



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
Board of Directors (General Council) Meeting Minutes
Wilson Hall (New College) Room 1017
Monday, September 24 2018**

6:40 PM - Meeting will come to order in Wilson Hall, Room 1017

1. Orientation for General Council and Course Union Representatives (6:15PM to 6:40PM)
2. Meeting Comes to Order at 6:26 PM

- a. Equity Statement

Equity statement was read by members of General Council

- b. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: B-46-18. BIRT (Be it resolved that) the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors adopt the September 2018 Council Meeting Agenda as presented. Moved by Henry Ssali (OISE), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-46-18. CARRIES unanimously.

- c. Introduction of Council Chairperson
Internal Commissioner Lynne Alexandrova -- acting Chairperson
- d. Roll Call and Introductions; Council Representatives, Commissioners and Staff

Executive Committee:

Christopher Ball (Academics and Funding 1 & 2 Commissioner)
Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academics and Funding 3 & 4 Commissioner)
Leonardo José Uribe Castaño (Civics and Environment Commissioner)
Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner)
Branden Rizzuto (Finance Commissioner)
Sam Stead (University Governance Commissioner)
Lynne Alexandrova (Internal Commissioner)

Staff:

Pam Asprey (Office Assistant)

David Eaton (Executive Director)

Selah Edlington (Communications & Promotions Coordinator)

Gail Fernando (Membership and Advocacy Coordinator)

Nusrat Huq (Finance Administrator)

Guests

Alexandre Milovanoff – International Student Caucus Representative

Lida Langroudi (CSB) – ISC

Hamish Russel (CUPE3902)

Patrick Garon-Sayegh (Law) – Board of Appeal Candidate

Proxies

Daniel Hidru (Computer Science)

Samantha Kikenshaw (Department of Industrial Science)

Motion: B-47-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors extend speaking rights to the above mentioned Graduate Students. Moved by Evelyn Popiel (Molecular Genetics), seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace). MOTION B-47-18 CARRIES. 1 Against.

e. Approval of Minutes (April and June 2018 Council Minutes)

Alexandre Milovanoff (ISC) – My name is used incorrectly in the April 30th minutes along with somebody else's statements, on page 7. Actually, I was not present at the meeting by then.

Chairperson: For the record, you're saying that you had left by the time another person made statements which in the minutes are attributed to you. Your report as ISC rep at the beginning of the meeting is correctly recorded.

Is there anyone in the room who was present at the April 30 meeting and can confirm the name of the person who spoke, not Alex Milovanoff?

Leonardo (Environment and Civics Commissioner) Amin was the speaker, and the minutes should be amended accordingly. I'll look up the last name at the end of the meeting, and provide it for the minutes. [Amin Kamaledin]

Motion: B-48-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the April 2018 Council Minutes as amended. Moved by Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academics and Funding 3 & 4), Seconded by, Allison Wallis (Global Affairs). MOTION B-48-18 CARRIES. 1 Opposed, 4 abstentions.

Motion: B-49-18. BIFRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the June 2018 Council Minutes as presented. Moved by Daniel Pepler (Aerospace), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-49-18. CARRIES. 1 opposed, 3 abstentions.

f. Unfinished Business

Chairperson: Since this is the first meeting of the year, there is no unfinished business and we can move to the next item.

3. Reports

a. Executive Priorities and Reports

Chris (Academics and Funding 1&2) – The executive priorities for the year are included in the PowerPoint presentation. Social Sciences (Division 2) and Humanities (Division 1) students may approach Chris for confidential academic support and assistance navigating various departmental issues.

Sophie (Academics and Funding 3&4) – Issues and anyone seeking advice can go to Sophie for Students in Life (Division 4) and Physical Sciences (Division 3). She is particularly invested in increasing accessibility of our Current UTGSU building.

Leonardo (Civics and Environment) – He advocates for campus sustainability and engagement. Two main tasks in these efforts include transit (UPASS for grad students) and creating more coherent engagement between environmental groups on campus.

Cristina (External Commissioner) – Cristina chairs the Equity and Advocacy Committee. Her role involves campaign advocacy work, lobbying various institutions as well as the provincial and federal government. She has open ears to any concerns students may have, and wants to engage with students on these issues.

Branden (Finance Commissioner) – Branden chairs the Finance committee that works on policy relating to finance, donations requests, conference bursaries, and awards. He also works with the finance office with respect to day-to-day operations and the UTGSU budget and audit.

Sam (University Governance Commissioner) – She is our liaison with the University Administration. She provides a graduate student voice amongst the administrative bodies of the university. Among other projects, she will be working with them on the University's sexual violence policy.

Lynne (Internal Commissioner) – Her top priority is building community amongst graduate students. As Internal Commissioner, she chairs the Policy and Bylaw Committee, and invites interested students to email to join the Committee at

internal@utgsu.ca. As our link to course unions, she invites course union reps on Council to keep in mind that the Executive will be looking for proposals for Agenda items two (2) weeks before council meetings, and for draft motions one (1) week before. If course unions are working on their constitutions she advises to keep in mind that, after a course union approves the changes internally, they become official once the Internal Commissioner receives the new constitution edition for the UTGSU records.

Please visit the UTGSU website for more info about standing committees, ad-hoc committees, and caucuses.

b. Course Unions

Samantha (Physiotherapy) – SGS is offering a summer gym bursary. Samantha is looking for support with a letter that is written by her, in order to extend this bursary beyond only research stream Phd students, to include unfunded and professional degree students. Please contact her at this email address:

Samantha.triemstra@mail.utoronto.ca

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

Crisitna (External Commissioner) – The Equity and Advocacy Committee is holding its first meeting on Sept 27th at OISE, 6th Floor. For more information and/or to be put on the listserv contact her at external@utgsu.ca or email info@utgsu.ca.

Cristina explained that she is also the liaison for the Race and Ethnicity Caucus, Students for Barrier-Free Access, and the Graduate Mental Health Advocacy Committee (Grad Minds). She encourages members to get involved and highlighted that these groups are active and highly involved in campaign advocacy work.

Sam (Governance) – The Queer Caucus is having their first event at Duke's Refresher on Sept 27th, 2018.

Leo (civics) – Please consider joining the Civics Committee and the Environment and Sustainability Committee, for which he is the chair.

As Internal Commissioner Lynne works with the Policy and Operations Committee. Among other updates, for several years now the Union has been planning to adapt its structures to comply with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). It was introduced in 2010, has been updated several times and, from what she has researched, is expected to become law in early 2020. FYI, there is the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA), which is already in force. There are other students' unions in Ontario that have filed articles of continuance under the CNCA, for this administrative reason – it is already law, which has been in place for a few years now. The POC during this past summer was leaning toward recommending changing

jurisdictions from ONCA to CNCA. Council will have to make this decision on what is best for our Union. She is also the liaison for the Professional Graduate Students' Caucus. This Caucus is looking for new Executive Members, so please keep this in mind, especially if you are in a professional degree, please consider joining and leading, and send Lynne an email.

Henry Ssali (OISE) – The OISE GSA Executive conducted a survey, 83 students participated in the survey. The GSA Executive wanted to know how interested Graduate students would be in student governance and how available they would be to engage. Regarding the causes for low or no participation, students were polled for a number of personal and institutional factors at play.

Chairperson: This is a very valuable survey, which can serve other course unions. In the interest of time, let's notify the GSA Executive that it is worth posting the survey in detail on the OISE GSA website, and submitting the link to be sent to the UTGSU Digest, to inform the wider membership.

- d. Governing Council, Graduate Education Council, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 3902, United Steel Workers (USW) 1998

Hamish Russel (CUPE 3902) gave an introduction, they have a new office.

- e. Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Meeting Highlights

Cristina Jaimungal (External Commissioner) – Part of her role is liaising with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). CFS is a UTGSU levy group which advocates for students at the Provincial and Federal levels. There are over 650,000 student members across Canada. Cristina highlighted what the CFS is, three provincial-specific campaigns: i. Fight the Fees ii. Fairness for Students iii. Mental Health. She also reported that the UTGSU Executive Committee put forth two motions at the national level that align with the UTGSU mental health priority and our equity mandate: (1) Motion one asked CFS to revitalize the campaign and consult with other locals and community organizations across the country to strengthen our efforts and (2) motion two asked CFS to endorse and financially contribute to the Decolonizing Conference 2018. Both motions carried unanimously at the CFS National Annual General Meeting.

- f. Motion to Receive Reports

Mick Marberry (German): [To the Internal Commissioner] there is no rush to implement ONCA, because previous governments haven't been that interested in it. There are also timelines built into the legislation once it is adopted, so we can plan for later dates.

Robert F (Physics):

Q1: Curious if there has been talk at CFS about fight the fees day of action?

Q2: Is there any planned action against the policies that are being put in place by the Ford Government?

Cristina Jaimungal (External)

A1: We participated in a national and a provincial day of action.

A2: Some examples of actions against the Ford Government and political advocacy in general include, but are not limited to petitions, outreach, statements, open letters, rallies, and lobbying. The upcoming date for the next day of action will be announced, but it is usually in January or February. We will make sure to provide the dates and information for the days of action and communicate information on coalition working groups as we receive them.

Motion: B-50-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors receives all reports. Moved by Danielle Alvares (LMP), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-50-18 CARRIES, 1 opposed, 2 abstain.

4. Financial Business

a. Notice of Conference Bursary Policy Amendments

Branden (Finance) – The conference bursary is a \$250 award for members who are attending or presenting at academic conferences. Two x 64 bursaries are awarded each year (2 cycles per year). These are spread equally across funded and unfunded students. Over the last 4 months, the finance committee has revisited the policy and has made some amendments. This is official notice that at the next Council meeting we will be debating these changes. Council has been given the original policy with the amendments in red, and then a final copy including the changes. Changes include moving to three 4-month cycles rather than two 6-month cycles. The Finance Commissioner and the Finance Committee also propose a reduction in the number of bursaries from 128 to 120. This is already an increase from 100 in April. Half a month (2 weeks) will also be the amount of time to apply, rather than a full month. They have also added a clause that Finance Committee members can't apply. This was always in practice, but will now be reflected in policy. The Finance Committee also added a mandatory filing with the Finance Office; the list of conference bursary recipients will always be kept in the Finance Office. This hard copy will be available for review upon request by any member, by appointment.

Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace)

Q: Is it just for academic conferences, or professional conferences as well?

Branden (Finance)

A: This is up to the Finance Committee to determine what is considered a "conference", but "professional" conferences have been included in the past.

Adiv Paradise (Astronomy and Astrophysics)

Q: Will there be a change in the amount of money because you're changing the number of bursaries?

A: No.

Kenneth Williams (LMP)

Q: Is this still lottery?

A: Yes.

b. Donation Requests

The Finance Committee needs 3 of 4 divisional representatives to approve a donation request. Because they only have two representatives at this time they need approval from Council. Usually they could do this on their own (up to \$400). [According to the bylaws FC can approve up to \$400.00 for a donation without going to Council]

There are two donation requests. Branden quotes description from application "This is a one-day symposium, which aims to foster inclusion and celebration of the Queer Caribbean community in Toronto. This is a community event which brings together academics, leaders, and allies." The FC recommends \$400 of the \$1800 requested, and only \$400 has been used.[not sure what was said here]

Q: What is the total budget for donations?

A: Not sure yet, but last year was \$12,000.

Motion: B-51-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve a donation of \$400 towards the 'Breaking Silences' Caribbean Equality Project. Executive Motion. MOTION B-51-18 CARRIES. 5 abstentions.

Second donation request. This event already took place, because it needed to be approved at Council [we needed to wait for Council to approve]. It is the Indian Students Association Fall Mixer. The Finance committee is recommending a donation of \$400 of the \$750 amount requested.

Q: Was the event open to all students or only Indian students?

A: All Students

Q: Why only \$400 of the \$750?

Sheida Stevens (Chemical Engineering)

Q: If they have \$750 of revenue what are we funding?

A: It was actually what they asked for/were anticipating.

Q: Where is this \$400 amount coming from?

Siddhant Saxena (Rotman)

Q: There was a \$5 registration fee charged, so there must be revenue missing?

Daniel Halverson (HAPSAT)

Q: Do we have accurate figures for what this group is requesting?

Branden (Finance Commissioner)

A: They asked for \$750, we knew they had charged admission in the past, hence the \$400 amount. When asked if they would be charging for the event, they said they would not, but may have decided they had to because the donation did not get approved before the event took place.

Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace) Proposes motion to amend the motion, then accepts advice to withdraw it, for simplicity.

Mick Marberry (German) – In the description it states that they could make it free [admission] if they received funding from the UTGSU.

Motion: B-52-18 BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors moves that the approval of a donation of \$400 towards the Indian Graduate Students' Association 2018 be tabled until they provide the UTGSU with the exact figures. Moved by Adam Hill (OISE);

Ammendment to the Motion: Branden Rizzuto

BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors table the motion to approve a donation of \$400 towards the Indian Graduate Students' Association 2018 Fall Mixer until the October General Council meeting. Moved by Adam Hill (OISE), Seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace) MOTION CARRIES, 2 opposed Aris S (physics), Robert F (physics)

BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors table the motion to approve a donation of \$400 towards the Indian Graduate Students' Association 2018 Fall Mixer until the October General Council meeting. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance Commissioner), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis. MOTION B-52-18 CARRIES AS AMMENDED, 4 abstentions.

c. Course Union Head Grants

Branden (Finance Commissioner) There is a formula to determine the amount each course union receives based on the number of students that are in your Course Union. To receive your head grant you must submit the proper form to Gail (Membership and Advocacy Coordinator) to receive your full amount for the Fall. Course Union reps are expected to attend all of the first 6 meetings, but at a minimum need to attend 4 of the

first 6 meetings to receive 100% of the second HG installment. This information is available in the Course Union Manual that you received.

Daniel Pepler (Aerospace)

Q: With multiple reps, do all voting reps need to be there? Can those present vote on behalf of those absent?

A: Only one rep needs to attend to meet that quorum.
You can only hold one vote at a time.

Jacob Ritchie (Computer science)

Q: Is there a mechanism to check if you leave half-way through?

A: No, but please don't do that.

Michael Saikali (Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Q: What other factors go into the head grant?

A: It is largely based off of head count, but the formula is quite complicated – right now it's not very transparent as to how this figure is calculated. This is something we are working on.

Lisa Labine (Scarborough)

Q: When you have a proxy, does this count as attendance?

A: Yes. Please direct additional questions to email finance@utgsu.ca

d. Council Appointments – Finance Committee Representatives for Divisions 3 and 4

Finance Committee has 7 reps on it. Two Executive Committee members (Chair and Vice-Chair) and four reps, one from each of the 4 SGS divisions, and the finance administrator.

Chairperson invites nominations.

Sarah Murphy (nutritional sciences) nominates herself for the Division 4 spot. No nominations for Division 3.

Motion: B-53-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee; Division 4, Sarah Murphy (Nutritional Sciences) Moved by Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academics and Funding 3&4), seconded Ramona Konantz (Art). MOTION B-53-18 CARRIES unanimously.

Chairperson: The election for a Division 3 rep will be deferred to the October 23 Council meeting.

5. Notice of Motion for October Council Elections and Appointments
 - a. Executive-at-Large Elections (EAL)

Chairperson: There will be EAL elections; there used to be two of these positions, but one, which used to come up for election in April, was removed when a new University Governance Commissioner position was created last April. You will receive notice of this election as a reminder in advance of the next meeting.

b. Chief Returning Officer Hiring Committee

6. Board of Appeal Appointments

a. Chairperson position nomination: Patrick Garon-Sayegh (Law)

Patrick (Law) – I am a second-year doctoral student at the Faculty of Law, and was recruited by the former Chair. I feel I am reasonably qualified, through 6 years of law practice (litigation). I am familiar with dispute resolution within municipalities and also am familiar with administrative bodies.

Motion: B-54-18 BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors of the Union appoint the following individual as Board of Appeal Chair for the Academic Year of 2018-2019 - Patrick Garon-Sayegh (Law); Moved by Sarah Murphy (Nutritional Sciences), seconded by Daniel Pepler (Aerospace) MOTION B-54-18 CARRIES unanimously.

b. Vice-Chairperson position – no nominations.

Chairperson: The Vice-Chair position will be re-announced and appointment deferred to the October 23 Council meeting.

7. Levy Updates

a. Toronto Sustainable Food Cooperative

David Eaton (Executive Director) – A motion will be presented to the October Council meeting regarding the status of the Toronto Sustainable Food Cooperative Levy.

8. Standing Committees of General Council

a. Notice of Motion for Legislative Programs 2018-2019

Chairperson: Standing Committees at the start of each Council year prepare so-called Legislative Programmes to follow throughout the year. Please look out for these documents in your next mail-out.

b. Ad-Hoc Committees

Chairperson – We have one ad-hoc committee currently, the Census Ad-Hoc Committee. This committee requires renewal every Fall, according to the bylaws.. Branden Rizzuto started this Committee, and Jackie took over from him.

Jacklyn Koyama, Chair of Census Committee – We put together a grad student census to get a handle on the issues grad students face, and be able to use concrete data. [At the Chairperson's prompt] census@utgsu.ca is the contact email, if you would like to get involved.

Motion: B-55-18 BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors of the Union renews the UTGSU Census ad-hoc Committee for the 2018– 2019 academic year. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance Commissioner), seconded by Eriks Bredovskis (History). MOTION B-55-18. CARRIES unanimously.

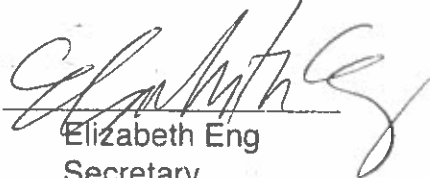
9. Caucus Chair Vacancies
 - a. Women and Trans People Caucus

No nominations. Member mentions they know of someone who'd be interested.

10. Any Other Business
11. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018 in Sidney Smith Hall Room 2117.
12. Adjournment – 8:55 PM

Motion: B-56-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors of the Union adjourns the meeting. Moved by Adam Hill (OISE), seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott. Motion B-56-18 CARRIES.


Lynne Alexandrova
UTGSU Internal Commissioner


Elizabeth Eng
Secretary

