



# GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

## GSU General Council Meeting

Monday, October 24, 2011

6:10 pm sharp

Koffler Institute Auditorium, 569 Spadina Ave. (just west of GSU)

Jennifer Fong called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1. Rules of Order Training

2. a) Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that (BIRT) the Council approve the agenda.

Keith Cochrane/Hila Fogel-Yaari

**Carried**

b) Roll call

**Motion:** BIRT Christopher Klinger is extended speaking rights on behalf of the International Students' Caucus.

Benjamin Lee/Israela Stein

**Carried**

c) Minutes

There were no amendments to the Sept 19, 2011 GSU General Council meeting minutes.

**Motion:** BIRT the minutes of the Sept 19, 2011 meeting be approved.

Keith Cochrane/Benjamin Lee

**Carried**

d) Business Arising from the Minutes

i. Mover and Seconder for Finance Committee Election

**Motion:** BIRT Michael Bargezat of Medieval Studies from Division 1, Milosz Ceres from Russian and Eastern European Studies from Division 2, Scott Genin from Chemical Engineering from Division 3 and Jessica Ellis from Psychology are appointed to the GSU Finance Committee for 2011/2012.

Jason Dumelie/Kevin Robillard

**Carried**

e) Centre for Women and Trans People

Sabera introduced herself and the Centre. The Centre is located 563 Spadina Ave and is a drop-in centre for students and community members. It has a robust volunteer program with a free drop-in community cooking program, community cupboard and trans film night. Its mandate in general is an anti-oppressive space for women and trans people. For more information on the centre, visit the website <http://womenscentre.sa.utoronto.ca>.

Benjamin Lee asked what the usage rates are for the programs.

Sabera said the Centre does not track its programs statistics; however, in general, the programs are very well attended, and programs with low attendance are evaluated.

f) Bikechain

Toby Bowers said that Bikechain is a non-profit organization that receives a one dollar levy from each GSU member. It offers cycling-related educational programming, a free bike lending program and a free-access educational repair shop with drop in and appointment based hours. It also creates various forms of literature to educate people about different aspects of cycling. Bikechain sees an average of 300 students a month for the repair shop and has had more than 100 students sign up for the bike lending program. More information can be found on the website at [bikechain.utoronto.ca](http://bikechain.utoronto.ca).

3. Master of Global Affairs Student Association (MGASA) Constitution Approval

**Motion:** BIRT Fariya Mohiuddin is extended speaking rights on behalf of the MGASA.  
Daniel Vandervoort/Sara Hipson

**Carried**

Fariya Mohiuddin said that the Master of Global Affairs is a new two-year master program, and it replaced the Master of Arts in International Relations.

**Motion:** BIRT the Master of Global Affairs Student Association be recognized by Council, and their constitution and Memorandum of Agreement are accepted.  
Daniel Vandervoort/Jason Dumelie

**Amended Motion:**

BIRT the Master of Global Affairs Student Association be recognized by Council, and their constitution is accepted.

Daniel Vandervoort/Michelle St-Amour

Daniel Vandervoort explained that according to the by-laws, a Memorandum of Agreement does not apply to general course unions.

**Carried**

4. Legislative Program

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be voted on individually for each Commissioner and/or Sub-Committee.

Benjamin Lee/Louise Birdsell Bauer

## Carried

Michelle St-Amour explained that the legislative programs are comprised of the Commissioners can see from the outset as priorities for the sub-committees; however, the sub-committees will also address any reactionary issues throughout the year, and these reactionary issues are reported to council.

### a) Academics and Funding Sub-Committee

Nikita Reznik said that the legislative program for the Academics and Funding Sub-Committee is similar to last year. The committee will continue to advocate for a fair Faculty of Arts and Sciences Restructuring Plan and the re-revision of the Doctoral Completion Award policy. Other issues include the updated policy on grading practices, creating fixed stipend pay days and advocating for reduced post-residency fees.

**Motion:** BIRT the Academics and Funding Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Jason Dumelie/?

## Carried

Abstention – Nikita Reznik

### b) Social Justice Sub-Committee (SJSC)

Daniel Vandervoort said that the SJSC will undertake organizing, endorsing and otherwise supporting activities and events that fall within areas of concern. It will also work to support other GSU caucuses and sub-committees, especially in relation to approaching issues with a social justice perspective. The two major components of the SJSC legislative program are the Education is a Right! Campaign and supporting CUPE 3902 in the bargaining process. The SJSC legislative program also includes the following:

- creation of a Social Justice Organizer & University Researcher Network;
- working for indigenous sovereignty and aboriginal control of aboriginal education;
- right to education in occupied territories locally and globally (including endorsing the Israeli Apartheid Week);
- partnering in events supporting mining, climate, environmental, intergenerational and non-human justice;
- fighting for better childcare on campus and in the community;
- anti-corporatization of the university;
- Stop the Cuts and Occupy TO;
- opposing militarism and racism on campus;
- promoting food sovereignty on campus and in the community; and
- supporting the right to organize and encouraging dialogue.

Several council members were concerned with specific items of the SJSC legislative program. As a result, the following motions were made and debated:

**Motion:** BIRT the SJSC ask for prior approval from the Executive for GSU funding and endorsement to ensure that the SJSC is acting for the welfare and in the interest of graduate students.

Jason Dumelie/Hila Fogel-Yaari

Jason Dumelie explained that the approval should be made by the Executive since they meet more frequently than the GSU General Council.

Anne McPherson explained that Lindsey Fiddes, last year's Internal Finance Commission, developed a working group to deal with issues of accountability. However, the working group's motions were defeated by the GSU General Council.

Michelle St-Amour said that the motion may be out of order from a motion made last year. Ruth Perkins read out the relevant motion from the April 2011 minutes, and the chair decided that the current motion is not out of order.

Jacob Nerenberg said that social justice issues are inherently controversial, and the SJSC members are comprised of people who want to take action on issues of social justice, which is why they joined the committee. He felt that controversy should not be a reason to subject the committee to controls that the other committees are not subject to.

Greg Lusk said that the SJSC believes that the issues presented are in the interest and welfare of graduate students. Lusk suggested that members instead create motions to strike specific items from the SJSC legislative program and approve its legislative program as amended. He explained that this procedure would essentially remove the mandate for the subcommittee to proceed on the issue of concern.

Lusk also mentioned that the Communications Working Group is thinking of reviewing subcommittee autonomy and the mandates of the Commissioners and their jobs. Lusk said that the current debate is not just an issue of the SJSC, but it's an issue with autonomy in general.

The debate ended because the question was called.

Nikita Reznik/Anton Neschadim  
Abstention – Michelle St-Amour

Motion Failed.

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU General Council approve the removal of the Israeli Apartheid Week or any issues dealing with the Israel/Palestine conflict from the SJSC Legislative Program.  
Nikita Reznik/Jessica Ellis

Nikita Reznik said that there has never been consensus on this issue, and since all graduate students are members the GSU, the GSU should not get involve since the GSU does not have a single position.

Aditya Bhargava said that anything SJSC puts forth will have some opposition in the GSU, therefore, opposition should not be a reason to strike out items from its legislative program.

The question was called to end the debate.  
Jason Dumelie/Marie Gagné

Motion failed.

Daniel Vandervoort said that one of the reasons why council members did not support the SJSC's endorsement of the Israel Apartheid Week was because they lacked information on the issue. As a result, the Sub-Committee is planning on having a forum on the U of T Divestment and will include some information on the issue in general.

The question was called to end the debate.

Katie Mazer/Jessica Ellis

Nikita Reznik requested for a roll-call vote for the SJSC legislative program.

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU Council use a roll-call vote to record the vote on the SJSC Legislative Program.

Nikita Reznik/Katie Mazer

Failed

**Motion:** BIRT the Social Justice Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Daniel Vandervoort/Greg Lusk

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT the SJSC be mandated to equally support or endorse, financially or otherwise, opposing views in any issues where there is a division of opinions.

Be it further resolved that the SJSC not support external organizations that only support unilateral views in matters of that are sensitive or of conflict in nature.

Anton Neschadim/Jason Dumelie

Failed.

**Motion:** BIFT GSU Council approve the creation of an Autonomy and Accountability of Sub-Committees and Caucuses Working Group.

Ann McPherson/Jessica Ellis

McPherson said that the debate seems to stem from a perceived conflict between the sub-committee's views and the general council's views. This smaller working group will address this and bring motions for council.

**Carried**

#### c) University Affairs Sub-Committee

Anton Neschadim presented the University Affairs Sub-Committee legislative program. He said that the Sub-Committee will be dealing with a number of issues and will be working jointly with the Academics Sub-Committee on several issues. The University Affairs Sub-Committee's legislative program includes the following:

- restructuring of the Doctoral Completion Grant;
- UofT Vision 2030 and The View from 2012 document;
- revision of the UofT Medical Certificate;
- developing a nominations/endorsements policy for the GSU;
- GSU Occupancy Agreement;

- access to our members personal contact information to improve GSU communication; and
- restructuring of the Governing Council

Several council members asked about the sub-committee's mobilization plans regarding various issues on campus such as the upcoming meeting of the Governing Council, the CUPE 3902 bargaining process and the revised Faculty of Arts and Science Restructuring Plan.

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU General Council direct the University Affairs Sub-Committee to meet before October 31 and mobilize students and stakeholders to participate in the Town Hall on November 4 on the Faculty of Arts and Science Restructuring.

Jason Dumelie/Katie Mazer

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU General Council amend the University Affairs Sub-Committee Legislative Program to add mobilizing students on issues at the University of Toronto councils and committees that the University Affairs Sub-Committee monitors.

Daniel Vandervoort/Anton Neschadim

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT University Affairs Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted as amended by the GSU General Council.

Anton/Tim Robinson

**Carried**

#### d) Sustainability Sub-Committee

Michelle St-Amour proposed to take on the following campaigns for 2011/2012:

- partnering on several existing campaigns including: Bottle Water-Free Campus, UofT sustainability services/initiatives tour, search for a better space for Bikechain, fight against Duffering County Mega Quarry, TTC issues and Core Services Review;
- Transportation and Green Spaces Report; and
- course union sustainability policies.

St-Amour explained that "partnering" could mean either funding, attending meetings or providing knowledge translation depending on the campaign.

**Motion:** BIRT the Sustainability Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Jason Dumelie/Derek Larson

**Carried**

#### e) Civics Sub-Committee

St-Amour said that the Civics Sub-Committee proposed to take on the following campaigns for 2011/2012:

- lecture/debate/Town Hall series to engage GSU members in election issues and the political process;
- encourage GSU members to engage in the political process beyond the ballot box;
- encourage GSU election turn-out; and
- City of Toronto's Core Services Review.

At the request of a council member, Michelle added the discussion of gender diversity and GSU speaking structure under the lecture/debate/town hall series.

**Motion:** BIRT that the Civics Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Francois Lamirande/Derek Larson

**Carried**

In the interest of time, the following motions were made:

**Motion:** BIRT the GSU General Council meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

Ann McPherson/?

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT the agenda be reordered to move the Finance Committee Report, the Election of Two Executive Member-at-large and the CUPE 3902 and Governing Council Reports after the Legislative Program.

Ann McPherson/?

**Carried**

#### f) Family Housing Sub-Committee

Robert Spencer appealed to members to join to taskforce to improve the student family housing buildings at 30/35 Charles St West. The taskforce deals with questions related to safety, security and quality of the building, and daycare options for the families living at 30/35 Charles St. West.

**Motion:** BIRT Family Housing Sub-Committee Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Robert Spencer/Jason Dumelie

**Carried**

#### g) International Students' Caucus

Chris Klinger said there are now an International Students' Association at OISE and an International Students Committee at CUPE 3902, which will allow for a collaborative effort on the issues faced by international students. He said that the legislative program for the International Students' Caucus will be comprised of the following:

- working with the other International Student's committees to ensure that the specific international students' issues are represented;
- reintegration of international students into OHIP;
- access to funding and reduced post-residency fees;
- citizenship in Canada and concerns of implied status;

- continuation of the City of Toronto's Airport Welcome Program and International Student Reception; and
- enhancement of the staffing for the Centre for International Experience and other services.

**Motion:** BIRT International Students' Caucus Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Nikita Reznik/Benjamin Lee

**Carried**

h) Queer Caucus

Daniel Vandervoort said that the Queer Caucus has one sole mission, which is to have monthly social networking events. He asked that council members encourage members of their course unions to attend.

**Motion:** BIRT Queer Caucus Legislative Program for the academic year 2011/2012 be adopted by the GSU General Council.

Sara Hipson/Jason Dumelie

**Carried**

i) Women's Caucus

Daniel Vandervoort said there is no legislative program for this caucus and instead asked members to get involved. He explained that the new group will be looking to expand the scope.

6. Finance Committee Report

Ann McPherson said that all course union reps should have received the 2010/2011 Financial Statement and the 2011/2012 Proposed Budget in the mailout. Both documents have been recommended by the GSU Financial Committee and the Executives. She said that a detailed commentary was attached explaining each item and its associated cost. McPherson clarified that these numbers are preliminary, and that the auditor's report will be provided at the next meeting.

a) 2010/2011 Financial Statement

**Executive Motion:** BIRT the GSU Council adopt the 2010/2011 Financial Statement.

**Carried**

b) 2011/2012 Proposed Budget

**Executive Motion:** BIRT the GSU Council adopt the 2011/2012 Budget.

**Carried**

6. Election of Two Executive Members-at-large

**Motion:** BIRT Lusia Sepiashvili of Medical Biophysics and Jason Dumelie of Biochemistry are elected Executive-At-Large for an eight month term.

Derek Larson/Tim Robinson

**Carried**

**Motion:** BIRT the ballots be destroyed.

Benjamin Lee/Sara Hipson

**Carried**

## 8. Reports

### a. Course Unions

There were no reports.

### b. Executive/Staff Announcements/Questions

Michelle St-Amour announced the retirement of Charlotte Reeve, who was the GSU fieldworker since 1982. On behalf of the GSU, St-Amour thanked Charlotte for her 30+ years of great service and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

Nikita Reznik explained that the last Graduate Education Council was cancelled

### c. CUPE 3902

Katie Mazer reintroduced herself as the Internal Liaison Officer at CUPE 3902. She explained that CUPE 3902 are currently in collective bargaining and the bargaining proposals were discussed at the last GSU General Council meeting. She said that on October 25, the bargaining team will be tabling their monetary proposals, which range from indexing the funding package to inflation to reinstating the doctoral completion grant. She also said that University of Toronto General Assembly meeting will be on October 27.

Mazer asked that the course union reps contact her if their department does not have a CUPE 3902 steward or if reps would like the bargaining team to come to their course union to discuss the union and/or the bargaining process.

Mazer said that the best resource for keeping up-to-date or to find information about the union or the bargaining process is the CUPE 3902 website [www.cupe3902.org](http://www.cupe3902.org), the department stewards and/or the bargaining bulletin.

### d. Governing Council

Katie Mazer reported on behalf of Morgan Vanek. Mazer said that the equity offices are facing some staffing changes, in particular the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office. Vanek is looking for people to raise their voices about the issue. For more information, you can contact Morgan Vanek at [morgan.vanek@utoronto.ca](mailto:morgan.vanek@utoronto.ca).

Mazer also highlighted the following upcoming meetings:

- Governing Council on October 27
- Towards 2030/View 2012 Town Hall on November 4 in Bain 1160

- Faculty of Arts and Sciences Council meeting on October 31

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, November 21, 6:10 pm

Sanford Fleming Room 1105

Annual General Meeting, followed by the GSU Council Meeting.

11. Adjournment

**Motion:** BIRT the meeting be adjourned at 9:35.

Derek Larson/Jason Dumelie

**Carried**

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Jennifer Fung  
Chair

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Shranna Jaggernath  
Secretary