



Agenda of the 2021 Special General Meeting

Saturday, March 20th, 2021
2:00pm to 6:00pm EST

Online-Only Meeting via Video Conference

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| 1. Call to Order | 6. Other Business
<i>Discussion Item</i> |
| 2. Approval of Agenda
<i>Resolution</i> | 7. Adjournment
<i>Resolution</i> |
| 3. Approval of the 2021
AGM Minutes
<i>Resolution</i> | |
| 4. Bylaw and EPC
Amendments
<i>Resolution</i> | |
| 5. Members' Forum
<i>Discussion Item</i> | |



MINUTES

Open Session

1. Call to Order

This meeting is called to order at 2:15 PM.

Speaker called the meeting into recess until 2:30PM because the meeting was not quorate.

The meeting is called back to order at 2:28 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: O'HALLORAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION

MOVED: AHMED

SECONDED: RAMADAN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

DISCUSSION

CARRIED

4. Bylaw and Elections Procedure Code Amendments

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: RICHES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the UTSU's Bylaws and Elections Procedures Code approved by the Board of Directors since the 2020 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented in the appendices.

DISCUSSION

O'Halloran explained that the first amendments being considered are EPC Article III & V. The elections were operated under these changes. The changes to the UTSU elections and all of the amendments proposed this year were to increase turnout and increase accessibility. Article V offers basic provision under circumstances like COVID to allow for the conducting of the Executive Candidates forum online.

- EPC Article VI (1)(m): clarifies the timeline for students needing to inform the CRO that they intend to campaign to a class



- EPC Article VI (2)
- Bylaw I: Definitions; remove two unused definitions and the preambulatory sentence
- Bylaw III: cleans up sections regarding AGM and board meetings. More accessible approach to governance.
- Bylaw IV: policies: the current structure of having procedural, operational and governance policies does not make sense for the UTSU. drastically simplifies the policy governance so the definitions are clearly defined and to build a policy manual that is intuitive for executive & board members.
- Bylaw V: Board of Directors - moves board observers out of the section about membership.
- Bylaw VI: Elections and Referenda: relocates definition of affiliated student societies, and number of required nominators. reducing duplication across governing documents
- Bylaw VII: Mandate of the Board: simplifies preambulatory sentences and removes externalization from being a mandate of the Board, relocating the ability to externalize items to the policies of the UTSU. These changes further simplify the union's bylaws so that they are
- Bylaw VIII: Mandate of the Executive: relocates language from Bylaw XIII to here. This change moves the essential components of Bylaw XII to Bylaw VIII while also eliminating the remaining duplicative provisions of BYlaw XII. This removes clutter and clerical errors.
- Bylaw XIII: Removal of this bylaw and moving the provisions to BYlaw (something)
- Bylaw IX: simplifies the finances for budgeting and spending as being defined in the policies of the UTSU.
- Bylaw X: Removal of Office: renames removal from office. Overhauls the UTSU's accountability system, simplifying attendance requirements and removing confusing and convoluted provisions, including those from "probation"
- Bylaw XI - Committees: simplifies committees bylaw by removing prescriptive language for which months committees must meet, as well as generally making more reference to the policies.
- Bylaw XV: redefines the grievance officer of the UTSU as being the UTSU's People and Culture Manager, a trained human resources professional.
- Removal of Bylaw XVII - Ombudsperson: this position has become obsolete

Ahmed expressed that these are incredible and massive governance changes that the UTSU is proposing. As much as the content may have been heavy, all of it has been done to make sure that the bylaws are reasonable and accessible. The UTSU sees changes to the bylaws in the AGM/SGM, which are not sustainable in nature. It is unfavorable in terms of continuity if changes are made to the bylaws every year, so this is to ensure that the UTSU's governance is accessible to members, easy to understand and follow, and will remain applicable for years to come.

CARRIED

MOTION TO RECESS: AHMED 2:57-3:05

5. Members Forum

DISCUSSION ITEM

PRESENTED: AHMED

DISCUSSION

Ahmed explained that a lot of the work being done right now is surrounding transition. Currently, the team is working with full time staff, the People and Culture manager, and the Learning and



Development advisor to form a formal and sustainable infrastructure that ensures executives coming in are acclimating properly and getting ready to move into the Student Commons. All of that infrastructure work is being done by the current executives and board, who have been working on a new strategic plan with consideration of the Student Commons. The strategic plan touches on both the gaps within the UTSU and its strengths, as well as what should be built in terms of capacity. At the April BOD meeting, progress on this project will be reported. The team is working to fix day-to-day problems and create more opportunities for more efficient operations and advocacy.

Riches noted that the most notable advocacy work is that UTSU is involved in UMLAP-related advocacy. Throughout March, a survey on the policy to inform recommendations to the review group was put out, and student groups were invited to provide their insight as many have been doing good work around this policy. Alongside that, the university has also been conducting their own consultations. This was slated for the end of April, holding a few townhalls. A letter was written to the review group proposing this timeline be extended into the fall semester, as many students are busy and are unaware that this review is happening. This was granted and the review was extended into the fall to hold more town halls. More work is also being done on the tuition and upcoming U of T budget. The UTSU has been showing up to different governance bodies to provide recommendations to the budget, like cancelling international tuition inflation, decreasing tuition fees for online classes, etc. Students don't have a formal way to be heard in the budget cycle and have been dismissed so far, so the team is attempting a last-minute push before the budget goes to the governing council.

Harrington asked if anyone could give a sense of the timeline for the Student Commons.

O'Halloran noted that the timeline is for an opening in September. Furniture and equipment will start to be moved in very soon. Renovations on some of the more critical areas of the building will be underway shortly after, and the existing contractors need to maintain and monitor their work for any deficiencies. But having occupancy in itself is a big deal. Students should expect to see an in-person presence in the student commons in January of 2022, but it should be earlier than that. There should be an in-person open building present by winter at the latest.

O'Halloran provided updates that the UTSU is currently seeking potential service improvements to the Health and Dental plan. Depending on how things go, there may be a service offered that competes with MySSP, a telemedicine service through UTSU's Health and Dental plan. Additionally, the credit system will ideally be implemented soon. The largest student aid program will be in place by next year.

McLean explained the UTSU's equity apparatus, which encompasses all relationships but focuses on UTSU's human resources and equity relationships with external stakeholders. An EDI policy was developed, which was worked into the P&C policy and will be integrated by the end of the year. This was brought forward by the EDI Review Body last year, and they brought forward the significance of this policy to ensure that the UTSU can create sustainable change. The purpose of this is to implement sustainable practices and to ensure that future VP Equity's can engage with equity stakeholders and to ensure engagement with equity-seeking groups. This is to build sustainable change and to uphold a community-based approach.



Ahmed elaborated on the Student Commons discussion that was brought up to update members on where progress is being made. The Student Commons management committee has been struck and is now fully operational and is working and will continue to work with the next executive team to make sure that all aspects of Student Commons including finances, logistics of moving, services and stakeholder relations are all done on a positive and thorough basis. Hopefully there will be an efficient and engaging move into the building.

6. ~~Other Business~~

~~DISCUSSION ITEM~~

~~MOVED: _____ SECONDED:~~

~~DISCUSSION~~

7. Adjournment

RESOLUTION

MOVED: O'HALLORAN

SECONDED: KYLA

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED/FAILED

This meeting adjourns at 3:22 pm