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**Minutes – Board of Directors**

**5th Meeting of 2021-2022  
26 September 2021 | 2:00 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  
Rayan Alim, St. Michael's College Director  
David D'Aversa, St. Michael's College Director  
Caroline Tolton, Trinity College Director  
Halit Erdogan, Victoria College Director  
Elad Dekel, Innis College Director  
Katherine Jung, Life Sciences Director  
Victoria Liu, Social Sciences Director

Division II Directors (Professional Faculties)

Nelson Lee, Engineering Director  
Sydney Munro, KPE Director  
Studies Director  
Maria Ebeid, Professional Faculties-at-Large  
Director  
Sterling Mancuso, Law Director  
Oluwadamilola (Dami) Sogbesan  
Pharmacy Director

**Visitors and Other Non-Voting**

Joy Chan, *The Varsity*  
Maytal Lazarovic

Executive Assistants, UTSU

Emmanuel Sackeyfio, Chief Operations Assistant  
Tran Thai, Chief Executive Assistant  
Rebecca Wan, EA Operations  
Nicole Giebler, EA R & A (President)  
Emiri Katakawa, EA R & A (Equity)  
Chelsea Song, EA Student Life  
Yasmine Nasereddin, EA Student Life

Staff Team

Arlene Williams, Learning & Development, UTSU

**Absent**

Muskan Nagra, University College Director  
Stuti Roy, Victoria College Director  
Jenny Shen, Woodsworth College Director  
Ramtin Taramsari, New College Director  
Roshawn Jamasi, Rotman Commerce Director  
Jessie Wu, Humanities Director  
Catherine Tan, Music Director  
Vicdan Okman, Architecture & Visual  
Hailey Goldberg, Nursing Director

**Regrets**

Dariya Darvin, Medicine Director  
Neo Lou, Engineering Director  
Sheral Kumar, Engineering Director



## MINUTES

### Open Session

#### 1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 2:13 PM.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: TOLTON

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

##### 2.1 Motion to Amend

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: AGGARWAL

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Branden Cave be appointed as Speaker of the UTSU for the duration of the 2021-2022 term.**

CARRIED

##### 2.2 Motion to Amend

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: ERDOGAN

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Board of Directors acknowledge the resignation of Catherine Lai.**

CARRIED

CARRIED

#### 3. Ratification of Speaker

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: ALIM

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

CARRIED



## 4. Consent Agenda

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

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: KHAN

**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, 29 August, 2021
- 2. Meetings of Committees**  
Executive Committee, 7 September 2021 (4th Meeting)  
Governance Committee, 12 September 2021 (4th Meeting)  
Student Aid Committee, 23 August 2021 (6th Meeting)  
Student Aid Committee, 12 September 2021 (7th Meeting)  
Student Aid Committee, 13 September 2021 (8th Meeting)  
Elections and Referenda Committee, 19 September 2021 (2nd Meeting)  
Finance Committee, 21 September 2021 (6th Meeting)
- 3. Meetings of First Year Council**  
16th Meeting of the FYC Summer Commission, 28 August 2021

**CARRIED**

### 4.2 Executive Reports

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

- 1. Executive Reports**  
September 2021 Report of the President  
September 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Operations  
September 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Equity  
September 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Student Life  
September 2021 Report of the Vice-President, Professional Faculties

Ballis stated that she supported the Student Life portfolio with the Clubs Fair, the first in-person event in a year and a half, and thanked Tolton and Alim for the time they spent volunteering. She also highlighted her work finalizing the new First-Year Committee, coordinating vaccine clinics with Rexall, and opening the Student Commons. She stated that while not all of the services will be offered, the lounge spaces will be open for students to work in. She also noted the upcoming Fall By-Elections, nominations for which close on October 8.

Reuter stated that a full overview of her work can be found in her report, and that the Annual General Meeting was a critical highlight as it is the most important legal event that the UTSU holds in order to retain its status as a non-profit organization. She emphasized the importance of meeting quorum and encouraged the UTSU directors to attend and collect proxies. She also noted the Annual Report and audited statements



will be presented at AGM and that there will be incentives for those who attend. In addition, she highlighted the microtransaction access bursary, the upcoming commencement of the services evaluation, and financial literacy work with Liu, Alim, and D'Aversa.

**[Content Warning: Mentions of Sexual Violence]** Aggarwal stated that she would be providing updates on new developments since her report was written. She highlighted upcoming events in October, including a SHARE workshop on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Holocaust Survivor event on October 7<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Jewish Student Alliance at the University of Toronto, and the Youth Policy Forum discussing the Rohingya Refugee Crisis on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, she stated that she would be incorporating feedback from the Advancing Equity in Education project by adding a form on the associated webpage which allows students to add courses. Finally, she highlighted that she will be hosting upcoming mental health panels on Instagram, and that she has been alongside her EA Emiri working on a policy analysis with regards to the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Harassment.

Liu highlighted the launch of the Student Commons tours, the UChoose livestream, the launch of UofTour led by Dekel, sponsorships and giveaways, and the Clubs Fair. She stated that the five virtual sessions had between 200 and 1000 students per livestream, and that the in-person Clubs Fair hosted over 3000 students and included sponsors from PalGong, RedBull, Campus Safety, and Sustainability at UofT. She stated that the loose ends include finalizing the finances and the virtual kit, which has been difficult to launch due to technical difficulties.

Wang stated that her executive report is short as a result of her move to Toronto, which resulted in a lack of Internet connection. She noted that she has provided support with the Clubs Fair, and that her EA Maddie has been working on student advocacy surrounding UMLAP. She also highlighted the ProFac Headshot event and the ProFac BBQ event, which she hopes to host at the Student Commons. She stated that as a member of the FYC hiring committee, she has helped select students for the new FYC.

### 4.3 Question Period

DISCUSSION ITEM

## 5. Schedule of Meetings for the Fall Session

RESOLUTION

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: WANG

**WHEREAS The University of Toronto Students' Union's (UTSU) Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis; NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors hold its October Meeting on 24 October 2021 at 11:00AM; and**



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors hold its November Meeting on 28 November 2021 at 3:00 PM; and,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors schedule its December Meeting through online scheduling software.**

**DISCUSSION**

Reuter stated that meetings happen on the second-last or last Sunday of every month, and that they will likely schedule the meetings for the Winter semester during the January meeting. She stated that the December meeting date has been left undefined in anticipation of changing/limited availability due to exam season, and that she will send an email mid-November in order to determine the date. She stated that they are alternating between morning and afternoon meetings to accommodate a variety of availabilities. She added that since Branden has been confirmed as the Speaker for the duration of the 2021-22 term, he must be CC'd (speaker@utsu.ca) on emails expressing Regrets.

**CARRIED**

**6. Acknowledge of Resignation of Vice President Public & University Affairs Catherine Lai**

**RESOLUTION**

MOVED: REUTER

SECONDED: AGGARWAL

**WHEREAS the the Vice President Public and University Affairs, Catherine Lai, delivered their resignation from the Board of Directors on 15 September 2021; 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 Catherine Lai.**

**DISCUSSION**

Reuter stated that the Board is only required to acknowledge a resignation and not accept it.

Lai noted that she had submitted her notice of resignation to the Board about a week and a half prior to the meeting, and stated that she is saddened to have to leave the position so soon. She stated that she is experiencing health issues and wanted to prioritize her wellbeing. She stated that she has had an amazing time working at the UTSU, and thanked the Executives and the Board of Directors for the welcoming environment. She expressed faith in her successor and stated that she can be reached at her personal email and on social media.

**CARRIED**



## 7. Other Business

### DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: MANCUSO

Mancuso noted that he had concerns from his constituency. He stated that after the previous UTSU Board meeting, members of the Students' Law Society reached out to him with concerns about the open letter regarding return to campus. He noted that part of the letter suggests adopting an accommodations system similar to that of the Faculty of Law, which implies that the UTSU endorses that accommodations system. He stated that several students reached out to inform him of issues regarding that system, and that it isn't a system that the UTSU should encourage the wider University to adopt. He asked that in the future the Executive reach out to representatives in order to determine whether a particular constituency's system should be endorsed, and apologized for his oversight at the previous meeting.

Ballis thanked Mancuso for flagging the issue and apologized for the oversight. She stated that the recommendation was put forth in collaboration with a member of the Faculty of Law, but that they would figure out how to address the issue in the letter and accommodations systems in general.

Erdogan noted that commuter students have been experiencing difficulties finding spaces to attend online events, meetings, or courses. He asked if the UTSU provided spaces and if there were any resources to help students in this regard.

Ballis stated that the Student Commons will have lounge and study spaces for commuter students, in particular the second and fifth floor. She stated that they can look into publicizing spaces on campus as well.

Dekel noted that there is a UofT-created app called SyncSearch which lists all the available places on campus to take online classes.

## 8. Adjournment

### RESOLUTION

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

CARRIED

**The meeting adjourns at 2:47 PM.**

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**Appendices Listed on Following Page**



## APPENDICES

- **Consent Agenda**

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Qu-XJdfBKQSnE1b0ls6RzGba8cxrnrvp?usp=sharing>