



## Graduate Students' Union Executive Reports to General Council November 2016

**Branden Cesare Rizzuto**  
**Academics and Funding Commissioner (Divisions I and II)**  
**18 October to 4 November 2016**

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### **A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - o I volunteered and was appointed by the Executive Committee to act as the GSU representative on the Library Advisory Committee
- I attended the General Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - o I delivered an Executive Report to Council
  - o I was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair - Finance Committee
  - o I presented the 2016-2017 fiscal year draft budget and auditor's report on behalf of Finance Committee
  - o I presented on a motion to strike the Graduate Student Census ad-hoc committee, and solicited volunteers to serve on the committee
- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

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

#### **I. Finance Committee**

*October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

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

## II. GSU Hiring Committee

*October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

- Brief Summary: The hiring of a new Communications and Promotions Coordinator was discussed. The job description for this position was also finalized and advertised.

*October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

- Brief Summary: The Hiring Committee reviewed resume submissions for the Communications and Promotions Coordinator and drafted a short-list of four candidates for the interview stage. A discussion of interview structure also took place.

*October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

- Brief Summary: The Hiring Committee conducted its first round of interviews for the Communications and Promotions Coordinator. Two of the four short-listed candidates were interviewed. The Hiring Committee discussed the merits of each candidate after the interviews.

*October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

- Brief Summary: The Hiring Committee conducted its second round of interviews for the Communications and Promotions Coordinator. The remaining two of four short-listed candidates were interviewed. The Hiring Committee discussed the merits of all of the candidate after the interviews, and unanimously agreed to offer the position to one of the candidates interviewed. Later that evening, the Hiring Committee reached out to the successful candidate to offer the position. The successful candidate accepted the position.

## C) University of Toronto Governing Bodies & Other Engagement Highlights

### I. Governing Council

*October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

- Brief Summary: Along with the Finance and University Governance Commissioner, I attended the Governing Council as a guest. The majority of the meeting concerned the creation of a new program at Rotman Commerce, the renewal of affiliations, and a report from the University of Toronto President, which included overviews of international university rankings and the university's stance on free speech.

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

- I. Via email, I volunteered to act as an Executive Representative on the GSU Hiring Committee
- II. I worked closely with both the Finance and University Governance Commissioner and the GSU's Financial Administration in the preparation of the 2016-2017 financial budget and auditor's report
- III. I drafted a number of interview questions for the Hiring Committee in preparation of the interviewing of candidates for the GSU's new Communications and Promotions Coordinator position

- IV. I contributed to the writing of a GSU Executive Committee letter concerning the recent issues surrounding Jordan Peterson's comments and related events on U of T campus
- V. I began investigating an issue associated with students losing portions of their base funding package in some U of T departments because they choose to seek external employment (i.e. employment outside of the University of Toronto)
- VI. I contacted graduate student representatives on the Graduate Education Council and Governing Council to solicit graduate students to attend the 2016 CAGS conference
- VII. I discussed with the Internal Commissioner the UTGSU's Course Union President's Lunch, recalculated costs for different scenarios and venues, and forwarded these figures to the UTGSU Executive Committee.

**Andrea Constantino**  
**Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4**  
**October 17th to November 3rd, 2016**

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**A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday Oct. 18th
- II. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>
- III. I attended and participated in the Council meeting on Wednesday Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>
- IV. I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>

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

**a. Meeting with Dean of SGS**

*Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>*

I met with the Dean of SGS to discuss current issues and concerns. Of note, we are in the process of making the elimination of graduate summer gym fees a concrete reality. Furthermore, we are working towards funding SGS intramurals and increasing funding conditions for departments such as Law, Music, and OISE.

**b. Meeting with Vice Provost Students Meeting**

*Monday October 31st*

The Finance and Governance Executive and I met with the Vice Provost Students to discuss the current status of the Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. The Vice Provost expressed that the comments and report put together by our Finance and Governance Executive were well received and are in the process of being reviewed. We then further discussed current issues arising on campus.

**c. Meeting with CUPE 3902 Wednesday**

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016*

I met with the Internal Liaising Officer from CUPE3902 to discuss the current concerns of our membership. We reviewed the funding complaint process and discussed its implementation and how we would make this process known to our members.

**d. Meeting with Senior Manager at Planning and Budget**

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016*

The EAL1 and I met with the Senior Manager of Planning and Budget for the Administration to gain a greater understanding of the BIU funding model. We were presented with the operations budget and shown the make-up of the different components of the University's revenue. We hope to use these data to propose viable models to implement post-residency fees for graduate students.

**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**

**I. HRS**

I performed duties required as Staff Supervisor. These tasks included creating and posting a job description for the Communications and Promotions position.

**II. Hiring Committee Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Hiring Committee met to discuss hiring procedures and interview questions. Interviews will be scheduled for the 27-28, with the 31<sup>st</sup> as an option if candidates are unable to attend the other days.

**III. Hiring Committee Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**

The hiring committee reviewed over 60 applications for the Communications and Promotions 1 year contract position. 4 interviews were held and a successful candidate was selected and hired.

**Suzanne Narain**

**Civics and Environment Commissioner**

**October 19<sup>th</sup> - November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

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**A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- I attended and participated in the UTGSU Council Meeting on Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- I attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

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

**I. BDS Ad-Hoc Committee:**

Date: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Brief Summary: The BDS committee met for their yearly strategic planning session

**II. Defence Committee:**

Date: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Brief Summary: I was in communication with our lawyer regarding current litigation matters.

**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. Health and Dental Meeting**

*October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

I met with the Health and Dental Administrator regarding improving our mental health coverage. We discussed several online platforms as well as a potential info session for February.

**II. TTC Riders "Fair Fare" Rally**

*Tuesday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

I attended the "Fair Fare" rally at City Hall. The group is demanding that council stop postponing deputations for affordable TTC passes

**III. Fight the Fees National Day of Action**

*November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*

I participated in the rally and march for free education along with the External Commissioner, Finance and University Governance Commissioner, EAL 2 and staff.

**IV. Human Resources Subcommittee**

I have been organizing a professional development session for the Executive and staff

**Cristina Jaimungal**

**External Commissioner**

**October 14 to November 4 2016**

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**A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

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

1. October 18, 2016
2. October 25, 2016
3. November 1, 2016

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

### I. Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

#### 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

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 lobbying for the implementation of tuition fee rebates (aka: post-residency fees).

### II. National Day of Action (NDOA) (November 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- a. The National Day of Action's two central campaigns were "Fight the Fees" and "Fight for \$15 and Fairness".
- b. I attended the NDOA rally hosted by APUS (Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students), UTMSU (University of Toronto Mississauga Students Union), SCSU (Scarborough Campus Student Union) and UTGSU. The Finance and University Governance Commissioner along with the Civics Commissioner and Executive-at-Large, and I attended and participated in the rally for Free Education on November 2. We marched from Sid Smith, around Kings College passing Convocation Hall, congregating at Queen's Park.
- c. I sent executives a list of tasks that I needed support with and many of them helped in big and small ways.

#### Targets

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

#### Progress

1. 900 + received on orientation date alone
2. 200 + received by end of October
3. 30 000 (50 000 Provincial Goal for Ontario)

## 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. **Pre-Conference: "Decolonizing Conference", Equity Studies, New College**
  - a. I attended the Decolonizing Pre-Conference and provided NDAO information to high school and undergraduate students.
- ii. **"Decolonizing Conference" Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies in Education**
  - a. Council unanimously agreed to make a financial contribution to support this event. Below are some highlights and updates:
    - a. Over 650 registered and attended over the course of three days!
    - b. Over 400 abstracts received
    - c. Approximately 90 panels
    - d. I coordinated with CFS to organize a self-care room
    - e. I have been working on planning the Decolonizing Conference along with a team of other organizers.
    - f. The next stage will be a feedback conversation on what went well, what went wrong, and what we could do better
- iii. **UTGSU Web**
  - i. Please send all Digest requests on Wednesday before 12 pm to [digest@utgsu.ca](mailto:digest@utgsu.ca).
  - ii. If you have requests or notice that a page needs to be updated, please email [communications@utgsu.ca](mailto:communications@utgsu.ca).

**Brienne Berry-Crossfield**  
**Finance and University Governance Commissioner**  
**18 October to 4 November 2016**

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**A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting **October 18<sup>th</sup>**.
- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on **October 25<sup>th</sup>** where the Executive team prepared for our Council Meeting.
- I attended and participated in the UTGSU Council/Board of Directors Meeting on **October 26<sup>th</sup>**.
- I chaired the Executive and Staff meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**B) Other UTGSU Committee, Levy Group, and Caucus Meeting Highlights****III. Finance Committee**

*October 25<sup>th</sup>*

The Finance Committee met to go over the finalized draft version of the UTGSU 2017 Surplus Report. Speaking points were allocated to members and follow-up meetings will be scheduled to keep working through the budget.

#### **IV. Queer Caucus/ Women and Trans People Caucus**

*October 26<sup>th</sup>*

Two Council reps volunteered to become chairs of these caucuses and a follow-up meeting will be established to get them started for the rest of the year.

### **C) University of Toronto Governing Bodies & Other Engagement Highlights**

#### **II. U of T Governing Council**

*October 27<sup>th</sup>*

I attended Governing Council with the Academics and Funding Commissioner 1 and 2. The meeting consisted of remarks from the University of Toronto President on overviews of the university's international rankings and its stance on free speech. The Ombudsperson also provided comments on her final report, which was circulated to governors. There was also information on new investments; the university is looking into fossil fuel divestment

#### **III. Meeting - Vice-Provost, Students, the Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Coordinator, Student Policy Initiatives**

*October 31<sup>st</sup>*

The Academics and Funding Commissioner 3 and 4 and I attended the meeting to receive updates on the draft sexual violence policy, anti-bias training for front-line staff and the "free speech" rallies occurring on campus. We also had a discussion about creating a peer-to-peer counseling network for graduate students.

#### **IV. Meeting - Council on Student Services (COSS)**

*October 31<sup>st</sup>*

I attended the first COSS meeting with our Executive at Large (1). This meeting was an orientation introducing the purpose of COSS and nominating a chair for the remainder of the COSS cycle. As it is the UTGSU's turn to select a chair, we maintained the decision of last year's executive committee and Sandra Hudson has been nominated.

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

#### **I. Day of Action: Free Education NOW!**

*November 2<sup>nd</sup>*

The External Commissioner, the Civics and Environment Commissioner and I along with staff attended the UofT Rally for Free Education! A representative from UTGSU, SCSU, UTSM and APUS spoke, as well as a rep from the Black Liberation Collective and CFS National Aboriginal Caucus. After the rally at UofT, we joined with thousands of other students across the GTA at Queen's Park.



**Elizabeth Eng**  
**Internal Commissioner**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

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**A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I prepared the agenda, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>
- I prepared the agenda, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>
- I attended the General Council Meeting on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>
- I prepared the agenda, attended and participated in the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>

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

**I. Policy & Operations Committee**

*Meeting: October 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, 8PM*

The policy on ad-hoc committee renewal process will be reviewed by the committee before the October Council Meeting. Provided recommendations to General Council on the Ad-Hoc Committee Policy as requested. The updates were as follows: no recommendation to amend the policy. Interpretation of the Chair's ruling was that while it may not have been entirely supported by governing documents, the ruling of General Council is final, regardless of incorrect information.

**II. Chair Nominating Committee**

Corresponded with the other members of the chair nominating committee, and put together an ad for the Digest, Website, and Facebook.

**III. International Students' Caucus**

As the Executive Liaison for ISC, I ensured their webpage on the UTGSU website was up to date.

**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. Annual Meeting Preparations**

I updated the webpage with advertisements and information about the December 2016 Annual meeting. I sent out Digest Advertisements as well, although our Student Listserv has been down. I have begun work on the Annual Meeting Agenda.

## II. General Council Chair Training

Met with the new Chair and discussed responsibility and procedures at the UTGSU for General Council Meetings, and discussed items relevant to the upcoming October 26<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Sarah Wheeler**

**Executive-At-Large 1**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

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### A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings

- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- I chaired the Executive and Staff meeting on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended and participated for the UGSU Council/Board of Directors Meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

No meetings took place over the period of this report.

### C) University of Toronto Governing Body and Other Meeting Highlights

#### I. Council on Student Services (COSS)

*Meeting October 31<sup>st</sup>*

I attended the first Council of Student Services (COSS) meeting along with the Finance & University Governance Commissioner, as the appointed UTGSU representatives. In addition to UTGSU appointees, the COSS student membership includes part time undergraduate students appointed by the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), full-time undergraduate students or members of the executive of the University of Toronto Student Union, and representatives from both University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC).

This meeting served as an orientation for new council members, where the membership was informed of the power and duties of COSS regarding assessment of non-academic incidental fees, including the review of the annual operating plans for Student Life, Hart House, and the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

As per COSS policy the UTGSU was responsible for nominating a Chair for COSS 2016-2017. In keeping with the nomination provided by the previous UTGSU Exec, we nominated Ms. Sandra Hudson.

#### II. Meeting with Senior Manager at Planning and Budget

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016*

The Academics and Funding Commissioner 3&4 and I met with the Senior Manager of Planning and Budget for the Administration. The intent of our meeting was to gain further insight regarding the Administration's budget model and projected changes to annual revenue. During this meeting a great deal of focus was given to the notion of Basic Income Units (BIU) and how BIU are assigned based on level of study and program. We have requested further information regarding the funding status of students across all programs in association with their level of study, to support our work on developing a model to implement post-residency fees and improve time to completion.

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

##### **I. Chair Nominating Committee**

As per MOTION B-98-16, passed at the September Governing Council Meeting, I formed the Chair Nominating Committee which included myself and 3 other UTGSU members. I facilitated the interview with the perspective candidate, which occurred on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2016. Prior to the interview I arranged a preparatory meeting for the Chair Nominating Committee. The Committee was provided the candidate's CV, letter of intent, and a list of potential interview questions (which were adjusted during the preparatory meeting). On October 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 I offered the position of UTGSU General Council Chair to Mr. Evan Rosevear.

Please note that I, the Executive-At-Large 1, will be absent at the Council/Board of Directors Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. If any members of Council have any questions or concerns regarding the content of my report please do not hesitate in contacting me at [ecal1@utgsu.ca](mailto:ecal1@utgsu.ca).

**Sarah Cooper**  
**Executive at Large**  
**26 October to 4 November 2016**

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#### **A) Executive Committee and General Council Meetings**

- I attended and participated in the UTGSU Council/Board of Directors Meeting on **October 26<sup>th</sup>**.
- I attended and participated in the Executive and Staff meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **B) Other Meetings, Issues, Significant Events and information Highlights**

##### **II. Day of Action: Free Education NOW!**

On **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, I attended the UofT Rally for Free Education! A representative from UTGSU, SCSU, UTSM and APUS spoke, as well as a rep from the Black Liberation

Collective and CFS National Aboriginal Caucus. After the rally at UofT, we joined with thousands of other students across the GTA at Queen's Park.

I've only been elected for a short amount of time, but everyone has been very welcoming. I've spent most of my time getting acquainted with the office, and my responsibilities. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better, and working together on our goals for this year.