



Graduate Students' Union Executive Reports to General Council October 2016

Branden Cesare Rizzuto
Academics and Funding Commissioner (Divisions I and II)
27 September to 18 October 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I. I attended the General Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 27th, 2016
 - i. I was elected to the position of Executive – Academics and Funding Commissioner (Divisions I and II)
 - ii. As a result of my election to an Executive position, I resigned from the position of Division II representative on Finance Committee as required by GSU bylaw and policy
 - iii. I presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2015-2016 conference bursary data on behalf of Finance Committee
 - iv. I jointly presented the final report of the CFS litigation committee with other members of this committee
- II. I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on September 28th, 2016
 - i. I volunteered and was appointed by the Executive Committee to a position on the Executive's Building Management Sub-Committee
- III. I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on October 4th, 2016
 - i. I volunteered and was appointed by the Executive Committee to the position of Vice-Chair – Finance Committee
- IV. I attended, chaired, and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on October 11th, 2016
 - i. I volunteered and was appointed by the Executive Committee to a position on the Executive's Human Resources Sub-Committee

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights

I. Finance Committee

October 6th, 2016

- Brief Summary: I attended this meeting as Vice-Chair. The progress of the current financial audit, budget finalization for the 2016-2017 financial year, and outstanding donation requests were discussed.

October 17th, 2016

- Brief Summary: I attended this meeting as Vice-Chair. A revised version of the UTGSU budget for the 2016-2017 financial year was presented, and outstanding donation requests were discussed.

C) University of Toronto Governing Bodies & Other Engagement Highlights

I. Governing Council Academic Board

October 6th, 2016

- Brief Summary: I attended this meeting as a guest/UTGSU liaison. The meeting included an orientation and overview of the Governing Council structure, a presentation by the vice-president and provost Cheryl Regehr on the University's initiatives to reform its sexual violence policies, and a renewal of the affiliation agreements between the University of Toronto and the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN)

II. Arts and Science Council

October 12th, 2016

- Brief Summary: I attended this meeting as a graduate student representative. The meeting included an update on recent Council elections, an orientation and overview of the Council structure, a brief introductory report from the Dean of Arts and Science David Cameron, and updates on the Business Process Review of undergraduate admissions. Additionally, a presentation on the recent increases to the base-funding package for graduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science was presented by the Vice-Dean of Graduate Education and Program Reviews Joshua Barker. Furthermore, the Council voted in favour to accept changes to Rotman Commerce's policy on program admissions in order to accommodate for applicants from Quebec. Lastly, Council also voted in favour to close the current ten fields of study available to students in the MSc. Applied Computing program and replace them with the new concentration of 'Data Science'.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

I. General and Finance Orientation

- On Friday, September 30th, 2016 I completed finance orientation and training for my Executive position. Finance orientation and training was provided by the UTGSU's Financial Administrator Nusrat Huq

- On Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 I completed general orientation and training for my Executive position. General orientation and training was provided by the UTGSU's Executive Assistant Heidi Krieger

Andrea Constantinof
Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4
17 September to 18 October 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday Sept 14th
- II. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee Planning meeting on Wednesday Sept 21st
- III. I was absent due to an academic conference for the Council Meeting on Tuesday Sept 27th
- IV. I was absent due to an academic conference for the Executive Committee Meeting on Weds Sept 28th
- V. I attended and Chaired the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 4th
- VI. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 11th

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights

I. Meeting with Vice Provost Students Monday Sept 19th

The Finance and University Governance Officer and I met with the Vice-Provost Students, Dr. Sandy Welsh, to discuss issues pertaining to students. In this meeting we sought clarification on the current Sexual Violence Prevention Draft Policy. We brought up present concerns with the Draft, that continue to require attention, and received a commitment from the Vice Provost to clarify our concerns.

II. Sexual Violence Prevention Draft Policy Meeting Thurs Sept 22nd

I attended this meeting that was organized and hosted by our Finance and University Governance Executive to allow graduate students to voice their opinions and concerns regarding the Sexual Violence Prevention Policy Draft that was created by the University of Toronto Administration.

C) University of Toronto Governing Body and Other Meeting Highlights

No meeting took place during the period of this report.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

Staff Supervisor: I managed daily tasks regarding our staff and organization.

Suzanne Narain
Civics and Environment Commissioner
September 21st - October 18th 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday September 21st, 2016.
- I was unable to attend the UTGSU Council Meeting on Tuesday September 27th, 2016 due to an illness
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday September 28th, 2016.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 4th, 2016.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 11th, 2016.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 18th, 2016.

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights

- I. BDS Ad-Hoc Committee:
Date: October 13th, 2016.
Brief Summary: BDS committee is currently undergoing their organizational strategic planning.
- II. Civics Committee:
Date: October 18th, 2016.
Brief Summary: I met with the Civics committee to discuss our priorities for the year and drafted the Civics Legislative Report.
- III. Environmental Justice and Sustainability
Date: October 18th, 2016
Brief Summary: I met with the Civics committee to discuss our priorities for the year and drafted the Environmental Justice and Sustainability Legislative Report.

C) University of Toronto Governing Bodies & Other Engagement Highlights

No meetings took place during this time period

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

- I. Harvesting Freedom Campaign
Sunday September 25th, 2016

The event was held at the Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF) hosted in collaboration with the BCCF's Residents Council, Black Creek Food Justice Network and Justicia for Migrant Workers. The UTGSU offered in-kind assistance for this event with the printing promotional materials. The event featured various community activists, and migrant farm-workers who shared their realities and hardships working in Canada.

II. City Hall Salon 27: Truth and Reconciliation in the Urban Context

Thursday October 13th, 2016.

Brief Summary: I attended a town hall meeting hosted by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Ward 27. There were a series of Indigenous speakers discussing how to make the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's 94 calls to action applicable in an urban setting.

III. Volunteer Appreciation Night

Friday October 14th, 2016.

Brief Summary: The UTGSU Orientation Committee hosted a volunteer appreciation night for the students who volunteered during the Orientation BBQ.

Cristina Jaimungal

External Commissioner

September 21 to October 18 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

I attended and participated in the Executive Meetings on the following dates:

1. September 21, 2016
2. September 27, 2016
3. September 28, 2016
4. October 4, 2016
5. October 11, 2016
6. October 18, 2016

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights

I. Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Levy Group

October 15-October 16, 2016 (Ontario Executive Meeting)

All UTGSU graduate students are members of CFS. We can access services, resources, and working groups that advance the interests of graduate students.

- a. I attended the National Executive CFS meeting from October 15 to October 16. The meeting provided an opportunity for Executives to share strategies for increasing student engagement. This strategy will be discussed with the Executive and we will be seeking support from Course Unions to help push for free, accessible post-secondary education.
- b. An emergency motion to donate \$2000 to the Chippewas legal fund was moved by local 19 (UTGSU) and passed unanimously. The motion read as follows (whereas clauses are omitted for the purposes of brevity):

BIRT the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario (CFS-O) donate \$2,000 towards the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation’s legal expenses.

BIFRT members of the Executive Board of CFS-O be encouraged to raise and/or donate funds to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation’s legal expenses before their court date on November 30th, 2016.

BIFRT members of the Executive Board of CFS-O be encouraged to send members of their local to attend the hearing at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa, ON in support of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

ii. **Save the Date: National Day of Action (NDOA) (November 2nd)**

a. Take action: Join the [event](#) and take the [pledge](#).

iii. **Fight the Fees Campaign | What is Fight the Fees?**

Students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees and graduate with the highest student debt in the country!

Demands

1. Reduction and elimination of all tuition fees
2. Conversion of loans into non-repayable grants
3. Removal of interest from existing student loans

UTGSU Specific Demand (New!)

1. Students who have completed their course work should not pay the same full time fees as those taking a full course load. Therefore, we will be pushing for the implement of post-residency fees.

Targets

1. + 1000 signatures by Orientation
2. + 2000 signatures by the NDOA (Nov. 2nd)
3. + 1500 signatures by April
4. Cumulative Target: 4500 signatures
5. Toronto Goal: 60 000 signatures by end of year

Progress

1. 900 + received on orientation date alone
2. 30 000 (50 000 Provincial Goal for Ontario)

iv. **Students for Barrier-Free Access (SBA) Levy-Group**

I have been in communication with SBA to discuss the next steps of the escalation process on a building accessibility issue.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

i. **“Decolonizing Conference” Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies in Education**

- i. Council unanimously agree to make a financial contribution to support this event. Below are some highlights and updates:
- ii. I have been attending tri-weekly meetings in lead up to the Decolonizing Conference.
- iii. Over 600 registered to date!
- iv. Over 400 abstracts received

- v. Approximately 90 panels
- ii. **UTGSU Web**
 - i. Please send all Digest requests on Wednesday before 12 pm to digest@utgsu.ca.
 - ii. If you have requests or notice that a page needs to be updated, please email web@utgsu.ca.

Brienne Berry-Crossfield
Finance and University Governance Commissioner
6 September to 26 October 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- The Executive Committee meeting was cancelled on **September 7th**
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee Meeting on **September 14th**.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee Meeting on September 21st.
- I attended and participated in the General Council Meeting on **September 27th**, where I presented the Executive's visioning goals for the year, donation requests and delivered a candidate speech for the position of Finance and University Governance Commissioner.
- I attended and chaired the Executive Committee Meeting on **September 28th**. We have welcomed our new Academics and Funding Commissioner for Divisions 1 and 2 and are looking for dates to re-do our visioning and provide his anti-oppression training.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on **October 4th**.
- I phoned in to the Executive Committee meeting on **October 11th**.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee Meeting on **October 18th**.

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights

- I. Professional Graduate Students' Caucus
N/A
A Chair has been selected for PGSC.
- II. Finance Committee
October 6th/October 17th
The Finance Committee met on **October 6th** for a brief financial orientation regarding budget planning and discussions on policy related to the Finance Committee and donation requests. In our follow-up meeting, we were presented with the draft budget for 2017 and discussed the presentation for Council.

C) University of Toronto Governing Bodies & Other Engagement Highlights

I. Meeting with Vice-Provost Students, Vice-Provost of Innovations in Undergraduate Education, Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost and Student Policy Advisor and Coordinator of Student Policy Initiatives

September 20th

The University is looking to purchase a new Learning Management System to replace our current Blackboard portal and has requested our input on the three options provided by different vendors. We also asked for some clarity on some items within the draft sexual violence policy, including investigator selection, the presence of a tri-campus Sexual Assault Centre and services for Respondents.

II. Meeting - University Affairs Board

October 5th

I attended the first University Affairs Board (UAB) meeting of the year to watch the presentation on the draft Sexual Violence policy by the Vice-Provost of Students.

III. Meeting with Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-President Student Life Programs

October 17th

The Executive at Large and Myself met with Lucy Fromowitz and the Student Life Secretariat to discuss this year's Council on Student Services.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

I. Sexual Violence Consultations

For the month of September, the UTGSU ran consultations on the draft Sexual Violence Policy for Graduate and Mature Students. The dates were as follows: **September 15th** at UTSC, **September 22nd** at UTM and September 29th at St. George. After gathering feedback, I have written a report documenting the concerns and questions that came out the consultations, which is to be submitted to the Administration.

II. Meeting with UTMAGS

I met with the President of University of Toronto Mississauga Association of Graduate Students. We are looking for ways to support our graduate students outside of the St. George Campus and build better relationships.

III. Meeting with Tana Turner

September 23rd

Along with representatives from APUS, UTMSU, SCSU, and UTSU, myself and the External Commissioner met with Tana Turner to discuss her final report and recommendations for anti-bias training for front-line staff. Representatives also gave her examples of scenarios she could present when training the HR staff who will be in charge of training everyone else

IV. Graduate Conflict Resolution Centre

The Executive-At-Large and myself attended lunch with the Conflict Resolution Centre on **September 28th**, a peer-to-peer service that assists graduate students in finding resolutions to issues that may arise at the university. They are in their second year and presented us with a report on their findings.

Elizabeth Eng
Internal Commissioner
September 17th to October 14th 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I. I prepared the agenda, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday September 21st
- II. I chaired the General Council Meeting on Tuesday September 27th as the chair had resigned.
- III. I attended and participated in the General Council meeting on Tuesday September 27th for the elections Agenda item.
- IV. I prepared the agenda, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 4th
- V. I prepared the agenda for, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 11th

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights
Policy & Operations Committee

Introductory meeting with the Policy and Operations Committee was scheduled. I completed the Legislative Programme as Chair, and circulated to members for edits and additions. The policy on ad-hoc committee renewal process will be reviewed by the committee before the October Council Meeting.

C) University of Toronto Governing Body and Other Meeting Highlights

No meetings took place over the period of this report.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights

I. Orientation BBQ Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers who were integral to running our Orientation BBQ were invited to the UTGSU for Pizza, as a thank-you for their hard work.

II. Ontario not-for-profit Corporations Act Implementation

Have compiled relevant Bylaw and Policy from Student Unions/Organizations/Councils with similar Governance structures to the UTGSU to present to Policy and Operations. The goal of this preliminary report is examine frameworks from other Institutions that have recently amended their Bylaw/Policy to aid in implementation at the UTGSU.

Sarah Wheeler
Executive-At-Large 1
September 17th - October 17th 2016

A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I was unable to attend the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday September 14^h for Academic reasons.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday September 21st.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee Planning meeting on Tuesday August 16th.
- I attended and participated in the Board of Directors (General Council) meeting on Tuesday September 27th.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday September 28th.
- I was unable to attend the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 4th for Academic reasons.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 11th.

B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights
Hart House Board of Stewards September 22nd 2016

I attended and participated in the Hart House Board of Stewards Orientation meeting. The Hart House Board of Stewards is the principle governance body of Hart House, acting ensure to Constitution is upheld and priorities are appropriately established and sustained. I will be meeting with the Hart House Program Coordinator to discuss Graduate Student involvement in the Hart House community.

C) University of Toronto Governing Body and Other Meeting Highlights
Meeting with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Thursday
September 28th

I attended a Graduate Student Representatives meeting with Vice Provost, Locke Rowe. Vice Provost Rowe provided updates on funding information outlined on the SGS website. In addition, we further reviewed the funding complaint process to be presented to the graduate student membership.

D) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights
I. Grad Life/ Grad Escapes Meeting October 13th 2016

I recently met with the Student Life Coordinator to discuss strengthening the involvement of UTGSU in Gradlife, including promotion of the upcoming Gradlife event "Optimizing Your Graduate Experience", which will be held on November 1st at Hart House.

II. Council of Student Services (COSS) Meeting October 17th 2016

Funding and University Governance Commissioner and I met with Assistant Vice-President, Student Life to discuss the UTGSU Executive nominations for the position of COSS Chair, from within the UTGSU constituency.

III. Chair Nominating Committee

As per MOTION B-98-16, passed at the September Governing Council Meeting, I formed the Chair Nominating Committee.