

**Federation of Students
STUDENTS' COUNCIL
June 26, 2016, QNC 1507**

Present: Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Christos Lolas, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Adrian Machado, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Antonio Brieva, Antonio Clarke, Denton Liu, Jeremy Spira, Matthew Gerrits, Midori Armstrong, Patrick Melanson, Quentin Cheung, Razan Qaoud, Spencer Dobrik, Tomson Tran, Tristan Potter.

Absent: Akriti Agrawal, Alexander Liu*, Avery Fortinsky, Charles Teasdale, Ilia Sucholutsky*, Jackie Ketchener, Jason Copeland, Marcus Abramovitch*, Mistry Harsh*, Muhammed Tahir, Natasha Crasto*, Norman Hu*, Sarah Wiley*.

†*Non-Voting Member*

**Excused*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of Students' Council assembled at 12:30 in QNC 1507. Speaker Alexander Wray took the Chair, and Sacha Forstner acted as Secretary. The Chair verified that the meeting was properly constituted in accordance with the Corporation's bylaws, policies, and procedures, that due notice had been given to all members, and that a quorum was present.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:38.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Schwan and Qaoud.

Lolas and Potter moved to amend the agenda to set the StudentCare Legal Presentation as a Special Order, and the Budget Approval as a General Order.

The question was called on Lolas' amendment, and the motion carried.

The question was called on the primary motion, and it carried.

II. SPECIAL ORDER: STUDENTCARE LEGAL PRESENTATION

At 12:50, in accordance with the agenda, Council heard a presentation by StudentCare regarding legal insurance for students.

Representatives of StudentCare explained that they currently provide the Feds Student Health & Dental Plan, and are looking to expand their service to Student Legal Protection. The goal of this protection is to improve access to justice for students in the areas of housing/tenants rights, employment rights, and student appeals/suspensions. Students who buy in to this service would get access to a free legal consultation hotline underwritten by DAS that would connect students with medium and large law firms. The only requirement is that the legal aid

couldn't be used to sue the Student Union. The first step is to assess demand, and determine if the student body actually wants this service. StudentCare can provide phone surveys if need be.

Councillors asked questions regarding uptake of this service at other schools, and applicability of the service to class action lawsuits. StudentCare explained that this service has been pilot-tested at four schools in Quebec, but is still in its first year, so there isn't much data. However, they committed to following up with Council re: hotline use at the pilot schools. The service does not generally apply to class action lawsuits.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Council heard a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda, including:

1. That the minutes from the Council meeting on June 5 2016 be approved;
2. That Council Procedure be amended such that the Research and Policy Officer become a non-voting member of the Policies and Procedures Committee;
3. That Council accept all submitted reports for information.

Gerrits and Machado. Carried.

IV. REPORTS

President Lolas:

As most of the contents that would normally be discussed in the President's Report were other agenda items, the report was brief. The President described his participation the previous day in a Feds Canoe Trip, and discussed the work of two of his committees. The President's Advisory Committee has mostly met to discuss the Draft University Policy on Sexual Violence, while the Policies and Procedures Committee has been discussing remote participation as tasked by Council. A procedural amendment on remote participation is expected in time for the July Council meeting. The amendment is expected only to apply to individuals living outside of the 100km travel radius.

Vice President Internal Priori:

The Council of Presidents met on June 9th, and discussed the Feds-Societies relationship, Society governance structures, and the Societies' plans for the year, as well as mental health initiatives and the upcoming Feds beach trip. The Toronto Coop Connections Chapter held a Bomber Wednesday in Toronto, and is on track to do it again at the same location in the Fall and Winter. There has also been discussion with the University about a Feds-hosted undergraduate event on Reunion Weekend, but these talks are still in their preliminary stages.

Vice President Operations & Finance Schwan:

The Bombshelter Pub now has fresh mint leaves grown on its patio to use as an ingredient. Campus Bubble is selling soft serve ice cream at \$0.99 for the rest of the summer, with a slightly increased price slated for the Fall. The Fed Bus will be serving Markham and Guelph beginning in the Fall. The Community Kitchen is almost ready, and a set of Policies and Procedures governing its use are expected to be brought before Council at its July meeting.

A Councillor asked a question about potential Fed Bus service to transport students between the Stratford and Waterloo campuses. Schwan committed to investigating the matter and following up at a later date.

There was no report from the Vice President Education presented at this meeting.

There was no Speaker's report presented at this meeting.

V. 2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET

Vice President Schwan presented the 2016-2017 operating budget, detailing expected revenues of approximately \$3 million in student fees, and projected expenses delivering a ~\$5000 deficit. Schwan led Council through the summary of each Executive Portfolio budget by department, answering minor clarifying questions from Councillors.

Council heard a motion to approve the non-commercial operating budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Qaoud and Lolos. Carried.

VI. GENERAL ELECTION DATES

President Lolos led a discussion regarding potential dates for the next Feds General Election. General concerns with the current dates revolve around the high volume of work faced by students at that time in the term, which reduces voter turnout and discourages candidacy. One proposed solution is to move the election dates into January.

Councillors expressed general support for the idea. Some expressed concerns about voting and students on coop, and wondered whether it would be possible for campaigning to begin in the Fall. Others speculated that it might be more enjoyable to announce the results at 10pm on a Wednesday night in the Bombshelter Pub.

Lolos promised to have the Policies and Procedures Committee consider the issue.

VII. PROPOSED GENDER NEUTRAL DEGREE OPTION

Councillor Potter led a discussion on the University's proposed 'gender neutral degree.' This proposal would allow students to choose to have their diploma – but not their official transcript – read "Baccalaureate" instead of "Bachelor" upon graduation. It would not cost the University any time or money to make this change.

Councillors expressed general support for the idea.

VIII. UNIVERSITY SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY FEEDBACK

President Lolos led a discussion on the University's proposed Sexual Violence Policy. Generally, feedback has indicated a very negative response to the flowchart, but a very positive response to the policy. Primary concerns seemed to revolve around whether or not to include sexual harassment in the policy. Councillors seemed generally favourable to the idea of inclusion.

There was also concern that one Sexual Violence Coordinator may not be enough, but an examination of other schools with similar positions suggests that it will work.

IX. SLC/PAC DESIGN WALKTHROUGH

President Lolas presented the preliminary design of the SLC/PAC Expansion. Highlights included a revamp of the fitness centre, a new location for Booster Juice, a rock climbing wall, a student lounge, a large bookable space for up to 150 people which can be expanded to fit nearly 300 people, multiple sizes of bookable rooms, and multi-faith space. Councillors asked questions about gender neutral change room space in the PAC expansion, and single-stalled showers, which Lolas confirmed was a part of the plan. A Councillor also asked about space for the Imprint, and Lolas confirmed that the student newspaper had been involved in the discussions.

Lolas informed Councillors of the difficulty in connecting the SLC to the MC due to the significant difference in grade between the two buildings. Questions were asked about AODA compliance, and potentially connecting to the QNC instead. Lolas reaffirmed that the bridge would ultimately improve on AODA standards, and that connecting to the QNC was impossible.

Lolas promised to circulate the design floor plans to Councillors in the near future.

X. OTHER BUSINESS – PROCEDURE 9 AMENDMENT

Council heard a motion to amend Council Procedure 9, §D(1.4), to change “no more than four days” to “no less than four days.”

President Lolas explained that this amendment would guarantee Council a minimum amount of time to read the agenda prior to a meeting.

Lolas and Schwan. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved at 14:33.

Potter and Tran. Carried.