



Minutes – Board of Directors

**10th Meeting of 2021-2022
27 February 2022 | 12:00 PM EST**

Video Conference held via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Present

Executive Committee

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

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
Kati Gunnell, St. Michael's College Director
Halit Erdogan, Victoria College Director
Janice Shum, Woodsworth College Director
Mandy Chiu, New College Director
Samantha Chow, New College Director
Elad Dekel, Innis College Director
Kathryn Cheng, Mathematical and Physical
Sciences Director
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences Director
Victoria Liu, Social Sciences Director
Jessie Wu, Humanities Director

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

Nelson Lee, Engineering Director
Catherine Tan, Music 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

Emmanuel Sackeyfio, Chief Operations Assistant
Tran Thai, Chief Executive Assistant
Nicole Giebler, EA R & A (President)
Konrad Samsel, EA R & A (PUA)
Emiri Katakawa, EA R & A (Equity)
Maddie Kalda, EA R & A (Pro Fac)

Staff Team

Branden Cave, Speaker
Ankit Sharma, Director of Operations, UTSU
Arlene Williams, Learning & Development, UTSU

Visitors and Other Non-Voting

Rebecca Sy, First Year Council
Tal Lavie
Evan Kanter, Governing Council Representative
Jessie Schwalb, *The Varsity*
Fatemeh Nami, ASSU President
Vanshika Dhawan
Kaamil Hassan
David Aurelio D'Aversa

Absent

Nicholas Merrithew, University College Director
Stuti Roy, Victoria College Director
Ramtin Taramsari, New College Director
Vicdan Okman, Architecture & Visual
Studies Director

Regrets

Reva Aggarwal, VP Equity
Caroline Tolton, Trinity College Director
Jenny Shen, Woodsworth College Director
Francyses Shanira, Woodsworth College Director
Sheral Kumar, Engineering Director
Neo Lou, Engineering Director
Sydney Munro, KPE Director



MINUTES

Open Session

1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 12:16 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: ALIM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2.1 Motion to Add the Executive Reports of the President and Vice-President Equity

RESOLUTION

MOVED: BALIS

SECONDED: LIU

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Reports of the President and Vice-President Equity 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**
9th Meeting of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors, Date Month Year
2. **Meetings of Committees**
Clubs Committee, 4 February 2022 (4th Meeting)
Clubs Committee, 18 February 2022 (5th Meeting)
Elections & Referenda Committee, 7 February 2022 (6th Meeting)
Student Aid Committee, 28 January 2022 (15th Meeting)
Student Aid Committee, 9 February 2022 (16th Meeting)
Services Committee, 18 February 2022 (4th Meeting)
Finance Committee, 18 February 2022 (9th Meeting)
3. **Meetings of the First Year Council**
First Year Council Meeting, 18 February 2022 (4th Meeting)

CARRIED



4. Executive Reports

DISCUSSION ITEM

Executive Reports

February 2022 Report of the President

February 2022 Report of the Vice-President, Operations

February 2022 Report of the Vice-President, Public & University Affairs

February 2022 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life

Ballis apologised for the delay in her report and stated that her month has been extremely busy. She highlighted the launch of the Students For Survivors campaign, which the UTSU has launched in collaboration with The Pears Project and the FMUA (including UTSU Director Catherine Tan). She highlighted the tabling, and encouraged Directors to watch Surviving the Centre, a YouTube video which details stories of University of Toronto students who accessed the Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre. Moving on to the elections, she stated that she has been working closely with the Chief Returning Officer to complete the nominations package, coordinating elections, preparing forms for online signatures, and promotions alongside the Communications team. She stated that takeovers will be on Instagram in the coming week. She added that the Student Commons reopened on February 4, and that the UTSU has been handing out free N95 masks. She stated that there will be a protest in April and an art showcase called VOICES Through the Arts coming up in March as part of the Students For Survivors campaign.

Reuter stated that most information can be found in her report, but that she has been working on updates to the website. She stated that many minutes uploaded to the website have been lost and that she is working to locate them. She highlighted updates to the Student Aid program and the significant increase in funding for the program to correspond with the increase in applications. She stated that there will be a referendum to increase the Student Aid levy from \$2 to \$3. She added that the Bylaw amendments passed at the SGM, which should bring welcome changes to the disciplinary and attendance policies. She hoped that they will strike a balance between recognizing the Executives and Directors as people, and recognizing the immense responsibilities of the roles. She stated that the Quarter 3 report will be presented later on in the meeting and encouraged anyone with questions to email her. She stated that the budget consultation form will close on March 1 and that she will compile feedback into a report for future use. She stated that the Ad-Hoc SCMC Governance Pathways Committee will be getting up and ready, and highlighted the need for feedback on the Board transition.

Gharbiyeh stated that it has been an exceptionally busy period, and that there has been a lot of work in all levels of government. In terms of the municipal government, he stated that the UTSU has submitted recommendations for City Council consultations on topics such as housing, transit, and student employment. He stated that the UTSU has also submitted recommendations to the Toronto Transit Commission's fare policies. On the provincial level, he stated that the UTSU had the opportunity to submit recommendations for the pre-budget consultations, and that they focused on topics including universal tuition, student aid, housing, transit, and pandemic recovery. On the federal level, he highlighted advocacy alongside UCRU, and stated that he has spoken to over a dozen Members of Parliament on topics such as student mental health and digital resources. He stated that MPs seemed receptive to the topic of student mental health, and expressed hope for change in that regard. He stated that all the recommendations made can be found as appendices in his report. He stated that he held a town hall for student leaders, and stated that it allowed him to hear of issues such as food accessibility in dining halls and transit accessibility. He stated that they have entered the second



stage of the return to campus advocacy, which involved coordinating a phone zap and social media campaign.

Lin stated that she has been working on Frost Week and the Unity Ball, which should be held on April 2 in a hybrid format. She stated that the decision of whether or not in-person events may proceed will be made this week. She stated that club recognition has been completed, as the SGM has occurred, and that the Clubs Committee has met twice to allocate funding. She stated that in March, she will be focusing on the planning and execution of Unity Ball, as well as updating the Clubs Gallery and fixing gaps in the funding structure.

Ballis stated that Aggarwal wished to highlight the Antiracism Workshop on February 28 from 5-6PM, as well as a SHARE workshop about legal options regarding gender-based violence on March 2. She stated that more information can be found in Aggarwal's report.

6. Acknowledgment of Resignation of VP Professional Faculties

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: EBEID

WHEREAS the VP Professional Faculties, Cathy Wang, delivered their resignation from the Board of Directors on February 6, 2022; and,

WHEREAS Bylaw X(3)(c) outlines criteria for Directors holding office until they submit a written resignation; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors acknowledge the resignation of Cathy Wang.

DISCUSSION

Ballis stated that Wang emailed the Board on February 6 to announce her resignation, and that her email reiterated her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board and advocate for professional faculty students. She stated that it was a hard decision for Wang to make, but that her workload required it and that the UTSU wishes her the best going forward.

CARRIED



7. Acknowledgment of Resignation of St. Michael's College Director, David D'Aversa

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: NAGRA

WHEREAS the St. Michael's College Director, David D'Aversa, delivered their resignation from the Board of Directors on February 16 2022; and,

WHEREAS Bylaw X(3)(c) outlines criteria for Directors holding office until they submit a written resignation; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors acknowledge the resignation of David D'Aversa.

DISCUSSION

D'Aversa thanked the Board for the work they did together. He stated that the views he is about to express are his own. He noted that he submitted his resignation after the SGM on February 16, and that he felt he could not stand by when the member-submitted motion carried. He stated that it was his form of protest, and that it was clear now that many students felt that they weren't able to express themselves or be heard at the meeting. He stated that he has received many emails since the SGM, and that he was especially disappointed that the UTSU was not able to speak about the challenges the community has been facing. He stated that he is very proud of the work they have completed – including opening the Student Commons, expanding mental health support, and increasing funding for Student Aid – and that this is what he believes the UTSU should be doing. He stated that he believes the UTSU is an apolitical body that advocates on behalf of all students, and that the member-submitted motion divided the community. He stated that its passing sets a poor precedent and leaves the UTSU in a vulnerable position. He encouraged everyone to continue their work and thanked them.

CARRIED

8. Presentation of Quarter 3 Report

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: REUTER

Reuter stated that the Quarter 3 Report is available in the folder, and apologised that it was not available earlier. She stated that the numbers are fairly stable and expected. She noted that the UTSU had received most of their funding from the University, meaning that they are now able to fund their programs. She noted that the UTSU is doing well in terms of spending and is under-budget for Operations. She stated that some numbers have changed since the Preliminary Budget, and that these changes can be found in the Finance Committee meeting minutes. She stated that they were on track to end the year with a surplus, which is standard for most nonprofits. She stated that 40-50% of the Programs budget has been used, but that there are more events to come, and that they have had less conferences and meetings due to COVID. She stated that Personnel and Total Expenses are both at expected level. She added that the



UTSU is attempting to separate the special levies, which can only be used for explicit purposes, from the General Income in order to ensure that they are solely funding the programs intended. She stated that the numbers are standard. She encouraged anyone with questions to email her.

9. SGM Member-Submitted Motion

RESOLUTION ITEM

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: DEKEL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UTSU Board of Directors and Executive Committee engage in open consultation with stakeholder groups on campus to gain further clarity on the member-submitted motion; AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report on the findings of these consultations be presented to the Board of Directors prior to the April Board of Directors meeting to ensure transparency.

DISCUSSION

9.1 Motion to Move In-Camera

RESOLUTION

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: GHARBIYEH

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting move in-camera.

DISCUSSION

Mancuso asked if the intent was to have the entire discussion in-camera, or only a portion.

Ballis stated that she expected to be in-camera for the entire discussion.

CARRIED

9.2 Motion to Move Ex-Camera

RESOLUTION

MOVED: BALLIS

SECONDED: GHARBIYEH

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting move ex-camera.

CARRIED

9.3 Motion to Amend

RESOLUTION

MOVED: DEKEL

SECONDED: JUNG

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report include research from reputable international organisations on the topic.

CARRIED



CARRIED

10. Other Business

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: GUNNEL

Gunnell stated that she had spoken with Gharbiyeh earlier this week regarding potential expansion of the Student Refugee Program considering recent events, and that he had directed her toward Reuter with regards to the approaching referendum. She encouraged other Board members to join her in this project, and noted that the UTSU currently hosts only one student at New College.

Ballis thanked Gunnell for their work, and noted that the referendum had also involved an increase to the WUSC levy and that the UTSU would be able to support another student if it passed. She added that the WUSC levy had never been increased, and that this failed to acknowledge the rising cost of living as well.

Nagra stated that many Colleges on campus also run their own programs, and asked if any don't have a WUSC program that they can partner with. She asked if they would be adding another student to New College.

Ballis stated that the UTSU's program specifically was in collaboration with New College, and that she believed that every Faculty and College had one. She encouraged anyone who knew more information to let her know if she was mistaken.

Liu stated that the mission resonated with her, and that to her knowledge all the Colleges have a WUSC chapter. She asked if it would be possible to collaborate with all the Colleges to try and support one more student at every College.

Alim agreed that they could do more on this front, and that she would love to aid in any way she can as a Board member. She added that to her knowledge, St. Michael's College does not have a WUSC chapter.

Ballis thanked everyone for sharing their ideas and information, and encouraged anyone interested to reach out.

Sogbesan stated that the UTSU should send a message to the student body that condemns Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, especially considering that Canada is home to 1.3 million Ukrainians. They stated that the UTSU should show solidarity to their Ukrainian students.

Ballis thanked Sogbesan for bringing this up, and stated that the UTSU has been working on a statement which will be released this upcoming week.



Nagra asked that they include that people of colour currently in the Ukraine have been having issues crossing borders and evacuating due to racism.

11. Adjournment

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourns at 1:39 PM.

Appendices Listed on Following Page



APPENDICES

- **Consent Agenda**

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CBrXVdBdHpr2-hNXs3kSO9sw7u4CHJ2I?usp=sharing>