS ISSUES

Councillor Ye-Mowe expressed disappointment with the confusion that is being created with the new WatCard/UPASS rollout. There is a lot of “telephone talk” as students attempt to navigate the situation.

The Vice President, Education responded that the UPASS is split between Vice President, Education and Vice President, Operations and Finance. GRT hasn’t decided exactly how the process is going to move ahead. It’s been confusing for Feds as well, because data is shared between the university (WatCard office) and GRT; but, the agreement is between GRT and Feds and doesn’t involve the university.

The Vice President, Education announced that students will have an interim period where the card will be excepted without tap, and students will still have the leeway term (students pay for two terms, and the card works in the third if you are off-campus).

The councillor re-iterated that there should be more communication and that while recognizing the situation isn’t entirely within Feds control, the Vice President, Education should push GRT to be more transparent.

The President indicated that communication informing students that that they need to replace their WatCard was ongoing, and an email blast had been sent out.

It was also made clear that students will always have access to paying the UPASS fee as opposed to the GRT standard fare, even if they are off-campus.

The Vice President, Education will go to negotiations with the feedback, will try to get more info up on the WatCard site and `feds.ca`, and will email councillors with more information

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting.

Councillor Jowhari and Councillor Easton.

With no new business the meeting was called to adjourn at 3:30 PM.

Motion carries unanimously.