



## University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union Board of Directors (General Council) Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 26 October 2016

### 1. Meeting Comes to Order at TIME 6:17 p.m.

Meeting is called by Elizabeth Eng, who is temporarily chairing until the new chair is appointed at this meeting.

#### a. Equity Statement

#### b. New Chair Appointment – Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner)

**MOTION B-114-16: BIRT the Chair Nominating Committee appoints Evan Rosevear as General Council Chair. Move by Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner), Seconded by Suzanne Narain (Civics and Environment Commissioner). MOTION B-114-16 CARRIES Unanimously.**

Evan Rosevear takes over as Chair.

#### c. Adoption of Agenda

**Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner):** Asks that the agenda be amended to include the following items under Unfinished Business:

- Appoint Division 4 representative to the Finance Committee
- Appoint Division 4 representative to the Defence Committee
- Closing of the Legal Defense Fund.

**MOTION B-115-16: BIRT the General Council of the Union / Board of Directors adopts the agenda as amended. Moved by Alexandra Bauer (Medieval Studies), seconded by Adam Cowan (Spanish & Portuguese). MOTION B-115-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

#### d. Roll Call: guests, proxies, and all non-voting members

Alexandra Bauer – Medieval Studies Proxy  
Aaslina Malhotka – Munk School of Global Affairs Guest  
Chaim Katz – Biomedical Engineering Proxy

Baolinh Dang – Staff at QPIRG

Liwei Zhou– OPIRG

Sarah Cooper – MUNK School of Global Affairs Guest

Faraz Vahid Shahidi – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Committee

Nickie Van Lier - Geography and Planning Guest

Swapmika Rachapalli – Economics Proxy

**MOTION B-116-16: BIRT the General Council of the Union / Board of Directors extends speaking rights to guests. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2), seconded by Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner). MOTION B-116-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

e. Approval of Minutes and Roll Call – 27 September 2016

**MOTION B-117-16: BIRT the General Council approves the 27 September 2016 minutes as presented. Moved by Jacklyn Koyama (Psychology), seconded by Victoria Fischer (HAPSAT). MOTION B-117-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

f. Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Report\* Liwei Zhou (OPIRG)

- Highlighted that they have had a number of Action Groups dealing with issues such as Environmental Justice and Building Queer Communities, as outlined in the report.

- Also emphasized that OPIRG has been going through a number of staffing changes, and as a result is really in need of volunteers, so she encourages Council to volunteer or spread the word.

g. Unfinished Business

i. Finance Committee:

Confirmation of Vice Chair election

**Executive MOTION E-05-16: BIRT the General Council / Board of Directors of the Union appoints Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2) as the vice-chair of the Finance Committee starting immediately and ending on 30 April 2017. Moved by Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner). MOTION E-05-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

Appoint Division 3 & 4 representatives

- Conor Zeer-Wanklyn (Chemistry) volunteers for Division 3

- Lucy Bartlett (Occupational Science and Therapy) volunteers for Division 4

**Executive MOTION E-06-16: BIRT that Lucy Bartlett (Occupational Science and Therapy) is appointed as Division 4 Representative, and Conor Zeer-Wanklyn (Chemistry) is appointed as Division 3 Representative to the UTGSU Finance**

**Committee starting immediately and ending on 30 April 2017. Moved by Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner). MOTION E-06-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

ii. Caucus Chair Vacancies

- Looking for a volunteer to Chair Queer Caucus and Women & Trans People Caucus.

**VOLUNTEERS:**

Lauren Ash (Information) – Queer Caucus.

Jade Nauman (Drama) – Women and Trans People

iii. Defense Committee Member

Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner):

Minimal commitment for the committee. Meetings once a month in January. It's an ad hoc committee for legal defense against current litigation, and so is closed and confidential.

**Executive MOTION E-07-16: BIRT Lina Pulido (Public Policy & Governance) is appointed as Division 2 Representative and Rami Saab (Biomedical Engineering) is appointed as Division 3 Representative to the Defense Committee starting immediately and ending on 30 April 2017. Moved by Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner). MOTION E-07-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

iv. Closing of Legal Defense Fund

**Executive MOTION E-08-16: BIRT the General Council / Board of Directors of the Union close the Legal Defense Fund; and BIFRT the balance of \$1160.00 be reallocated to the unrestricted surplus funds. Moved by Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance & University Governance Commissioner). MOTION E-08-16 CARRIES Unanimously.**

2. Reports

a. Executive and Staff

Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner):

- Package includes her report

Andrea Constantino (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4):

- Highlighted her work on elimination of graduate summer gym fees and increasing funding for all members.

Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2):

- Highlighted that he has attended a lot of Orientation meetings.

Sarah Wheeler (Executive-At-Large):

- Since her appointment in July, she has been familiarizing herself with the Hart House Board of Stewards, and is working to increase graduate student involvement Grad Life and Grad Escape events.

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner):

- Stated she will talk about the CFS NDOA (Canadian Federation of Students, National Day of Action) in more depth later in the meeting.

Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance and University Governance Commissioner):

- Highlighted the work she's done prepping for the budget as well as completing the audit. She also has been working on the sexual violence policy with consultations on campus. The final feedback report has been submitted to the administration and she will be speaking to them next week.

Suzanne Narain (Civics and Environment Commissioner):

- Highlighted her meetings with the Civics, Environmental Justice and Sustainability, and BDS ad-hoc committees for strategic planning. She has also been working on the Harvest Day Freedom campaign and raising awareness of migrant workers in Ontario.

#### b. Course Unions

Lynne Alexandrova (OISE):

- The OISE Graduate student association has spent \$57,000 towards conference funding. They would like to reach out to other course unions to compare what other course unions use in terms of funding. Please contact her if you are interested.

#### c. Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner, Equity and Advocacy Committee Chair)

- The committee hasn't met yet, but will be soon and will be working on the legislative programs.

#### d. Governing Council, Graduate Education Council, CUPE 3902, and USW 1998

None

#### e. Canadian Federation of Students Meeting Highlights – Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner)

- Highlighted that the National Day of Action that is happening on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. This student activism will look different on each campus. People are doing discussions, events, social media campaigns. For UTGSU, there is currently an event page online that was sent out in the Digest today. You can join the event there. The rally itself will be at Sid Smith on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It begins at

12, will be serving breakfast from 11 – 12. The plan to join up with larger rally at Queens Park, which is the main rally organized by CFS. On campus, organization for this day has been done with the help of APUS, UTM, UTSC. There will be lunch and light snacks.

Cristina is asking for Council members to do one or all of the following three things:

1. Sign the petition: Paper petitions will be passed around. They are asking provincial and federal levels to make education free. It is a very attainable goal that has happened in other countries. This is something we should not give up on.
2. Help get the message out: Course union representatives, you know your members and departments best. So please share information about the NDOA and get people engaged. Please help spread the word. Share it with all your communication channels.
3. Get 10 other people to also help spread the word or come to a rally. If you can make this commitment, please write your name on the sheet at the front of the room.

Question: Can people sign the petition online? If so, could we have that information?

Answer: There isn't an online petition, but there is an online pledge to participate in the National Day of Action.

f. Motion to Receive Reports

**MOTION B-118-16: BIRT the General Council of the Union / Board of Directors receives all reports. Moved by Lynne Alexandrova (OISE) seconded by Bennett Axtell (Computer Science). MOTION B-118-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

3. Financial Business - Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance and University Governance Commissioner)

a. Finance Committee Report - Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies, Division 1 rep for Finance Committee)

Finance Committee has been meeting weekly over the past month to go over last year's financial statements and approve our current draft budget proposal. Following the completion of the audit and budget, they will present the final draft in December at the AGM. They will also be examining the policy and by-laws that currently govern finance committee, in order to address current ambiguities in the language.

**MOTION B-119-16: BIRT the General Council of the Union / Board of Directors receives the report of the Finance Committee. Moved by Jade Nauman (Drama) seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-119-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

b. Draft 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year Financial Statement – Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding, Divisions 1&2)

- Briefly went over the budget and the supporting comments included in the agenda bundle. Emphasized that this is a draft estimate and that until the audit is finished these numbers are subject to change. The finalized version will be presented at the December 2016 AGM.

Highlighted the following corrections:

1. Under FY2016 UTGSU Surplus Funds Report, under Unrestricted Surplus, the Allocation to Legal Defense Fund reads \$50,000.00. This should instead read \$35,000.00 dollars. This is also the case under the Restricted Fund, under Legal Defense Fund, under Opening Balance for column FY2016 Year End, where the Transfers In should read \$35,000, not \$50,000.
2. As a result of this, under the FY2016 UTGSU Surplus Funds Report, under Unrestricted Surplus, the Total Unrestricted Fund for the Year should read \$221,517.00, not \$206,517.00.
3. Also as a result of this, under FY2016 UTGSU Surplus Funds Report, under Restricted Fund, the Total Restricted Fund for the Year should read \$462,735.00 instead of \$376,573.00.

**MOTION B-120-16: BIRT the UTGSU General Council adopts the Financial Statement for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, cognisant of the fact that it is still in draft form and as amended by the oral presentation. Moved by Rachel Mazzara (Classics), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-120-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

c. Draft 2016 – 2017 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget - Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner Divisions 1&2)

- Highlighted that the report doesn't include last year's surplus. Briefly went over the proposed budget and commentary included in the agenda bundle.
- Stressed that the 2016-2017 numbers are all a conservative estimate for expenses and for revenue, so the committee doesn't actually foresee a \$46,826.00 deficit.

POI: The proposed motion isn't binding and Council has the opportunity to discuss it further at the AGM?

Answer: Yes

**Executive MOTION E-09-16: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors adopts the proposed budget for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2). MOTION E-09-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

d. Donations (through Finance Committee)

Lynne Alexandrova (OISE):

The Finance Committee Received a donation request from Nickie Van Lier to support the Chippewas of Thames First Nations' legal fund for their Supreme Court challenge against the Enbridge Line 9 pipeline. Last year we contributed \$5,000. This year, they are asking for \$5,000 again. As we are at the beginning of the fiscal year, the Committee recommends making an

initial donation of \$2,000. Future smaller donations can be made later. There will be court proceeding starting in November, so there is some urgency to the donation.

Nickie Van Lier (Geography):

Line 9 crosses every major watershed that feeds into Lake Ontario. It's a 40-year-old pipeline that was reversed and now carries tar sand bitumen which is heavier than conventional oil. It has to be pumped through at a higher rate and is cut with corrosive chemicals to help it flow. There is a significant risk of a leak and Enbridge has a horrible record of cleaning up spills. Bitumen is heavy and very carcinogenic. If it gets into the water, it can't really be removed. The reason they're taking this to court is because Enbridge put this proposal to the national energy board but didn't consult them which is unconstitutional. Only 5% of cases that seek leave at the Supreme Court are heard, so it's amazing that they will even be heard. Total cost is estimated at around 500,000 dollars and they're looking for around 360,00 dollars more. If they are successful and win their case, we all stand to benefit because it will protect our drinking water and advance indigenous rights.

POI: How much is in this budget line?

Answer: \$12,000 for the full year. We have already spent about \$3,000. If we approve this, there will be \$7,000 left for the 2017 fiscal year.

**MOTION B-121-16: BIRT the UTGSU contributes \$2000 from the Donations budget line to the Chippewas of Thames First Nations legal fund. Moved by Charlie White (Environmental Studies), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-121-16 CARRIES Unanimously.**

e. Staff Supervisor Pay – Brie Berry-Crossfield (Finance and University Governance Commissioner)

Look to approving the amount of pay for the Staff Supervisor. The amount listed is the same amount that was paid to the Staff Supervisor last year.

**Executive Motion E-10-16: BIRT the Staff Supervisor Honorarium be \$600 a month beginning 1 May 2016 until 30 April 2017. MOTION E-10-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Andrea Constantinof (Academics and Funding Commissioner Division 3&4) noted.**

4. Elections and Appointments – Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner)

a. Chief Returning Officer Nomination Committee

**MOTION B-122-16: BIRT the General Council of the Union / Board of Directors appoints Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner), Jade Nauman (Drama) and Ondrej Halgas (Biochemistry) to the Chief Returning Officer Hiring Committee. Moved by Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner), seconded by Branden Rizzuto**

**(Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2). MOTION B-122-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Jade Nauman (Drama) and Ondrej Halgas (Biochemistry) noted.**

b. Executive-at-Large (Seven-month Position) Elections

Sarah Cooper (Global Affairs):

Worked at a student union for 2 years. Main role was policy and governance. Revised policy to be in compliance with the Ontario Not-For-Profit Act. Also has communications and graphic design experience, as well as campaign building experience. She has run lots of workshops and events and is good at sticking to a budget.

Jade Nauman (Drama):

Interested in becoming a lot more active in the GSU. Has put herself forward for a number of positions. Wants to help different projects that are going on. She is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a PhD program in Theatre studies. Has been involved in student unions and student government for a long time.

Question: One of the duties would be serving on a minimum of two subcommittees. Which would you choose and why?

Sarah: Really likes the Policy Committee because she loves policy and thinks it's very important. Also likes the Women and Trans Peoples Committee because Trans students are often underrepresented.

Jade: She is currently on the Equity and Advocacy and Women and Trans Peoples Committees. Also involved in three other department specific committees.

Question: Tell us a little bit more about what you like about leadership? What world issues are important to you?

Sarah: Leadership is important but it can take a lot of different forms. She has sat on a board of governors at Carlton, serving a huge constituency. She has also served with small teams of volunteers. A good leader supports the strengths of the people they are working with. She is in global affairs so she thinks a lot of issues are really important. However, she wants to focus on lifting up the voices of people who don't always have them making the GSU a more inclusive and representative body.

Jade: Leadership is something she has been thinking about a long time. Her concept of leadership has shifted. It now mainly focuses on community. She wants to make sure that the spaces she is working in are part of the community and are spaces where people can come together and be heard. This can be tricky when you're dealing with a large group of people, but when you working together it's worth it.



**ELECTION RESULTS:**

Sarah Cooper (Global Affairs) is elected.

**MOTION B-123-16: BIRT Sarah Cooper (Global Affairs) is elected as UTGSU Executive-at-Large for approximately seven (7) months starting immediately and ending on the day after the Executive Visioning meeting in late May as per Bylaw 7.3.2; and BIFRT all ballots used in this election be destroyed. Moved by Andrea Constantino (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4), seconded by Suzanne Narain (Civics and Environment Commissioner). MOTION B-123-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Sarah Wheeler (Executive-At-Large) noted.**

5. Legislative Program - Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner)

a. Overview of Process

The legislative program describes the actions and programs that each committee will endeavor to achieve and what they will be held accountable to. Committees are open for you to join, so please join any committee that interests you.

b. Civics Committee – Suzanne Narain (Civics and Environment Commissioner)

One of their key priorities this year is to increase voter turn-out in the UTGSU election and to bring the elections to an online forum and format to increase participation.

c. Environmental Justice & Sustainability Committee - Suzanne Narain (Civics and Environment Commissioner)

Will be focusing on transportation issues, especially affordable passes. The TTC is phasing out cash and tokens and will be moving towards Presto. They want to advocate for and support a low-income affordable pass for students.

d. Equity & Advocacy Committee – Cristina Jaimungal

Will present at the next council meeting.

e. Mental Health Committee (Grad Minds)

None

f. Policy & Operations Committee – Elizabeth Eng (Internal Commissioner)

Will be focusing on becoming compliant with the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. This will involve a lot of work for this committee. If you are interested in learning more about policy and operations, please consider joining.

g. Research, Education & Governance Committee – Sarah Wheeler (Executive-At-Large)

Have been focused on the elimination of graduate summer gym fees. Losing access to the gym over the summer is not good, especially given the positive benefits of exercise. They are trying to make sure this doesn't become a new fee. Also they are working with the conflict resolution centre to implement a peer to peer mentoring program in which you will have grad students trained in active listening helping other students.

h. Motion to approve 2016 - 2017 Legislative Program

**MOTION B-124-16: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors adopts the Legislative Program, as presented, for the 2016 - 2017 academic year, with a dispensation for the Equity and Advocacy Committee to report at the subsequent meeting. Moved by Lynne Alexandrova (OISE), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-124-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

6. Bylaw and Policy

a. Ad-hoc Committee Policy

There was a policy from last meeting that was referred to the Policy and Operations Committee for clarity on the interpretations made by the chair at the last meeting.

The committee has concluded that the ad-hoc committee policy doesn't need any amendments. Upon reviewing the policy and the motions that surrounded this particular ad-hoc committee, the Chair was correct in stating that because the AGM created this committee, the Council cannot disband this group, However, the Chair was incorrect in saying that it couldn't be disbanded as an ad hoc committee.

**MOTION B-125-16: BIRT the Board of Directors of the Union receives the report of the Policy and Operations Committee for the Ad-hoc Committee policy. Moved by Eriks Bredovskis (History, seconded by Jacklyn Koyama (Psychology). MOTION B-125-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

7. University-wide Graduate Census - Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2)

- Wants to form an ad-hoc committee to launch a university-wide census to gather information on a variety of topics.
- Looking for 4 people who are willing to devote themselves to this project from each division. Over the next year, they will facilitate the process of creating this census and delivering it.

**MOTION B-126-16: BIRT the General Council / Board of Directors strikes the Graduate Student Census Ad-hoc Committee effective immediately and tasked with implementing a university-wide graduate students' census; BIFRT the results be formulated into a report to be published online and presented at the 2017 UTGSU AGM; BIFRT the Graduate Student Census Ad-hoc Committee be composed of five members; one chair (voting member) and one UTGSU Member from each of the four UTGSU divisions; BIFRT Branden Rizzuto be appointed as chair of the Graduate Student Census Ad-hoc Committee effective immediately until 31 August 2017; and BIFRT the Graduate Student Census Ad-hoc Committee be allocated a budget of \$2000 from the unallocated surplus fund for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1&2), seconded by Alexandra Bauer (Medieval Studies). MOTION B-126-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Branden Rizzuto noted.**

Committee Volunteers:

Division 1: Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies)

Division 2: Madeleine Hicks (Geography and Planning)

Division 3: Boone Tensuda (Aerospace)

Division 4: Susmita Sarkar (Physiology)

**MOTION B-127-16: BIRT the General Council appoints the individuals above as divisional representatives to the Graduate Student Census Ad-hoc Committee effective immediately until 31 August 2017. Moved by Charles Dalrymple-Fraser (Philosophy), seconded by Sarah Wheeler (Executive-At-Large). MOTION #B-127-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies) noted.**

8. Funding Complaint Process - Andrea Constantino (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4)

- The purpose of this complaint process is to allow graduate students to bring forward complaints about the interpretation, implementation or compliance by the university, faculty and/or graduate units on students' individual funding packages.
- There is currently no formal process for this. The current proposal for this complaint process has been approved by SGS and their department.

Question: do we currently have a funding complaint committee?

Answer: No. By adding this committee to the job-descriptions of the Academics and Funding Commissioners, however, it will ensure that this issue is addressed.

**MOTION B-128-16: BIRT General Council recommends that the Policy and Operations Committee add Funding Complaint Process to the official job descriptions of the Academic and Funding Commissioners, as found in the**

**Bylaw and Policy documents. Moved by Andrea Constantinof (Academics and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 3&4), seconded by Sarah Wheeler (Executive-At-Large). MOTION B-128-16 CARRIES unanimously.**

9. Any Other Business

Lynne Alexandrova (OISE): There is a petition about McGill University being on Indigenous Land and benefiting from funding for their First Peoples' House. The meeting of their undergraduate student union is happening on November 7, 2016. The groups challenging this would appreciate support, so please sign the petition.

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner): Please grab some petitions regarding free education to take to your members.

10. Next Meeting – Tuesday 15 November at 18:10 in Banting Institute, room 131

**MOTION B-129-16: BIRT the General Council meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Moved by Simon A Linge Johnsen (Earth Sciences), seconded by Marina Dumont-Gauthier (Art). MOTION B-129-16 CARRIES unanimously. Abstention by Lynne Alexandrova (OISE) noted.**

Evan Rosevear  
Chair

Samantha Larocque  
Secretary