

**Federation of Students  
STUDENTS' COUNCIL  
February 5, 2017, SLC MPR**

**Present:** Alexander Wray† (Chair), Sacha Forstner† (Secretary), Reba Nauth† (Assistant Secretary), Christos Lolas, Brian Schwan, Deanna Priori, Sarah Wiley, Adrian Machado, Alexa Fuentes Valdez, Antonio Brieve, Iliia Sucholutsky, Marcus Abramovitch, Matthew Gerrits, Midori Armstrong, Mohammed Tahir, Norman Hu, Quentin Cheung, Spencer Dobrik, Tristan Potter.

**Phone-In:** Alexander Liu, Antonio Clarke, Charles Teasdale, Denton Liu, Harsh Mistry, Jeremy Spira, Patrick Melanson.

**Absent:** Aryeh Fortinsky, Haley Barnes, Injeong Yang, Natasha Crasto, Razan Qaoud\*, Tomson Tran\*.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of Students' Council assembled at 12:30 in the SLC MPR. 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 12:43.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

*Sucholutsky and Machado. Carried.*

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. The minutes of the January 15, 2017 meeting;
2. All submitted reports;
3. A motion to convey formal commendations to Speaker Wray and Secretary Forstner for their services; and
4. A motion to convey a formal commendation to Reba Nauth for her service as Elections & Referenda Officer.

*Abramovitch and Gerrits. Carried.*

**III. REPORTS**

*President Lolas*

The SLC/PAC Expansion project has gone out for tender, with bidding scheduled to close in two weeks. The student services transformation at Needles Hall is progressing; a tentative name for it is "Student Central Services."

Feds is currently examining part-time and volunteer positions which might be counted towards the University's new EDGE certificate in experiential learning, so that such positions might be pre-qualified for the program.

The Board of Governors is meeting on Tuesday, and is expected to vote to remove the WPIRG fee, among multiple other orders of business.

#### *Vice President Education Wiley*

Last week the Premier visited campus, and also took part in a more intimate meeting in Toronto. Topics of discussion included sexual violence prevention, work integrated learning, and data centralization.

Dean's Council has approved the syllabus repository, and the project is now moving full steam ahead.

OUSA policy development is underway for the Spring General Assembly; Feds is authoring a paper on Municipal Housing, Students, and their Communities. Some public consultation on the papers will be provided.

Councillors asked Wiley for an update on Feds' efforts related to student housing advocacy and awareness. Marketing campaigns will launch in March, which will include material related to student rights, as well as the provision of legal aid on campus for assistance with lease-signing. Meetings are ongoing with the municipality, and efforts to connect with the Minister of Housing are ongoing. It is hoped that the OUSA paper on housing will boost Feds' voice and weight on the issue significantly. Feds also hosted a both at the recent housing fair on campus. Councillors were encouraged to refer to Wiley's written report for further details.

#### *Vice President Operations and Finance Schwan*

The Bombshelter Pub had a very busy January. International News will be launching breakfast sandwiches within the next week. The butter chicken option has been removed due to high vendor prices, but will soon re-launch in-house. Campus Bubble ran a Chinese New Year special with several different limited time offers; Poke Bowls have proven popular and sushi burritos may be coming next. The Used Bookstore continues to be extremely busy.

The new Feds website is in its final stages, and will launch no later than the end of March. All departments are examining part-time staff programs for incorporation with EDGE.

#### *Vice President Internal Priori*

Updates to the Services Procedure will be coming in March once completed. Feds hosted two well-attended travel events in January. The Student Life Endowment Fund is now accepting proposals as well.

The Committee of Presidents had its first meeting, at which multiple Society Presidents expressed concerns regarding a lack of communication from Feds Councillors. All councillors are encouraged to connect with their constituency's student society.

*Speaker Wray*

As per his written report, the Chair informed Council that the following members were eligible for removal due in accordance with Section IX(I) of the bylaws:

1. Councillor Hayley Barnes (St. Jerome's University);
2. Councillor Quentin Cheung (Mathematics);
3. Councillor Aryeh Fortinsky (Mathematics);
4. Councillor Muhammed Tahir (Engineering);
5. Councillor Injeong Yang (Kitchener Campus).

Council heard a motion to remove the five named Councillors for non-attendance.

*Potter and Gerrits.*

Councillors Cheung and Tahir spoke in their own defence. Councillor Cheung cited personal matters and employment constraints, while Councillor Tahir apologized for forgetting to attend the January meeting.

The question was called, and councillors voted on each eligible removal via secret ballot, with the following results:

1. *Removal of Councillor Barnes: Carried.*
2. *Removal of Councillor Cheung: Failed.*
3. *Removal of Councillor Fortinsky: Failed.*
4. *Removal of Councillor Tahir: Carried.*
5. *Removal of Councillor Yang: Carried.*

#### **IV. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Council heard a motion to fill a vacant councillor seat on the Internal Administration Committee, term from 5 February 2017 to 30 April 2017.

Vice President Priori informed Council of Councillor Clarke's resignation from the committee, and provided a brief overview of the core duties of the body.

Councillor Matthew Gerrits was nominated and acclaimed to the vacant seat.

*Priori and Lolas. Carried.*

*Sucholutsky and Gerrits move to recess for 10 minutes. Carried.*

*Council recesses from 13:11 until 13:21.*

## **V. WATERLOO WORKS AND THE COOP FEE**

Council heard a motion to task Co-op Students Council with preparing a report on the development and implementation of the WaterlooWorks system, and to request greater transparency from UW Co-operative Education and Career Action in various matters respecting the co-op fee.

*Sucholutsky and Machado. Carried.*

## **VI. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ATHLETICS FEE**

Council heard a motion to request that the UW Student Services Advisory Committee provide a report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the athletics fee.

*Sucholutsky and Abramovitch. Carried.*

## **VII. CONDEMNATION OF THE WATERLOO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP**

Council heard a motion to condemn the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) for failing to offer refunds in the Student Life Centre during the Winter 2017 academic term.

Council was provided with a brief clarification regarding the intent of the motion.

*Sucholutsky and Abramovitch. Carried.*

## **VIII. CHANGES TO STANDING POLICIES AND APPROVAL OF NEW POLICY**

Council heard a motion to delegate authority to the Policies and Procedures Committee to develop and approve policy, including the amendment of existing policy, in alignment with the content of the proposals titled “preventing discrimination and maintaining strong reputation,” “ancillary fees and opt-in system,” and “sustaining safety,” as presented.

*Sucholutsky and Abramovitch.*

Councillors expressed reservations with the motion’s intent to delegate policy approval authority to committee, noting that such authority is a central function of Council.

*Lolas and Gerrits* move to amend the motion to such that Council would “task” rather than “delegate” policy development to the Committee.

Councillor Sucholutsky spoke in opposition to President Lolas’ amendment, citing the time delay such a change would create. Other Councillors agreed with Sucholutsky, noting a preference to not leave the 2017-2018 Council with leftover work to complete, as well as the fact that policy changes have largely been uncontested at Council in recent months. Other Councillors spoke in favour of the amendment, questioning the need to increase process speed, and observing that if the alterations were not to the next Council’s liking, they could be reversed.

A councillor also highlighted the fact that the next motion on the agenda would appoint temporary special members to the Policies and Procedures Committee, arguing that such a change would increase the legitimacy of the committee's decisions.

*The question was called on Lolas' amendment, and it failed.*

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

#### **IX. SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

Council heard a motion to temporarily suspend the Procedures and name Councillor Marcus Abramovitch and Councillor Ilia Sucholutsky to the Policies and Procedures Committee as special members *pro tempore*, term from 5 February 2017 to 30 April 2017.

*Sucholutsky and Abramovitch.*

It was noted that the motion would require a two-thirds majority vote in order to pass.

Councillors expressed skepticism regarding the motion, noting that the Policies and Procedures Committee meetings were already open to public attendance. Councillor Sucholutsky noted the previous decision, stressing the importance of having more voting Council members present to fine-tune the specific policies approved.

*Lolas and Sucholutsky* move to amend the motion such that the *pro tem* members would only have the authority to vote on the policy approvals specifically delegated to the Committee by Council earlier in the meeting.

*The Chair sought and found unanimous agreement to adopt Lolas' amendment.*

*The question was called, and the motion carried 16-3.*

#### **X. ON-CAMPUS PRESENCE OF WPIRG**

Council heard a motion to request that the University formally sever all agreements, leases, and other connections with the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG).

*Sucholutsky and Abramovitch.*

*Gerrits and Potter* move that the motion be determined by secret ballot. *Failed.*

*Abramovitch and Sucholutsky* move that the motion be determined by roll-call vote. *Carried.*

President Lolas noted his intention to abstain due to his role as a Governor of the University of Waterloo, as well as uncertainties regarding potential liability as an officer of the corporation. He further assured Council that its decision would not directly render Feds liable for anything.

The other executive, as well as Councillor Potter, indicated their intent to abstain for the same reasons as Lolás.

Debate ensued on the motion. Councillors speaking in favour drew attention to obstructive behaviour by WPIRG during the recent fee referendum, a perceived unwillingness to cooperate with councillors, and decisions by the organization in the aftermath of the referendum such as the refusal to offer refunds in the Student Life Centre. Councillors speaking in opposition highlighted a lack of relevant consultative data supporting the motion, and expressed concerns that the motion was out of alignment with the intent of the recent fee referendum.

*The question was called.*

**Yea:** Abramovitch, Cheung, Clarke, D. Liu, Dobrik, Fuentes Valdez, Hu, Machado, Mistry, A. Liu, Spira, Sucholutsky.

**Nay:** Gerrits, Melanson, Teasdale.

**Abstain:** Armstrong, Brieva, Lolás, Potter, Priori, Schwan, Wiley.

*The motion carried 12-3-7.*

## **XI. IMPRINT FEE DISCUSSION**

Councillor Abramovitch initiated a discussion regarding Imprint Publications, which collects a fee from students each term. Abramovitch clarified that he has no desire to run any campaign against Imprint or its fee, but expressed an interest in hearing student opinions regarding Imprint's effectiveness.

Discussion ensued. Topics included the possibility of running an informal poll to gauge student interest in the paper, Imprint's role in holding Feds accountable to the student public, and the risk of Feds being perceived as anti-media.

Councillor Potter, noting his role as a member of the Imprint Publications Board of Directors and clarifying that his words were not intended to reflect the views of the Imprint board or its officers, provided Council with cursory information regarding the organization's collection of survey data, and ongoing efforts to maintain relevancy.

It was noted there may be value in waiting for the ancillary fee policy changes to receive approval, prior to any further action.

Council heard a motion to request that the Executive reach out to Imprint regarding refund data, and invite an Imprint representative to present at the next regular meeting of Council.

*Sucholutsky and Potter.*

Councillor Potter expressed skepticism that Imprint would agree to release refund data, citing privacy concerns. It was also noted that councillors should supplement their knowledge with constituent feedback prior to the next meeting.

*The question was called, and the motion carried.*

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS - DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS**

Council heard a motion to destroy all ballots cast during the meeting.

*Schwan and Sucholutsky. Carried.*

## **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Gerrits updated Council regarding the development of the sexual violence & response policy, noting that additional stakeholder consultation is needed before it can come forward. Future discussion regarding a University ombudsman policy may also be expected.

A councillor requested an update on University Policy 42. President Lolas confirmed that the policy and its related procedures are now in place, with a review expected to commence shortly.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was moved at 14:12.

*Schwan and Sucholutsky. Carried.*