



Minutes – Board of Directors

**5th Meeting of 2020-2021
Saturday, September 26th, 2020 | 1:00 PM EST**

Video Conference held via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE

Present

Executive Committee

Muntaka Ahmed, President
Dermot O'Halloran, VP Operations
Tyler Riches, VP Public & University Affairs
Alexandra McLean, VP Equity
Paul Kaita, VP Professional Faculties

Division I Directors (Colleges, Academic Divisions,
and Transitional Year Programme)

Kayleigh McCormick, New College
Karel Peters, New College
Matthew Ho, St. Michael's College
Jonathan Hsu, St. Michael's College
Fiona Reuter, Trinity College
Pranay Prem, University College
Basmah Ramadan, University College
Jeannie Yoo, University College
Radhika Dhawan, Victoria College
Ava Harrington, Victoria College
Sheryl Ordonez, Woodsworth College
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences
Alex Erickson, Social Sciences

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

José Power, Architecture & Visual Studies
Tiffany Tiu, Kinesiology & Physical Education
Vanshika Dhawan, Law
Andrew Chen, Applied Science & Engineering
Catherine Wang, Music

Visitors and Other Non-Voting

Suzanne Belleau, General Manager, UTSU
Arlene
Thianesh
Margaret de Leon, Chief Operations Assistant,
UTSU
Vibhuti Kacholia, Chief Executive Assistant, UTSU
Emmanuel Sackeyfio, EA Operations, UTSU
Joshua Bienstock, EA Research & Administration,
UTSU
Maria Lin, EA Student Life, UTSU
Winston Chan, EA Research & Administration,
UTSU
Danielle Lewis, Med Soc Representative
Billy Graydon, Speaker

Absent

Sierra Bevacqua, Woodsworth College
Miloni Mehta, Woodsworth College
Zoe Chen, St. Michael's College
Ramtin Taramsari, New College
Shaon Parial, Pharmacy
Rose Mohammad, Professional Faculties at-large

Regrets

Neeharika Hemrajani, VP Student Life



MINUTES

Open Session

1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 1:13 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: PREM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Ratification of Speaker

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: RAMADAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT _____ be appointed as Speaker for the duration of the meeting.

DISCUSSION

3.1 Motion to Amend

BE IT RESOLVED that Billy Graydon be appointed as Speaker for the duration of the meeting.

Ahmed stated that Billy Graydon has acted as speaker for all the UTSU's Board meetings this term.

CARRIED

CARRIED

4. Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: McLEAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be approved as presented in the appendices:

1. Meeting of the Board of Directors

4th Meeting of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors, 24 August 2020

2. Meetings of Committees

Finance Committee, 25 August 2020 (4th Meeting)



Student Aid Committee, 2 September 2020 (3rd Meeting)
Clubs Committee, 4 September 2020 (1st Meeting)
Clubs Committee, 10 September 2020 (2nd Meeting)
Campaigns and Outreach, 13 September 2020 (3rd Meeting)
Governance Committee, 11 September 2020 (3rd Meeting)
Finance Committee, 14 September 2020 (5th Meeting)
Student Aid Committee, 17 September 2020 (4th Meeting)
Executive Committee, 17 September 2020 (5th Meeting)
Governance Committee, 18 September 2020 (4th Meeting)
Elections & Referenda Committee, 21 September 2020 (1st Meeting)

3. Executive Reports

September 2020 Report of the President
September 2020 Report of the Vice-President, Operations
September 2020 Report of the Vice-President, Public & University Affairs
September 2020 Report of the Vice-President, Equity
September 2020 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life
September 2020 Report of the Vice-President, Professional Faculties

DISCUSSION

Ahmed stated that Hemrajani sent regrets for the meeting as she had a conflict she could not miss. Hemrajani was open to receiving emails with questions on the content of her executive report. Ahmed further stated that she would do her best to answer questions on her behalf during the meeting itself.

Riches highlighted portions of their report as well as the minutes from the previous Campaigns & Outreach Committee and Governance Committee Meetings. They stated that they worked with O'Halloran to propose changes to the Working Groups Policy and the Campaigns & Outreach Initiatives Policy in order to transfer them to a new Campus Initiatives Policy and into Committees of the Board of Directors Policy. Riches also highlighted the portion of their report discussing the UTSU's ongoing advocacy work with other student groups on the issue of transit. They stated that they are working with these groups to advocate for a 100% return of TTC service and recall of all remaining or laid-off staff employees and operators. In the week prior to the Board meeting, there was a TTC Board of Directors meeting where a motion on the matter was brought forward but was not passed in its original form. Riches stated that the UTSU was in attendance at the meeting and sent in a letter of support for the motion but did not meet the deadline to schedule a deputation to speak. They reflected that in the end, the motion did not change much from the reality prior and plans on regrouping with student groups, namely the advocacy group TTCriders to discuss next steps.

O'Halloran stated that he wished to externalize resolution #5, "Approval of the Fall 2020 Elections Schedule & Candidates List" from the minutes of the first meeting of the Elections and Referenda Committee.

Reuter wished to pose questions to Hemrajani and wondered if Ahmed could respond in her absence. She stated that in the week prior to the Board meeting, the first installment of Clubs Crawl was cancelled and postponed. She stated that she received concerns from Trinity College students who had signed up for the event and were anxious about reaching out to students and



recruiting new members online. She asked what alternative methods the UTSU can look into to help these clubs given the postponement of the event.

Ahmed stated that, due to technical difficulties, some of the clubs that had been originally included in the event were never officially recognized by the UTSU. She stated that there was no way of checking which clubs had recognition and which didn't, making the attendance list for the event unreliable; there was no way to cross check between the list of recognized clubs and those who signed up for the event. She stated that they wanted to ensure that the recognition process was streamlined so that the UTSU could hold a more reliable and organized club crawl in the winter. Ahmed stated that the UTSU is going to continue reaching out to students through social media; the clubs bulletin, sent out each week, continues to ask clubs if they want to be featured for clubs friday on UTSU social media pages or in instagram takeovers. Further, she stated that she wanted to engage the new FYC, once it is hired, into the outreach process to see if there are clubs spearheaded by first years that the UTSU can support in some way. Ahmed stated that in a normal year, the usual in-person clubs fair event would require clubs to pay for a spot, with unrecognized clubs paying higher fees than recognized ones. She further stated that club crawl being a free online event means that it is more necessary to ensure that the UTSU prioritized recognized clubs and verified all those participating.

Ramadan stated that she understands the importance of ensuring clubs recognition. However, she asked why the technical difficulties were not fixed earlier in the year when the problem was raised in summer. She stated that she does not feel that on-going UTSU social media promotion will be enough and added that postponing the event to January, a time when students are already enthralled in their studies, would do little to engage them.

Ahmed stated that over the summer there was time to refine the recognition process but that due to the on-going website overhaul and shut down of the student services portal made it difficult to process clubs recognitions automatically leading the VPSL team to process applications manually. She also stated that the VPSL team as well as the Operations team were busy organizing the #UNITE orientation livestream and finishing the website overhaul, respectively, making it difficult to focus on the clubs recognition process. She further invited O'Halloran to further comment on the behind the scenes issues and priority work that slowed down the recognition process and stated that questions can be directed to Hemrajani who would be able to respond in more detail. She stated that she understands Ramadan's point regarding engagement through social media but added that UTSU does not have the ability to create in person programming this year which has made it more difficult to engage students to the same degree as was done beforehand. She stated that the UTSU is dealing with a completely new reality as the union has never had to deal with a completely online promotional structure before and that the Executives and Staff will continue to work to create potential opportunities for collaboration, promotion and support for Clubs moving forward. Ahmed added that she is thankful for the patience that everyone has shown given all these changes.

Graydon reminded the Board to stay out of too many logistical questioning on the details of the consent agenda.



Prem stated that he wanted to speak on the general sentiment of disappointment that he's heard from many constituents regarding the postponement of Club Crawl. He stated that other organizations, such as Leap UofT and the U of T law society, have successfully created events similar to what Club Crawl was intended to be. He further wished to bring up what he felt has been an overall lack of communication between the Executives & Staff and the Board. He stated that Board of Directors meetings and Executive report highlights were not shared on social media for at least the month of September, possibly more. He asked the Executives to comment on this, overall. He also stated that there was no official message on social media as to why Clubs Crawl was postponed or when it would be held instead even though that information was communicated to the participating clubs.

O'Halloran stated that there has been a shift on the staff team where the UTSU's newly named communications manager has transferred portfolios related to digital media content such as graphic design to a new staff member. He stated that the onboarding of this new staff member caused a great deal of slow down, including not posting executive highlights. He stated that in terms of Clubs Crawl, the UTSU is open to suggestions on clubs fair like events moving forward based on how other organizations have hosted or are planning on hosting events of their own. He stated that Clubs Crawl was cancelled on the day of the event because of the technical difficulties around the clubs recognition software, as Ahmed mentioned, but also because of a failure of a new, larger, zoom software to function properly during a test run for the event. He stated that the Executives had intended on hosting part of the club crawl program on the new website but that it was not yet open to the public. He stated that once the website is finished, videos and information regarding clubs, including promotional material, will be open to students all on one platform. In reference to Prem's question, he stated that he is the sole person updating the old website and as a result, it takes time to get all the information out in a timely manner.

Graydon reminded the Executives to keep their responses succinct.

Ahmed stated that she wants to stress that issues surrounding clubs recognition was a major part of the choice to postpone the event and that the decision was made quite recently. She added that the UTSU's staff personnel is currently growing at a rate that hasn't been seen in a long time which has led to a great deal of slow down in finishing projects and releasing information in a timely manner. She stated that the entire student services portal is down and that the portal has been left unresolved for many years now leaving the current Executive and staff to fix it. She affirmed that the recognition process is very difficult to do manually and takes a great deal of time given that there are upwards of 300 clubs to process and added that they are working to create a new digital process that would make recognition a quicker process. She again stated that she appreciates the patience that has been shown from the Board and students.

Jung stated that the recognition process has been a big issue and thanked the Executives for their responses. She stated that she wanted to raise a problem she ran into with Clubs Friday and the weekly bulletin. She stated that she is a member of a recognized club and her club has yet to receive any newsletters or information regarding club friday or communication about club crawl's postponement. She stated that these issues were not isolated to the last few weeks as there had been communication problems throughout the summer and further stated that many of the



solutions that have come up today are communications based, something that has proven to be unreliable.

Harrington stated that she was frustrated that the board did not receive any information about club crawl's cancellation directly; she stated that she only knew about its cancellation through the event brite notification. She stated that she would have preferred to have seen a club crawl program rather than a perfected website although she stated that she was excited to see the new website when it is finally completed. She asked the Executives what next steps for Club Crawl will be, like if there would be fees for the program when it occurs.

Ahmed stated that there will not be fees to clubs for club crawl when it occurs because it will still be a free online event. She stated that next steps have yet to be completely decided on and once again stated that the decision around club crawl was very recent. She stated that Hemrajani would be able to better answer questions regarding the future of the program who sent in her regrets for this meeting early on due to a personal conflict. She stated that the UTSU knows that they need to be more active in promoting clubs on an individual basis, including being better at communicating with them moving forward. She reaffirmed that the UTSU is hoping to have Club Crawl at the beginning of the winter semester.

Graydon reminded the Board to consider contacting Hemrajani with further questions.

Ramadan wanted to raise some things that were discussed in the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Review Body's (EDI) Report that was presented in the previous Board meeting in relation to the proposed transference of some of the VP Equity's responsibilities to the VP Student Life role. She asked whether the VPSL would be able to take over the VP Equity's programming responsibilities such as eXpression Against Oppression (XAO) in light of how busy the VP Student Life seems to be, given the complicated nature of the clubs recognition process on top of Orientation planning.

Ahmed stated that in the last Governance Committee meeting, the committee decided that further consultation with the executives in question would be required before a decision can be made about the changes proposed in the EDI Report. She stated that there would need to be a discussion with Hemrajani and Mclean on the finer points of their respective roles; specifically, how the XAO program as well as other programming usually designated to the VP Equity would be realistically incorporated into a potential full-time VP Student Life position. She stated that she herself could not speak on the work of either portfolio in detail as she acts in a more supportive role.

Reuter reflected on how long the Executives and staff have been working on getting the student services portal back up and running. First she asked why the decision to postpone Club Crawl was made so late. She also asked why fixing the portal was not prioritized throughout the summer. Finally, she asked whether there are plans to further publicize the procedures and policies around clubs funding and recognition to executives and members of clubs moving forward.



O'Halloran stated, in response to the question about the student services portal, that it has not been working properly for some time. He stated that last year the former VP Student Life was working on a hybrid system where clubs recognition could be done manually in conjunction with the portal. He added that recently the portal became more difficult to work with, partly because the University created a new login system that did not work very well with it. He stated that the portal was created with custom python coding by a former student who is no longer in communication with the UTSU on a survey that the UTSU also no longer has access to. He stated that the UTSU is working on a new system currently to replace the student services portal that is close to being completed. He stated that in terms of Club Crawl, the decision to cancel the event was made at the last moment because of the technical problems that arose at the last second.

Reuter asked for further clarification as to how the UTSU can better publicize clubs policy and processes.

O'Halloran stated that he will be meeting with Hemrajani to make the Clubs' Policy more up to date and to discuss mounting the necessary information on the UTSU website in a more accessible manner.

Ahmed wanted to address directors receiving questions from their constituents that they do not have immediate answers to. She stated that they should never hesitate from contacting the Executive(s) who would have more knowledge, saying that even if it takes some time, they will respond. She stated it is better to reach out for support to ensure that the correct and relevant information is transmitted to those who need answers.

Erickson reflected that the UTSU's Executive Review Committee and Appellate Board have not met since the beginning of the Board's term. He asked about the plan around striking and/or on-boarding these committees and why they have not met yet.

O'Halloran stated that the Appellate Board is meant to be struck by the previous term prior to the new term entering. He stated that there is an Appellate Board but that the Executives are working on hiring a new board that would be more up to date. He also stated that they are aware they need to hire the next Appellate Board before the end of the term to serve for the next term. He stated that the Executive Review Committee usually meets on their own as the Executives have no jurisdiction over the Committee and cannot have any part in calling it. He asked Erickson to elaborate further on his question.

Graydon stated that the speaker is normally the main point of contact between the Board of Directors and the Appellate Board. He stated that he is available to help the Board of Directors with organizing the Appellate Board if they need assistance.

Erickson asked about how the current Board of Directors can create a new precedent for the Appellate Board to ensure a smoother transition next term.

O'Halloran stated that postings for the Appellate Board have been up on the UTSU's website and the Career Learning Network (CLNx) and stated that after they are appointed, they would be in office until April 2021. He further stated that in April the UTSU would go through the process



again to hire a new Appellate Board for a full period of May 2021 to April 2022. He added that the Appellate Board has very little interaction or activity with the UTSU and does not necessarily need the same access to internal documents as the Board of Directors does. He stated that the Executives have not considered the hiring process to be an absolute emergency but continue to follow through with the hiring process.

Reuter asked O'Halloran what the UTSU plans to do to ensure students have access to services that would normally be available in the office, such as printing, and how the services we provide will change online. She also asked when the services committee would be able to meet.

O'Halloran stated that the Services Committee will meet within the next 2 weeks. He also stated that the old process of using the printer in the UTSU office can no longer be followed due to COVID-19 restrictions; he elaborated that the number of people who use the printer during the day is unsustainable in terms of cleanliness and COVID safety. He stated that a new process is in the works that would have clubs send files to the UTSU office staff who would then prepare for contactless pickups by those clubs in a timely manner. He stated that new policies and practices for this service are being created with the safety of front desk staff as the number one priority. He stated that there are printing services available in Robarts library and added that as a result of nearly all classes moving online, the need for printing will most likely not be as important as it has been in the past. He stated that there are a few front desk staff members who are now trained to run the office and its services but that the UTSU is being cautious to ensure that no one gets sick. He stated that the front desk staff and services team have been working to create new services for students to use such as a Housing Guide as well as a Guide to UTSU services that should be completed soon. He also stated that the new website will have a clearer description of the services that the UTSU offers so that they may not have to interact with the physical office at all.

Ramadan stated that she was told in July that the VP Operations is responsible for organizing a meeting of the Executive Review Committee. She asked for clarity from the Executives on this matter.

O'Halloran asked to meet with Ramadan to discuss forming a meeting of the Executive Review Committee. He stated that he was not entirely sure as to where the responsibility to organize the committee should lie and wanted to ensure that the committee was organized with a proper structure and a chair, with as little input from Executives as possible.

Erickson asked about spending surrounding the U-NITE orientation event; particularly, if the \$60,000 spent on the event was worth the level of engagement that was seen from students.

O'Halloran asked Erickson to forward his question to Hemrajani. He stated that the Finance Committee agreed that the UTSU's Operating Budget would be itemized based on general items, including the Orientation Budget. He stated that Erickson should reach out to Hemrajani directly to get a more specific breakdown of the Orientation Budget itself.

Reuter commented that she noticed a pattern that the UTSU tends to engage more with organizations that come to it first rather than work to engage with those that don't. She stated that there are a number of organizations that may have not had good relationships with the



UTSU in the past and now want to engage but don't know where to begin. She stated that the UTSU should be reaching out to organizations in a proactive manner to extend the UTSU's resources to more organizations. She added that many student groups would benefit from the UTSU's support but have not understood how they could go about using it; an example being, Orientation funding for divisions. She asked what the UTSU's strategy is around facilitating these conversations and relationships and how the directors can play a role in bridging those gaps going forward.

Ahmed stated that she agrees that the UTSU tends to primarily communicate with student groups that communicate with them first. She stated that in running for President and in her work as an Executive Assistant in the year prior, she criticized the UTSU on this issue and has been working on trying to do better going forward. She stated that creating more consistent communication from the VP Student Life portfolio to other student groups is a priority and that they are working on this through maintaining the weekly clubs bulletin. She stated that before Orientation, the UTSU reached out to all divisions and their Orientation Coordinators about the UNITE event as well as divisional funding. She added that directors can always put affected student groups in contact with the VP Student Life to talk about gaps in support. She also stated that the Executive Committee struck a hiring committee for the Executive Assistant Public Relations who will work on external relations and communications for the UTSU. She stated that bringing a student facing perspective into the existing communications team is crucial to the UTSU's overall communications framework. She stated that she will be working with this new EA to build a strategy that will facilitate a more proactive and streamlined process for communication with student groups on campus. She added that the new EA would also work to create partnerships with equity seeking groups on campus and asked McLean to speak on the work she has done regarding the work she has done to reach out to equity seeking clubs on campus in the process of planning for XAO.

McLean stated that she wishes to take a community based approach in planning for XAO this year. She stated that the UTSU is committed to supporting equity seeking groups as well as their ideas and initiatives through the XAO program. She further stated that she recently finished drafting a communications strategy for reaching out with equity seeking groups. She added that she is looking to meet with these groups to discuss how the UTSU can better support them and/or if they'd like to be involved with the XAO program; emphasizing that her goal is to support them however she can instead of trying to dictate what equity based programming should be on campus. She stated that the draft plan for XAO this year will be added to the Equity and Accessibility Committee's folder to be discussed at the Committee's next meeting.

V. Dhawan asked about McLean to elaborate further on her work in planning XAO. She asked whether she sees XAO running similarly to the proposed Equity Initiatives Fund where funding will be allocated directly to student groups for their own usage.

McLean stated that the Equity Initiatives Fund will be available for student groups to apply for throughout the year on a rolling basis. Regarding XAO, she stated that the Equity & Accessibility Committee will have to discuss the draft plan and decide how the program should be administered; like if it should be a week long program or a series of events sporadically placed



throughout the remainder of the year. She reiterated that she wants to engage with equity seeking groups to see what they think is best for the program this year. She clarified that whereas the XAO program is a concentrated series of events, the Equity Initiatives Fund will be an ongoing funding opportunity for any interested student groups.

Prem asked for clarification about a portion of McLean's Executive Report where she described increasing accessibility for international students.

McLean stated that she is continually researching the processes surrounding accessing accessibility services, particularly for international students. She stated that students need to provide certain documentation regarding insurance coverage in order to register with accessibility services. She stated that international students may not have that documentation, adding that it can often be very expensive if they do not have insurance, and stated that she is looking at ways that the UTSU can help them work with accessibility services regardless.

CARRIED

4.1 Externalization of Resolution #5 from the Elections & Referenda Committee

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated that the Elections & Referenda Committee met to discuss the available seats and schedule for the upcoming Fall Election. He stated that he wanted to make the Board aware of this item specifically to enlist their help in promoting the election process to their friends and constituents. He referenced a document in the Board package that outlines the overall fall election schedule and gives a summary of the vacant positions that was agreed upon in the committee. He stated that there was no fall election in the year prior because constituencies opted to conduct their elections internally but that the Medical Society was the only division who requested to conduct an internal process this year.. He encouraged the Board to promote and share information around the election with their circles as much as possible.

Prem asked whether the Executives considered having additional information sessions and all candidates meetings for the Fall Election in order to consider students in different time zones who may still want to get involved.

O'Halloran stated that for the fall elections, the UTSU decided to only have one information session because of the smaller scale of this election compared to prior ones and the condensed time frame available. He stated that the live information session will be recorded and published on the website's election page during the Election's nomination period. He stated that those who cannot attend the all candidates meeting will need to email the Chief Returning Officer to discuss expectations separately. He stated that for the Spring Elections, there will be multiple information sessions as well as multiple all candidate meetings.



Erickson asked what is being done to promote this election cycle and educate students about the UTSU's board structure, citing examples from successful outreach that has been done in past election cycles. He added that he believes this is a great opportunity to educate people about UTSU's structure and governance.

O'Halloran stated that they are looking at adopting the same style guide that was used in the last election and that he recently allowed the Staff access to \$500 from the Executive budget to promote the election on social media. He added that the new website will have extensive pages on the structure of the UTSU and its functions which should be up before the election cycle begins. He stated that the Fall Elections will be the first completely online election as the Spring Election initially began in person, adding that this will be new territory to navigate.

CARRIED

5. Presentation on UTSU Health & Dental Plan

DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: PREM

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated that he appended the presentation on the UTSU Health and Dental plan to his executive report. He noted that the purpose of the report is to ensure Board members have an understanding of the structure of the Health and Dental plan. He stated that the plan covers health, dental vision and travel beyond what is already covered under OHIP and UHIP. He stated that this year students pay \$412.34 a year for the dental plan, 50% paid within each semester. He added that in conversation with Studentcare they raised problems with how UTSU currently charges students as if a student only takes courses in a single semester they only pay 50% of the coverage fee while being covered for an equal amount of time. He outlined a number of the details of the plan's coverage such as vaccinations, prescription medication, and diabetic devices. Studentcare covers the majority of diabetic devices, however, there are certain diabetic devices that are not covered. He noted that Studentcare makes some exceptions of diabetic students, questions on that matter can be addressed to him through email. He stated that the plan covers health and mental health practitioners to varying degrees as well as medical equipment like orthotics and hearing equipment. He stated that the UTSU has one of the best health plans across Canada as it covers 100% of normal dental procedures including x-rays every 6 months. He stated that the plan also has extensive vision and travel care including cancellation and interruption travel insurance. He added that Studentcare is looking into expanding these services in light of COVID-19. He noted that the deadline to submit claims is 29th November and asked the Board to share the deadline with students. He noted that the Studentcare application is the best way for a student to submit their claims. He stated that dependents can also be included in the plan and noted that the cost of coverage for each dependent is double that of a single student. He further explained that if a student would like to opt-out of the plan the deadline is 30th September. He added that the slideshow is available to download for any director if they wish to share it with their constituents.



Ramadan asked if there was any plan to notify students on the finer details of the Health & Dental Plan.

O'Halloran stated that he has been trying to share the details of the plan with students. He noted that UTSU has an imperfect history with sharing the information around the plan in the past and he hopes to present the details of the plan to various groups on campus.

Reuters asked if O'Halloran was planning to share the presentation with divisional societies.

O'Halloran stated that in the past he has had the opportunity to share the presentation with certain divisional societies such as during the Transitional Year Programme orientation. He noted that he would be open to any requests from board members about the information required to present the Health and Dental plan to their divisions. He stated that there may need to be a small training session.

Ahmed noted that Kaita has been working on making this presentation to different professional faculty divisions.

Kaita stated that he had presented the Health and Dental plan to all professional faculties other than the School of Theology and the Daniels Faculty of Architecture. He added that he is open to helping any members of the board who want to present the information to their divisions.

O'Halloran stated that any questions on the Health and Dental plan can be directed towards him and stated that he would be happy to discuss how to expand the dissemination of the information across campus. He stated that he is open for suggestions for expanding the outreach of the Health & Dental plan moving forward.

6. Report on the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario AGM (Appendix A)

DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: RICHES

SECONDED: REUTER

6.1 Motion to Recess

RESOLUTION

MOVED: RICHES

SECONDED: PREM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting recess for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

The meeting entered recess at 3:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM

DISCUSSION

Riches stated that themselves, Ahmed, Reuter, and Hemrajani attended the recent Canadian Federation of Students Ontario General Conference. They stated that they thought they knew



what to expect of the conference however, that changed at the general meeting. They outlined the five motions that the UTSU submitted to the general meeting, the first two were in reference to online voting and amendments to the petitioning process in light of COVID-19 restrictions. The third motion was also regarding the petitioning process. They stated that the process described within the CFS policy makes petitioning very difficult for regular students to begin and would require them to accumulate over 6 000 signatures without the help of the UTSU nor the use of any office resources. They stated that the motion was meant to create a method for students to meet the minimum requirement for signatures by creating a direct number threshold rather than a percentage. The fourth motion would amend the decertification process and would serve to allow a decertification referendum to be triggered by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote at a member local's annual general meeting and ratified by the local's board of directors. The fifth and final motion would clearly define the stipulation of "proper first name" which is inaccessible for trans and non-binary students whose names may not match their given names. They stated that the motion N03 forwarded all five motions as well as any motion deemed unnecessary to the CFS Executive Committee. They added that the motions would then be sent to the next CFS Annual General Meeting.

Reuter stated that due to N03, the Budget Committee was unable to meet, forcing discussion of the budget to be held during the main session, where it was discussed for 30-45 minutes. She stated that many of their concerns were in regards to the increases in the amount of funds in areas, such as funds allocated to in-person activities given the restrictions due to COVID-19. She added that the delegation was concerned that the budget was significantly larger than the previous budget for campaigns and public relations. The 2019-2020 budget listed the item at \$2 500 with the amount spent that year to date being \$70 000 and the 2020-2021 budget has the item listed at \$250 000. The CFS-O cited their campaigns and advocacy work, stating that it would require a larger budget but could not explain why the size had changed so drastically. She stated that the delegation questioned the overall readability of the budget. She stated that most questions were met with either no response or insufficient responses, and added that the question period was drastically limited. She expressed how concerned it was that an organization that controls such a large budget created an environment where their budget could not be discussed sufficiently and that no other member-locals at the meeting raised any concerns.

Riches stated that their goal at this meeting was to try and help move the CFS-O to becoming a more democratically run and accessible organization, however, that goal was not realized. They stated that they are the delegate responsible for attending the CFS Executive Committee meetings. They expressed that they do not expect the motions that they have sent to the Executive Committee to pass. They added that the CFS has been particularly hostile to the UTSU in the past because the UTSU is often in opposition to the norms of the CFS. They noted that the meeting elected the CFS-O executives for the upcoming year as well as the year following that due to a regulatory quirk. Riches stated that the UTSU has received notice for the CFS National general meeting and hopes to raise similar motions as those raised at the Ontario General Meeting although a motion similar to N03 has been submitted,



7. Striking of an Ad-hoc CFS Committee

RESOLUTION

MOVED: RICHES

SECONDED: PREM

WHEREAS the University of Toronto Student's Union (UTSU) is a member local (Local 98) of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS); and

WHEREAS the relationship between the UTSU and the CFS has not been evaluated since the publishing of a report of an Ad-hoc CFS Committee by the UTSU Board of Directors in April 2016; and

WHEREAS a motion submitted for the 2016 UTSU Special General Meeting, which was forwarded to, amended, and passed by the Ad-hoc CFS Committee in April 2016, mandates that "a committee to examine the relationship between the UTSU and the CFS be struck every year the UTSU remains affiliated with the Federation";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors strike an Ad-hoc Committee on the Canadian Federation of Students for the 2020-2021 term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee investigate the relationship between the UTSU and the CFS, with the mandate of releasing a report prior to the end of its term that outlines the overall impact of the CFS upon the UTSU's members, and analyzes the various failures and accomplishments of the CFS across the country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President, Vice-President Operations, and Vice-President Public & University Affairs serve on the Ad-hoc CFS Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following Directors be elected to serve on the Ad-hoc CFS Committee:

- ***From Division I***
 - ***Firstname Lastname***
- ***From Division II***
 - ***Firstname Lastname***
- ***From either Division I or Division II***
 - ***Firstname Lastname***
 - ***Firstname Lastname***
 - ***Firstname Lastname***

DISCUSSION

Riches stated that the goal of the motion is to look critically at the different accomplishments, benefits and issues that have come from the relationship between the UTSU and the CFS. They stated that similar reviews have been done twice before however, there has been a great deal of change within the last five years since a similar committee was last struck. They noted that five years ago there was a motion for a committee to be struck on a yearly basis, however the policy has not been utilized and a committee has not been struck since the policy was approved. They noted that the committee's role is not to determine if the UTSU should work towards



decertification, but rather to investigate the relationship itself and see where UTSU should advance its CFS based advocacy in the future. Riches stated that they don't see the committee meeting often. They noted that the goal would be to meet initially to split up responsibilities around the report and continue meeting infrequently to ensure the completion of the report.

Ahmed nominated Erickson. Erickson declined.

Kaita nominated Tiu. Tiu declined.

Riches nominated Reuter. Reuter accepted.

McLean nominated Ordonez. Ordonez declined.

Kaita nominated V. Dhawan. V.Dhawan declined.

Riches nominated Ramadan. Ramadan accepted.

Rueter Nominated Prem. Prem declined.

McLean nominated Chen. Chen accepted.

Prem nominated Harrington. Harrington declined.

Riches nominated Power. Power declined.

Riches nominated Jeannie who was not present.

Ahmed nominated Jung. Jung declined.

Riches nominated Peters. Peters declined.

Prem nominated R.Dhawan. R.Dhawan declined.

Riches nominated McCormick. McCormick declined.

Graydon stated that the committee could be struck with two vacancies as there are no members of the board available to be nominated.

V.Dhawan stated that she is unclear of the work that the committee would do and proposed that Riches take additional time to detail the committees responsibilities and tasks.

Riches asked for clarification from V.Dhawan around what clarification would be necessary between this board meeting and the next board meeting.



7.1 Motion to Move In Camera

RESOLUTION

MOVED: V.DHAWAN SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting move in camera.

DISCUSSION

7.1.1 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: RICHES SECONDED: ERICKSON

BE IT RESOLVED that an additional clause be added to the motion stating:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the members of the UTSU staff be allowed to remain within the meeting.”

CARRIED

7.1.2 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN SECONDED: PREM

BE IT RESOLVED that an additional clause be added to the motion stating:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Danielle Lewis, Medical Society Director be allowed to remain in the meeting.”

CARRIED

CARRIED

The meeting went in camera at 3:49 PM.

7.2 Motion to Move Ex Camera

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN SECONDED: PREM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting move ex camera.

CARRIED

The meeting went ex-camera at 4:37 PM.



7.3 Motion to Postpone Indefinitely

RESOLUTION

MOVED: V. DHAWAN

SECONDED: PETERS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motion be postponed indefinitely.

DISCUSSION

V. Dhawan stated that she would like to see the motion tabled to avoid any hasty or possibly harmful discussion or decisions for the union from being had in future sessions.

Riches stated that they wish to motivate against the motion to table. They stated that the mandate of this committee does not fly in opposition to the discussion that has been had during this motion, and that important knowledge-gathering and discussion can still happen under this committee's mandate. The work of the committee will benefit future executives and Board of Directors in their decision making, and most importantly, will help provide the UTSU membership with further context as to the history of the relationship between the UTSU and the CFS. Riches stated that the UTSU has changed a lot within five years, and that it would be beneficial to have another look at where the UTSU is, and where it can go in the future.

O'Halloran seconded Riches, stating that the UTSU having a committee tasked with analyzing both the positive and negative aspects of its relationship with its larger member organization is important. O'Halloran stated that compiling all available information would be beneficial overall, notwithstanding past and present members of the UTSU who have negative feelings. In the case that a possible future iteration of the UTSU were to resolve that they wish to leave the CFS, having all available information on their relationship would be important. O'Halloran reiterated that this committee has already been struck before, and that the UTSU should strike it again, as this is the type of body that would help the UTSU in informing its members of their relationship, including both the good and the bad.

Dhawan made a point of information, and asked if what O'Halloran said could be stricken from the record. Dhawan stated that she did not wish to have this discussion ex-camera, and that O'Halloran's comments were an example of why she had motioned to postpone.

Graydon stated that the record is supposed to be an accurate record of what took place during the meeting. Graydon stated that such an action to strike the minutes would require a motion to suspend the rules of the meeting.

Peters motivated for the motion to postpone and expressed that she feels that V. Dhawan's concerns as Law Director should carry a significant weight, and that the board should take additional consideration of Dhawan's comments because of that perspective.

FAILED. NOTED ABSTENTION - AHMED



Riches stated that they are willing to have conversations on this matter at a different time moving forward. They thanked the board for their feedback and noted that the discussion is very important. They stated that the committee will begin exploring its mandate under the condition that the motion passes and the vacant seats will be left open until the next meeting of the board.

7.4 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motion be amended so that the final clause of the motion read as follows:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following Directors be elected to serve on the Ad-hoc CFS Committee:

- ***From Division I***
 - ***Fiona Reuter***
- ***From Division II***
 - ***Andrew Chen***
- ***From either Division I or Division II***
 - ***Basmah Ramadan***
 - _____
 - _____

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran reiterated that the purpose of the committee is to investigate the relationship between UTSU and the CFS. The committee's discussion will not be normative and would not serve to comment negatively on the union's relationship with any external organization.

CARRIED

CARRIED

8. UTSU 2020 Fall Elections

DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: AHMED

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran outlined the nomination and voting processes of the fall elections for the Board's benefit. He noted that the schedule will be available on the website and social media of the UTSU.



9. Postponement of 2020 Annual General Meeting

DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: AHMED

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated that Corporations Canada has extended the deadline for Not-for-profit corporations to hold their Annual General Meeting due to COVID-19. He added that corporations can now hold their annual general meeting within 12 months of the end of their fiscal year. The normal period for the Annual General Meeting is upcoming, however it would be very difficult to organize due to the new environment and lack of accommodations within the policies for the online format the meeting would have to take place. He noted that holding the Annual General Meeting entirely online would go against the current Bylaws of the union and that the bylaw document would require amendments to accommodate for restrictions on large gatherings. He added that this change has never been made before however, given the unique circumstances of the year and the changes in regulation it is the most sensible choice the union can make.

Ramadan asked for clarification as to when the Annual General meeting would occur and asked whether UTSU would be able to hold a Special General meeting, if necessary.

O'Halloran stated that the Annual General meeting would likely occur in the same period that last year's special general meeting occurred. He noted that there would likely be no need to have a Special General Meeting, however if one was necessary it would be held in March under the timelines dictated by the Bylaws.

Reuter asked if pushing the Annual General meeting would affect the timeline of future general meetings.

O'Halloran stated that the requirements for the next general meeting were also extended, however the UTSU should not need to use those extensions. He noted that in the future the Annual General meeting would be required to take place before the end of October.

Ahmed reiterated that this is a one time change that has been allowed by the unique circumstances that have arisen from COVID-19. The UTSU needs time to prepare the structures necessary for an entirely online general meeting where students would still be able to participate as they would normally.

Prem asked how the UTSU plans to notify students that the Annual General Meeting will not be occurring in October.

O'Halloran stated that they intend to fully advertise the information around the general meeting's delay. He stated that there are individuals and groups across campus that have a vested interest in the timeline of the meeting. He further stated that he will be working with Ahmed to choose a suitable date to present to the board at the October Board meeting.



10. Other Business

DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: V. DHAWAN

SECONDED: PREM

DISCUSSION

10.2 Motion to Suspend the Rules

RESOLUTION

MOVED: V.DHAWAN SECONDED: JUNG

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the rules be suspended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Item 10.1 be withdrawn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entirety of the discussion in item 10, Other Business, be stricken from the minutes.

CARRIED

11. Adjournment

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourns at 5:26 PM.

Appendices Listed on Following Page



APPENDICES

- **Consent Agenda**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xSqPWhIo6BsdN25xdnOO4-Ilcr2ygahu?usp=sharing>

- **First Year Council Reference Manual**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1soSen4M0Z63eeOPILW3y5hb4PUC-7hg8/view?usp=sharing>

- **Fall 2020 Elections Schedule & List of Vacant Positions**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yD7qBNkTDSkFEKytgSxAxLmN6d-epHgG/view?usp=sharing>

- A Report on the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario Annual General Meeting**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19PHdJxmYd8wYYALH7Ihrkeea3xRErxEm/view?usp=sharing>