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**Minutes – Board of Directors**

**8th Meeting of 2021-2022  
9 December 2021 | 12:00 PM EST**

**Video Conference held via Zoom**

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Executive Committee

Alexa Ballis, President  
Fiona Reuter, VP Operations  
Maria Lin, VP Student Life  
Reva Aggarwal, VP Equity  
Omar Gharbiyeh, VP Public & University Affairs

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

Rayan Alim, St. Michael's College Director  
Caroline Tolton, Trinity College Director  
Halit Erdogan, Victoria College Director  
Jenny Shen, Woodsworth College Director  
Francyves Shanira, Woodsworth College Director  
Janice Shum, Woodsworth College Director  
Ramtin Taramsari, New College Director  
Mandy Chiu, New College Director  
Samantha Chow, New College Director  
Elad Dekel, Innis College Director  
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences Director  
Victoria Liu, Social Sciences Director  
Jessie Wu, Humanities Director

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

Nelson Lee, Engineering Director  
Neo Lou, Engineering Director  
Sheral Kumar, Engineering Director  
Sydney Munro, KPE Director  
Catherine Tan, Music Director  
Maria Ebeid, Professional Faculties-at-Large  
Director  
Sterling Mancuso Law Director  
Oluwadamilola (Dami) Sogbesan  
Pharmacy Director

Executive Assistants and UTSU Staff

Emmanuel Sackeyfio, Chief Operations Assistant  
Tran Thai, Chief Executive Assistant  
Nicole Giebler, EA R & A (President)  
Emiri Katakawa, EA R & A (Equity)  
Maddie Kalda, EA R & A (Pro Fac)  
Branden Cave, Speaker  
Arlene Williams, Learning & Development, UTSU

Visitors and Other Non-Voting

Jackie Ko, *The Varsity*  
Elizabeth Schechtman  
Judy Josefowicz, Special Projects Advisor

**Absent**

Ruoheng Wang, VP Professional Faculties  
Easha Khan, University College Director  
Nicholas Merrithew, University College Director  
David D'Aversa, St. Michael's College Director  
Stuti Roy, Victoria College Director  
Kathryn Cheng, Mathematical and Physical  
Sciences Director  
Vicdan Okman, Architecture & Visual  
Studies Director  
Hailey Goldberg, Nursing Director  
Dariya Darvin, Medicine Director

**Regrets**

Muskan Nagra, University College Director  
Kati Gunnell, St. Michael's College Director



## MINUTES

### Open Session

#### 1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 12:14 PM.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: RAMTIN

SECONDED: ALIM

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

**DISCUSSION**

##### 2.1 Motion to Add the Executive Report

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: AGGARWAL

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report of the Vice-President Equity be added to the agenda.**

**CARRIED**

##### 2.2 Motion to Add Agenda Item

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: LIU

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the approval for use of the Wheelchair Accessibility Fund be added to the agenda.**

**CARRIED**

##### 2.3 Motion to Add Executive Report

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: BALLIS

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report of the President be added to the agenda.**

**CARRIED**



## 2.4 Motion to Add Agenda Item

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: ALIM

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the appointment of the Vice-President Public & University Affairs be added to the agenda.**

CARRIED

CARRIED

## 3. Consent Agenda

### 3.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: BALLIS

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

**1. Meeting of the Board of Directors**

7th Meeting of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors, 27 November 2021

CARRIED

## 4. Executive Reports

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Executive Reports**

December 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Operations

December 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life

Reuter stated that the majority of her work is in the Executive Report, but that the UTSU has launched the budget consultation and received over 600 responses. She noted that some feedback will be very useful and she is excited to share it with the Finance Committee in the new year.

Lin highlighted Wellness Week, noting the turnout for some popular events such as Therapy Dogs. She stated that she has also spent time supporting UTSU's Got You and finalizing the details of Frost Week.

Aggarwal highlighted the upcoming Equity Training sessions for directors and FYC members who have not already attended one. She stated that there is a link to the sign-up form in her Executive Report. She stated that the survey associated with the Sexual Violence Report will be released in January due to anticipated low response rates over the break, and noted that directors who signed up to help produce videos for XAO have been contacted for their availability.



Ballis highlighted Wellness Week and UTSU's Got You, and expressed excitement at seeing students in the Student Commons. She stated that she has spent time hiring the VP Public & University Affairs, as well as a Peer Support Specialist to support the Peer Support Program in collaboration with Stella's Place. She stated that she had met with ISAN to discuss international students' difficulties travelling, and stated that the issues with booking systems have been brought to the University administration once again. She highlighted meetings with the FMUA and the PEARS Project to plan a protest regarding sexual violence on campus. Finally, she highlighted educational campaigns in collaboration with Bleed The North.

## 5. Approval for Use of the Wheelchair Accessibility Fund

### RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: TAN

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the use of the Wheelchair Accessibility Fund for the purpose of making renovations to the Student Commons that will make the building more accessible.**

### DISCUSSION

Reuter stated that the UTSU has been working with Students for Barrier-Free Access and the University's Accessibility Office in order to ensure that the renovations to the Student Commons are accessible to students with physical disabilities. She stated that they are hoping to access funds from the Wheelchair Accessibility Fund in order to make these changes, which requires approval from the Board of Directors.

### 5.1 Motion to Grant Judy Josefowicz Speaking Rights

#### RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Judy Josefowicz be granted speaking rights for the duration of this item.**

#### CARRIED

Josefowicz noted that several modifications were left incomplete during earlier renovations to the Student Commons, including some modifications to the kitchens and other changes to allow for better programming. She noted a focus has been placed on accessibility for the current projects, and stated that these projects needed approval from the Capital Projects and Space Planning Committee (CPSPC). She stated that the CPSPC would be interested in the scope and funding of the project, and stated that the Wheelchair Accessibility Fund is an appropriate fund to partially cover the costs of the renovations. She stated that a portion of the fund would be spent, and stated that it is preferable to have the Board's approval before the renovations are brought to the CPSPC.

#### CARRIED



## 7. Ratification of the Appointment of the Vice-President Public & University Affairs

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: ALIM

**WHEREAS the position of Vice-President, Public and University Affairs remained vacant during the Fall 2021 Elections Cycle; THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED that Omar Gharbiyeh be appointed to the position of Vice-President, Public and University Affairs, effective January 1st, 2022.**

**DISCUSSION**

Ballis described the difficulties in filling the VPPUA role, including the Spring elections and subsequent hiring processes. She stated that the Fall 2021 Elections were held after the VPPUA found in the Spring process resigned, and noted that nobody ran for the position in the Fall 2021 elections. She stated that the UTSU then underwent a hiring process for VPPUA, and that many incredible candidates applied. She noted that the hiring committee was very impressed with Gharbiyeh's previous work and strong equity lens.

Gharbiyeh expressed happiness for the opportunity to make meaningful change. He stated that in his research and preparation for the role, he has identified several priorities. He highlighted gathering meaningful student feedback, accessibility and accommodations, the return to campus, tuition freezes, OSAP clawbacks<sup>1</sup>, and mental health. He thanked the Board for their time and stated that he looked forward to working with everyone.

**CARRIED**

## 8. Approval of Special General Meeting Package

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: ERDOGAN

**WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the Special General Meeting date to be February 16; and,**

**WHEREAS the Governing Documents of the UTSU stipulate that the Meeting Package be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the meeting date; NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors approve the Special General Meeting Package as presented in Appendix A.**

**DISCUSSION**

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<sup>1</sup> When the federal government increased their OSAP funding contribution for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, the provincial government in turn reduced ("clawed back") their contribution, leading to a comparatively small net change in funds available for students to access. Find more information [here](#).



Reuter stated that the agenda of the meeting may change depending on member-submitted motions, and noted that the Special General Meeting does not have the same requirements as the Annual General Meeting. She noted that the meeting is expected to be shorter than the AGM. She stated that she is happy to answer questions over email, and noted that she is looking into the possibility of an in-person or hybrid meeting, but that the new variant may not allow for this.

**CARRIED**

## **9. Trinity Against Sexual Assault and Harassment (TASAH) Open Letter**

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: TOLTON

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors sign onto TASAH's Open Letter RE: Allegations against former Trinity Provost Dr. Andy Orchard.**

**DISCUSSION**

**[CONTENT WARNING: Sexual Violence]** Ballis stated that TASAH is a student group which had released an open letter regarding the allegations against former-Trinity Provost Dr. Andy Orchard, who is currently employed at the University of Oxford. She stated that the requests in the letter include releasing a public statement condemning Dr. Orchard's actions, launching a formal investigation, introducing a zero-tolerance policy with regards to relationships between students and University employees, and introducing mandatory sexual violence training for all student-facing staff. She noted that this is in line with the current work underway at the UTSU, and that she believes the Board should sign on in support of this advocacy work.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**CARRIED**

**The meeting adjourns at 12:42 PM.**

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**Appendices Listed on Following Page**



## APPENDICES

### - **Consent Agenda**

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yCJ-RivxY4iDMAmEodpB2mAFMn1cLEER?usp=sharing>

### A **Special General Meeting Package**

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cMNboLu4ZAGvCXPkCOGYGxdLfM0y5WX5?usp=sharing>