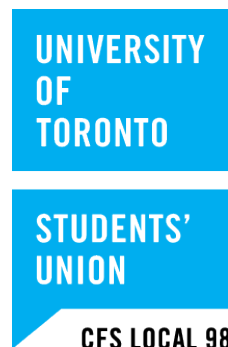


EXECUTIVE REPORT 2014/2015

July 25, 2014 | 16:00 | OISE 4414



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION

LOCAL 98, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

UTSU.CA | TWITTER @UTSU98 | FACEBOOK.COM/UTSU98

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Letter from the Executive Committee

Happy July!

Since we met last, the Executive Committee has been hard at work preparing all the materials and activities for UTSUFest 2014 as well as for the year ahead.

We celebrated World Pride in Toronto with the third annual and biggest ever Pride Picnic. We also built a UofT float and marched in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29.

In the past few weeks, we have also been doing outreach to inform members about our services. We have also begun holding our Commission meetings to set our priorities for the year.

Now that the Committees have been struck we have continuously been meeting to talk about services, policies, the budget and all the other things our Committees work on.

Thank you to all members of the Board of Directors who were able to attend this year's retreat, as we were able discuss our responsibilities and shape the work of our organization over the next year while also getting to know one another.

All the best,

University of Toronto Students' Union Executive Committee



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President

IN THIS REPORT:

1. Meeting with Vice-Provost, Students
2. Consultation on Board of Directors Structure
3. World Pride Report-Back
4. International Students' Orientation
5. Unpaid Internships
6. WUSC Student Refugee Program

1. VICE-PROVOSTS MEETING

On Tuesday, July 15, the Executive Committee met with the Vice-Provost, Students Jill Matus and members of her staff. This was an introductory meeting at which the Executive had the opportunity to talk about Union priorities for the year, including advocating for a fall reading week, for OHIP for international students and for a drop credit policy. Professor Matus indicated interest in investigating each of these items, and members of the Executive will be following up with her office and working with other members of the administration to achieve these goals. We also requested more support from the administration in waiving the fees charged by Faculties and Services to host Orientation events on campus. The Vice-Provost expressed that she was very impressed with Homecoming from the previous year and that she looks forward to what we come up with this year. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

2. CONSULTATION ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS STRUCTURE

On Monday, July 14, the Policy and Procedures Committee met for the first time. At this meeting, the Committee determined the process for consulting divisional societies, clubs, service groups and the general membership on changes to our Board structure. The Committee decided to host townhalls

in all of the divisions that we represent, in conjunction with representative student societies wherever possible. The Committee also decided to set up a meeting with each of our Service Groups to solicit their feedback, and to email all recognized campus groups and meet with any who were interested. The Committee also discussed hosting a clubs townhall.

I drafted a letter that was approved by the Committee and sent out to all of the divisional societies to request a meeting to discuss logistics for hosting townhalls for our mutual members and to hear their direct feedback. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

3. WORLD PRIDE REPORT-BACK

After many weeks of planning, the University of Toronto's contingent in World Pride was a great success! We worked with students, faculty and staff at the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office (SGDO) to organize a float in this year's parade, which was held on Sunday, July 30. This year's contingent was likely the largest ever, with dozens of queer, trans* and allied students marching in the parade.

This year's float featured a giant globe and an upside down rainbow triangle made of balloons, representing the Positive Space movement at the University of Toronto. The SGDO also provided matching T-shirts and booked a samba band, which was also on the float. Members of the Union also participated in the Trans* March on Friday, June 28 and the Dyke March on Saturday, June 29. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

President

4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ORIENTATION

We are working with the newly formed International Students' Association at the University of Toronto to organize an Orientation event. This event will include a barbecue on our lawn, and may include a giant water gun fight and other fun activities. We will also be able to relaunch the campaigns for OHIP for international students and the campaign to advocate for the right of international students to sit on Governing Council at this event, and get international students more involved. We will also reach out to the Centre for International Experience to collaborate on this event. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

5. UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

We are continuing our campaign to advocate for the rights of interns, including compensation, and for the federal and provincial governments to take substantive measures to address the high unemployment and underemployment rates for youth. In March, I gave testimony to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, which released a report entitled Youth Employment in Canada: Challenges and Potential Students. Several of the measures I advocated are recommended in the report, including changes to the federal labour code to protect interns, gathering data and monitoring the proliferation of unpaid internships and precarious work among youth, and working with the provinces and territories to ensure consistent protection for interns under relevant legislation. My contributions to the study were picked up by nationwide media, and quoted by CBC, the Huffington Post, Global News and other news outlets. The article published

by CBC is appended to this package. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

6. WUSC STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM

Every year, we sponsor one student to come to the University of Toronto through the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program. Upon arrival in Canada, the student receives permanent resident status, which means they have access to OHIP, are charged domestic tuition fees, and are in the process of obtaining Canadian citizenship. This year's student is from Rwanda, but is currently living in Kenya. He will be arriving at the end of August. We are also assisting in providing social support for a second student, a graduate student from Syria who is receiving financial support from the University of Toronto. Our Student Refugee Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss plans to welcome these students to Canada and ensure their smooth transition into University. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca or Vice-President Equity Najiba Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Internal & Services

IN THIS REPORT:

1. Organizational Development and Services Committee
2. International Student Representation Committee
3. BOAR
4. Mobile Kiosk Outreach

1. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Organizational Development & Services Committee met for the first time on July 10. Committee members were provided with an overview of the committee structure, and then participated in a discussion about services priorities including promotion of the new Blue Crew program, the 2014-2015 Services Guide, the re-branding of the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and general outreach to members. The committee will develop plans for outreach during orientation and throughout the fall semester. For more information please contact Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

2. MOBILE KIOSK OUTREACH

We represents over 50,000 students and an ongoing priority is reaching out to as many members as possible. Last year, we purchased a mobile kiosk as a new way to take our services and information about events and campaigns to students at different locations on campus. We are also collaborating with the Orientation team to promote UTSUfest 2014.

To get involved in mobile kiosk outreach, please contact the Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

3. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

This year, one of our major priorities is addressing many of the issues international students faced by international students at the University of Toronto. After brainstorming possible ways to address these issues, it has been decided that an International Student Representation Committee would be the best approach, facilitating outreach to student leaders and collaboration to discuss international student representation on campus. The Committee will be a tri-campus initiative with student leaders across U of T working together. For more information please contact Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

4. BOARD, ORIENTATION AND ASSOCIATE RETREAT

The Board, Orientation and Associate Retreat (BOAR) was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this retreat a memorable and informative retreat for everyone apart of the organization. For those who were unable to attend and would like a board binder, please contact Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Internal & Services & Vice-President External

5. BLUE CREW

In 2013, we launched a volunteer program named the “Blue Crew,” to facilitate student participation in their community. Through our Blue Crew Program, students will develop vital skills to help them mature as individuals, make connections with other students on campus and engage with their campus community. Our volunteer opportunities include helping out at major events such as UTSUFest, Winter Week of Welcome (WWOW) and eXpression Against Oppression (XAO). Other opportunities include outreaching to students on campus and volunteering with other organizations in the city. Incentives include free movie tickets and other rewards for volunteers, who can also receive reference letters and have their work noted on their Co-Curricular Records. We are currently revising the program and developing a committee to evaluate events and the program as a whole. For more information, or to get involved with the Blue Crew Committee, please contact the Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

**JOIN
THE
BLUE
CREW**



Volunteer within the campus community and engage in the activities of your students' union. The more you volunteer the greater your reward.

UTSU.CA/BLUECREW

A variety of opportunities are available. For more information contact services@utsu.ca or call 416.978.4911 ext. 224.



IN THIS REPORT:

1. Municipal Elections
2. TTC Riders Campaign
3. Community Action Commission
4. Activist Assembly
5. DisOrientation Week

1. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

We are participating in a working group that includes members of the University administration and several student groups, with the aim of collaborating to get students involved in the upcoming municipal election. We are organizing a mayoral debate and working on training Dons to engage students in residence and other initiatives. We have also created new materials to conduct outreach about the upcoming elections and to find out what issues matter most to students at U of T. For more information, contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

2. TTC RIDERS CAMPAIGN

We are working with advocacy group TTC Riders to advocate for more municipal and provincial funding for the TTC, to lower fares and increase service. A current TTC Riders campaign is primarily Twitter-based, asking people to tweet their City Councillor and include the hashtag #TTTC. Participants are also encouraged to share pictures of themselves with signs that say, “I support a low income TTC pass because...” We are working to continue this campaign with TTC Riders and organizing an upcoming collaborative event. For more information, contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President External

3. COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

After last month's Mega Commission, the first standalone Community Action Commission meeting of the year was held on 16, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. on the Sidney Smith Patio. This meeting served as an introduction to the Commission, with discussion focused on major priorities for the next year, including the upcoming municipal elections, advocacy for better transit, the elimination of winter residence fees, and a campaign reduce tuition fees and increase government funding for post-secondary education. For more information, contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

4. ACTIVIST ASSEMBLY

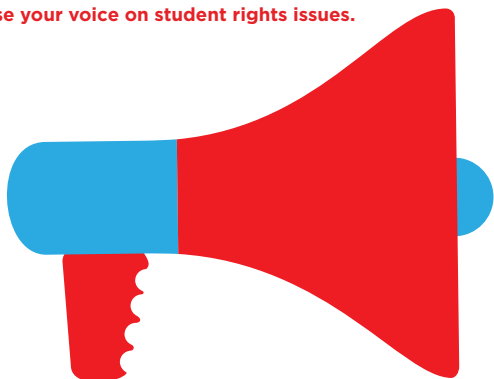
We have been working diligently to organize an Activist Assembly in late October, to engage and educate students in issues affecting the U of T campuses and the greater community. Proposed topics for workshops include issues faced by international students, food security on campus, a critical analysis of feminism, the rise of corporate interest on campus, and combating ableism. For more information, contact Vice-President External, Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

5. DISORIENTATION WEEK

We are collaborating with groups across campus to host the annual DisOrientation Week in September. Various workshops and events will be held as an introduction to the various activist communities at the University of Toronto, and focusing on particularly relevant social justice issues. For more information, contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

Community Action Commission

Raise your voice on student rights issues.



Municipal elections,
tuition, transit,
residence and more.

Sidney Smith Patio
August 6 at 4:00 p.m.

 @utsu98  @utsu98  utsu98

Visit utsu.ca/community-action for more information



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President University Affairs

IN THIS REPORT:

1. Fall Reading Week
2. UTSU Board Structure
3. Governing Council
4. Academic and Students' Rights Commission

1. FALL READING WEEK

Over the past month, Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche has been researching and planning an outreach campaign for a Fall Reading Week. Harfouche has created a survey for students at the University of Toronto and the Board will help publicize this survey to our members. The survey asks students to select the different areas where they would be more or less comfortable in negotiations. For example, students can express more interest in giving up a day or two of an examination period in exchange for a longer Fall Reading Week. Alternatively, students can choose to start school a week earlier, similar to the schedule at the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses. Harfouche will share the results of the survey to the different course unions and work with them to advocate for a Fall Reading Week. Please attend the Academic and Students' Rights Commission if you want to get involved in this campaign. For more information, please contact Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche at vpua@utsu.ca.

2. ACADEMIC AND STUDENTS' RIGHTS COMMISSION

The next Academic and Students' Rights Commission is on July 17 at 17:30 at the Sidney Smith Patio. For more information, please contact Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche at vpua@utsu.ca.

3. UTSU BOARD STRUCTURE

Over the past few months, Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche has planned informal meetings with divisional leaders regarding our proposed Board structure. Harfouche is almost ready to release an amended Board structure proposal for the Board's review pending consultation from all division college heads, Board members, service groups, and the members at large. For more information, please contact Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche at vpua@utsu.ca.

4. GOVERNING COUNCIL

Since the Governing Council will be on break until September, the next few months will be spent meeting with student governors and members of the University of Toronto administration to set goals and priorities. At the last session of the Governing Council, a presentation was given about Facility Planning at the University of Toronto. There, it was discovered that the UTSU has no formal role in Facility Planning at the University of Toronto. Over the next year, the Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche urges the board to make it a priority to rebuild trust with central administration to incorporate the Union more in Facility Planning at the University. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting with the University Administration. For more information, please contact Vice-President University Affairs Pierre Harfouche at vpua@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Campus Life

IN THIS REPORT:

1. Orientation
2. Clubs Training
3. Summer Funding
4. Homecoming

1. ORIENTATION

This month the Orientation Team has been finalizing many sponsorship contracts and laying the foundation for the month ahead. The Orientation Team is collaborating with several colleges on different initiatives, including the Pre-UofT event suggested by University College and the Alternative Afterparty with Woodsworth College.

Registration for Clubs Day and the Street Festival has been successful. Early bird registration for Clubs Day and Street Festival ended on July 11, 2014 and late registration for these events will close on August 15, 2014.

All board members are encouraged to participate in our Orientation events. The Orientation Team will be holding training sessions in August for all those who are interested. For more information about Orientation, please contact Vice-President Campus Life ZiJian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca.

2. CLUBS EXECUTIVE TRAINING

We hosted two Clubs Executive Training sessions this month, each receiving stellar attendance. More than 90 per cent of registered groups attended the sessions and we have received great feedback thus far. Clubs Executive Training sessions are one of the prerequisites for clubs that wish to apply for UTSU club funding. These sessions ensure that club executives are fully informed of our guidelines and procedures, and the services offered by the UTSU to individual students and clubs.

We are working to further streamline the training process and make it more interactive for all the clubs. For more information regarding Clubs Executive Training sessions, please contact Vice-President Campus Life ZiJian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca.

3. SUMMER FUNDING

The Clubs Committee met in the week of July 14 to review all applications for summer club funding and distribute funding in accordance with our Clubs Policy to fulfill the specific needs of each club. For more information regarding summer club funding, please contact Vice-President Campus Life ZiJian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Campus Life & Vice-President Equity

4. HOMECOMING

Beginning on June 18, the Vice-President Internal & Services and the Vice-President Campus life initiated a Homecoming Committee. Those who were invited to sit on the Committee were representatives from college, faculty, and division councils. This Committee will focus on organizing events around the Homecoming game against York University on Saturday September 13. The Committee is currently focused on promoting the event and finalizing the venue location. To get involved with the committee or learn more, please contact Vice-President Campus Life Zijian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca or the Vice-President Internal & Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

IN THIS REPORT:

1. eXpression Against Oppression (XAO)
2. Women in politics
3. Collaboration with GTA universities for high-profile speaker
4. Social Justice & Equity Commission
5. Elections
6. Unpaid Internships
7. End the Blood Ban
8. Caribana

1. EXPRESSION AGAINST OPPRESSION (XAO)

We are now beginning the planning process for eXpression Against Oppression (XAO). XAO will most likely take place midway through the Fall semester and will occur over the span of two weeks. The purpose of this is to diversify the dates and times to encourage the attendance of more students. There has been discussion about including some of the events that have happened in previous years, such as self-defense classes, open-mic nights and a film screening with the director present. New ideas are welcome, and the Social Justice and Equity Commission is brainstorming new and innovative ways to create dialogue around XAO. eXpression Against Oppression is an important series of events because, more often than not, these conversations about identity and oppression do not take place on campus. We are looking for dedicated student volunteers for this event and members of the Board of Directors are encouraged to get involved. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

2. WOMEN IN POLITICS

The Social Justice and Equity Commission will be hosting a conference-style event regarding Women in Politics. We will be trying to secure some high-profile speakers for this event to facilitate discussion about overcoming barriers to engagement in politics, and challenging sexism, misogyny and other forms of oppression within the political sphere. Students will be encouraged to pre-register for this event to ensure that everyone can be accommodated and receive information packages. At the end of the conference, there may be a Q&A session with the panel. This event is expected to take place at the beginning of second semester. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Equity

3. COLLABORATION WITH GTA UNIVERSITIES FOR HIGH PROFILE SPEAKER

We are investigating the possibility of hosting an event featuring a high-profile speaker such as actress and trans activist Laverne Cox. Hosting a speaker such as Laverne Cox would be an opportunity to engage and educate students around issues of transphobia, cissexism and racism and start a discussion about how to combat these forms of oppression and hate on campus and beyond. This event would be in collaboration with other students' unions across the Greater Toronto Area, and we are also seeking out other potential partners. The event would be held at a central location in downtown Toronto so as to not prioritize one campus over another. Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar will be consulting students at the Social Justice & Equity Commission to see if this event would be of interest to students. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

4. SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY COMMISSION

The first Social Justice & Equity Commission was held on June 19 as part of the Mega Commission, where students got the opportunity to learn about all five of the commissions, and to brainstorm ideas for events and campaigns. Students brought a variety of ideas and interests to the table and shared stories of their experiences on campus, discussed the unfairness of unpaid internships, talked about the stigma surrounding feminism and more. Attendees also offered ideas for potential campaign names.

The next commission will be held July 17 at 2:30 p.m. at the Sidney Smith Patio where Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar will talk about what she has been working on and will open the floor for students to voice their concerns and ideas. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

5. ELECTIONS

Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar and Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian have been leading the UTSU's efforts to ensure that students are engaged and go out to vote in the upcoming Toronto municipal elections. They sit on a municipal elections working group that meets once a month and includes members from all over the University of Toronto community, including the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office, Multi-Faith Centre, the Graduate Students' Union, Centre for Community Partnerships, Elections Services and many more.

We will be hosting a mayoral debate on campus, and are interested in organizing a mock vote. Our website will soon feature an entire page dedicated to the municipal elections and updating students on events taking place throughout the GTA. The municipal election is a huge project. Student volunteers are needed and members of the Board of Directors are encouraged to get involved. If interested, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice-President Equity

6. UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

We have been gathering materials to promote awareness of the unfairness of unpaid internships. This is a project that will run throughout the year in an attempt to continuously reach as many students as possible to educate our membership about this issue. We will be producing buttons and posters to encourage conversation surrounding unpaid internships and youth unemployment. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

7. END THE BLOOD BAN

This campaign addresses the issue of discrimination when it comes to the donation of blood. We have met with students around campus to discuss the blood ban. Throughout the year, we will be spreading awareness at various events by educating students about the blood ban and collecting signatures for a petition. We are looking to collaborate with as many campus clubs as possible on this issue in addition to having student volunteers who are interested in helping push this campaign. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

8. CARIBANA

We have been working on an event to celebrate the beauty of Caribbean culture and to ring in Caribana weekend in Toronto. In collaboration with various campus clubs, there will be music, food and a mini parade. There will also be an open mic session near the end of the event where people can do a performance in relation to Caribbean culture, whether that would be a dance, a song, reciting a poem, or even simply speaking on their experiences. For more information about the open mic session, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Ali Sardar at vpequity@utsu.ca.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

UTMSU Designate

IN THIS REPORT:

1. International Students' Orientation
2. Commission Meeting
3. Orientation
4. World Cup Screenings

1. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ORIENTATION

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union is working with the International Centre at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) in order to collaborate on this event, which will be held during August 14 to 17. A priority for this year is an increased emphasis on making UTM a community to foster international student growth and the Union wants to be involved in this planning. The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union is also planning its own International Student Orientation Day, which will be part of an International Students' Awareness Week

2. COMMISSION MEETING

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union held its first Commission meeting of the year on June 19, to inform students about plans for the year and to hear their feedback and suggestions. About 40 students were in attendance, and the Union hopes to keep these numbers up for the remaining monthly Commission meetings.

3. WORLD CUP SCREENINGS

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union screened every World Cup game for students in the Presentation Room of the Student Centre. There was a huge turnout of students to these screenings, which also featured giveaways during the semi-finals and the final. The screenings were finished off with a block party, which saw about 100 people show up to watch the final game.

4. ORIENTATION

Orientation is approaching and the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union has been hosting leader trainings and getting volunteers through outreach. The Union also recently sent a mailout to prospective first year students, which included over 3,000 packages with information about the events, services and campaigns of the Union, and the upcoming Orientation activities.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Appendix - Consultation on Board of Directors Structure Letter



July 18, 2014

Engineering Society
B740 Sanford Fleming Building
10 King's College Road
Toronto, ON M5S 3G4

Dear Council Members of the Engineering Society:

As you may know, the UTSU has undertaken to change the structure of our Board of Directors, as part of an ongoing series of by-law and policy changes to ensure we remain in compliance with federal corporations legislation. This is also an opportunity for us to examine our structure to see if another model would be more representative of our 50,000+ members and make us better able to fulfill our mandate, as defined by our letters patent and by-laws (www.utsu.ca/mandate).

In light of this, there was a motion at last year's Annual General Meeting to investigate our Board structure, which was taken on by the 2013-2014 Policy and Procedures Committee. After research into the organizational structures of other student societies at the University of Toronto and students' unions across the country, the Policy and Procedures Committee recommended a proposal to the Board of Directors, where it was passed to be considered at our annual general meeting this fall. The Board also mandated itself to consult student societies, clubs and levy groups before the Annual General Meeting, and to encourage the submission of alternate proposals. For your reference, attached is the motion that was passed at the April 24 meeting of the Board of Directors and the accompanying research documents.

The recently struck Policy and Procedures Committee of 2014-2015 met on Monday and is eager to begin consultation. We'd like to work with you to host a townhall at the Faculty of Engineering, at the time that makes the most sense for your college. To this end, we'd like to set up a meeting with your council as soon as possible, to discuss logistics for this. We'd also really appreciate the opportunity to get direct feedback from your representative body.

Our goals are as follows:

- to provide further context into the currently proposed structure
- to explain relevant corporate legislation as it relates to our structure
- to explain the process to submit an alternative proposal
- to receive feedback from you, and our mutual members at the Faculty of Engineering
- to come up with a structure for our Board of Directors that is representative of our entire membership, best enables us to fulfill our mandate and is compliant with corporations law

We hope to hear from you soon. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback before we meet, please feel free to call or email.

Best,

University of Toronto Students' Union Policy & Procedures Committee:

Yolen Bollo-Kamara Cameron Wathey
Zach Morgenstern Neil Vas
Frishta Bastan

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Appendix - CBC Article on Unpaid Internships

7/22/2014

Unpaid internships should be tracked by Feds: Finance committee - Politics - CBC News

Unpaid internships should be tracked by Feds: Finance committee

There is little hard data on unpaid internships in Canada because employers aren't required to report them

The Canadian Press Posted: Jun 21, 2014 5:17 PM ET Last Updated: Jun 21, 2014 5:17 PM ET

A new report by the Commons finance committee says the federal government should take steps to ensure unpaid internships are in line with the country's labour laws.

The report, which looked at the challenges of youth employment, recommends Ottawa work with provinces and territories to protect unpaid interns under the relevant labour codes.

- [Unpaid internships focus of growing backlash](#)
- [Unpaid internships exploit vulnerable generation](#)

It also suggests the federal government examine unpaid internships to understand their impact on the job market.

Estimates suggest as many 300,000 young Canadians work as unpaid interns, but there is little hard data available because employers aren't required to report the numbers to federal authorities.

In all, the Conservative-dominated committee put forward 23 recommendations to help address youth unemployment, which has climbed in recent years.

A section prepared by the NDP argued for additional, tougher measures, including changes to the federal labour code to protect interns' working conditions.

The report, released Friday, comes after months of heated debate in Canada over the merits of unpaid internships.

Form of exploitation?

Many young people take part in unpaid internships in hopes of earning workplace experience or a full-time job.

Critics argue the practice amounts to a form of exploitation and limits participation to those who can afford to work for free.

'Those who cannot afford to work for free lose out on networking opportunities, can suffer from skills degradation, and often can have their skills fall behind innovation.' - *Yolen Bollo-Kamara, head of the University of Toronto Students' Union*

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Appendix - CBC Article on Unpaid Internships

7/22/2014

Unpaid internships should be tracked by Feds: Finance committee - Politics - CBC News

The committee heard testimony from several groups calling for a crackdown during its hearings in March and April.

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges, for instance, called for "national employment standards" protecting any unpaid interns who aren't completing the work as part of a post-secondary program.

The head of the University of Toronto Students' Union, meanwhile, argued students struggling with a heavy debt-load are often most affected.

"Those who cannot afford to work for free lose out on networking opportunities, can suffer from skills degradation, and often can have their skills fall behind innovation, making it more difficult to enter their field, if given the opportunity," Yolen Bollo-Kamara told the committee.

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 19 climbed from 15.7 to 20.1 per cent between the first half of 2008 and the first half of 2013, according to the report.

- [Youth unemployment by the numbers](#)

The unemployment rate for youth aged 20 to 24 climbed from 9.4 to 11.1 per cent during the same period.

Other suggestions in the report included offering tax credits for businesses that hire Canadians aged 18 to 30, and examining the approach of countries like Germany, which uses partnerships between schools, employers and unions to better meet the demands of the labour market.

It's unclear what the Harper government will do with the recommendations.

A spokesman for Labour Minister Kellie Leitch did not immediately return a request to comment on Saturday.

On Monday, Andrew McGrath said the government is considering an NDP bill aimed at ending the exploitation of unpaid interns in Canada, but wouldn't say whether it plans to support the move or bring in legislation of its own.

In the meantime, provinces are taking their own steps to crack down on unpaid internships.

Saskatchewan and Ontario recently introduced stricter measures, while Alberta is under pressure to do the same. Unpaid internships in British Columbia are illegal unless the internship provides "hands-on" training as part of a formal educational program or specific professional training.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS 

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Appendix - Letter Sent to Prime Minister of Canada Re: Bill C-24

UNIVERSITY
OF
TORONTO

STUDENTS'
UNION

CFS LOCAL 98

July 18, 2014

The Honourable Chris Alexander, MP
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister Alexander and Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

I write to you today on behalf of over 50,000 students at the University of Toronto who are members of the University of Toronto Students' Union, to ask that you take steps to repeal Bill C-24, known as the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act. We add our voices to the countless legal professionals, academics, religious leaders, community groups and others who have publicly condemned the Act and its implications for Canadian society.

Over 10,000 international undergraduate students from more than 150 countries currently study at the University of Toronto, and this number continues to grow. As an institution, we recognize the vital contributions of international students to our academic and social community. Our ability to attract qualified international students has been integral to our emergence as one of the very best universities in Canada, and in the world.

Your government, too, has acknowledged the significant impact of international students on the Canadian economy. With the release of the International Education Strategy in January 2014 - just a few months ago - your government aimed to double the number of international students and researchers in Canada, projecting the generation of 86,000 new jobs and an additional \$10 billion stimulus to the Canadian economy. The International Education Strategy notes that attracting international students is necessary to maintain Canada's workforce and address our "growing shortage of highly skilled labour."

Why, then, would your government make it more difficult for international students to stay in Canada and continue to contribute to society, as citizens?

Measures such as the increase of the residency requirement from three to four years, the increase in the amount of time that one must spend in Canada prior to obtaining permanent residency, the change in what type of time counts as Canadian experience and the tripling of the citizenship application fee only serve as a deterrent to obtaining citizenship and communicates to international students that Canada does not value their contributions.

This Bill does not only affect international students in our community. It also affects many of our members who are domestic students and their families. The idea that the government will be able to strip dual citizens of their Canadian citizenship is quite frankly shocking. Why should citizens have to revoke an integral part of their identity in order to ensure that their citizenship is never stripped of them - even if they were born here? Granting the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration the power to unilaterally take away citizenship, and removing the ability to appeal failed citizenship applications to the Federal

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Appendix - Letter Sent to Prime Minister of Canada Re: Bill C-24

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Court of Canada amounts to the gutting of due process. The creation of a two-tiered system does not strengthen Canadian citizenship. It weakens it. It suggests that Canadians are no longer equal under law and institutionalizes discrimination based on national origin, violating a Charter right and principle sacrosanct to our society. Equally egregious are steps to make it more difficult for would-be citizens to access a fair application and appeals process.

For these reasons, we urge the Canadian government to revoke this Act.

With all due respect,



Yolen Bollo-Kamara
President