

University of Waterloo Science Society

March 14 BOD Meeting Minutes

Members Present: | K. Walden (President), | A. Jogoo (VPFA), | V. Chan (VPI), | C. Mangahas (VPA), | Biochemistry Student Association (BSA), | Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS), | Physics Club (PhysClub), | Earth and Environmental Science Undergraduate Club (WATROX), | FEDS Councillors

Members absent: Chemistry Club (ChemClub), | Materials & Nanoscience Society (MNS), | Science and Business Students' Association (SBSA)

Announcements

1. Happy PI day
2. Scisoc Executive Elections have finished, but have not reached quorum (See bottom for data)

Call to Order

Move to begin the orders of the day. Order called at 5:33 pm.

Preliminaries

1. At request, Councillor Velling would like to provide an update at the beginning, time permitting.
 - BOD has put together a procedure to request finances
 - Planning on increasing support for indigenous students
 - Potential revamp on accountability, adding impeachment to mechanism, changes to the referendum, changes to executive rules, giving oversight abilities to students will be discussed during the general meeting on March 21st at 5pm at SLC
 - Council meeting is this Saturday at QNC
 - Looking into having 24 cents increase for staff plus 2.3 percent to adjust for inflations, 60 cents increase to allow for advocacy
 - Can proxy your vote via Feds facebook page, student or councillor

Business Arising

1. Appointment of the executives
 - a. President
 - Veronica Chan for President (Spring and Fall 2019)
 - Served as VP Internal for Fall 2018 and Winter 2019
 - Would like to facilitate mental health talks
 - Would like to enhance feedback form system
 - Try to increase dialogue between departmental clubs
 - Would like to build a culture of transparency (keep the website updated which was challenging in the past because of turnover of marketing coordinators); she would like to receive training herself to update it regularly
 - Better collaboration to incorporate student voices and facilitate a bridge of communication to organize relevant events by enhancing the feedback system
 - Improving collaboration among the society between departmental clubs to allocate funding in a more effective and impactful way
 - Not available to be President in Winter 2020 because she is going to pharmacy school
 - She said she will rearrange furniture, implement a whiteboard to show who is on office

hours so that people are aware, implement an open door policy, implement repercussions and tell the coordinators to be more aware of the people coming into the office to increase inclusivity.

- When people attack the society, she will try to understand the students and see how we can improve on our end. If there is false information being circulated, she will publicly post something to explain the situation. If it is our fault, she will apologize to them.

- Julian Surdi for President (Winter 2020)
 - Served as an external coordinator during Fall 2018 and Winter 2019
 - Would like to work on the internal environment (the whole society) by fostering a good environment and making sure that students are getting the services they need (services offered would be academic events, mental health events and general events for enjoyment)
 - Would like to implement fewer but more collaborative events to improve overall attendance of UW students
 - Believes there is a lack in marketing our events towards science students, thus he would like to make more executive and/or coordinator positions to put more effort into this
 - He would like to develop a newsletter system to list all the upcoming events so that students are more aware and it is a form of direct contact within and outside of the society
 - A lot of the same students are coming to our events, thus he believes we need to improve our communication so that students who are not familiar with the society are aware of the events
 - Would like to improve the reception of SciSoc by improving marketing and awareness of society events to encourage more interactions between the society and student body
 - Believes that the best way to ensure that the budget is spent correctly is to look at the services that we are providing and try to work it so that we can reach out to as many people possible, give money to large groups rather than small groups
 - Believes that instead having a large number of interdepartmental clubs, it is better to have fewer interdepartmental clubs with a stronger presence
 - Would like to take the smaller clubs and restructure them into a one strong and more general team
 - Believes SciSoc strives to improve the student experience for all science students on campus
 - Average turnout for general events has been between 60-80 science students and he would like to increase this through better marketing

Speaker moves the motion that we approve Veronica Chan as the President of SciSoc for Spring 2019 in line with the votes.

Seconded by Seneca (FEDS Councillor).

Candidates were asked to leave the room.

Discussion:

- FEDS Councillor said that Veronica was a good coordinator and she has his support.
- VP Academic said that she supports Veronica transitioning into the president role, however effort will be needed for her become comfortable in the role, but once she is gets used to it, she will do well.
- President said that she was not always present to take on issues that were present in the society. Veronica has been too passive in some scenarios. She has been doing better this term, but she will definitely need some time to transition into the role.
- President said that she thinks that Veronica would do well during Spring 2019. However, fall term is the heaviest term with regards to work, so her achievements in the spring term would not be a good transition into the fall term since the amount of duties during the spring term is almost the same as a coordinator role.
- President said that the position of President does not receive a lot of support, so the elected President must be independent and must stand ground with knowledge since there are policy differences across societies.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion passed. Veronica Chan is appointed as the President of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Speaker moves the motion that we approve Veronica Chan as President of SciSoc for Fall 2019 in line with the votes.

Austin (BSA) seconds.

Discussion

- BSA said that Veronica is in the acapella group and she is academically inclined, thus she might have a busy schedule in Fall 2019.
- BSA requested to bring in Veronica Chan in regards to the above matter to see if she has the time to be President in the fall term. Veronica said that she has completed her prerequisites for CAP. She is leaning towards dropping the acapella group in Fall 2019 but she does not promise this. She might not take a full course load in Spring 2019.

Speaker call the motion to a vote.

President requests to continue discussion.

Unanimous decision to continue discussion.

Discussion

- President would like to nominate Julian Surdi as President of SciSoc for Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 because he is better spoken and more forward.
- Julian Surdi was invited in by the Speaker to discuss the nomination. Julian feels that he would not be prepared for the position in fall term. However, Veronica's experience from the spring term can help him prepare well for Fall 2019. His extracurricular activity in Fall 2019 is the UW dance company.

President sustains her nomination for Julian Surdi as the President of SciSoc for Fall 2019 and Winter 2020.

Discussion

- Watrox said that some of the clubs do not spend the minimum amount and hold enough events, thus it would be better to merge these clubs like Julian had stated.

Speaker brings the motion of deciding between Veronica Chan and Julian Surdi as the SciSoc President for Fall 2019 to a vote.

The vote is tied. Speaker defers to the initial election process, which is in favour of Veronica Chan. Veronica Chan is appointed as the President of SciSoc for Fall 2019.

Speaker moves the motion that we approve Julian Surdi as the President of SciSoc for Winter 2020 in line with the votes. Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion is passed. Julian Surdi is appointed the President of SciSoc for Winter 2020.

Candidates were allowed to enter the room.

b. VP Internal

- **Zahra Sabreen Hasan (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Winter 2020)**
 - Hopes to increase collaboration and extending student access to mental health resources
 - Would like to allow students to have more input in their student government
 - Would like to promote transparency and inclusivity
 - Would like to be more proactive with scheduled monthly general meetings to allow for transparency and a platform for students to voice their concerns and feedback
 - Would like to meet the needs of the science student body by being informative
 - Would like to develop stronger communication between the interdepartmental clubs to set common goals for a stronger vision and to be more cohesive
 - Would like to increase fundraising initiatives and to take advantage of opportunities for students to express their concerns
 - Would like to increase student awareness and access to mental health resources by having more student professionally trained in mental health help
 - Would like to make BOD meetings more open so that students feel comfortable participating
- **Matthew Bilopavlovic (Fall 2019)**
 - Involved in LTS, the Physclub secretary and CnD volunteer
 - Would like to have a SciSoc newsletter to promote the events for better turnout, to summarize past events and to outline changes and new updates from SciSoc for transparency and awareness
 - Wants to increase collaboration between interdepartmental clubs and to promote interfaculty events to explore options outside of traditional science jobs
 - Wants to rearrange office to stand on fine line between business and casually social environment

Candidates were asked to leave the room.

Speaker moves the motion to approve Zahra Sabreen Hasan as the VP Internal of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Seconded by Austin (BSA).

Discussion

- No discussion

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Vote passes. Zahra Sabreen Hasan is appointed the VP Internal of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Speaker moves to approve the election of Matthew Bilopavlovic or Zahra Sabreen Hasan as VP Internal of SciSoc for Fall 2019. Speaker decided this order in names in accordance to the vote count from the initial election.

Seconded by Austin (BSA).

Discussion

- Physclub said that Matthew is a great executive and is very proactive in Physclub. He is a secretary that is in charge of office supplies and meeting minutes. The minutes have been very organized. He was able to take charge and actively found ways to improve the club.
- SBA said that VP Internal inherits the roles of president first, thus having a VP Internal for three terms in a row would be beneficial for the society for smoother operation.
- BUGS said that since Matthew was not in SciSoc before and he is in first year, his experience may not be sufficient for the role.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Zahra is the victor for the Fall 2019 position. Zahra Sabreen Hasan is appointed as the VP Internal of SciSoc for Fall 2019.

Speaker moves to approve the election of Zahra Sabreen Hasan as VP Internal of SciSoc for Winter 2020.

Seconded by Austin (BSA).

No discussion needed thus Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion passes. Zahra Sabreen Hasan is approved as the VP Internal of SciSoc for Winter 2020.

Candidates were allowed back into the room.

- c. VP A
 - **Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Winter 2020)**
 - Served as media coordinator during Fall 2018 and Winter 2019
 - Had the opportunity to attend a variety of SciSoc events and listen to the feedback of students attending these events
 - Would like to help promote professional and personal growth of students, increasing transparency of the society and improving the co-op programs
 - Academic events should be expressed more in collaboration with SSO and CECA since past turnouts were very high, thus academic events are generally successful
 - Academic events can be more tailored towards science students (ex. how to apply to

professional schools, co-op vs. non co-op, getting internships)

- Releasing executive weekly reports for the coordinators and science student body so that they are more aware of the things that are happening behind the scenes in the society
 - Increase awareness of events, including academic events and programs
 - This can be done by posting a bulletin on social media and in the SciSoc office to help students realize the purpose of the Science Society, and the resources and events that they can use with the fee that they paid
 - A lot of students are not aware of how the co-op program is run at Waterloo, thus through events we can reinforce this information so that students are aware of the opportunities that are available to them
 - Academic events would involve academically experienced speakers on campus that are qualified and experienced to speak regarding the topic with the purpose of showing students the diversity of opportunities on campus
 - Collaborating with the pre-med club is the most effective method of catching student attention
 - New method of feedback is to use an online system and a paper system to receive feedback about the content presented on the bulletin and take this feedback into consideration to accurately represent the science student body
 - Students in environmental science can be presented with informational events regarding grad school and external opportunities
 - Promises to balance extracurriculars to perform well in all positions
 - Promises to keep his word and fulfill the duties that he explicitly said he will do
- **Eugene Xu (Spring 2019)**
 - Having a strong voice and use that to organize workshops in connection with CECA to potentially help students land their first co-op job, to have resume critiques, promote edge through workshops
 - Have a feedback box
 - Have active Q and A sessions online
 - Improve the Science showcase so that students are more aware of the interdepartmental clubs
 - Better budgeting needed based on previous experience as a coordinator for three terms
 - Make students more aware of the events that are happening
 - Fashion for change is one of his passions
- **Carly Benson (Fall 2019 and Winter 2020)**
 - Currently a first year representative on SciSoc
 - Knowledgeable about SciSoc timeline and student turnouts at events
 - Would like to improve feedback system specifically by incentivizing students to fill out the forms since it is not as popular and informative as we would like it to be right now
 - Would like to send out these forms at the beginning of the term and take this into

- consideration when planning events
- The forms could additionally be used after each event to use this feedback to improve our future events
 - Next point is to collaborate with interdepartmental clubs since the student turnout was not as great for individually held events
 - Collaborating would strengthen the value that students gain from these events and we can efficiently reach a wider range of science students if we collaborate
 - Initiate the Science Olympics event where we send a team of Waterloo delegates and participate in Science related events at other universities (science students can meet and network with science students from other universities)
 - Making science more fun and accessible
 - A newsletter that is generated monthly or weekly
 - Non co-op students are lacking support that the co-op students gain through their program thus featuring and promoting programs like EDGE and work-study in the newsletters can show the opportunities available to non co-op students
 - Would like to promote inclusivity
 - The most important issue that she wants to address is increasing student awareness of the experiences that they can gain outside of the traditional co-op program offered by UW
 - She is not in Waterloo in the summer so she believes being VP Academic in the spring is not appropriate since she would not perform as well she would like to

Candidates were asked to leave the room.

Speaker moves the motion to consider Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi and Eugene Xu as the VP Academic of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Austin seconds (BSA).

Discussion

- BUGS believes that Yashar would not have the time to be VPA due to the excessive amount of other extracurriculars (lab position, media coordinator at orientation, pre-med club).
- President said the lab position should not be considered because he hasn't applied to it yet.
- President said that Yashar performed well as a media coordinator on SciSoc and he takes the initiative to help others with their portfolios.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Yashar is the victor. Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi is approved as the VP Academic of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Speaker moves the motion to consider Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi and Carly Benson as the VP Academic for Fall 2019. Speaker decided this order of names in accordance to the vote count from the initial election.

Austin seconds (BSA).

Discussion

- Carly had well planned out ideas with detailed plans.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Carly is the victor. Carly Benson is approved as the VP Academic of SciSoc for Fall 2019.

Speaker moves the motion to consider Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi and Carly Benson as the VP Academic for Winter 2020. Speaker decided this order of names in accordance to the vote count from the initial election.

Austin seconds (BSA).

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Carly is the victor. Carly Benson is approved as the VP Academic of SciSoc for Winter 2020.

Candidates were allowed back into the room.

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss the Aviation Society Funding.

Moved by Seneca (FEDS Councillor).

Seconded by Kiana (President).

Recess started by Speaker at 8:21 pm

Recess ended by Speaker at 8:26 pm

2. Aviation Society Funding

- External funding proposal for event to be held on May 10th
- Aviation Society represents the aviation students and is a Feds club
- Hold social events, guest lectures, career days
- Early on last term, there was an Industry Networking Event that involved a lot of aviation employers
- Social bowling event had great turnout (73 people)
- Planning another social event really soon
- A lot of alumni have reached out and are looking to participate in events
- Chris Hadfield Lecture had turnout of 108 people (very successful)
- Career day had great turnout and allowed for good networking
- Organized tours with a lot of interactive learning opportunities
- Website is uwaviation.com
- Inaugural Aviation Student Gala: The Aviation Society are inviting a lot of professionals from different companies, which is a great networking opportunity and allows for scholarship opportunities as well as celebration
 - The event is open to all UW students and will be on May 10th
 - Inviting 160 people: 30 guests, 110 students, 55 students from Science, 20 UW alumni
 - Valuable experience to science students because interactive and great networking opportunities
 - Events always have big turnout
 - Requesting \$500 from SciSoc for this event
 - This funding is to decrease the student ticket prices, alumni still need to pay original \$40

- We have backing from the advancement office when reaching out to professional contacts

Speaker moves the motion to discuss the external funding of the Aviation Society.

Discussion

- FEDS Councillor said that there is great turnout at the events thus the money would be worth giving.
- President said that the gala does not put networking as the primary purpose and we hold an all science student inclusive networking event, so the event can be redundant.
- FEDS Councillor said that this class of people perform networking through galas thus the purposes are understandable.
- President said we don't have confirmation of the appearance of the guests, thus the event would not be effective if these people do not show up in the end.

Seneca (FEDS Councillor) moves to give the Aviation Society 500 dollars with the condition that the primary purpose of the gala is networking with dinner coming second, and with the contingency that the Aviation Society is able to bring 15 individuals collectively from government, university and private institutions.

Austin (BSA) seconds.

The Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

6 are in favour, 0 are against and 0 abstain.

Motion passes.

President takes role as speaker for remainder of the meeting since the Speaker had to leave for another commitment.

Appointment of the executives

VPFA

- **Akshay Premal Jogoo (Fall 2019 and Winter 2020)**
 - Implement a debit and credit system
 - Formalizing the external funding system to make it more time effective
 - Increasing transparency of the budget allocations via general reports available to students
 - Implement CnD feedback to improve it and make CnD more sustainable by going fair trade and being more pro-green by promoting eco-friendly products (metal straws and reusable mugs)
 - Implement more swag variety and sales at SciSoc office and CnD to promote the society
 - Put out a poll at the beginning of the term to see what the student body would like to see throughout the term events-wise
 - Distributing a magazine-like newsletter to release info about the society's activities and the news in Science at Waterloo
 - We can get a coordinator team to work on the newsletter and we can take volunteers who would like an outlet to write and be creative

- **Alyssa Huang (Spring 2019)**
 - Was an advocacy coordinator and finance associate on SciSoc
 - Observed the events held by SciSoc
 - Would like to work on collaboration, sustainability, inclusivity, transparency, CnD product feedback system
 - Inclusivity involves including other students from other faculties by promoting the fact that all students have the option to attend SciSoc events
 - Finalizing events at the beginning of the term so that students have a good view of what to expect in terms of events
 - Showing students past budgets and taking in student input before finalizing the budget
 - Event collaboration with the interdepartmental clubs to coordinate events in an attempt to get rid of repetivity to ensure that student fees can be effectively spent
 - Selling eco friendly products at CnD and sustainable utensils and tableware at events
 - Cheque return improvements by making students more aware of the option of mailing the cheques if they are too far away to pick it up
 - Work on more efficient and easier ways to fill out cheque request forms
 - Introduce debit and credit machine and online payment system to allow for more flexibility in payments
 - CnD webpage can be implemented for easier access to contact information to provide feedback or ask questions
 - Implement a CnD product feedback system where students can fill out survey online and in store and we can implement this feedback
 - Increase CnD volunteer recognition by implementing weekly and monthly recognition events via looking at online feedback and recognizing volunteers who did well that week
 - Introduce more lighting in CnD so that volunteers can work on academic stuff on slower days
 - Implement backup volunteer system to find alternate volunteers to fill in for absent volunteers

Candidates were asked to leave the room.

Speaker (President) moves the motion to consider Alyssa Huang as the VP Finance and Administration of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

VP Academic seconds.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion passes. Alyssa Huang is approved as the VP Finance and Administration of SciSoc for Spring 2019.

Speaker moves the motion to consider Akshay Premal Jogoo as the VPFA of Scisoc for Fall 2019.

VP Academic seconds.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion passes. Akshay Premal Jogoo is approved as the VP Finance and Administration of SciSoc for Fall 2019.

Speaker moves the motion to consider Akshay as the VPFA of Scisoc for Winter 2020.

VP Academic seconds.

Speaker brings the motion to a vote.

Motion passes. Akshay Premal Jogoo is approved as the VP Finance and Administration of SciSoc for Winter 2020.

3. Career Talk
 - Physclub is trying to secure a panelist.
 - SciSoc has acquired a panelist.
 - We can potentially have a guest lecture for an hour instead of a career talk night if we can't get any other panelists.
 - Need to clarify with Carly what the event was advertised as to decide how to change the event if need be.

4. St. Patties Day theme week
 - Too late to plan an effective event, thus cancelled.

Open Public Session

Move to open question period from members-at-large. Note: Any Society members can speak during this time, including the Board members.

Seconded by Watrox

Committee, Clubs, & Societies Reports

Move to close Public Session and proceed to in camera session.

Seconded by VP Academic

University-wide Committees

Co-op Education Council and Co-op Student Council — Briefing by the Vice President Academic and FEDS Councillors.

- There was no meeting, thus no updates.

FSF Committee & WatSEF — Briefing by the President.

- We got \$3000 from FSF for Gradball.
- WatSEF is looking for first and second years to join.

FEDS President's Committee (President) — Briefing by the President.

- cancelled

Executive Updates

President — reddit situation

- There have been groups of people in SciSoc that got called out on reddit.
- We clarified the BMSA situation through a post due to the misconceptions posted on reddit.
- People discussed a potential raid on the SciSoc office and UW police were notified.
- Kiana and Jacob are contacting people to address the bigger issues.
- We need to openly promote inclusivity by having signs on the doors of offices to welcome students.

Vice President Finance & Administration —

- Cheques will be ready for pick-up this Thursday.
- Please submit cheque requests by April 1st.

Vice President Internal —

- The Coffee House event is on March 15 and the purpose of it is to promote mental health.
- Healthy eating event is left for this term.

Vice President Academic —

- Resume critique went well but we need better marketing for next time.
- Career talks, LinkedIn event, and upper year talks are coming up.

Executive Coordinators (Administrative Coordinator & Financial Associate) —

- no updates

Departmental Clubs/Societies Updates

BSA -

- Executive meeting is on March 15 and they plan on running a board game event next week.
- They are going to start selling tickets for EOT and this will be discussed in more detail at the meeting.

BUGS

- Next week is Jackbox night on Monday.
- They will have pizza again.

ChemClub - not present

PhysClub -

- Excel workshop is on March 15 (all students are welcomed).
- Next week is the writing session for newspaper.
- Potentially will have a BBQ event in early April.

MNS - not present

SBSA - not present

WATROX

- Next event will be on March 21st.

FEDS Report

Science Councillors — moved up in the agenda

New Business

1. Potentially decrease quorum from 10% to 5% (table that to next meeting)
2. Society websites will be updated soon

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm

Everyone seconds

The final results are as follows:

Name: Do you approve the election of Veronica Chan to the role of President Spring '19?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 133

Name: Yes Number of votes: 113

Name: No Number of votes: 13

Name: Do you approve the election of Veronica Chan to the role of President Fall '19?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 126

Name: Yes Number of votes: 109

Name: No Number of votes: 11

Name: Do you approve the election of Julian Surdi to the role of President Winter '20?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 135

Name: Yes Number of votes: 110

Name: No Number of votes: 18

Name: Do you approve the election of Zahra Sabreen Hasan to the role of VP Internal Spring '19?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 117

Name: Yes Number of votes: 92

Name: No Number of votes: 16

Name: VP Internal Fall '19

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 137

Name: Matthew Bilopavlovic Number of votes: 67

Name: Zahra Sabreen Hasan Number of votes: 57

Name: Do you approve the election of Zahra Sabreen Hasan to the role of VP Internal Winter '20?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 119

Name: Yes Number of votes: 95

Name: No Number of votes: 15

Name: Do you approve the election of Akshay Premal Jogoo to the role of VP Finance Fall '19?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 168

Name: Yes Number of votes: 156

Name: No Number of votes: 10

Name: Do you approve the election of Akshay Premal Jogoo to the role of VP Finance Winter '20?

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 164

Name: Yes Number of votes: 153

Name: No Number of votes: 9

Name: VP Academic Spring '19

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 137

Name: Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi Number of votes: 79

Name: Eugene Xu Number of votes: 45

Name: VP Academic Fall '19

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 144

Name: Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi Number of votes: 53

Name: Carly Benson Number of votes: 79

Name: VP Academic Winter '20

Method: FPP

Eligible voters: 6221

Votes cast: 140

Name: Yashar Alizadeh-Ebadi Number of votes: 46

Name: Carly Benson Number of votes: 83