



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
Board of Directors (General Council) Meeting Minutes
Sidney Smith Hall Room 2117
Tuesday, October 23 2018**

5:45 PM - Registration opens; pizza dinner will be served on a first come, first served basis

6:15 PM - Meeting will comes to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order

- a. Equity Statement
- b. Adoption of Agenda¹

MOTION: B-58-18. BIRT (Be it resolved that) the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors adopt the October 2018 Council Meeting Agenda as presented. Moved by Alexandre Milovanoff (Civil Engineering) seconded by Zivit Fesler (Physiology). MOTION B-58-18 CARRIES, 1 Opposition.

- c. Introduction of Council Chairperson
- d. Roll Call and Introductions; Council Representatives, Commissioners and Staff

Executive Committee Members

Christopher Ball (Academics and Funding Commissioner 1&2)

Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academics and Funding Commissioner 3&4)

Branden Rizzuto (Finance Commissioner)

Sam Stead (University Governance Commissioner)

UTGSU Staff

Evan Rosevear (Council Chair)

Elizabeth Eng (Council Secretary)

David Eaton (Executive Director)

Pamela Asprey (Office Assistant)

¹ 1.b. Draft Motion: BIRT (Be it resolved that) the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors adopt the October 2018 Council Meeting Agenda (as presented or amended).

Gail Fernando (Resource Coordinator/Fieldworker)
Selah Edlington (Communications & Promotions Coordinator)
Nusrat Huq (Finance Coordinator)

e. Approval of Minutes (September 2018 Council Minutes)

Guests

Gurdeep Singh (ISC)
Jeff Ross, First Nations House
Katerina (BDS)
Fernando (EAL Candidate)
Marissa (EAL Candidate)
Jessica (Regeneis U of T)
Alex (Regensis U of T)
Mike (Regenesis U of T)

MOTION: B-59-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors extends speaking rights to the above listed individuals. Moved by Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academic and Funding 3&4), Seconded by Aris Spourdalakis (Physics). MOTION B-59-18 CARRIES.

MOTION: B-60-18. BIRT the UTGSU Council / Board of Directors approve the September 2018 Council Minutes as amended. Moved by Allison Wallace (Global Affairs), seconded by Ramona Konantz (Art History). MOTION B-60-18 CARRIES, 2 abstentions.

Debate: Adam Hill (OISE) With respect to the motion about whether to approve a donation for an event, the term exact figures is not specified (ie., revenue, profit, etc.)

A: The original motion was written that way, but this motion was tabled will be dealt with today

f. Unfinished Business

2. Reports

a. Executive Reports

Branden Rizzuto (Finance) – November 1st is when the conference bursary cycle opens. You will receive information this week, and the cycle will be open for two weeks. The graduate community development fund will also be opening this week. Keep an eye out on UTGSU Social Media networks.

Lynne Alexandrova (Internal Commissioner) – Outstanding invitation for the Policy and Operations committee, if anyone is interested in joining (backlog of updates, CNCA). There are several projects outlined in the Legislative Program. Lynne wished to share with council that she is a person with a disability and has established a website to communicate her reports, which she requires accommodations with respect to deadlines

b. Course Unions

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

Robert (BDS Chair) – Legislative Program has been submitted. Briefly, they are a political committee that aims to divest the university of using companies that support war and human rights violations. They have an event BDS101 which will provide information on why this kind of work is important.

Gurdeep (ISC Chair) – Biggest caucus under UTGSU, planning to organize over 24 events, including health insurance workshops, welcome parties, movie nights, UTMOST. They are requesting that Department Reps email the international students in their departments with the contact information for the International Students Caucus, so that they can get in touch with them. Email: isc@utgsu.ca

Jackie (Census Chair) – this ad-hoc committee has been renewed. Looking for more members. Time commitment is 1.5 hours every two weeks. Specifically looking for a rep from division 2, so that they have representation from each division. Looking to gather info about the Graduate Student experience, to be able to present this data to the university when trying to ask for things. census@utgsu.ca

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

e. CFS Highlights

Cristina was unable to attend the meeting.

f. Centre for Women and Trans People – Levy Presentation

Unable to attend.

g. Motion to Receive Reports

MOTION: B-60-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors receives all reports. Moved by Bennett (Computer science), seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace). MOTION B-60-18 CARRIES. 1 abstention.

3. Financial Business

a. Conference Bursary Policy Motion

Branden Rizzuto (Finance) – Attached are summary of changes, as well as the detailed changes. Branden gave a brief overview of what the conference bursary is, similar to last meeting.

- (Moving from a 6-month cycle to 4-month cycle). Knowing whether you're going to a conference 6 months ahead of time is a long time – this also aligns with the SGS bursary. Money will also go to students faster.
- Shorten application to 2 weeks – even though it is open for the whole month, they all come at the beginning and end of the cycle. This way they can get through the cycle quicker. This way they can offer more folks if other deny their awards
- Clause added that finance committee members can't apply
- Tightened up some language that was confusing
- Mandatory filing of recipients with the finance office. Names are published in a list in the finance office.

Q: Adam Hill (OISE) – how did you arrive at the verb “administered”?

A: Branden Rizzuto (Finance) – entire process involves the finance committee, stays within the committee. They effectively administrate this bursary.

Q: Siddhant Saxena (Rotman) – Is this a reimbursement or awarded before conference?

A: Branden Rizzuto (Finance) – you get this info before the conference, and must submit documents to prove you went before getting a check.

Branden also clarified that there is a finite pool of funds for this bursary. The money is never lost if it is not distributed, as it is not part of the regular budget, but a restricted fund. The money will last longer with fewer bursaries essentially.

MOTION B-61-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve amendments to the Conference Bursary Policy. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance), seconded by Allison Wallace (Global Affairs). MOTION B-61-18 CARRIES. Noted abstention: Lynn Alexandrova.

b. Donation Requests

Branden Rizzuto (Finance). The Finance committee has no further requests. Tabled a motion for the fall mixer event held by the Indian Students Association. Branden reached out to them to get more information about their revenue for this event, so that they can talk about it this meeting. Reached out 3 or 4 times and have not received an updated revenue.

Motion: B-62-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve a donation of \$400 towards the Indian Graduate Students' Association 2018 Fall Mixer.

Lynn (Internal) – In favour of the motion. We have historically supported this nature of events. They are very close to a caucus in nature. They contribute in an important way as a group that deserves to receive our support.

Eligh (Aerospace) – moved to table this because we didn't have all the information. Thinks if they can't be bothered to respond to us in a month, they don't want this money.

Konstanze (Law) – have they provided any reasons for why they have not provided the requested documents?

MOTION: B-63-18. 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.

MOTION: B-64-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors tabled once more the motion to approve a donation of \$400 towards the Indian Graduate Students' Association 2018 Fall Mixer until the November 20th Council Meeting. Moved by cons Konstanze V. Schutz (Law), seconded by Justin Patrick (Political Science). **MOTION CARRIES**, with opposition and abstention. **Noted Abstentions:** Anna Cwikla (Religious Studies), Branden Rizzuto (Finance). **Noted Oppositions:** Aris Spourdalaku (Physics), Robert Fajbr (Physics), Royce (IHPME).

Debate

Adam Hill (OISE). Don't table the motion. They should have done their due diligence. We have already drawn this out and given them other opportunities. It's a great event but if they didn't have enough money, they should have let us know what more they needed.

Evan (chair) – if the motion to table passes we will re-open next meeting. If instead you think the considering the motion should be dealt with now, the motion to table should be rejected.

Branden (Finance) – clarification in the original application from the Indian Graduate Students association, they did explicitly state that they would have to charge money if they did not receive a grant.

Laura (Geography and Planning) – Let's exercise some kindness. Give them a hard deadline. Be clear on what we expect from them. It cost Branden some time, but otherwise won't cost us anything to give them another chance. Let's set clearer expectations and give them a shot, it's hard to organize events.

Lynn (Internal) – fine with tabling the motions for the reasons noted. General members don't always know how we operate. They applied in the summer before the event, and

because of the way council operates they had to wait for Finance Committee, and we did not have a Summer meeting, to give them this funding in advance of their event. **Emma White (Information)** – On Finance Committee. Review the application, at the time they received this. Before the meeting they had already shown a \$5 cover charge on their Event (social media).

c. Toronto Sustainable Food Co-operative Levy Motion

David (Executive Director) – update on the old Harvest Noon space (new colloquial name “Grad Loft”). There were health and safety concerns with Harvest Noon, and as a result the UTGSU’s occupancy agreement with the University of Toronto was in jeopardy. They were also inactive, and difficult to get in touch with. They were therefore removed as occupants. They have since cleaned the space, fixed security issues, changed the keys, and its used currently as a meeting space for events. Many groups have asked about using the space. It is under consideration of the Executive to move funding towards this space. Because this party who was receiving the levy is no longer existent, we need to close the levy. We have reached out to them on numerous occasions. We need a decision from council as to whether to cease collection from this levy.

Q: Bronwyn (Anthropology) – if we stop collection of levy, do we still have ownership/use of the space?

A: Yes.

Executive Motion: E-06-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors move to cease collection of the Toronto Sustainable Food Co-operative Levy. MOTION E-06-18 CARRIES, with opposition and abstentions. Noted opposition: Robert Fajbr. (Physics).

The money from this levy is currently in limbo but we will to talk to the university as to what we can do with the money. This is in the budget.

d. Financial Statements 2017-2018

Branden (Finance) – until the audit is completed, the actuals are estimates. Once the audit is completed and these are revised, they will be presented at the AGM. Draft is in 2018 package. Branden took GC through the financial statements.

MOTION BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves the draft Financial Statement for the 2017– 2018 fiscal year. Moved by Ramona Konantz (Art History), seconded by Adam Hill (OISE). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

e. Budget Proposal 2018-2019

MOTION: B-64-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors limits the amount of time for discussion to 30 minutes. Moved by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace) Bronwyn Frey (Anthropology). MOTION B-64-18 CARRIES.

Q: Konstanze (Law) – Equity access grant? What is it?

A: Braden (Finance) Baseline structure is the Course Union Grant (Conference and Academic Engagement Grant). This grant would support Course Unions if they want to hold campaigns or events that are centered around equity based issues. This is broad on purpose. Student groups could approach their Course Union, who could then apply for funding for equity based issues. We want within Departments to support students talking about these issues, rather than the groups who are already doing this kind of work (grassroots focus)

Adam Hill (OISE) – Why is the staff fund decreasing?

A: We have fewer staff

EXECUTIVE MOTION: E-07-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. MOTION E-07-18 CARRIES. Noted opposition: Zivit Fesler (Physiology)

4. Bylaw and Policy Amendments
 - a. Motion to Amend Policy O4

Branden (Finance) - Minutes of standing committees policies are not in agreement. Policy states they should be posted on the website, Bylaw states they should be retained in the UTGSU Offices. Executive needed to make a decision either way. Wanted to reconcile these differences. For some committees that are not open, there are confidential documents that should not be shared publicly. The new Policy and Bylaw outline what needs to be put online, what is accessible by appointment, and what should be kept confidential. This information is attached. There was also no deadline for when they (Committees) must submit minutes, and to whom.

EXECUTIVE MOTION: E-08-18. BIRT The UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve amendments to UTGSU Policy O4. MOTION E-08-18 CARRIES with abstentions. Noted abstention: Lynn Alexandrova (Internal)

5. Council Elections and Appointments
 - a. Executive-at-Large Elections

EAL Candidates

Heidi Giratallah – Pharmacology EAL

Georgia Grieve – Faculty of Information EAL

Fernando Mercado Malabet (Anthro) EAL

Justin Patrick (Political Science) EAL
Maryssa Barras (Anthropology) EAL
Gurdeep Singh (CSB) EAL
Susan Murray (OISE – adult education) EAL

Georgia – second year. RA at Guelph. Events and advocacy for students. Introvert by nature, very perceptive, a good listener. Looks forward to being more involved and learning more about the work of the Union

Fernando – second year PhD Anthropology. Wants to take a more active role with the UTGSU. Interested in environmental sustainability.

Justin – anti-authoritarian activist. Campaigned against this in all forms. Internal and political authoritarianism, important to help with how these groups are run. Wants to work on improving mental health services/resources.

Marissa - Anthropology worked with the students union in Newgroundland. Wants to get involved and do stuff. One of her goals is to increase transparency and accessibility, particularly with respect to funding packages.

Gurdeep – 3 examples of leadership. Co-president of grad student union, chair of ISC. 3 initiatives to improve mental health. Twice the number of events, more exec (ISC).

Kyle – Evan read statement

Heidi – masters in med chem in the us.

Susan Murray – Evan read statement

Questions

Robert (Physics) – should we mobilize to fight tuition fees and the current legislative agenda of the Ford government.

Georgia – would like to be better informed prior to answering. Research driven person.

Fernando – yes definitely

Justin – mobilize against tuitions. A number of tactics including to lobby politicians, communications. Coalition with communities across the province. Has experience leading activities in the field. Open protest vs political Campaigns. This is our education.

Maryssa – has a lot of feelings with respect to the Provincial Government. One of the places where students don't understand our power is as a collective we are the largest union in the Province. IF we choose to mobilize, we have a lot of power. Within the Ford government there is something beyond tuition e.g., the free speech policy. These are the kinds of things student unions should be involved in. Right to self-governance. Take advantage of this, we can be a loud voice.

Gurdeep – unless you ask you won't be given. Fees for International students has been reduced to domestic. The university runs on us, we drive the research and the publications. There should not be tuition fees for Grad students and we teach undergrads

Heidi – yes, but it is more complicated than this, it needs more people and thought.

Question 2: Austin (History) given a 6-month time frame what is one concrete thing you can do to instantiate positive change?

Heidi – harmony of the agenda, keeping things running smoothly, fill in gaps, prioritize what needs attention, and jump in.

Gurdeep – internal collaboration between departments.

Maryssa – funding packages, ambiguity on the part of the university.

Miscommunication. Understand your funding package doc for everyone

Justin – resource for publication. Publication is not inaccessible. Mental health policy is number 1 (elected student reps, students), second is resource for publication.

Fernando – assist the other members of the GSU executive. Help with existing programs. Environment. Equal opportunities for funding.

Georgia – create awareness around the union. Attend events, let students know what we do here.

Summations

Heidi – as a first year, other than orientation I haven't heard about what we do. This is the largest student union, should be more well known.

Gurdeep – nexus between domestic and international students. CSB co-pres, isc chair

Maryssa – president of student society, started an undergrad journal; where the financial document idea came from

Justin – I live for this, I study this. Reviews for a Canadian journal of political science.

Fernando – was on council last year. Enjoyed being part of the GSU. Wants to contribute to this amazing work they do.

Georgia – RA: face to face with students helping them, and communicating with the admin. Opportunity to learn grow and participate.

Dave overview of voting run down

- Guests may not vote
- 8 candidates
- Ranked ballot
- Online procedure will do this calculation.
- You MUST put 8 candidates or your ballot is spoiled

b. Chief Returning Office Hiring Committee

Konstanze (Law) previous elections committee member

Emma (Information) general council

Sophie (Academics and Funding 3&4) member of Executive Committee.

MOTION: B-65-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoints Konstanze V. Schutz (Law), Sophie McGibbon-Gardner (Academics and Funding 3&4), and Emma Findlay-White (Information), to the Chief Returning Officer Hiring Committee. Moved by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace), seconded by Sarah

Murphy (Nutritional Sciences). MOTION B-65-18 CARRIES with abstention from members being voted in.

c. Finance Committee- Division 3 Representative

Branden ran through these responsibilities.

Where does "UTSU" fall as a representative? Lisa is a chemistry graduate student, but the UTSU rep. Ruled that they are suitable to represent Division 3.

MOTION: B-66-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee;

- Division 3, Lisa Labine, (Chemistry - Scarborough GSAS).

Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance), seconded by Lynn Alexandrova (Internal)

MOTION B-65-18 CARRIES.

Maryssa Barras was the lead candidate.

MOTION: B-67-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint Maryssa Barras (Anthropology) as the UTGSU Executive-At-Large Commissioner until May 1st, 2019, and that the ballots be destroyed. Moved by Sarah Murphy (Nutritional Sciences), seconded Robert Fajbr (Physics). MOTION: B-67-18 CARRIES>

Debate:

Lynn (Internal) Didn't vote, most of the candidates are overqualified, this is a learning position. Rather than destroy the ballots, keep them on file, and mandate the Policy and Operations Committee to consider bring back the two positions for EAL

Sophie (AF 3&4) – pointed out destroying the ballots doesn't preclude having another election, if we decide to bring back the EAL. It makes more sense to have another vote.

Evan (Chair) mentions that the procedural validity of keeping ballots used for a specific vote for later decisions or appointments is questionable.

Motion to amend the motion

MOTION: B-68-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint Maryssa Barras from Anthropology as the UTGSU Executive-At-Large Commissioner until May 1st, 2019, and that the ballots be destroyed kept on file. Moved Lynn Alexandrova (Internal), seconded by Adam Hill (OISE). AMMENDMENT FAILS.

Return to motion on the table.

MOTION: B-69-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint Maryssa Barras (Anthropology) as the UTGSU Executive-At-Large Commissioner until May 1st, 2019, and that the ballots be destroyed. Moved by Sarah Murphy (Nutritional Sciences), seconded Robert Fajbr (Physics). MOTION B-70-18 CARRIES with abstention and opposition. Noted abstention: Adam Hill (OISE).

Evan thanked the candidates and congratulated Maryssa.

6. Board of Appeal Appointments
 - a. Vice-Chairperson²

Konstanze (reading a statement for the board of appeal chair Patrick) – Process of selecting candidates for Board of Appeals

- Panelists must be disinterested
- Randomly selected to avoid pre-existing views
- Provost controls the listservs

MOTION: B-70-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint the above mentioned individuals to the UTGSU Board of Appeals. MOTION B-70-18 CARRIES. With abstention. Noted abstention: Robert Prazeres (Linguistics).

7. Standing Committees of General Council
 - a. Motion for Legislative Programs 2018-2019³
 - i. Finance Committee

Branden gave an overview of their legislative Program (in package)

- ii. Policy and Operations Committee

Lynn gave an overview (in package)

- iii. Civics Committee
- iv. Environmental Justice and Sustainability Committee
- v. Divest Committee

Robert gave an overview (in package)

- vi. Grad Minds (Mental Health Committee)

Questions

Q: Robert (Physics) – question about Policy and Operations Program, points in item 7, student dissent and changes to the equity statement. What are they and why?

A: Lynn (Internal)– policy about dissent in the public domain, but not one about dissent within UTGSU Governance. Anti-oppression, decolonization policies. Rebuilding

² 6.a. Draft Motion: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors appoint (Name) from (Department) as Vice-Chair of the UTGSU Board of Appeals.

³ 7.a. Draft Motion: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors receives all legislative programs presented by UTGSU Standing Committees.

relationships – is there language that would guide us in a more comprehensive way towards an equitable society.

Sophie (AF 3&4) – (clarification for Council) Legislative Programs are not changes that have happened, they are summaries of the work that they want to do for the year.

- If you don't agree, you can refuse the Legislative Program.

MOTION: B-71-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves all legislative programs presented by UTGSU Standing Committees. Moved by Samantha Triemstra (Physical Therapy), seconded by Henry Ssali (OISE).

MOTION B-71-18 CARRIES.

Debate

Branden (Finance) – proposed an amendment

MOTION: B-72-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves all legislative programs presented by UTGSU Standing Committees. With the exception of the Policy and Operations Legislative Program.

BIRFT a revised version of the Policy and Operations Committee Legislative Program be presented at the November 20th General Council Meeting. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance), seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott (Aerospace).

MOTION B-72-18 CARRIES.

Debate

Branden (Finance)

P&O committee did not contribute to this. Minutes should be submitted, have not been. No meetings have taken place this month. Changing the name of the committee is not possible as outlined in the program. The executive does not support the legislative program of the P&O committee

Robert (Linguistics)– are there any members on the committee?

Yes.

Lynn (Internal) – working on paradigm shifts. Learning how to communicate radical ideas to the other Executives, which may not appear to be aligned with procedures. Consider the fact that this territory, Toronto, belonged to the Indigenous Peoples prior to European settlers. Art in the OISE lounge that represents this. We must think about other world views. Are we in breach of anything by considering these elections policies. The elections and referenda code are one text, they are the ones that update it from year to year. There are also clauses in the bylaw and policy that are under the purview of the Internal Commissioner. Any changes to the text is their job.

Sophie (AF 3&4) – reiterates that we're asking the committee to reconvene and present at the next meeting a new legislative program. We have to follow Bylaw and Policies. Consider asking them to make edits.

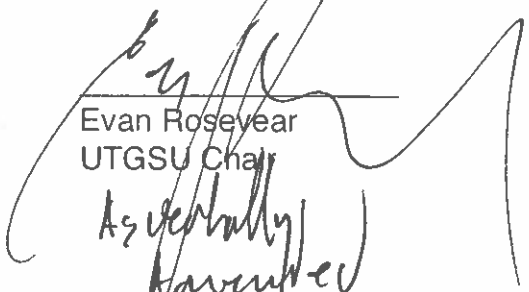
Lynn – to Sophie's last point – Building Committee. They both volunteered based on the current policies. The internal should chair this meeting. As a person with disability, she is determined to put on the table, to council, exec, and Policy and Operations, to make visible issues that are under the radar e.g., the mandatory leave of absence policy. You may know that the building is inaccessible. Sophie has a personal commitment to improve the building. And make it accessible. The Policy and Operations Committee deals with language.

Calls the question: Konstanze V. Schutz (Law)

AMMENDMENT BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves all legislative programs presented by UTGSU Standing Committees. With the exception of the Policy and Operations Legislative Program. BIRFT a revised version of the Policy and Operations Committee Legislative Program be presented at the November 20th General Council Meeting. Moved by Konstanze V. Schutz (Law), seconded by Aris Spourdalaku (Physics). MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.

MOTION: B-73-18. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approves all legislative programs presented by UTGSU Standing Committees. With the exception of the Policy and Operations Legislative Program. BIRFT a revised version of the Policy and Operations Committee Legislative Program be presented at the November 20th General Council Meeting. Moved by Branden Rizzuto (Finance), Seconded by Eligh Corchis-Scott. MOTION B-73-18 CARRIES with abstentions. Noted abstention: Emma White (Information)

8. Caucus Chair Vacancies
 - a. Women and Trans People Caucus
 - b. Professional Graduate Student Caucus
9. Any Other Business
10. Next Meeting – Tuesday November 20th, 2018 in Galbraith Building Room 248
11. Adjournment – Please join us in the GSU Pub, we will provide soft drinks and snacks. The pub will be open for purchase of beverages.


Evan Rosevear
UTGSU Chair


Liz Eng
UTGSU Secretary