



Civics Committee Meeting Highlights

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2015
Location: UTGSU Executive Office, 16 Bancroft Ave
Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm
Chair: Nickie Van Lier, Civics & Environment Commissioner
Vice-Chair: Philip Baiden, Academics & Funding Commissioner 1&2

If you cannot attend this meeting, but have ideas you want to share or you'd like to be added to the Civics Committee list serve, please email civics@utgsu.ca.

Priorities for the year:

The Committee discussed a number of possible directives, including a focus on the federal and GSU elections as part of the Legislative Program.

Federal Elections: “We Vote UofT” event being co-sponsored with the University of Toronto Faculty Association to engage graduate student voters

GSU Officer Elections: portfolio-based information sessions with current Executives before the nomination period for members interested in running; a social event for members to discuss democracy on campus and to liaise with candidates; hiring and organizing elections promoters to engage voters during the elections.

Visibility of the GSU: increasing visibility of the Union in an effort to increase member engagement (and subsequent voter turnout during elections); tabling; voter survey polling members on reasons why the vote/don't vote in the GSU elections, possible barriers to voting, etc.

Potential Partnerships: supporting TTC riders in their ‘route captain’ initiative; partnering with the International Students’ Caucus to organize a panel or screening on the refugee crisis; partnering with campus or community groups who engage newcomers; researching how newcomers experience the city, what resources they need and/or have access to, how they move throughout the city; engaging newcomers through art projects; citizen-led walks with newcomers to introduce them to historical, cultural, etc. aspects of different Toronto neighbourhoods;

Next meeting time:

The committee would like to find a fixed meeting time. Nickie will send out a doodle poll to find a fixed time, and the committee will reassess at the next meeting.