

## **STUDENTS' COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2014**

*The Regular Meeting of the Federation of Students Students' Council at 12:30 PM on Sunday, September 21, 2014 in SLC 1120/1121. The Speaker in the chair was Doug Turner and Andrew Clubine served as Secretary.*

*The following members were in attendance: Councillors McCready, Lolos, Sidharta, Knight, J. Wang (ENG), Li, Nasif, Koo, Khan, Liu, J.Wang (MATH), Nelson, Wan and Turner.*

*Councillors Thaker (left early, excused by the Speaker), Hamidzai, Ramdev and Hayman were excused from attending the meeting.*

*Unexcused absences: Councillors Balram, Gaffoor (both left early without notice) and Domingo (late).*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker Turner called the meeting to order at 12:30PM.

### **PRELIMINARIES**

#### **ELECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

The meeting began with a blank motion for the election of the Assistant Secretary:

1. **"BIRT Council elects \_\_\_\_\_ as Assistant Secretary of Students' Council."**

No nominations for Assistant Secretary were made.

2. Moved by Koo, seconded by Balram:

**"BIRT Council postpone the election of Assistant Secretary of Students' Council to the Students' Council Regular Meeting of October 2014."**

*-Carried unanimously-*

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

- **Edit Item 14: “Communications Policy” will undergo First Reading**
- **Hamade adds Schembri discussion to New Business**

*-Carried unanimously as amended-*

## **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- **Councillor Reports**

- i. Doug Turner (Arts)
- ii. Elizabeth Liu (Math)
- iii. James Koo (AHS)
- iv. Kianna Wan (Science)
- v. Anand Balram (Environment)
- vi. Christos Lolas (Math)
- vii. Jazbel Wang (Math)
- viii. Julian Wang (Engineering)
- ix. Carly McCready (Science)
- x. Guile Domingo (Arts)
- xi. Jill Knight (AHS)
- xii. Anne Marie Hayman (St. Jeromes)
- xiii. Febrian Sidharta (Math)

- **Spring 2014 Elections Report** (Coun. Hayman)

*-Carried unanimously-*

## **REPORTS**

## **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

### *President*

President Burt presented her Executive report. She announced that the Feds Fall General Meeting will be held on October 22, 2014.

### *Vice-President, Internal*

VP Yasin thanked Kumar Patel and his team for a successful Welcome Week. He also announced the approval several new Feds clubs.

### *Vice-President, Operations and Finance*

VP Balfour announced that Budget Committee will soon begin a review of budget procedures.

### *Vice-President, Education*

Has had meeting with many local election candidates. Also met with Federal Liberal leader, Justin Trudeau, while he was on a campus visit.

## **EXECUTIVE QUESTION PERIOD**

President Burt asked Council for feedback on the format of Executive Reports. She requested that Councillors contact her with ideas for more efficient or effective delivery.

Councillor Gaffoor asked what time Fall General Meeting will begin. President Burt responded that the meeting will be advertised at 2:30PM and the call to order will be at 3:00PM.

Councillor Gaffoor asked for information about a potential Walk-Safe program. VP Yasin answered that research on the ideas is complete and meetings have been set up for further discussion.

VP Hamade and Municipal Affairs Commissioner, Andrew Clubine provided Council with information on how to vote in the upcoming municipal election.

## **COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Koo announced that AHSUM will increase society fee; it is currently the lowest of all student societies.

Councillor Lolas announced that the Board of Directors passed the budget at its August meeting. He also informed Council that the University elected a new Chancellor, Tom Jenkins.

Councillor Hayman joined the meeting via Skype to remind Council that application for vacant councillor position will open.

President Burt offered help to councillor wishing to run social events that would raise the profile of Council and Feds among students.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS**

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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

**“BIRT Council appoint Secretary Clubine and Speaker Turner as the scrutineers for the committee elections”**

*-Carried unanimously-*

6. Moved by President Burt:

**“BIRT Council make the following Councillor committee appointments:**

- **Councillors Koo and Gaffoor to the Presidents Advisory Committee;**
- **Councillors Nasif and Thaker to the Entrepreneurship Committee;**
- **Councillors Wan and Gaffoor to the Campus Life Advisory Committee;**
- **Councillors J. Wang (MATH) and Khan to the Internal Funding Committee; and**
- **Councillors Li, Liu and J. Wang (ENG) to the Co-op Students Council.**

**BIFRT Council make the following Student At-Large committee appointments:**

- **Shannon Henderson and Councillor Hamidzai to the President’s Advisory Committee;**
- **Councillor Wan to the Policy and Procedure Committee;**
- **Councillor Li to the Campus Life Advisory Committee (one seat remaining empty);**
- **Matt Mclean and Councillor Nasif to the Internal Funding Committee;**
- **Councillors Khan and Koo to the Internal Administration Committee;**
- **McKenna Szezpanowski to the Government Affairs Advisory Committee; and**
- **Amy Zhou and Councillor Khan to the Co-op Students Council.”**

*-Carried-*

7. Moved by President Burt:

**“BIRT Council include an election for 2 at-large seats on the Entrepreneurship Committee.”**

Motion rescinded by President Burt.

8. Moved by Councillor J. Wang (ENG), seconded by Councillor Gaffoor:

**“BIRT Secretary Clubine destroy the ballots.”**

*-Carried unanimously-*

9. Moved by President Burt:

**“BIRT Council approves the First Year Advisory Committee as a committee of Students’ Council.”**

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

**“BIRT Council add 1 seat to each college and 2 seats for Off-Campus Student in Membership, Section 2 of the First Year Advisory Committee.”**

*-Amendment carried unanimously-*

- b. Amendment moved by Councillor Gaffoor, seconded by Councillor Koo:

**“BIRT Council UWP seats be allocated as follows: 1 resident from UWP Towers and 1 resident from UWP Courts.”**

*-Amendment carried unanimously-*

*-Main motion carried unanimously as amended-*

## **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

President Burt presented a proposed Communication Policy for a First Reading by Council. Discussion was limited to 15 minutes.

Upon presenting the policy, President Burt reasoned that it is important for information to be delivered from the organization in an accurate and accountable way.

## **SPEAKER UPDATE**

10. Moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by VP Hamade:

**“BIRT Council rescind Procedure 12 (Use of Federation Bulletin Boards) and Procedure 13 (Federation Publicity).”**

*-Carried unanimously-*

## **RECESS**

Speaker Turner called a recess at 2:25PM.

Speaker Turner called the meeting back to order at 2:40PM.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Cont'd)**

### **PRAYER SPACE POLICY**

11. Moved by VP Yasin, seconded by Koo

**“BIRT Council approve Policy 37: Multi Faith Prayer Facilities.”**

Councillor McCready voiced concern about the exclusive nature of the term “prayer facility”, suggesting that students may want to engage in other sorts of spiritual reflection. Councillor Thakar and others pointed out “Prayer room” is the universal name for type type of facility. A lengthy discussion ensued about the purpose of the rooms and a name that appropriately expresses that purpose. VP Yasin suggested that the name must encapsulate spirit of the rooms, and that “prayer space” does so. Council took part in an extended discussion on this topic, which resulted in three different proposals for the name of these new spaces.

a. Amendment moved by Councillor McCready, seconded by Councillor Koo:

**“BIRT all mentions of ‘Multi-Faith Prayer Space’ be changed to ‘Multi-Faith Quiet Space’.”**

*-Amendment defeated-*

b. Amendment moved by Councillor Gaffoor, seconded by Coucillor Koo.

**“BIRT all mentions of ‘Multi-Faith Prayer Space’ be changed to ‘Multi-Faith Reflection Space’.”**

*-Amendment defeated-*

Councillor Thaker left the meeting after being excused by the Speaker.

- c. Amendment moved by Councillor Koo, seconded by Councillor Balram:

**“BIRT all mentions of ‘Multi-Faith Prayer Space’ be changed to ‘Multi-Faith Space for Spiritual Study and Practice’.”**

*-Amendment carried-*

*-Main motion carried unanimously as amended-*

## **FALL READING BREAK REFERENDUM QUESTION**

12. Moved by VP Hamade:

**“BIRT Council call a referendum on the question**

***“Do you support starting classes two days earlier in the fall, Thursday and Friday of the first week, in favour of a 2 additional days off during the fall term?”***

VP Hamade gave background to the Fall Break referendum and presented a proposed question for it.

Wan took the Chair in order to allow Councillor Turner to make an amendment to the proposed motion.

- a. Main motion moved in amendment by Turner, seconded Gaffoor.

**“BIRT Council call a referendum on the question**

***“Should classes start two days earlier in the fall term, allowing two additional days off during the Fall term?”***

- i. Amendment proposed by Councillor Sidharta, seconded by Councillor Turner:

**“BIRT Council call a referendum on the question**

**“Should classes start on the first Thursday after Labour Day in order to allow for two additional days off during the Fall term?”**

*-Amendment to amendment carried unanimously-*

Councillors Gaffoor and Balram left the meeting without being excused by the Speaker.

- b. Amendment to amended main motion moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by Councillor Koo”

**“BIRT the following preamble be added to the referendum question:**

***“If this were to be implemented it may be possible to keep the same amount of time of Orientation programming with a change of move in dates to Saturday and Sunday and the fact that ELPE has been eliminated. It is currently unknown at what point of the fall term the break will be. Note: This referendum is to help determine student opinion”***

- i. Amendment to amendment moved by Councillor Nelson, seconded by Councillor Wan :

**“BIRT the following preamble be added to the referendum question:**

***‘If this were to be implemented it may be possible to keep the same amount of time of Orientation programming with a change of move in dates to Saturday and Sunday and the fact that ELPE has been eliminated. It is just to determine if you agree with this particular proposition. It is currently unknown at what point of the fall term the break will be. Note: This referendum is to help determine student opinion.’ ”***

*-Amendment to amendment failed (0-15)-*

- ii. Amendment to amendment moved by VP Hamade, seconded by Councillor Lolas:

**“BIRT that the preamble mention “two or more” days’ break.”**

*-Amendment to amendment defeated unanimously-*

- iii. Amendment to amendment moved by Councillor Lolas, seconded by Councillor Koo:

**“BIRT the following preamble be added to the referendum question:**

**“Should classes start on the first Thursday after Labour Day in order to allow for two additional days off in the fall term?” including the preamble: “It is currently unknown at what point of the fall term the break would be. This referendum is to help determine student opinion.”**

*-Amendment to amendment carried unanimously-*

- c. Amendment to amendment moved by Councillor Koo, seconded by Councillor Nelson:

**“BIRT the following preamble be added to the referendum question:**

**“Should there be a Fall Break?” and “Should classes start on the first Thursday after Labour Day in order to allow for two additional days off in the fall term?” including the preamble “It is currently unknown at what point of the fall term the break would be. This referendum is to help determine student opinion.”**

*-Amendment to amendment failed (7-13)-*

*-Amendment “iv.” carried unanimously as amended-*

The main motion was called to question.

**“BIRT Council call a referendum on the question**

**“Should classes start on the first Thursday after Labour Day in order to allow for two additional days off during the Fall term?” with the following preamble:**

***It is currently unknown at what point of the fall term the break would be. This referendum is to help determine student opinion.”***

*-Main motion carried unanimously, as amended-*

Abstention

Lolas

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SLC MISSION STATEMENT**

VP Balfour led a discussion about a future SLC Mission Statement. A potential mission statement is being drafted. VP Balfour presented his ideas and asked for Council’s ongoing feedback.

Councillor Lolos suggests that its ultimately the University’s job to provide space, and that this should be reflected in the mission statement.

### **SCHEMBRI HOUSING SITUATION**

VPs Hamade and Yasin provided Council with an update about the Schembri situation where hundreds of students were unable to move into 1 Columbia.

13. Moved by Hamade, seconded by Koo:

**“BIRT Council adopt the following position in regards to the Schembri/1Columbia situation:**

***“Whereas students need a place to live while they attend the University of Waterloo; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has agreed to leases with students; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has not completed a building that students signed leases for in the Fall 2014 term; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has not allowed students to break their leases and has not returned deposits; and  
BIRT Federation of Students’ Council believes that it should no longer work with Schembri Property Management and not permit them to use space under the management to the Federation of Students, while this situation is not rectified.”***

- a. Amendment moved by President Burt, seconded by VP Hamade:

**“BIRT that the following be added to the main motion:**

**‘BIFRT Feds executives write open letter to Schembri PM expressing Council’s stance on this issue.’”**

*-Amendment carried (17-1)-*

The main motion was called to question.

**“BIRT Council adopt the following position in regards to the Schembri/  
1Columbia situation:**

***“Whereas students need a place to live while they attend the University of Waterloo; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has agreed to leases with students; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has not completed a building that students signed leases for in the Fall 2014 term; and  
Whereas Schembri Property Management has not allowed students to break their leases and has not returned deposits; and  
BIRT Federation of Students’ Council believes that it should no longer work with Schembri Property Management and not permit them to use space under the management to the Federation of Students, while this situation is not rectified.***

***BIFRT Feds executives write open letter to Schembri PM expressing Council’s stance on this issue. ”***

*-Motion carried unanimously, as amended-*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49PM.