



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
Special Board of Directors (General Council) Meeting Agenda
Koffler House, Room 108 (569 Spadina Crescent)
Wednesday June 6th, 2018**

6:00 PM - Registration opens

6:15 PM - Meeting will come to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order
 - a. Equity Statement
 - b. Adoption of Agenda¹
 - c. Roll Call and Introductions
 - d. Approval of Minutes from April 2018 Meeting²
 - e. Unfinished Business
2. Reports
3. Human Resources and Staff (In camera)
4. Harvest Noon Expenses³

¹ 1.b. Draft Motion: BIRT (Be it resolved that) the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors adopt the June Council Meeting Agenda (as presented or amended).

² 1.d. Draft Motion: BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the April 2018 Council Minutes (as presented or amended).

³ 4. Draft Motion: BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the use of the undisbursed levy installments of Toronto Sustainable Food Cooperative Inc. (TSFC) to pay for outstanding bills incurred for cleaning in the amount of \$1152.88 as presented,

BIFRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the use of the undisbursed levy installments of Toronto Sustainable Food Cooperative Inc. (TSFC) to pay for any outstanding bills related to TSFC that may arise during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year and 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

5. Finance Committee Election

a. Finance Committee Member, Division 3⁴

6. Adjournment – Please join us at the GSU Pub for our Council Social following the meeting.

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- If you require accessibility accommodations, please contact officeassistant@utgsu.ca.
 - For a walk-home after the meeting call, Walk Smart at 416-978-7233.
 - Good2Talk | 1-866-925-5454 | 24/7 Post-Secondary Student Helpline | Over 150 Languages

⁴ 5.a. Draft Motion: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee;

- Division 3, [Name] [Department]



Policy G.9 Anti-Oppression Policy

G.9.2 Equity Statement

G.9.2.1 The following statement expresses the Union's commitments to equity and informs the way in which we conduct business of the Union. The statement will be read aloud during the opening address of meetings of the membership, the Board of Directors, and at UTGSU events:

As many of our members are settlers on Turtle Island, the Union directly benefits from the colonization and genocide of the indigenous peoples of this land. It is imperative that the Union acknowledge that it is on occupied land and that to engage in acts of decolonization is an important aspect of equity work in Canada.

Student Union solidarity is based on the principle that all members deserve to be equal, respected and should be understood. As members of the Union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We do not condone or tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity of any individual. Expressions of hate such as intimidation, harassment, offensiveness or hostility will not be tolerated.

We will struggle against all forms of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to: Islamophobic, anti-semitic, xenophobic, sexist, racist, classist, ableist, homophobic, transphobic, ageist sentiments and/or remarks. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate is established. We support growth and understanding and believe in providing opportunities for individuals to acknowledge the impact of their remarks, with the understanding that the experiences of those impacted by discriminatory sentiments or remarks will be privileged.

If you are not here in an understanding of good faith or you have violated this understanding, you will be asked to leave. Do you agree?



University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
Board of Directors (General Council) Meeting Agenda
30 April 2018

1. Meeting Comes to Order at 6:15 pm:

a. Equity Statement

Members of the Council read out the Anti-Oppression Policy Equity Statement to establish and promote inclusivity in the meeting space. Any individual that would violate the policies and rules of the equity statement during the meeting will be asked to leave. Everyone present at the meeting agrees to the policies and rules of the equity statement.

b. Adoption of Agenda

1. b. MOTION B-30-18. BIRT (Be it resolved that) the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors adopts the agenda as presented. Moved by Brienne Berry (Finance & University Governance Commissioner), seconded by Taras Romancyshyiv (Engineering). MOTION B-30-18.CARRIES unanimously.

c. Roll Call and Introductions

Levy groups:

Petrelle Francois (UTERN)

Allos Abis (Centre for Women and Trans People)

Guests:

Sam Spady (BDS Committee)

Casarin Hocevar (BDS Committee)

Faraz Vahid Shahidi (BDS Committee)

Alexandre Milevanaff (ISC)

Genny Lawen (OISE)

Motion B-31-18 to grant speaking rights to all the guests in the roll call. Moved by Evelyn Popiel (Molecular Genetics), seconded by Adiv Paradise (Astronomy). MOTION B-31-18. CARRIES unanimously

UTGSU Exec and Staff:

David Eaton (Executive Director)
Pam Asprey (Office Assistant)
Nusrat Huq (Financial Administrator)
Sagal Osman (Communications coordination)
Gail Alivio Fernando (Membership and Advocacy Coordinator)
Evan Rosevear (Council Chair)
Kevin Lass (Council Secretary)
Brennus (Timekeeper)

d. Approval of Minutes from March 2018 Meeting

1. d. B-31-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approves the March 2018 minutes and roll call as presented. Moved by Elizabeth Griffin (Aerospace), seconded by Bronwyn Frey (Anthropology). MOTION B-31-18. CARRIES unanimously.

e. Unfinished Business

None.

2. Reports

a. Executive Reports and 2017-18 Highlights

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner)

- Equity Advocacy: Canada 150 colonialism and indignity
- International Women's Day
- Mental health advocacy
- Decolonizing conference – deadline May 30

Sarah Cooper (Internal Commissioner)

- Worked with TTC and CFS-O on getting a new transit deal
- Solidarity with CUPE 3903
- CUPE 3902 on demanding a more equitable collective agreement
- Fill out survey for feedback

Chris Ball (Academics 1 and 2)

- Advocacy and funding based issues, including the fight on implementation of leave of absence policy
- Advocate on academic funding issues: elimination of tuition fees, better access for indigenous learners and curiosity-driven research

Brienne Berry-Crossfield (Finance and University Governance Commissioner)

- Creation of 15 awards through Graduate Community development fund which was both equity and merit based
- Conference bursary reopening in May for attending academic conferences

Sam Stead (Executive-at-large 02)

-Wellness portal for grad students to navigate and access resources, which includes a directory of hundreds of services that will be launched soon. Email external@utgsu.com for more info.

Leonardo Uribe (Civics and Environment Commissioner)

- 2 week long environmental festival with UTERN
- Partnership with APUS and CRA on taxes
- Fall and winter orientation
- Introduction of online voting allowed for increased participation

b. Levy Group Presentation – Centre for Women and Trans People

Allos Abis

- Drop in center advocating for students
- Includes mediation with registrar to work with students, peer support groups including ROARS (Resisting Oppression and Reclaiming Spirituality), library in conjunction with OPIRG, and sexual health resources.

c. Levy Group Presentation – UTERN

Petrele Francois

- Provides funding for any society or individual that wants to launch environmental initiatives
- Only funded \$17,000 this year, which is lower than past 2 years due to lack of applications. Encouraging more people to apply next year.

d. Course Unions

Lynne Alexandrova (OISE)

[Delivered information regarding OISE disability panel from university affairs board].

e. Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses

Alexandre Milevanaff, International students caucus

- Organized several workshops on insurance, funding, and permanent residency. Also included competitions and movie nights including one tomorrow (at Scotiabank).

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner), Equity and Advocacy

- Commending International students caucus on their work this year. Encouraging student to check out other caucuses that will be active throughout summer. Email at external@utgsu.ca for more info.

f. Governing Council, Graduate Education Council, CUPE 3902, USW 1998

None.

g. CFS Meeting Highlights

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner)

-Pushed new motion to refresh mental health advocacy, which will get going over the summer

-Look in digest to see how to vote in Ontario election coming up on June 7

-Email external@utgsu.ca for more information and any feedback over the summer

h. Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Toronto Van Attack

Sarah Cooper, Internal Commissioner

Sohe Chung (a University of Toronto student) and 9 others were killed in the recent attack in North York.

[Council observes a 1 minute moment of silence for Sohe and the other victims].

i. Motion to Receive Reports

2. i. MOTION B-32-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors receives all reports. Moved by Adam Hill (OISE), seconded by Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Physics). MOTION B-32-18. CARRIES with one opposition.

3. Financial Business

a. Mid-Year Financial Statement

Brienne Berry-Crossfield (Finance and University Governance Commissioner)

[Presents Mid-Year Financial report]

-Anything post-February is not fully reflected. E.g. Election expenses are included whereas auditor expenses are not.

Q: Lynne Alexandrova (OISE): Can we increase funding for caucuses?

A: Not yet brought to agenda.

Q: Lynne Alexandrova (OISE): Does mid-year financial statement include honorarium for new governance commissioner position?

A: No, that will be reflected next year. It will be coming out of executive at large fund.

3. a. MOTION B-33-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors receive the Mid-Year financial statement for FY 2018. Moved by Anna Cwikla, (Religious Studies), seconded by Vanessa Churchill (Management - MBA). MOTION B-33-18. CARRIES Unanimously.

b. Transfer of Signing Authority to New Executive Committee

-Sarah Cooper and Brienne Berry-Crossfield are leaving.

3. b. MOTION B-34-18. BIRT the signing authority be transferred to the newly elected Executive Officers from 01 May 2018 to 30 April 2019. Moved by Lydia

Sequeira (HPME), seconded by Evelyn (Molecular Genetics). MOTION B-34-18. CARRIES with abstentions.

c. REC Budget Increase Request

-Race and Ethnicity Caucus (REC) has been very involved this year and requested a \$500 funding increase to existing budget.

Q: What is the event for?

A: Not a specific event. An extra \$500 will help them keep their operations running and events over the summer.

3. c. B-35-18. BIRT that the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$500.00 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to REC budget line, making their cumulative budget \$2,000.00 for FY 2018. Moved by Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner), seconded by Adora Chui (Rehabilitation Sciences). MOTION B-35-18. CARRIES unanimously.

d. SGS Fund Transfer to GCDF

-Money has been received, just have to formally put it in place.

3. d. MOTION B-36-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$5,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to the GCDF. Moved by Lynne Alexandrova (OISE), seconded by Vanessa Churchill (Management - MBA). MOTION B-36-18. CARRIES unanimously.

4. Council Chair Nomination Committee Update

Sarah Cooper, Internal Commissioner

-Insufficient number of applications to go through a proper process, and will be approving a new chair in September.

5. Council Chair Nomination Committee Update

Sarah Cooper, Internal Commissioner

a. University Governance Commissioner

-We have now opened applications for the new position and have the following 3 candidates to speak: Sam Stead (Governing Council Member), Genny Lawen (OISE), Peter Egolf (MBA) [Absent due to work obligations].

[Candidates each give a short speech. Members cast ballots. Counted by David Eaton and scrutineers who were nominated by each candidate present].

5. a. MOTION B-37-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint Sam Stead to act as University Governance Commissioner effective May 1st 2018 until April 30th 2019. Moved by Lynne Alexandrova (OISE), seconded by Jennifer Langill (Environmental studies). MOTION B-37-18. CARRIES unanimously.

b. Finance Committee Commissioner

-Need reps from each division. Raise your hand if interested and give a short speech.

-Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies), Div 1

-Emma Findlay-White (Information), Div 2

-Fernando Mercatto (Anthropology), Div 2 [Absent]

-Lucy Bartlett (OT), Div 4

-Nathan Chan (Medical science), Div 4

[Candidates each give a short speech. Members vote].

5. b. MOTION B-38-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee;

- Division 1, Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies)
- Division 2, Emma Findlay-White (Information)
- Division 3, to be filled at later date
- Division 4, Lucy Bartlett (OT)

Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Exec at large), seconded by Allison Wallis (Global Affairs). MOTION B-38-18. CARRIES unanimously with abstentions from elected members.

c. Appointment of Vice Chair, Finance Committee

-Must be an executive member

5. c. Executive Motion E-03-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint Sophie McGibbon-Gardner to the position of Finance Committee Vice-Chair, effective May 1st 2018 until April 30th 2019. MOTION E-03-18. CARRIES unanimously with abstention from appointed member.

6. Bylaw and Policy Amendments

Evan Rosevear, Council Chair

-Motion brought before us in last meeting.

-Recommends for individuals to stand in a FOR line and AGAINST line, and for a motion to limit debate to approx. 30-45 minutes.

MOTION B-39-18 to limit time debate on item 6a to 30 minutes. Moved by Nishant Singh (Ecology), seconded by Vanessa Churchill (Management – MBA). MOTION B-39-18. CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.

a. Divest committee

Sarah Cooper, Internal Commissioner (Policy and Operations Committee)

-This motion was brought before us in the last meeting. Establishing a standing committee is something that should be discussed among the membership today.

Q: Lynne Alexandrova: I want to stay neutral but can the BDS committee clarify why a standing committee is necessary, which is deemed essential for UTGSU operations, as opposed to caucus? Why have we not made a Race and Ethnicity Standing committee in that case?

A: Evan Rosevear: This seems like you're speaking against the motion, so let's get the For-side to respond.

Stance	Name; Position	Statement / Arguments
For	Faraz Vahid Shahidi, Chair of BDS Committee	-Caucuses tend to be identity based, which is not the BDS committee -In September, presented reasons for why more effective as standing committee -Learned from other ethical divestment campaigns that they don't happen overnight -University administration knows that it can outlast ad-hoc committees year after year and we want to send them a clear message -Seeking renewal every year disrupts the operations of our volunteers due to a small number of students that want to stifle debate
Against	Alexandre Milevanaff, Int'l Student Caucus	-The international student caucus brings all graduate students together, whereas the BDS committee encourages hate and division -UTGSU should not simply remain neutral on controversial issues, and should be pro-active on ethical investment among many countries, but BDS only singles out one specific country
For	Sam Spady, BDS Committee	-There are human rights abuses across the board, and our BDS committee targets all unethical companies (see our brief). -Our tuition dollars should not be complicit
Against	Chaim Katz, Biomedical engineering	-As per our equity statement and anti-discrimination policy, nationality is included among many other forms. -BDS committee wants you to believe that they are only opposed to military divestment from Israel

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -However, their practice speaks differently, promoting 'Israeli Apartheid Week' (IAW), where they have brought speakers who promote hate, academic boycott, cultural boycott, all boycotts of Israel – a nationality and against UTGSU policy -The policy and operations committee that came up with this, comprised of 3 voting members from the current BDS committee, therefore, the recommendation to support this as a permanent body of the UTGSU comes to you from the BDS committee
For	Adiv Paradise, Astronomy and Astrophysics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Previously spoke against this motion last year -This is a human rights issue -Spoke with Faraz on how the BDS committee can better include Jewish students -This BDS committee does not advocate for an academic boycott -The Israeli government has committed horrible atrocities
Against	Alexandre Milevanaff, Enviro Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -As an Iranian student, I know what it means to be judged based on nationality -As graduate students, we should be promoting dialogue and ensure that international students feel safe within the community
For	CasarinH Hocevar, BDS committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Confused by the statement that BDS committee promotes hate -Attended IAW events and they have been very educational discussions -Informative BDS committee panels comparing Turtle Island and Palestine, and that is in line with UTGSU equity policy -We want to be proactive on decolonization
Against	Chris Rodgers, Medical Science	<p>[Reads statement from concerned graduate student in dept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -BDS is polarizing and divisive -She grew up in Israel and her family lives there -Divesting from these companies hurts Palestinians -No student on campus should feel targeted or discriminated against]
For	Robert Prazeres, Linguistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We [BDS Committee] have now been reviewed 3 or 4 times, and hear similar arguments -Many labour unions, TA unions, Jewish organizations, human rights organizations, etc. have endorsed BDS -Every local BDS campaign is different, and our committee chooses to target military weapons in particular
Against	Adam Hill, OISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not necessarily speaking against the BDS movement, but looking at how the motion is worded -The reality is that standing committees are essential to the functioning of UTGSU, e.g. the finance committee, executive committee

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Giving the BDS committee that status suggests that it's an essential feature of the UTGSU, so it may be better served as a caucus because it is an interest group -BDS committee needs to clarify what it aims to do in its mandate, because it seems that the BDS committee says that it wants to target weapons specifically in divestment. The concerns that we heard are that it will lead to nationalist discriminatory impact -So, the committee should specifically note that it will only target military divestment to mitigate that issue
For	Adiv Paradise, Astronomy and Astrophysics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reminding council that voting is based on BDS committee here, rather than BDS as a movement
Against	Chaim Katz, Biomedical engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The AGM motion was given very little notice, so opposition to this motion had little time to mobilize -It was against the policy by-law to vote there, later overturned in appeal. The BDS committee knew this as they tried to get this motion passed previous time through the general council the previous year which was voted down -It is not up to this council to tell students who feel discriminated against, that they aren't being discriminated against -A professor and BDS supporter on this university told a graduating student (Ari) on campus that he would not meet with him to discuss PhD studies as he felt that he was "a foreign government agent" -IAW in 2016 had an event titled 'Politics of Academic boycott' -How can we tell the next general council that they don't have the right to decide this? -Approached by numerous Jewish and non-Jewish students who feel discriminated against by this by-law in the UTGSU -The Policy and Operations committee, one that I have been on in past for grad student life, did not inform on when this BDS recommendation was made. -When I brought attention of a BDS speaker being under investigation for anti-Semitism, I was told that they did not agree
For	Faraz Vahid Shahidi, Chair of BDS Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equity work is inherently polarizing and divisive, but it doesn't mean that we stop advocating for indigenous rights and sovereignty -In December, 200+ members in this room voted to encourage support for this work

		-It is very challenging for us to do our work when we constantly have to defend our existence -We are consistently finding ourselves in appeals committees and don't get the appropriate time put our efforts towards events
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[30 minute limit comes to close]

Voting first on the bylaw, then the policy amendments. By law change is adding BDS committee to 6.1.10.

Q: If we are unsure about the mandate of this local BDS committee, what is the vote now?

A: Evan Rosevear: It is a straight yes-no vote at this point. There can be a motion to strike it, which will be equivalent of killing it because this council is rising.

Sarah Cooper: At UTGSU, you are either identity-based caucus or a standing committee.

Point of information: Two votes in front of us. Can we vote yes on standing committee and subsequently no on bylaws?

A: Evan Rosevear: Yes.

Q: What are the consequences of that?

A: Evan Rosevear: It would be a standing committee without operational guidelines.

Q: Lynne Alexandrova: The policy and operations committee comprised of 3 BDS Committee members. The only work done by this committee was focused on this amendment. Can we amend the motion to replace 'UTGSU Policy and Operations Committee' to 'BDS committee' because nothing else was addressed by the Policy and Operations Committee and it was compiled with BDS committee members.

A: Evan Rosevear: We cannot do that.

6. MOTION B-40-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the amendments to bylaw as presented by the UTGSU Policy and Operations Committee. MOTIONB-40-18. CARRIES with 33 For, 14 Opposition, and 5 abstentions.

Point of information: Is it two thirds majority?

A: Evan Rosevear: Yes

Point of information: What happens with the 5 abstention votes? Were they aware that their vote is not counted and can change the outcome of this motion? Can we recount votes in this case?

A: Sarah Cooper: It is the last meeting of the year and rules have not changed. The act of abstaining is removing yourself from the vote.

6. MOTION B-41-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the amendments to policy as presented by the UTGSU Policy and Operations Committee. MOTION B-41-18. CARRIES with 34 For, 13 Against, and 5 abstentions.

7. Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned: 8:16PM.

Evan Rosevear
Chair

Kevin Lass
Secretary



Executive Summary – HR matter for June Council

The UTGSU Board of Directors / General Council will convene on June 6, 2018 to discuss and rectify an ongoing HR/personnel issue of the union. First, while details will be provided at the meeting, it is important for members to maintain confidentiality regarding this matter as it pertains to employment practices of the union and some personal information of a Union employee. Second, your attendance is required to finalize this matter as it will require a financial commitment that is not foreseen in the union's budget. The Executive Committee, with the Executive Director, will be presenting all essential details during the meeting. Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Director.

