



Minutes – Board of Directors

**11th Meeting of 2020-2021
Saturday, March 27th, 2021 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM 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
Neeharika Hemrajani, VP Student Life
Paul Kaita, VP Professional Faculties

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

Kayleigh McCormick, New College
Karel Peters, New 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
Sierra Bevacqua, Woodsworth College
Sheryl Ordonez, Woodsworth College
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences
Alex Erickson, Social Sciences
Evan Kanter, Computer Science
Astrid Chandler, Humanities
Sidrah Rana, Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Jai Kakkar, Rotman Commerce

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

Andrew Chen, Applied Science & Engineering
José Power, Architecture & Visual Studies
Tiffany Tiu, Kinesiology & Physical Education
Catherine Wang, Music
Vanshika Dhawan, Law
Shaon Parial, Pharmacy
Rose Mohammad, Professional Faculties at-large
Nelson Lee, Applied Sciences & Engineering
Diana Li, Applied Sciences & Engineering
Danielle Lewis, Medicine

Visitors and Other Non-Voting

Branden Cave, Speaker of the Board of Directors,
UTSU
Suzanne Belleau, General Manager, UTSU
Arlene Williams, Learning and Development
Ankit Sharma, Director of Operations
Spencer Robertson, Animator, Student Life
Margaret de Leon, Chief Operations 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
Sophia DiNicolo, EA Research & Administration,
UTSU
Micaela Consens, EA Student Life, UTSU
Zubiya Burney, Administrative Assistant
Alexandra Ballis, Incoming President
Christopher Luong

Absent

Miloni Mehta, Woodsworth College
Nermin Piragic, Dentistry
Ramtin Taramsari, New College
Matthew Ho, St. Michael's College

Regrets

Meredith McKinnon, Nursing



Minutes

Open Session

1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 12:15 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: RAMADAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2.1 Motion to Amend the Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: O'HALLORAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the President's Executive Report be removed from the agenda.

CARRIED

2.1 Motion to Amend the Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: AHMED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 10th Finance Committee Meeting and the 4th Services Committee Meeting be added to the agenda.

CARRIED

CARRIED

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: HEMRAJANI

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

1. Meeting of the Board of Directors

10th Meeting of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors, 27 February 2021

2. Meetings of Committees

Student Commons Appointments Committee, 24 February 2021 (1st Meeting)

Student Aid Committee, 26 February 2021 (13th Meeting)

First Year Council, 28 February 2021 (5th Meeting)



Clubs Committee, 3 March 2021 (3rd Meeting)
Student Commons Appointments Committee, 3 March 2021 (2nd Meeting)
Services Committee, 5 March 2021 (3rd Meeting)
Student Aid Committee, 5 March 2021 (14th Meeting)
Executive Committee, 5 March 2021 (12th Meeting)
Student Commons Appointments Committee, 5 March 2021 (3rd Meeting)
Governance Committee, 11 March 2021 (11th Meeting)
Student Aid Committee, 16 March 2021 (15th Meeting)
Clubs Committee, 19 March 2021 (5th Meeting)
Campaigns and Outreach, 19 March 2021 (5th Meeting)
Governance Committee, 22 March 2021 (12th Meeting)
Clubs Committee, 22 March 2021 (5th Meeting)
Finance Committee, 26 March 2021 (10th Meeting)
Services Committee, 26 March 2021 (4th Meeting)

DISCUSSION

Hemrajani externalized the minutes of the 5th Clubs Committee, Resolution #3 - Changes to the Clubs Policy.

CARRIED

3.2 Executive Reports

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Executive Reports

~~March 2021 Report of the President~~
February & March 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Operations
March 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Public & University Affairs
March 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life
March 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Equity
March 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Professional Faculties

DISCUSSION

Ahmed stated that per her email, she was unable to complete her executive report this month. She noted that she will be working on a joint board report for the April Board. She stated that as an overview, the month was primarily dedicated to the Spring 2021 elections, which involved the coordination with the ERC, CRO and vice-president Operations.

O'Halloran stated that his February and March Report largely includes Governance Reform work he completed. He stated that the appendices attached to his report include the Student Aid Fact Sheet, and the amended Policy Books approved through the Governance Committee. He noted that the UTSU now has full occupancy of the Student Commons, and he has been busy working on preparing for the SGM.

Riches stated that they attended a town hall hosted by the UMLAP review team. They shared some preliminary data from the union's surveys around UMLAP and noted a great deal of stern criticism from attendees. They noted that they will be using the extension to create recommendations to bring to students before sharing them with the review team. They added that they spoke on the CFS report and noted that it was unable to be completed by its set deadline, however, it should be completed by the April Board meeting. They spoke at the business board with Kanter to the Same Degree Same Fee



Campaign and other budget recommendations, this will be spoken to further at Governing Council.

Hemrajani stated that she has been working on revisions to the Club's Policy. The Clubs committee met multiple times to discuss the revisions and finalize fall disbursements. She noted that Winter disbursement applications have opened up and they are nearing the end of clubs recognition. She noted that Unity Week is upcoming and they have elected to host a series of asynchronous programming as they are anticipating lower attendance due to the beginning of the exam period.

McLean stated that the preliminary draft for the campus police report is linked to her executive report. If any members have the board have questions or changes they should notify her as the report will be made public shortly. She noted that the report was able to be finalized as the union received all the information that they requested from the university. She noted that other than the report she has been working on the finalization of the EDI Policy which would serve to ensure that the UTSU employs equitable practices. This policy will be included within the incoming Peoples and Cultures policy as part of the governance reform. She added that the union was able to recently hold a disability and consent workshop with Students for Barrier-Free Access and they have 2 upcoming workshops hosted in collaboration with the Dandelion Initiative.

Kaita stated that he shared his report on Professional Faculties in Residence with various stakeholders and the university administration.. He noted that he will be meeting with the Office of the Vice-Provost to provide recommendations. He stated that his other main priority for the month was the work around the Scholarship Program. This included ensuring that the program was adequately promoted to students and answering questions that may have arisen around the program's implementation.

3.3 Question Period

DISCUSSION ITEM

Erickson asked about how the position of Vice-President, Public and University Affairs will be filled?

O'Halloran stated that the position will either be filled by appointment or running a special election. He noted that there are a number of issues however, the first of which being that the bylaws are not very clear about appointing directors. This is clearer within the CNCA however, there will likely need to be revisions discussed at an emergency board meeting to allow for an appointment to occur. He noted that if they were to hold a special election the ERC would need to call that election as soon as possible and set up a timeline for it to occur.

Erickson asked whether both options would be considered at the April Board meeting or whether they could be voted on at the end of the current Board meeting.

O'Halloran stated that if the union decides to have an appointment, they would still need to create a hiring committee for the positions, which would still require the calling of an emergency board meeting. The governance change would have to occur before the hiring committee was called. He noted that within the next week the team would discuss the possible options and call an emergency board meeting taking note of the fact that exams are beginning.



Riches noted that though they should not be directly involved in choosing their successor, they are especially in favour of holding a special election. They stated that the position does a great deal of advocacy work with the university administration and various levels of government, this advocacy is only strengthened when the individual is elected.

Kakkar agreed that a special election would be preferred. If they go through with an appointment, He asked whether the current executive or the incoming executive would make the decision around the individual.

O'Halloran stated that at the upcoming meeting they would set up an appointment committee consisting of different board members. This board would make the appointment. He noted that the committee would likely include members of the incoming executive. He added that if the role remains vacant Riches would remain in the role until it was filled.

3.3.1 Externalization of Resolution 3 of Clubs Committee #5

DISCUSSION

Hemrajani stated that she wanted to go into greater detail about the restructuring of the Club's Policy. Over the past few months the Student Life team did research and consulted with stakeholders across campus. Using the feedback from stakeholders she worked with O'Halloran and passed an updated clubs policy through the Governance Committee recently. These revisions will come into effect May 1st, 2021. The major changes include the newly created grant system and changes to what it means to be a recognized club.

O'Halloran stated that this policy revision comes in line with the other governance reform that the union is currently undergoing, including specified coding, numbering systems, consistent format and approach. The first iteration of which has already been approved by the Governance Committee. The goal of the revision is to make the union's policies more coherent to student groups across campus and match other competent student unions with good club funding opportunities. The changes put the union in a better position to support clubs while also increasing financial accountability, and reporting to meet auditing requirements and promote good business practices.

CARRIED

4. Presentation by Rotman Commerce Director on Constituent Survey

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: KAKKAR

DISCUSSION

Kakkar presented their results from the survey they did with the Rotman Commerce Student Association around Rotman student's awareness of the UTSU and its services. He noted some major outcomes of the survey being that students were disappointed at the lack of promotion of certain services such as student aid and the lack of information around the health and dental plan's coverage. Kakkar noted that the greatest takeaway from the survey was that the



advertising efforts of the union need to better guide students in accessing the resources available.

Prem thanked Kakkar and thought the survey template may be good for other constituencies. He noted how these problems can also be seen in other areas such as the scholarship program. Since the scholarships are based on financial need it can be difficult for international students and this creates barriers for international students as financing is very different when compared to domestic students.

Ramadan thanked Kakkar. She asked what led Kakkar to do the survey for Rotman students and why didn't include other directors and constituencies?

Kakkar replied that different constituencies affected differently, so wanted to look at their own constituency. They wanted to contribute to their position and do something tangible. He stated that he is happy to bring up the conversation for other people to do it for other constituencies, then why not.

Riches thanked Kakkar. They noted how the UTSU has an engagement problem. Survey provides a lot of useful data and it's great to see directors engaging with constituencies to identify needs. Noticed a lot of questions related to services and programs of UTSU, wondering if it was intentional not including advocacy work.

Kakkar replied and said that the survey was specifically looking at services, to see Rotman students understanding of the services they are paying for.

O'Halloran thanked Kakkar. He noted how it is great for Directors to reach out to their constituency and for the future board as well it would be beneficial, especially as a form of outreach. Acknowledged UTSU marketing is something that was identified in the SWAT sessions and is a key part of the strategic plan. Communications staff team now, which will help develop capacity for outreach and marketing. Previously, the student aid committee had \$1,600 (in 2018/2019) in funding, and the main mandate of the committee was to find other funding/bursaries for students, and as of September 1st it will be \$160,000 funding for emergency bursaries. In regards to the tax clinic, most volunteers come from Rotman, so results might be skewed there.

Kakkar thanked Dermot for all the feedback. During March of last year, a lot of students looked into the student aid program, but many didn't know what it was about. Scholarships use the vocabulary "must", making it clear that you have to show financial need.

5. **Approval of Annual Fee Adjustments for 2021-2022**

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: RAMADAN

WHEREAS the University of Toronto governance pathway requires that the UTSU approve its annual fee adjustments for the 2021-2022 session prior to March 31st 2021;



BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2021-2022 UTSU Annual Society Fee Adjustments be approved as presented in Appendix B and forwarded for processing by the University of Toronto.

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated in a normal year, the services and committee would vote on it, but not possible because the timeline got pushed back. There are 4 levies that were discussed for approval. Main ones, health and dental, and student commons. Got projections for student aid, first time in many years, won't need to increase health and dental by 10% for mental health coverage. Based on discussion, move to 3% increase to establish a reasonable reserve, without overcharging, with the potential to expand services or pilot new services. Student commons levy, operating levy, previous executives signed an agreement with the university that the UTSU would increase 10% levy for the first 6 years of occupancy of the student commons to get support from the University. Strong recommendation for increase at least 10% for operating levy.

5.1 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: KANTER

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT lines 10 and 11 of Appendix B be reduced to 3% each.

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated after talking with student care, 3% increase to health and dental will ensure long term financial stability of the UTSU health and dental plan. Previously UTSU was in debt for health and dental insurance, but worked out of that with 10% increases. First year in a while that they don't need to do that. Not wise to approve 0% increase, could cause trouble for future executives and boards.

CARRIED

Kanter asked about levies. In particular, OPIRG, is there a basis to understand whether students benefit from this and if so on what evidence?

O'Halloran stated OPIRG levy was not for approval, don't have authority to do that. Only way to change levies line 22-37 would be to have a referendum to change those. Not in board jurisdiction to change them.

Kanter asked whether they feel this organization has represented and benefited students or not?

O'Halloran stated can't change that levy. Inappropriate for him to comment on the efficacy of the group at this time. The UTSU collects levy on their behalf, they ran a referendum, representing the needs of students to receive a majority threshold. OPIRG is a tenant in student commons, student group and provides a library on research. Strong relationship with them.

Kanter asked when the levy is up for renewal?

O'Halloran stated that the levy does not have a sunset clause and thus does not go under renewal.



CARRIED

6. UCRU Bylaws and Incorporation

RESOLUTION

MOVED: RICHES

SECONDED: O'HALLORAN

WHEREAS the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) is a federal lobbying organization seeking to incorporate under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*; and

WHEREAS incorporation requires a set of proposed bylaws for the new corporation; and

WHEREAS the UTSU is a member of UCRU, and has been involved in the drafting and review process of these bylaws; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors ratify the bylaws of the Association of Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities, as presented in Appendix C; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UTSU pursue Class A membership in the new corporation, as defined in the bylaws of the corporation.

DISCUSSION

Riches stated UTSU is a member of UCRU, and how UCRU is working to incorporate at the end of this year. The by-laws have been brought to student unions, including UTSU for feedback. Concerns raised included executive officer restrictions for positions to be held for multiple consecutive years, as well as including non U-15 institutions, and including other undergraduate unions, such as the UTSU's sister unions, bilingualism and withdrawal from fees. Most of the changes put forward were adopted. Decided to put forward class A membership because allows for voting position on board of directors, and membership fee won't be put in place for a little time, and if a fee is implemented, the UTSU can withdraw membership if need be.

6.1 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: PETERS

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be appended to the motion:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UTSU continue to clarify the position of UCRU on the potential membership of other University of Toronto undergraduate student organizations, with those being the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU), the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU), and the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UTSU enact policies and bylaws to ensure that regular and thorough reviews of the corporation's external memberships are



conducted, especially in regard to those external organizations that request fees or levies from UTSU members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UTSU continue to build our own advocacy capacity, especially in regard to lobbying government and local organizations"

DISCUSSION

Peters recognized UCRU came back and addressed all of UTSU's concerns. Agree should join class A membership, believes these amendments solidify things brought to UCRU and protect UTSU going forward.

Riches thanked Peters. In favour of this. Solidified things thinking about, provides a mandate to and commitment to do that. Reviewing external membership, good practice to do. Other student unions do this, UTSU starting to do this with CFS. Fully supportive of the amendment.

CARRIED

CARRIED

7. Motion Regarding Building Capacity in the VPPUA Role

RESOLUTION

MOVED: PETERS

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED that the UTSU hire a full-time Government and Community Relations Coordinator working under the direction of the Vice-President, Public and University Affairs and the General Manager with duties that include, but are not limited to, maintaining relationships with politicians at each level of government, keeping track of potential external advocacy opportunities for UTSU involvement, conducting policy research for UTSU advocacy initiatives, liaising with relevant University of Toronto departments, and building relationships with relevant local organizations that have an interest in affairs at the University of Toronto.

DISCUSSION

Peters stated purpose for this clause and hiring a government community relations coordinator has been introduced before. Concern for VPPUA capacity, this position would benefit the VPPUA. Although elected, prior experience and skill set that comes with governance relations will put more validity in the role. Riches does a lot of work, three levels of government, having someone in this position would benefit the UTSU as a union, and its' membership as it pertains to advocacy.

Suzanne stated that this is a great idea. Strengthening services and re-imagine roles. See success when a staff person is attached to a VP portfolio that directly supports. Because this is a unionized position, and requires budget considerations, the UTSU needs to look at the impact on the budget. To make a decision on something like this, will need to bring back information because it is a budget decision. Offer to explore this more, the specifics of this position need to be flushed out more.



Cave stated could be committed to the executive committee to do more research on and report back.

O'Halloran stated it is something that the executive committee should be responsible for deciding. Agreed with Suzanne. Wording such as "coordinator" has implications for union and bargaining union. Would recommend to change wording of the motion to something similar to a commitment to looking into the position.

Dhawan V. provided context in relation to UCRU, which was around the capacity of student unions and the ability for certain student unions to take on leadership roles in UCRU and other external organizations. A position like this would be important to build own capacity to take on more leadership roles and strategic planning roles in external advocacy organizations and to make sure the University of Toronto and UTSU member interests are being well represented at the collective advocacy level.

Peters proposes this motion with no timeline. No need to do this by a certain date, stressing the importance of doing it and not delaying it. If to do this now, in the context of UCRU, closes this chapter for this board, then the next board can go about budgeting and more specifics. Want to commit to forming this role and not delaying it further.

Riches thanked Peters. They stated that they are in favour of the spirit of this motion. When VPPUA position was created, previous two positions were both part time, but roles had a history of people working full time hours in both positions, and now it is one dedicated full time position. Wouldn't have been able to do work without 2 executive assistants this year. Want future VPPUAs to continue work the UTSU has been doing, and freeing up more time to do more strategic planning, and take on roles in UCRU. They had to step back on stuff at UCRU because they didn't have the capacity for it. Also unable to dedicate enough time to academic advocacy, or being able to advertise if students have issues with courses that they could reach out to the VPPUA because don't have capacity to do that work on a larger scale. Need greater support for this position in the future. In favour of a motion to commitment to looking into this further.

7.1 Motion to Commit

RESOLUTION

MOVED: PETERS

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the pending question, Motion #7, be committed to the Executive Committee to report back at the April Board of Directors Meeting.

CARRIED

COMMITTED

8. Annual Ratification Meeting & Election Results

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: AHMED



DISCUSSION

Ahmed stated they are waiting on a few internal elections to wrap up before scheduling an annual ratification meeting. ERC will be meeting and scheduling a date for annual ratification meeting after internal election results in. The joint board meeting dates are set.

O'Halloran stated they wanted to have the ARM scheduled, but waiting for the results from other societies. ERC is going to call that meeting.

9. Governance Reform at the UTSU

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: O'HALLORAN

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran stated that information on governance reform can be found in his executive report. Overhauling every single UTSU policy that will be coming up in the April board meeting. Will be impactful for organization. A lot is happening there, wanted to call attention to it before it is brought to the board meeting next month.

10. Adjournment

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: AHMED

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourns at 1:57 PM.

Appendices Listed on Following Page



APPENDICES

- Meeting Package

Link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pwcaHigzdh13swRM_NwMLnvpWR2kMT1U?usp=sharing

- Consent Agenda

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qn_UL7dCs4mzhyStNIYPGrf9mGs65js4?usp=sharing

- Clubs and Student Groups (CSG) Policy for Review (from GC #12)

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xxtttY4FJIYuwBUtn9t2c2ZteykuF0Cr/view?usp=sharing>

A Rotman Commerce Survey Findings

Presentation Link (A1):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jTysH1-GzAvmhZpg7Ap7ruBU0N3-tjH/view?usp=sharing>

Survey Results Link (A2):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uyf9c9kCEdZVz4rtkn3IEED3OdbXdYkJ/view?usp=sharing>

B UTSU Society Fee and Levy Adjustments for 2021-2022

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XdUFinVUGdbTVblctN97pzfJ7o0WzEEg/view?usp=sharing>

C UCRU Bylaws and Incorporation

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1pwcaHigzdh13swRM_NwMLnvpWR2kMT1U