



# GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

**GSU General Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 21, 2011**  
**Immediately following the Annual General Meeting**  
**Sandford Fleming, 10 King's College Road, Room 1105**

Jennifer Fong called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.

1. a) Agenda

**Motion:** Be it resolved that (BIRT) Council approve the following amendments to the agenda:

- Table item 2.1 Notice of Motion regarding the by-laws 7.7 to 7.11: Temporary Commissioner Structure to the December GSU General Council meeting; and
- Move the Social Justice Sub-Committee report to the end of the Sub-Committee and Caucuses reports.

Michelle St-Amour/ Daniel Vandervoort  
Motion failed.

**Motion:** BIRT Council move the CUPE 3902 report to after item 2. By-Law Amendments.  
Sara Suliman/ ?

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT Council move the Social Justice Sub-Committee report to after item 1.e. Business Arising from the Minutes.

Jessica Ellis/Guy Aboodi

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT Council reopen the debate on tabling item 2.1 to the December meeting.  
Michelle St-Amour/Nikita Reznik

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT Council table item 2.1 Notice of Motion re by-law 7.7 to 7.11 Temporary Commissioner Structure 2011/12 to the December GSU General Council Meeting.

Michelle St-Amour/Bob Spenser

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT Council approve the agenda as amended.

Jeff Myers/ Derek Larson

**Carried**

b) Roll call

**Motion:** BIRT Noaman Ali, Meital Avivi, Anna Vokova, Andrew Gross, Elana Stengarte, Marcelo Rodriguez Fariera?, Christopher Klinger are extended speaking rights.

Shaun Chen/Ezra Spilke  
**Carried**

c) Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)

William Matthew and Juan Carlos Imenez, volunteer members of OPIRG's board of directors, said that this year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OPIRG. Imenez explained that OPIRG is a social and environmental justice group at UofT that provides staffing and help with research, education and action on campus, and has several autonomous working groups that push for social and environmental justice within the city. He explained that this past summer, volunteers have worked on the following:

- Researching issues such as alternative journalism and reproductive rights
- Working with UTSU to hold the annual disorientation week
- Working with Greenpeace on a "Tools for change" workshop series, which provides training for social justice initiatives including public speaking, grass roots financing, media training, conflict resolution, etc.

Matthew added that this year, OPIRG will be hosting a workshop series called the Language of Politics, which is aimed at examining and discussing the political language in the media. The next workshop is on November 29 and will featuring Stefan Kipfer from York University who will be discussing the topic "What is popular?" OPIRG's ongoing projects include Action Speaks Louder!, which gives young editors and writers the opportunity to create a publication from pitch to final draft, from layout to print. The fall issue is currently available and work is currently underway for the winter issue. Moreover, the group has successfully secured two work-study placements and is currently supporting the CUPE 3902 strike vote with an information picket scheduled for Wednesday between 12-3pm outside Sidney Smith Hall.

d) Minutes

Michelle St-Amour pointed out that she did not make the motion to move the roll call vote, and that it was Katie Mazer who reported on behalf of Morgan Vanek for the Governing Council. St-Amour also said that Morgan Vanek asked if we could talk about gender rights and GSU speaking structure under the Civics Sub-Committee report, but the minutes suggest that she herself made the recommendation. Further, St-Amour requested that more detail be added to the official record for Charlotte Reeve's retirement.

Nikita Reznik pointed out that his name was misspelled in the minutes.

**Motion:** BIRT the minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting be approved as amended.  
Ann McPherson/Nikita Reznik  
**Carried**

e) Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

2. Social Justice Sub-Committee Report (SJSC)

Daniel Vandervoort reported that a donation of \$100 was made to Occupy Toronto Movement based on the Occupy Toronto Wish List. He also mentioned that February 1<sup>st</sup> is the National Student Day of Action, and that we as a body need to start mobilizing the course unions, working with undergraduate student unions and part time students for this day. He added that there will be a meeting on Tuesday November 29 at 5:30pm to discuss the issues currently faced by graduate students issues so that we can develop a focus for the national Day of Action. Further meetings will occur as necessary and then the group will join with the UTSU. Vandervoort also said that the CUPE 3902 team is working with our SJSC to raise awareness about the current collective bargaining process. They have affixed a banner in front of the GSU building to raise awareness for the strike vote. Vandervoort said that the GSU Executive has endorsed the “yes” vote for the strike and encourage all members to do the same. Vandervoort also discussed the Divestment Forum. He reported that the forum was held to provide information on the issue of UofT divesting from particular companies and holding the university accountable using social and environmental justice principals. Vandervoort commented that there was a very good discussion and both sides of the debate were well represented at the forum.

**Motion:** BIRT the Graduate Students’ Union call on the University of Toronto to divest from and refuse to invest in BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Hewlett Packard and Lockheed Martin.

Be it further resolved that (BIFRT) the Graduate Students’ Union call on the University of Toronto to refrain from investing in all companies involved in violations of international law. BIFRT the Graduate Students’ Union call on the University of Toronto to work with students, faculty and staff to undergo a democratic and transparent process to ensure accountability of its investments to principles of social and environmental justice.

Daniel Vandervoort/Mohamed Dimassi

Vandervoort explained that this motion was drafted by the SJSC last year and information pertaining to the motion was presented at a forum and circulated through information flyers. He explained that while the motion was drafted with particular issue in mind, it has wider implications. As such, the SJSC is requesting a letter from the GSU to say that the GSU as a student body agrees with social and environmental principals and believes that the university should not be using graduate student money to invest in companies that are involved or further contribute to violations of international law.

Guests and several members of council voiced their opinions on the motion.

**Motion failed.**

Abstention Keith Cochran

Fariya Mohiuddin (for); Marie Gagne (against); Israela Stein (against); Emma Robertson (against), Hila Fogel-Yaari (against); Mohammid Dimassi (for)

Emma Richardson and several other members of council felt that the motion should have been split into three parts and voted on as individual motions. Richardson gave the following notice of motion.

**Notice of Motion:** BIRT GSU council re-open the divestment motion with the intention of moving to split the motion into three parts and vote on each part as individual motions.

### 3. By-Law Amendments

#### a) By-law 7.9, 7.14 Management Structure

Change the Management Team structure to include members of the Executive, Staff and Supervisor, Internal Commissioner and the CUPE 1281 Steward and make the management team a body that deals with building related issues, contracts and licensing operations.

#### b) By-law 4.3(a) Legislative Programme

By-law 4.3(a). There shall be a meeting in the Fall of each year **before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October where the External Commissioner** shall present his/her Legislative Programme.

Change to: At the annual October General Council meeting, the Commissioners (or Chairs) shall present their Legislative Program. This would allow the Chairs to recruit sub-committee members in September (when there are more members on campus), to meet with members, and develop their action plan before reporting to council.

#### c) By-law 6.3(a) Responsibilities of Chairs of Standing Committees

This change was brought forward by the Communications working group.

By-law 6.3. The Chairs of committees of the General Council shall be responsible for:

a) informing the Executive of the date, time and location of all meetings of their committees

Change to: a) informing the Executive and Council of the date, time, location and draft agenda of all GSU meetings open to GSU Council Representatives and/or members, where feasible, give notice 5 days prior to the meeting, using the calendar on the GSU website.

#### d) By-law 13.1 Service

Any notice required by the Act, the Regulations, the Letters Patent or the by-laws be sent:

a) to a Member of the Corporation shall be given by one of the following methods:

i) to each Member by prepaid mail at least (thirty) 30 days in advance of the meeting by sending it to the last address as show on the records of the Corporation;  
or

ii) by publication at least one a week for two (2) successive weeks next preceding the meeting in The Varsity or in other newspapers circulated in the municipality or municipalities in which Members of the Corporation reside as show by the addresses on the records of the Corporation.

b) to a Representative shall be given by campus mail with one week written notice.

Change to include notice by electronic mail, not only prepaid mail or campus mail, and remove the publication requirement, which will save the GSU \$1,300 a year.

**Motion:** BIRT GSU approve the following by-law amendments: 7.9, 7.14 Management Structure; 4.3(a) Legislative Programme; 6.3(a) Responsibilities of Chairs of Standing Committees; and 13.1 Notice of AGM.

Megan Harris/ Mohamed Dimassi

**Carried**

#### 4. CUPE 3902 Report

Katie Mazer reported that CUPE 3902 Unit 1 is currently in collective bargaining with the university's administration, and the collective bargaining has been ongoing for the past four months. Mazer summarized the progress on the following items:

- Proposals surrounding the funding package for graduate students
- Expanding the subsequent appointments for upper-year student
- Safeguarding the Doctoral Completion Award
- Concerns regarding expanding tutorial sizes
- Small successes such as an additional week of paternity leave and additional preparation time for first-time instructors.

Mazer encouraged all members who are TAs or Course Instructors and are registered graduate students to come out to the Strike Vote. She explained that this vote is not about going on strike, but it shows the administration that you stand behind the proposals. Further information can be found at [cupe3902.org](http://cupe3902.org).

**Motion:** BIRT GSU council endorses the strike power of CUPE 3902 Unit 1.

Jason Dumelie/ Mohamed Dimassi

**Carried**

#### 5. Sub-Committee and Caucus Reports

##### a) Sustainability Sub-Committee

Michelle St-Amour reported that the Sustainability Sub-Committee has been meeting regularly and most of its activities can be found in the written Executive Report. St-Amour highlighted that the committee is planning a Sustainability Summit in mid-January where they will invite all student-run sustainability and environmental justice groups for a three-hour session for the purpose of knowledge translation, potential collaboration, and joint mobilization. St-Amour also mentioned that the committee is supporting the new bill that has been sponsored by Olivia Chow, which calls for a federal public transit strategy. St-Amour explained that the bill is meant to encourage federal investment in public transit which would benefit Canada as a whole.

##### b) Civics Sub-Committee

St-Amour reported that the Civics Sub-Committee continues to work on their legislative program. She said that the group has planned their first town-hall debate, which will be

held on Tuesday December 13 at 7pm at the GSU pub. The event will focus on the University of Toronto's governance structure and will help dispel some myths about the structure and discuss how GSU members can engage in the process. Further communication to follow.

Daniel Vandervoort added that the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) amended their by-laws to remove the only student representative on the CAGS Board. Therefore, CAGS no longer has a voice or vote that is representative of those studying at the graduate level. St-Amour added that the next step would be to decide if any action will be taken given the current influence of CAGS.

#### c) Academics and Funding Sub-Committee

Nikita Reznik highlighted the proposal for the Doctoral Completion Award (DCA) is to separate the funds across departments and give the departments the autonomy to distribute the funds as they please. Based on the feedback received by a wide survey of graduate students, the GSU provided a general accepting recommendation on the proposed structure for the DCA for next year. Reznik said there will be an option to review the structure after the first year of the proposal. As for the Faculty of Arts and Science restructuring plan, Reznik said that the plan was too vague to comprehend the impacts of the plan on graduate student life. Therefore, the committee is planning to meet with the Dean and hold further consultations to gain greater insight into the bigger picture of the restructuring plan. Reznik also mentioned that there was a change to the Grading Practices Policy, which involved combining the general grading practices policy and the graduate policy. He said that the Executive and the Academics Sub-Committee found that the amended policy is very succinct and clear, and they did not find any points that require immediate attention. He added that a more advanced and informative ROSI is in the works and will be rolled out within the next few years.

Jessica Ellis asked how the decision is made regarding the distribution of the DCA funds over departments. Reznik explained that a formula has been developed that will determine the amount each department is given.

#### d) University Affairs Sub-Committee

Anton Neschadim highlighted the following issues:

The Faculty of Physical Education and Health (FPH) has fundraised enough capital to build a new multi-faceted sports institute, the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport. Neschadim explained that the usage distribution that has been proposed is 25 per cent for external users and 75 per cent for students which would result in an additional \$4-\$26 in ancillary fees. The FPH is aiming for the centre to be very inclusive and structured similarly to the athletic centre.

At the Governing Council, there was an amendment to by-law 2, which introduces some new powers to the chair of the Governance Council. Neschadim explained that at the Chair's discretion, members can convene electronically or virtually and can vote electronically on motions.

The University Affairs Sub-Committee is currently working on a written submission for the View from 2012 document. The group will be meeting to draft some recommendations that will be presented and voted on in council.

e) International Students' Caucus

Chris Klinger reported they had a small celebration on November 17 for International Student's Day. Heather Kelly from the School Graduate Students attended and discussed funding for international students including their access to SGS emergency grant. The group has also written a letter to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to advocate for better health care for international students. Klinger announced that Stephanie Shaw from Speech Language Pathology will be the new co-chair and will taking over as Chair next year. He also added they will be hosting another event for international students in collaboration with OISE on November 30 in the hopes of helping international students integrate into campus and Canadian life.

f) Queer Caucus

Daniel said that they had a great event last week at the GSU pub, but they will be joining the CUPE 3902 queer caucus for future events. He mentioned that the next event will be on December 14.

A council member thanked the Executive and Chairs for their ongoing work, but she would like to see more detail in the written reports.

**Motion:** BIRT GSU accepts the sub-committees/caucus reports.

Tim Robinson/Megan Harris

Carried

6. Reports

a) Course Unions

There were no reports from Course Unions.

b) Executive/Staff Announcements

Michelle St-Amour announced that the Staff Supervisor, Lindsey Fiddes, will be away from the office from November 11 to December 7. In Fiddes absence, St-Amour will be the Interim Staff Supervisor.

Ann McPherson reminded the course union representatives that the deadline for the special grants and conference grants application is December 7, and that head grants applications should be brought into the GSU office as soon as possible.

c) Governing Council

Morgan Vanek said that a new policy regarding academic continuity has been developed. She explained that policy requires course instructors and administrators to take over

classes in the case of emergencies such as G20 or H1N1 or labour disputes. She also mentioned that international graduate students were not figured into the calculation for the DCA; however, international graduate students have been included in the rest of the planning process. Nevertheless, they are also tabling issues related to the non-financial supports that affect international students, such as the lack of resources to support the expanded mandate of the Centre for International Experience.

Vanek also reported on the following issues:

- OGS top-ups. Vanek asked council representatives to email her if they have concerns with OGS top-ups.
- The absence of graduate students in the planning process. They have asked the Provost to take some of the strategies that have worked for undergraduate students and apply them to graduate students as well.
- Possibility of an exit survey for all graduate students, which would be accessible to all graduate students groups.
- Working on having awards funds directly deposited instead of being applied directly to tuition.
- Provost's new matching initiative for the international students fundraising campaign.

#### d) Graduate Education Council

Reznik said that the Graduate Education Council met last week, and there was a report on the changes to the guidelines for PhD oral examinations. He explained that the old regulation required that the examination committee be comprised of one external examiner that was not a part of the supervisory committee. The new regulation, which will take effect next year, requires two external examiners.

#### 7. Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, December 5, 6:10 pm  
Sanford Fleming Room 1105

Fong adjourned the meeting at 9:11pm.

Jennifer Fong, Chair

Shranna Jaggernath, Secretary