

# University of Waterloo Science Society

Chair's Agenda for 12 July, 2017

## ***Members in Attendance:***

||  R Beena Kumary (President) ||  B Brown (VPFA) ||  C Mangahas (VPI) ||  S Chung (VPA) ||  Biochemistry Student Association (BSA) ||  Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS) ||  Chemistry Club (ChemClub) ||  Physics Club (PhysClub) ||  Materials and Nanoscience Society (MNS) ||  Science and Business Students' Association (SBSA) ||  Waterloo Earth Science Undergraduate Society (WatRox) ||  **FEDS Councillors** ||

## **Call to Order**

Motion to begin the orders of the day.- all in favour, motion carries

## **Old Business**

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (06 July, 2017).- all in favour, motion carries

Motion to discuss the meeting that occurred Tuesday, July 11th regarding the trees that were cut down.- all in favour motion carries

- Jill said for every tree that was cut down they will be planting 1:4 tree ratio (not set in stone but will be at least double the amount of trees cut down)

Motion to discuss the use of the Science Society Google Calendar for club events.- all in favour, motion carries

- PHYS has not been able to access the calendar
- Reinvited MNS to the calendar has fixed their issue, Carlene will re-invite everyone today to fix the issue, please check in with Carlene to make sure she has the right email.

Motion to conclude Old Business.- all in favour, motion carries

## **Public Session**

Motion to open period for questions from members at large.

- No discussion

## **Committee, Clubs, & Societies Reports**

Motion to close Public Session and proceed to in camera session.- all in favour, motion carries

Speaker's Prerogative: the Speaker moves to a Moderated Caucus for 10 minutes. Any additional items can be brought up during this time.

- Nothing discussed

## ***Executive Updates***

*President* —

- Had Par-Tea event today, turnout was not great (only 17 people), could be because Science 101 event today, STC was busy.

*Vice President Finance & Administration* - no new updates

*Vice President Internal* —

- No new updates, Wellness Wednesday was already talked about by President

*Vice President Academic* - no new updates

*Executive Coordinators (Administrative Coordinator & Financial Associate)* - no new updates

## ***Departmental Clubs/Societies Updates***

*BSA* —

- BBQ tomorrow but might have to be postponed due to rain
- Movie night with WatRox coming up next week

*BMSA* —

- Not present

*BUGS* —

- Par-Tea Event collaboration
- Continues; halfway through selling EOT tickets
- Movie night collaboration coming up

*ChemClub* —

- *Not present at the time to give updates*

*PhysClub* —

- No major updates, last week said they would be doing movie night on tuesday with PHYS grad student association
- EOT on following Tuesday the 25th but there might be an exam that night, tentative date → 26th murder mystery night

*MNS* —

- Held workshop today for international students in partnering university in Mexico, presented MNS program and club with demonstrations with liquid nitrogen. Good turnout
- 20th for final lab event, had to be moved from 21st due to availability of supervising professor, synthesizing superconductors: everyone please come out if you would like!

*SBSA* —

- July 20th at night is EOT event: program awards (everyone can nominate friends for awards and start polls on Monday for voting)
- Meme competition as well to advertise for it!

*WatRox* —

- Bonfire tomorrow night at 7pm at CIF pits
- EOT on 25th at 5pm
- Movie night next week

**New Business**

Motion to discuss Par-Tea participation.- all in favour motion carries

- Had some communication issues with some clubs
- Make sure everyone in the club knows the event is happening so that even if execs are not there, other members still know what is going on because the event was from 12-3 there should be someone there or at least notify SciSoc that you have to pack up early so we can move everything to SciSoc, as someone will always be there
- Looks bad on us if we cannot do the event properly, please communicate to us if you cannot be there anymore
- MNS went to one of the club rooms and they insisted that they were not BSA, was told that biochem was not BSA and they were not giving out tea.
  - BSA had to leave early so they moved everything to BUGS and BUGS then locked their room

Motion to begin discussion with regards to WatRox.- all in favour, motion carries

Speaker reminds the board of points in the constitution before further discussion:

- Article 9 section 3: It is the responsibility of all the Clubs to have a representative present at every Science Society Board of Directors Meeting
- Article 5 section 5: The Science society Board of Directors reserves the right to dismiss any voting member

of the Board of Directors for absenteeism (failing to attend two or more non-emergency Board of Directors Meetings without a twenty-four hour notice provided to the President) or gross misconduct, by a 2/3 vote, at a properly convened meeting. Dismissal of a Board of Directors member revokes their membership for the remainder of their term. The dismissal of an individual representing a Club seat does not conflate to mean the dismissal of the Club's seat.

Motion to yield the floor to WatRox regarding attendance at Board of Directors meetings and use of funding.- all in favour, motion carries

- Want to personally apologize on behalf of himself and WatRox, now understand importance of the meeting and the constitution policies
- Failed to send a delegate, was aware that it was acceptable to get a delegate to attend in place of execs but did not
- Will avoid another repeat of this now that they recognize the severity of it
- Recognizes that they should know responsibilities of clubs, will put together a plan for next terms execs

Motion to resolve the board into a committee of the whole to discuss WatRox's attendance and determine appropriate course of action.-all in favour,motion carries

- Brittani: remembered WatRox saying no one could attend any meetings, but asked why VP Nicki was able to attend the first few meetings but she was not able to make the other meetings.
  - John stated that Nicki is not on term and field work took over at co-op and could not attend any longer
- PHYS: Were you aware that if you did not attend 2 or more meetings then you could be suspended?
  - Have you received any warnings before this meeting that this would happen?
  - Vaishnavy: It has been emphasized a number of times that BOD is not a choice and it is mandated, according to the constitution that everybody should have read (and Seneca has posted multiple times on the BOD page), most of the term is already over, not receiving a warning is not an excuse
  - Has been in the constitution since 2015 and it should have been read before coming into position
- President: Before first two missed meetings, they notified someone for not coming, what was reason for not notifying?
  - No excuse, was just missed: lack of responsibility
  - Meeting shift threw him off
  - Transition back to facebook worked out better for communication
- VP Finance: clarification regarding the camping event: it was faculty funded and WatRox is charging tickets to bring in revenue
  - WatRox: for this event the faculty funded the campground only and it was guaranteed
  - Also not selling coffee anymore, just one student who did it
- Advertisements: Asked why bonfire was especially short notice; in previous terms it's been same turnout so they did not open as early.
  - President: More students might come out to event if it was advertised more widely
  - According to constitution regarding advertisement:
    - Ticketed: 3 weeks promotion and 10 school days for selling
    - Non-ticketed: 5 school days worth of advertising
  - SciSoc tries to promote events for clubs as well when they see but everyone should send advertising to SciSoc to promote as well.
  - Due to platforms of advertising, WatRox does not
    - When we get list of students going to events, most of the time it's internal WatRox members, if every club gets the same amount of funding, all students should be able to see the event and get a chance to come out
    - Send the posters to all clubs to get them to share too
    - This term, not sure but previous terms Vaishnavy has discussed this with WatRox already
    - Advertise more frequently and on more platforms (social media is mainly used)

- Printing out posters and having them up really does make a difference, if budget allows it
  - Poster exec ended up dropping out, so couldn't get posters made
- Most clubs have done so but please keep promoting on social media and share to SciSoc
- Clarification: Can advertise however you want but it has to target all science students equally
- Vaishnavy: giving in person poster to scisoc worked very well last year because we have weekly Wellness Wednesdays to put up in SciSoc so people can see while in the event
- Opinions on how to move forward and what to do about it
  - Keeping in mind we only have one more BOD meeting and 2 weeks left of classes
  - BSA: WatRox had issues with the time set for the first meeting, so we should find a better date for next semester when everyone is available, also we didn't give them warnings after missing the meetings
    - We did tell them about meeting times, SBSA had a similar issue in a previous term but worked it out to have someone come to BOD meetings
    - Vaishnavy: FEDs board member is all financial matters nothing related to events, everyone is getting student fees \$9 per student and it's easy to move past it, the term is almost over and not much has been done for the paying student body in regards to WatRox. This does not excuse what should have happened this term. If students found out that their money was not being put to good use, they would be upset. Speakers have come in and as a board member, not showing up is not fair to the students
    - What would pulling their money now mean:
      - Freezing the account, cheque requests would not be processed, would not be able to access the money this term, events prior to this day will not be reimbursed.
      - Was brought up to discuss the matter, there should be some action taken
      - Exec team overlook advertising to make sure advertisement is getting out to all students
  - Outside of meetings, how active has watrox been (PHYS question): stayed within budget, threw in a few more social and self-funded events:
    - What has been done and how they've been advertised: all events have been advertised on their page, no posters
      - Camping, movie night, bonfire, BOT,
      - Might have EOT cleanup
      - Attendance: 15-25 typical for summer, mostly from WatRox members, BOT had non usual members
  - We can do something that would affect next terms execs
    - Did not have any specific ideas but something along the lines of some kind of probation
    - Check in more often than 2 weeks for updates (probationary action)
      - Within facebook, having weekly updates
    - Freezing feels like not a progressive action, WatRox feels as though no one was aware of the severity of it until just now, feels like this is only a consequence/punishment
    - Vaishnavy: Been through this with BMSA
      - Whole point of this is because of the problems that have previously occurred, events are not being advertised enough, event forms are not being filled in.
      - May seem like a small thing but missing two meetings is a month and a half, for us saying that there is no reprimanding for these actions is inviting more problems like these to occur in the future
      - May feel like just a punishment but future execs could know that their funding can get cut if they do not follow these rules because it has happened
      - There needs to be an action put in place for this otherwise it will stay the same
    - President: We are role models for everyone else, we did fire a coordinator last week for

lack of attendance, if we are not setting this example in the board then it will look like we are playing favorites

- Reprimanding is solely for the 3 missed meetings
- PHYS: what is WatRox's plan for ensuring attendance:
  - Interviews/selections have felt very relaxed/casual for the past term, will put together a document saying what has to be done to a tee to emphasize the severity
  - Requirement from president to pass on a document every term
  - Previous term during exec elections there was no mention about the responsibilities and severity of this, but Seneca has really emphasized reading constitution and policies and procedures.
- Sometimes it is due to communication in transition to exec
- ChemClub: used transition document, maybe setup a google doc as a general outlining document to communicate mandatory things and tips for events etc. Thinks that it would prevent these term to term communication issues
  - SciSoc also uses transition document for each position
- VP Internal and Seneca have been posting a lot on BOD group with updates and things to do
- WatRox used faculty funding (none from scisoc funding)
  - BOT used \$80-90 for around 19 students
  - Whole term is almost over and they only used  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their scisoc funding
  - Even including the BOT and EOT, they are only serving 40 students and most of them are internal
  - Has been an issue with WatRox in the past, looking at spring term funding they only spent sci soc funding on BOT and EOT and it's mainly only internal students
  - Point is that how can you justify having the same funding as every other club if they're influencing a lot less students and with less involvement
  - Minor justification: ratio of other clubs having more students than their program
    - MNS has 10 people in their 2B class, still advertised to other groups and most people who came out to birthday event was throughout science faculties, would not be ethical to only advertise to specific program since all students are paying
    - Not fair to give them the same funding as for example MNS who has held more events even with also a few amount of students in their program (size of program is not an excuse)
    - Worked hard in the past to make all clubs work together with scisoc
- PHYS: these issues (aside from attendance) has not been discussed this term
  - Everyone gets the same information, lack of communication is still an issue even disregarding the advertisement issue
  - Feels like the advertisement issue is being used to fuel the reprimandations
  - Advertising/attendance/events/money are being brought up together because article 5 section 5 states that board has right to dismiss any member for failure to attend board meeting without 24 hours notice and for gross misconduct (TBD by board);the reason other topics have been brought up is because everything ties in together.
    - Everything is interconnected because not attending board meetings leaves us not updated with the events that have been done (does not know of the attendance) everything ties together (3 missed meetings and what ensues from that)
      - How is the funding being used etc.
  - BSA: if it is a term to term issue, make sure that WatRox is getting a lighter consequence than that the constitution states
    - WatRox has been having this problem and other clubs have not so maybe for next semester let execs know that if they don't attend a certain amount of meetings then cut their budget
    - Has not had this problem every term except for this term, by suggesting to change things

- for next term is basically taking away from the students who paid this term
  - Clarification: was an issue once not every term
  - This is a repeat of what is already stated in the constitution
- Clarification: this is not the same as BMSA because they were a conditional departmental club that had to adhere to other conditions.
  - Constitution: dismissing the voting member is not dismissing the club itself, it is dismissing that individual
- EOT is scheduled for next friday, if we made an effort to advertise extensively in an effort to bring in more people, would that assist in the issue of them not advertising?
  - Advertising adequately for one event is a positive step forward, but we cannot discuss this until reprimandations have been decided on due to possible freezing of the account
- MNS: it's great that they see concerns of the board and are pushing to fix it but it does sound like it's been an issue for a while, and funding is a big funding, MNS helps out other clubs to help sell tickets etc. But when there is a repeated problem with WatRox buying pizza for the same 20 people (select few) it is unfair and funding could be put to better use for a movie night for example instead
  - For board, if we do decide to freeze funding, it can be moved to next term for more funding next term
- Even if it was pushed to next term, the only remaining budget would go to EOT only and they could hold it for other students too instead of only the usual 20
- Summary of options:
  - Most would like to see a proactive solution
  - Needs to be some kind of repercussion because nothing happened in the past so it happened again
    - Defunding/freezing does not help or is not proactive
    - Have a transition document created for each position in the club presented in the first BOD meeting next term, if it is passed in that meeting, it can be passed onto future execs
    - He has attended previous meetings in previous terms
  - Has to be financial repercussions because there is only 2 weeks left of classes
  - Probation: does not think that freezing an account because of missing a meeting is not useful because that is pretty much the same as in the constitution right now except with specific financial repercussions.
  - President: If we do not make a decision this term we are passing it on again for next term
  - PHYS: Taking in lack of communication, a probation time where if they miss one meeting there will definitely be this specific repercussion (excluding emergencies)
  - MNS: thinks that constitutions states very clearly the rules on that matter is, it might have gotten missed but it is your responsibility to know (if you are on the board), does not think we should cut slack for something that is clearly stated in the constitution that has been pushed so many times
    - The constitution does not state that the repercussion will happen, just a discussion
  - Vaishnavy: not looking at anything in previous terms, only this term, seeing that the funding has not been put to the best use, propose to freeze the funding for the term and push it to next term as well as creating and presenting the transition document and extending their advertisement
  - SciSoc executives will overlook advertising to help them increase their reach and fix transition,
  - Does not think we should penalize for next terms execs because take action to fix this term
    - Reprimanding not attending meetings so future execs will know there are consequences
  - **Kristin motions to freeze funding for the term (excluding collaborative events already planned with other clubs) and push it to the next term and ensure that adequate transition documents be made for the first BOD meeting next term, and advertisement be overlooked by sci soc (have a helping hand with scisoc regarding the advertisement for next term) as well as sufficient attendance**
    - Seconded by SBSA
    - Exclude the funding put towards collaborations already

- BSA proposes that next semester sci soc helps WatRox with advertising, the transition documents and next semester if they miss 2 meetings then they take away next EOT funding
  - ChemClub seconds the motion
  - Thinks its not fair that they be penalized this semester because it escalated quickly
  - Why should we penalize the next exec team when it's this terms execs that have created these problems, this is basically opening it up for other clubs to be able to say that they can make mistakes and not be penalized, the next term will be penalized
  - From a student's perspective, if students saw that WatRox made this mistake this term, the students next term will definitely not think it is fair
  - FEDs execs will step in if funding is being misused
  - Students who paid this money for this term will not benefit but rather next terms students will benefit from the money instead; always be an issue and the funding would be placed in WatRox's carry over and they can use it for future terms not only next term as it is not a part of the 70% that are required to spend in a term
  - **Motion has been recalled by BSA**

Motion to bring the board under voting procedure.- all in favour, motion carries

- All in favour of anonymous voting, motion carries
- 6 in favour, 1 abstain, motion passes
- Because of the motion that has passed, WatRox is exempt from the 70% minimum spending this term

Speaker's Prerogative: The Speaker moves to a Moderated Caucus for 10 minutes. Any additional items can be brought up during this time.

- All Clubs, please submit FEDS events forms well in advance, must be approved before the event.

Motion to adjourn.- all in favour motion carries

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 20, at 5:30pm (17:30).