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**Minutes – Board of Directors**

**1st Meeting of 2021-2022  
Friday, 30th April 2021 | 3:00 PM EST**

**Video Conference held via Zoom**

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Executive Committee

Alexa Ballis, President  
Fiona Reuter, VP Operations  
Catherine Lai, VP Public & University Affairs  
Maria Lin, VP Student Life  
Reva Aggarwal, VP Equity  
Ruoheng Wang, VP Professional Faculties

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

Easha Khan, University College Director  
Muskan Nagra, University College Director  
Rayan Alim, St. Michael's College Director  
David D'Aversa, St. Michael's College Director  
Cianna Choo, St. Michael's College Director  
Caroline Tolton, Trinity College Director  
Stuti Roy, Victoria College Director  
Halit Erdogan, Victoria College Director  
Jenny Shen, Woodsworth College Director  
Ramtin Taramsari, New College Director  
Elad Dekel, Innis College Director  
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences Director  
Victoria Liu, Social Sciences Director  
Roshawn Jamasi, Rotman Commerce Director  
Jessie Wu, Humanities Director

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

Nelson Lee, Engineering Director  
Sheral Kumar, Engineering Director  
Sydney Munro, KPE Director  
Catherine Tan, Music Director  
Vicdan (Chill) Okman, Architecture & Visual  
Studies Director  
Maria Ebeid, Professional Faculties-at-Large  
Director

Sterling Mancuso Law Director  
Hailey Goldberg, Nursing Director  
Oluwadamilola (Dami) Sogbesan  
Pharmacy Director  
Dariya Darvin, Medicine Director

Executive Assistants, UTSU

Staff Team

Branden Cave, Speaker of the Board, UTSU  
Suzanne Belleau, General Manager, UTSU  
Ankit Sharma, Director of Operations, UTSU  
Ferris Bledin, Executive Coordinator, UTSU  
Brian Stock, Director of Communications, UTSU  
Yara Kodersah, People & Culture Manager, UTSU  
Tasia Richards, Digital Specialist, UTSU  
Kate MacMillan, Events Coordinator, UTSU  
Arlene Williams, Learning & Development, UTSU  
Terri Nikolaevsky, Programs Manager, UTSU  
Marco Hernandez, Services Coordinator, UTSU

**Absent**

**Regrets**

Neo Lou, Engineering Director



## MINUTES

### Open Session

#### 1. **Call to Order**

This meeting is called to order at 3:23 PM.

#### 2. **Appointment of Speaker**

RESOLUTION

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: REUTER

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Branden Cave be appointed as Speaker for the remainder of the meeting.**

CARRIED

#### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: SHEN

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

##### 3.1 **Motion to Amend the Agenda**

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: NAGRA

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new item number 9 be added to the agenda titled "Appointment of FYC Summer Commission".**

CARRIED

CARRIED

#### 4. **Address from the President**

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: BALLIS

DISCUSSION

Ballis stated that she is the President of the UTSU and uses she/her pronouns. She has been previously involved on campus at VUSAC and as the UTSU President's Assistant in 2018-2019. One of her first priorities to achieve this year is COVID-19 and the university's transition to in-person learning. She encouraged all to contact her through [president@utsu.ca](mailto:president@utsu.ca).

#### 5. **Introduction to the Executive**

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: BALLIS

DISCUSSION

The executive team introduced themselves, outlined their title and pronouns, and the best way to contact them.



## 6. Transfer of Signing Authority

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED:

**WHEREAS** Bylaws VIII designates the President and Vice-President Operations as signing officers of the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU); and

**WHEREAS** Alexa Ballis and Fiona Reuter are due to replace Muntaka Ahmed and Dermot O'Halloran as the President and Vice President Operations of the UTSU respectively, with terms beginning effective 1 May 2021;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Muntaka Ahmed and Dermot O'Halloran be stripped of their signing authority as signing officers of the UTSU effective 1 May 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Alexa Ballis and Fiona Reuter be granted signing authority as signing officers of the UTSU effective 1 May 2021.

CARRIED

## 7. Spending Authorization Resolution

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: HALIT

**WHEREAS** the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) engages in an annual budgeting process over the course of the summer term; and

**WHEREAS** the Policies of the UTSU govern that process; and

**WHEREAS** the Policies of the UTSU require the incoming Board of Directors to approve a Spending Authorization Resolution (SAR) at the Joint Board Meeting to authorize "spending until the approval of the Preliminary Budget at the June Board Meeting"; **NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021 SAR be approved as presented in Appendix A.**

**DISCUSSION**

Reuter noted that this is a standard item to authorize the spending that the UTSU must do before the Preliminary budget is approved. The SAR is based off of the preliminary budget that was submitted last year with a few adjustments made by the outgoing Finance Committee. She added that the union will not spend the full amount within the SAR, however, it is a procedural item which allows the union to continue to operate. She noted that there are a few items of note which are written in red, which are 15% taken to meet COVID-19 needs and the Student Aid and Scholarship line which are based on 15% of anticipated revenue.

CARRIED



## 8. Striking of Finance Committee

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: CAROLINE

**WHEREAS the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) engages in an annual budgeting process over the course of the summer term; and**

**WHEREAS the Finance Committee of the UTSU exercises board oversight over the annual budgeting process; and**

**WHEREAS the Policies of the UTSU require that the incoming Board of Directors strike the Finance Committee at the Joint Board Meeting; NOW, THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Finance Committee be struck for the first Committee Term, requiring the election of six (6) Directors from Divisions I and II; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as a committee member from Division I; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as a committee member from Division II; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as additional committee members from Divisions I and II.**

**DISCUSSION**

Reuter stated that the Finance Committee needs to be struck earlier to approve the Preliminary Budget before the June Board of Directors meeting. She explained the voting procedure and encouraged members to put their names forward.

D'Aversa nominated themselves. They stated that they want to ensure that the UTSU's finances are in good shape and to maximize how we use student funds. As for my experience, I am an economics major, and a good background in physics and math.

Jamasi nominated themselves. They stated that they wanted to be part of UTSU to give back to the community, and can use their skills as a Rotman commerce student. They are taking finance, and accounting courses and can use these skills and contribute to the UTSU to ensure the finances are healthy.

Tan nominated themselves. They stated that they are in the Faculty of Music and they want to ensure that the money is spread out and helping students. They noted that they were once a treasurer in the student council.



Liu nominated themselves. They stated that they would like to contribute to the Finance Committee by overseeing priorities especially during COVID-19. They want to look into how much the union spends on Student aid and mental health resources. They added that they are the incoming treasurer for Trinity WUSC and an International Relations major.

Darvin nominated themselves. They noted that they are from the Faculty of Medicine and in their undergraduate they majored in mathematics. They added that they have exposure as a treasurer and how to allocate resources in a limited setting.

Tolton nominated themselves. They stated that they are studying international relations and have taken economics and finances classes before. They added that they are the treasurer of TCDS and have served on the Finance Committee at Trinity College where they approved the finances for clubs.

Erdogan nominated themselves. They noted that they are running for this position since they worked in a not-for-profit organisation and was able to oversee its finances and feel that they can contribute the skills they gained.

Lee nominated themselves. They stated that they would like to sit on the Finance Committee again as they have the perspective of someone who has run programs and health initiatives on campus.

Alim nominated themselves. They noted that they want to ensure that the UTSU is spending money responsibly and equitably. They noted that they are a computer science and math major.

*The meeting recesses at 4:01 PM*

*The meeting returns from recess at 4:15 PM.*

## **8.1 Motion to Amend**

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT David D'aversa be appointed as a committee member from Division I; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Nelson Lee be appointed as a committee member from Division II; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Roshawn Jamasi, Caroline Tolton, Victoria Liu, and Rayan Alim be appointed as additional committee members from Divisions I and II.**



**CARRIED**

**CARRIED**

## **9. Appointment of FYC Summer Commission**

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: JENNY

**WHEREAS the First Year Council has solicited requests for members wishing to continue work on behalf of the FYC in the form of a Summer Commission, as prescribed in the FYC Reference Manual;**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Anusha Madhusudanan, Maggie Kou, Chloe Panganiban, Marjorie He, Jessie Wu, and Jenny Shen be appointed to the FYC Summer Commission for a term of membership ending August 31st, 2021.**

**DISCUSSION**

Kou stated that the council is making this change to the previous transition team, as this new format allows the FYC to continue to finalize loose ends and maintain transition into the next year. She added that there were a few members of the FYC who felt that they could not achieve all their goals throughout their term and wanted to emphasize the support the council gives to first year students.

Madhusudanan clarified that the transition team unofficially worked on loose ends and they wanted to make that an official aspect of the summer commission's mandate. She added that this coming year they hope to be more involved with the incoming first year students as the Council represents present and incoming first year students. Therefore, they wanted to create programming that would accommodate both.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Board Priorities for the 2021-2022 Term**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

PRESENTED BY: BALLIS

:

**DISCUSSION**

Ballis noted that the executive will be presenting their priorities for the year later, and would like to hear about the issues that the board would like to see focused on.

D'Aversa stated that due to COVID, those who are most vulnerable financially and many racialized communities are most impacted. They stated that they want to see advocacy for mental health support, tuition changes as well as support for digital services fees such as Top Hat and Wiley Plus.



Dekel noted that an important focus should be bridging the gap between the UTSU and the student body by improving communication.

Jung noted that their top priorities include academic advocacy to the university and mental health support, including the establishment of permanent working groups to tackle these issues.

Ballis stated that her main priorities are financial transparency and support during the transition to in-person.

D'Aversa noted that it is important to make sure that it is safe for students to return to in-person learning.

Liu added that the UTSU could reach out to companies regarding student jobs and possibly reserve jobs for University of Toronto students.

Tan added that with summer school starting they want to ensure that students feel supported. They want to focus on making sure that people feel supported while learning online and make resources for research available despite library closures. They noted that they want to make sure that students are aware of the resources available during summer school.

Lai noted that through this pandemic there has been a great deal of anxiety due to the sudden shift to online learning. They added that there is also a lot of fear around returning to school, as most students' learning environment has been restricted to their bedroom. She noted that they want to work with students and faculty to ensure there is a smooth transition and evaluate curriculums that may have been modified due to the pandemic. She added that she'd love to see the UTSU support the UofT food bank in reopening, possibly utilizing a food box system in collaboration with UTERN. They also noted that they want to support the development of more mental health resources including the new peer support program.

## 11. Other Business

### DISCUSSION ITEM

MOVED: REUTER

### DISCUSSION

Reuter noted that they have not had the chance to set up a timeline for meetings, however they will be scheduling them with board members' availability in mind.

## 12. Adjournment

### RESOLUTION

MOVED: EBEID

SECONDED: D'AVERSA

**BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.**

CARRIED



**The meeting adjourns at 4:35 PM.**

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**Appendices Listed on Following Page**





## APPENDICES

### **A Spending Authorization Resolution**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12WD0njfTMOMDEYH8k4K4Xs9dPU-5c8Vo/view?usp=sharing>