

STUDENTS' COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING: November 30, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Federation of Students Students' Council at 12:30 PM on Sunday, November 30, 2014 in SLC MPR. The Speaker in the chair was Doug Turner and Andrew Clubine served as Secretary.

The following members were in attendance: Councillors Turner, Nelson, Hamidzai, Domingo, Khan, Lolas, Liu, J. Wang (MATH), Sidharta, Ramdev, J. Wang (ENG), Thaker, Wan, Wang, McCready, Nasif, Balram, Koo, Hayman, Vanderleest, Puri, President Burt, Vice Presidents Balfour, Hamade and Yasin.

Councillors Li and Gaffoor were both absent. Their absences were excused.

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Turner called the meeting to order at 12:37PM.

PRELIMINARIES

Council agreed that both special orders should take place during the Preliminaries.

FALL BREAK PRESENTATION: MARIO CONIGLIO

A taskforce has been established to consider all factors of implementing a reading break. It will do a fulsome consultation with stakeholders and present the Provost with a proposal for how to proceed. It will no longer focus on "for" or "against", but rather what the accommodations and impacts of a break would be.

Faculty have expressed concern about less break between Spring and Fall terms. Councillor Sidharta echoed this concern as well.

Councillor Ramdev voiced concerns that have been brought up by engineering students. These concerns include the shortening of orientation week, more weekend midterm exams and visas for international students. Mr. Coniglio said that if a break were to be implemented, orientation week may have to be reconsidered by all organizers.

Councillor Lolas said that a terms of reference for what a fall break is should be developed. Mr. Coniglio suggested that Councillor Lolas put that on the next Senate Undergraduate Council agenda.

Councillor McCready suggested that academic content could be offered by first year instructors during the first classes on the first Thursday and/or Friday of classes. Mr. Coniglio agreed with her suggestion.

WATERLOO WORKS PRESENTATION: STEPHANIE TORTORICI

The University is currently customizing Waterloo Works. Feedback is generally positive. Some new features include one free “no rank” per work term and a work term rating system for students. A few councillors expressed concern about making students’ ratings available to employers and how that might cause insincere comments.

ELECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. **“BIRT Council elects _____ as Assistant Secretary of Students’ Council.”**

No nominations for Assistant Secretary were made.

2. Moved by VPED Hamade, seconded by Councillor Balram:

“BIRT Council postpone the election of Assistant Secretary of Students’ Council to the Students’ Council Regular Meeting on January 2015.”

-Carried unanimously-

Councillor Koo spoke to some disrespectful behaviour by councillors at the beginning of the meeting. He urged councillors to show respect to each other, their positions and special guests by being punctual, attentive and professional while at meetings of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Moved in amendment by President Burt, seconded by VPED Hamade:

“BIRT the agenda for the August Regular Meeting be approved with the following amendments:

- a. Moved by Burt:

To add consideration of the following motion: “BIRT Council amend Procedure 6” to the agenda, before the Elections section.

Requires two-thirds majority

-Carried- (21-2-2)

Abstentions:
C. Lolas
G. Domingo

- b. Moved by Councillor Hayman:

Remove Item 20 (Councillor Nomination Package) from the agenda.
Requires unanimous consent

-Carried unanimously-

- c. Moved by Councillor Lolas:

Add elections for Board Procedure 20 Taskforce to the agenda.
Requires two-thirds majority

-Carried unanimously-

- d. Moved by Councillor McCready:

Remove the Communications Policy from the agenda.
Requires unanimous consent

-Defeated-(8-4-12)

Abstentions:
D. Burt, C. Ramdev

- e. Moved by President Burt:

Remove Council Athletics Stance from the agenda.
Requires unanimous consent

-Carried unanimously-

-Agenda adopted as amended-

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 2nd Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. “BIRT Council receive and approve the Consent Agenda for the August 2014 Regular Meeting.

a. Councillor Reports

- i. Doug Turner (Arts)
- ii. Elizabeth Liu (Math)
- iii. Chris Lolas (Math)
- iv. Anne Marie Hayman (St. Jeromes)
- v. Kavita Puri (Kitchener)
- vi. Carly McCready (Science)
- vii. Dayna Nelson (Arts)
- viii. James Koo (AHS)
- ix. Julian Wang (Engineering)
- x. Jazbel Wang (Math)

b. Elections and Referenda Committee (Coun. Hayman)

c. Resignations from Committee Seats

‘BIRT Council accept the resignations of Chris Lolas from the PPC Committee Member seat on the Elections and Referendum Committee; Stephane Hamade from the Executive seat on the Elections and Referendum Appeals Committee; James Koo from the At-Large seat on Elections and Referendum Appeals Committee; Maaz Yasin from the At-Large seat on Elections and Referendum Appeals Committee; and Jazbel Wang from the At-Large seat on Elections and Referendum Committee.’ ”

-Carried unanimously-

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND QUESTION PERIOD

Executive reports were submitted and presented by President Burt and Vice Presidents Yasin (Internal) and Hamade (Education). Reports can be found in the agenda for this meeting. A verbal report was presented by Vice President Balfour (Operations and Finance).

5. Moved by Councillor Balram, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“That Council recess for 10 minutes.”

-Defeated- (5-8)

Following questions from Councillors Ramdev and Nelson, Council discussed MappedIn kiosks. Several councillors expressed a desire to add the campus map to kiosks, and to include them in different buildings around campus. VPOF Balfour he is working to get a full-campus map on MappedIn kiosks.

RECESS

Speaker Turner called a recess at 2:54PM

The meeting was called back to order 3:06PM

REPORTS (CONT'D)

COUNCILLOR REPORTS (ORAL)

Councillor Hayman announced that elections nominations will open on January 5th, 2015. Debates and meet-and-greets will be planned for general elections.

SPEAKER'S UPDATE

Speaker Turner proposed a set of regular meeting dates for the Winter 2015 term. Council discussed his proposal.

6. Moved by Lolas, seconded by Hayman

“BIRT that the Winter 2015 Term regular meetings of Council be held on January 18, February 8, March 8 and April 12.”

-Carried- (19-1-2)

In other news from Speaker Turner, he and Pratik Patel from IT will be arranging microphones and cameras for next meeting of Council to improve the livestream.

Councillor McCready spoke against incentivizing students or councillors with prizes if they attend Council meetings.

ASU EVENT REPORT (Councillor Hamidzai)

Councillor Hamidzai provided a report about ASU's meet-and-greet event at the Bomber. She encouraged other councillors to organize similar events for their constituents, but advised them to consider timing (i.e. not too late in the term.)

GRT INFORMATION REPORT (Municipal Affairs Commissioner)

Municipal Affairs Commissioner Andrew Clubine provided Council with an update on Grand River Transit's 2015 Improvement Plan. Among other changes, the proposal includes the elimination of routes 7D and 7E, effective September 2015. Feedback will be solicited and a report will be submitted to Grand River Transit by December 17. A second public input period will occur in the Spring, at which time Commissioner Clubine will update Council again.

ELECTIONS REPORT FOR FALL 2014 (Councillor Hayman)

Councillor Hayman provided a report on elections that occurred during the Fall 2014 term.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Both special orders occurred during the Preliminaries, prior to the approval of the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

PROCEDURES

7. Moved by President Burt

“BIRT Council amend Procedure 6 (Election and Referenda Procedure)”

- a. Amendment moved by Councillor Hayman, seconded by President Burt:

Add “v. *They shall be a non-voting resource member.*” to section 3.b (Officers– Chief Returning Officer) of the policy.

-Carried- (20-0-1)

- b. Amendment moved by VPED Hamade, seconded by Councillor McCready:

Amend the membership of Elections and Referenda Committee (Section D.1.a) to be “1 Councillor” and “3 students-at-large”.

-Carried unanimously-

- c. Moved by Councillor McCreedy, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

Amend Section H.1. to read:

“Neither the candidates, committees, nor campaign volunteers shall:

g. Enter into contractual obligations with any groups on or off campus that may affect the Federation of Students during their term in office.”

-Carried- (20-0-1)

Abstentions

C. Lolas

-Main motion carried unanimously, as amended-

COMMITTEE REMOVALS

8. Moved by VPED Hamade:

“BIRT Council ratify the removal of Mckenna Szczepanowski from the At-Large seat on the Government Affairs Advisory Committee”

Vote taken by ballot

-Carried- (24-0)

9. Moved by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council ratify the removal of Councillor Mohammad Nasif from the Councillor seat on the Elections and Referendum Committee.”

Vote taken by ballot

-Carried- (20-4)

10. Moved by Councillor Hayman, seconded by Councillor Koo:

“BIRT the election for the Councillor seat on the Elections and Referendum Committee be added to the agenda in the Elections section”

-Carried unanimously-

ELECTIONS

11. Moved by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council appoint _____ to the Elections and Referendum Committee (1 Councillor; 3 Students At-Large)”

Councillor J. Wang (MATH) accepted a nomination to the Councillor seat. Speaker Turner received nominations for Paula Sanchez, Daniel Moholia and Jacqueline Veraldi for at-large seats.

-Councillor J. Wang (MATH) acclaimed to Councillor seat-

-Paula Sanchez, Daniel Moholia and Jacqueline Veraldi acclaimed to at-large seats-

12. Moved by Councillor Hayman:

“BIRT Council appoint _____ to the Elections and Referendum Appeals Committee (1 Executive; 2 Students At-Large)”

Councillor Hayman nominated President Burt to the Executive seat. Burt accepted.

-President Burt acclaimed to Executive seat-

-At-large seats remain vacant-

13. Moved by Speaker Turner:

“BIRT Council appoint _____ to the Internal Administration Committee (2 Councillors; 2 Students At-Large)”

Councillors Sidharta and Koo nominated themselves. No other nominations.

-Councillors Sidharta and Koo acclaimed-

-At-large seats remain vacant-

14. Moved by Councillor Lolas:

“BIRT Council appoint _____ to the Board of Directors Procedure 20 Task Force (2 Councillors; 1 to 3 At-Large)”

Councillor Ramdev nominated himself and Councillor Koo for the Councillor seats.

Both accepted. Councillor Lolos nominated Allyson Francis for an at-large seat.

-Councillors Ramdev and Koo acclaimed to Councillor seats-

-Allyson Francis acclaimed to an at-large seat. Up to 2 at-large seats remain-

SLC SPACE

15. Moved by Councillor McCready:

“BIRT Council recommend that SLC Management Advisory Committee to create criteria for booking of SLC spaces and to report with a proposal to Council at the January 18, 2015 regular meeting.”

-Carried Unanimously-

A motion to extend the meeting from its 4:30PM scheduled adjournment time was successful. However, several councillors left the meeting between 4:30PM and 5:00PM due to prior commitments. In accordance with Council procedures, this will not count against their attendance records.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

16. Moved by VPED Hamade:

“BIRT in the event of Remembrance Day becoming a statutory holiday in Ontario, Feds Council recommend to Senate that there be two Sunday exams and one Saturday class for the Fall 2015 term.”

-Carried Unanimously- (15-0-0)

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

17. Moved by Councillor McCready, seconded by Councillor Hayman:

"BIRT Council refer the Communications Policy to a Communications Policy Task Force with the following terms of reference:

Communications Policy Task Force

a. Introduction

The purpose of the task force is to develop the Communications Policy as put forward by the President’s Advisory Committee.

b. **Membership**

The task force will consist of:

- i. **The President of the Federation of Students, who will serve as the Committee Chair;**
- ii. **the Speaker of Council;**
- iii. **the Chair of the Board of Directors;**
- iv. **all members of Council; and**
- v. **the Director of Marketing and Communications (as a non-voting resource member).**
- vi. **Quorum shall be 5 voting members**

c. **Meetings**

- i. **Meetings will occur on an as-needed basis until the January 2015 Meeting of Council. At the January 2015 Meeting of Council, the Policy should be presented as a final draft.**
- ii. ***Proviso:* If the committee does not present the final draft of the Communication Policy to Council by the first meeting of the Winter 2015 term, they must advertise and hold elections for the At-Large positions at that meeting instead, and carry on with their mandate.**

-Carried unanimously-

POLICY

Council agreed to consider the final two items on the agenda in one motion.

18. Moved by President Burt:

“BIRT Council renew Policy 9 (Childcare) and Policy 10 (Professional Development)

BIFRT Council amend Policy 17 (Open Data Formats)”

-Carried unanimously-

ADJOURNMENT

After exhausting all business, Speaker Turner adjourned the meeting at 5:28PM.