

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

The eighth meeting of the 2008-09 Students' Council was held on **Sunday, November 16th, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.** in the **Multi Purpose Room** of the **Student Life Centre**.

Attendance:

Sam Andrey
Sumaiya Tasneem
Yuwei Liang
Mathieu Poirier
Matt Heppler
Veronica Fredericks
Sarah Cook
Dan DesRosiers
Anthony Iseyemi
Christine Thayer
Ian Kasper
Bronwen Morris
Androo Falcao
Del Pereira

Justin Williams
Abhilash Jayakumar
Sarah Schaffels (non-voting)
Brandea Balcomb (non-voting)
Matt Colphon (non-voting)
John Andersen (Speaker)

Absent:

Kim Ho (excused)
Lu Jiang (unexcused)
Abhilash Jayakumar (unexcused)
Jeffrey Baer (unexcused)
Heather Foley (excused)
Roselyn Chiu (unexcused)
Christopher Neal (excused)

The speaker (J. Williams) pronounces quorum is met and called the meeting to order at 12:44pm

ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1st I. Kasper, 2nd A. Iseyemi.

J. Williams moves to amend the agenda (I. Kasper 2nd) with an omnibus motion to help council run more smoothly. Firstly, is to ratify a new speaker for the day – BIRT John Andersen be ratified as speaker for the November meeting of council – as Andrew is busy.

Second is to separate the removal of councilors into three separate motions.

Third is to add under the referendum committee BIRT John Andersen act as the Chief Returning Officer for the winter 2009 term.

Final change is to amend Council Procedure 9 as sent out through the council mailing list by John Andersen which included changing the “fives” to “sixes” in days notice to match the (5)s and (6)s. All these amendments were forwarded through the council mailing list.

Seeing no further discussion, amendment carries unanimously. Seeing no further discussion, the main motion carries unanimously.

2. Ratification of the Speaker

Speaker: BIRT John Andersen be ratified as speaker for the November 16, 2008 meeting of council. 1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper. Motion carries unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a) October Students’ Council, October 19th, 2008

1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper.

M. Poirier requested more details be added to future minutes to included details of not only who was there, but also who was absent including if the member was excused.

Motion carries unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

ITEMS FOR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENT

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion on council attendance requirements: Bylaw 1
(Information, J. Williams)

J. Williams: The discussion for this item is intended to help council discuss in general the following items concerning the removal of councilors. Council should note bylaw 1 requires a motion before council calling for the removal of a councilor should they either miss two council meetings without obtaining an excused absence, or if a councilor is late and/or absent for four or more meetings regardless of weather or not the absence was excused if the councilor was residing within the travel boundaries.

Travel boundaries are referred to in council procedure but outlined in board procedure 10, which stipulates, “Councillors will be reimbursed for the cost of a bus or train ticket at the best available student rate. In general, the level of reimbursement should not exceed the lesser of the cost of a bus or train ticket from Montreal, at the discretion of the Vice-President Administration and Finance.”

Bylaw 1 does not require council remove a councilor simply for satisfying either of these conditions, rather, it requires council to use its good judgment to decide on a case by case basis what would be reasonable and appropriate.

From this discussion I hope council can give some more clear guidance on what is and what is not an acceptable excuse from council. There will be opportunities to speak to the removal of specific councilors in upcoming items of business.

b) Resignation of Councillors (Information, J. Williams)

Council should be aware the following councilors have relinquished their seat as Student Councillor (Item for Information Only):

Ralon Nazereth – Other time commitments

Selina Anggawinata – Coop Placement

c) Ratification of removal of Councillor Jiang (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: Whereas Bylaw 1 sets the requirements for attendance in meetings of Students' Council, BIRT Students' Council ratify the removal of councilor Lu Jiang

1st J. Williams, 2nd S. Cook. J. Williams explains the motion is before council because, as he has already explained, the rules require it. "Would there be anyone that can speak to this motion? Can anyone speak to why councilor Jiang should or should not remain on council?"

Seeing no discussion, the motion carries unanimously.

d) Ratification of removal of Councillor Foley (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: Whereas Bylaw 1 sets the requirements for attendance in meetings of Students' Council, BIRT Students' Council ratify the removal of councilor Heather Foley

1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper. J. Williams introduces the motion as per the last.

J. Williams explains Councillor Foley is up for removal because she has reached the number of excused absences, not that she has missed two meetings without being excused by the speaker. "Heather is driving in to council today to speak to this motion, but she is stuck on the roads due to the weather. She has message she has sent out for council on her behalf (J. Williams reads the letter to council requesting council vote against the motion for her removal)

I. Kasper speaks against the motion, as he believes coop, if excused, is a valid excuse from council, and should not result in the removal of a councilor, such as Councillor Foley.

S. Cook was interested to know Councillor Foley's full attendance record while on coop.

B. Morris would like to see investments into equipment that would facilitate distance participation into council meetings specifically for coop students.

Matt Colphon (recognized by council) speaks in favour of encouraging councilors to attend meetings, to use the travel allowance, and not excuse councilors from meetings if they are within the boundary when considering motions for removal from council. Matt believes councilor must make a choice to represent their constituents or not.

S. Andrey asked if Heather had expressed any interest in remaining on council.

J. Williams said that from his phone conversation with her, that yes, she would like to remain on council.

Seeing no further discussion, call for vote. Motion fails 1-11-4 (V. Fredericks notes abstention)

- e) Ratification of removal of Councillor Heppler (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: Whereas Bylaw 1 sets the requirements for attendance in meetings of Students' Council, BIRT Students' Council ratify the removal of councilor Matthew Heppler

1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper. J. Williams introduces the motion as per last motions.

M. Heppler: In review of his attendance, Councillor Heppler explains he has been in Toronto on work term and was unable to come back for council meetings and was busy in September and October. While Councillor Heppler has not been to some council meetings, he maintains he has been active as a councilor on committee work.

I. Kasper: Speaking in favour of this motion and for the removal of Councillor Heppler, I. Kasper maintains he was a councilor in Toronto and does not feel it is very far away, nor a good excuse to miss a council meeting. I. Kasper would like a commitment from councilor Heppler that he will attend meetings.

S. Cook: Notes M. Heppler has not been active on the Internal Funding Committee (IFC).

Matt Colphon: (recognized by council) Reminds council they have made a commitment to the student body to represent other students, and that this commitment should be taken seriously.

B. Morris: Would like to ask council if they feel having no seat to represent students is better than having Matt Heppler, suggesting council should consider what is best for these constituents when making their decision on the removal of Councillor Heppler.

A. Falcao: Speaking against the motion VPIN Falcao points out there are more ways to participate as a councillor than simply by showing up at meetings, and while Matt may

have met the requirement for their name to come before council, council should consider all relevant factors concerning this councillor prior to making up their mind on the motion.

D. Pereira: Encourages council to change rules if they don't like to follow them

J. Williams: Points out that the rules don't call for council to remove councillors for not making their meetings, rather the rules call for council to use its judgment to decide if the reasons were justified and reasonable and decide the keep or remove the councillor accordingly. Echoing the comments of B. Morris, J. Williams would like council to decide if they feel they would be better off with his assistance, or without, considering Councillor Heppler sits on a number of committees.

S. Andrey asked that Councillor Heppler either resign his seat on BPP or commit to come to meetings, as he has not been attending these meetings.

Seeing no further discussion, vote called. Motion fails 7-8-1.

f) Replacement of vacant BPP Student Council Member Position
(Conditional, Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: BIRT Council elect _____ as Students' Council member to the Bylaws, Policy, and Procedures Committee (Optional Decision, Moved by J. Williams).

1st J. Williams, 2nd S. Andrey. J. Williams explains he is looking to add members to the BPP committee as the work is presently only being performed by himself, Councillor Andrey, and Secretary Andersen. Present workload for BPP included many changes to Council Procedures, Bylaws, and Board Procedures. The goal for the committee will be to meet weekly (or regularly) throughout the winter term.

From this item, council discussed what would be an ideal number of members to add to the committee, seeing as we are able to add as many as council sees fit. After discussing, it was decided adding no more than two members would be best suited to solicit more help, but keep the group small enough for efficient coordination and functioning as a working group.

Nominations for the positions to BPP included: D. Pereira, S. Cook, M. Poirier, I. Kasper

D. DesRosiers proposed an amendment for a total of three positions to be added to BPP, but this amendment failed. Y. Liang proposed an amendment to add two persons to the committee (2nd D. Pereira). Seeing no further discussion the motion carries 14-0-2.

Speaker: Seeing four nominations for two positions we will move to a vote and select a Chief Returning Officer and Scrutineers to collect and count the votes.

D. DesRosiers moves (2nd I. Kasper) to appoint two members from the gallery to act as CRO and Scrutineer (Brandea Balcomb and Sarah Schaffels respectively). Motion carries 14-0-0.

Each of the four candidates were given an opportunity to speak and take questions from council as to why they would like to sit on the BPP committee before moving to a vote.

After a 5 minute recess to count votes, the results of the election were that S. Cook and M. Poirier will be the two names added to the blanks of the amended motion. Seeing no further discussion, the motion carries 14-0-2 (noted abstentions include I. Kasper and D. Pereira).

- g) Replacement of vacant IFC at-large position (Conditional, Decision, A. Falcao)

Speaker: This item is no longer germane, seeing no objection we'll move on.

- h) Election Committee for Winter Term (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: BIRT _____ be ratified as the Bylaw, Policy and Procedure Committee member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the Students' Council member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the undergraduate student-at-large member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

I. Kasper moves (2nd D. DesRosiers) to amend the motion to read:

BIRT John Andersen act as the Chief Returning Officer for the winter 2009 term.

BIRT _____ be ratified as the Bylaw, Policy and Procedure Committee member of the Election Committee for the Winter 2009 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the Students' Council member of the Election Committee for the Winter 2009 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the undergraduate student-at-large member of the Election Committee for the Winter 2009 term.

Seeing no further discussion on the amendment, motion carries 15-0-0

S. Andrey reminds council not to put their names forward for the election committee if they intent to run again for a council seat for the 2009-2010 academic year.

As council could not find a suitable nominee for the first blank, there was discussion to move the item to the next meeting of council scheduled for December 7th. 1st I. Kasper, 2nd D. Pereira. Motion carries 15-0-0.

i) Election Appeals Committee for Winter Term (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: BIRT _____ be ratified as the Bylaw, Policy and Procedure Committee member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the Students' Council member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the undergraduate student-at-large member of the Election Committee for the Spring 2008 term.

Item fails to be discussed at council from lack of mover or seconder. J. Williams expressed interest to address the election appeals committee for the winter term at the December 7 meeting of council.

j) Referendum Committee for Remainder of Fall and Winter Terms
(Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: BIRT John Andersen act as the Chief Returning Officer for the winter 2009 term.

BIRT _____ be ratified as the member of the Referendum Committee that has been a member of the BPP Committee.

BIFRT _____, and _____ be ratified as Students Council members of the Referendum Committee.

BIFRT _____ be ratified as the undergraduate student-at-large member of the Referendum Committee.

1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper. J. Williams explains that the accounting students were hoping to run a referendum this term using the Federation of Students. If we are to support their request, we'll need a referendum committee.

S. Andrey proposed an amendment to replace the fall term for the appointment of John Andersen as the CRO for the Referendum Committee to the fall term to accommodate the accounting students request of having a referendum this term (2nd D. DesRosiers). Amendment carries 14-0-0.

Speaker: To be clear, council should be aware that the blanks for the referendum committee, when filled, will be for the remainder of the fall and winter terms.

Accepted nominations for members from BPP include: M. Heppler

Accepted nominations for members from Council include: D. DesRosiers, A. Falcao

Accepted nominations for members from Students-at-large include: Piraveena
Tharmalingam

Speaker: Seeing an equal number of nominees for the number of blanks, we will fill the blanks with the names above.

Main motion carries 15-0-0. M. Heppler, D. DesRosiers, A. Falcao, and Piraveena Tharmalingam are elected to the referendum appeals committee for the fall and winter term and John Andersen is the CRO for the Fall term.

k) Council Procedure 9 (Decision, J. Williams)

Speaker: BIRT council accept the following version of Council Procedure 9 as presented by the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee:

FEDERATION OF STUDENTS	Number:	09
COUNCIL PROCEDURE	Effective:	November 16, 2007
	Replaces:	November 25, 2007

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following rules of procedure shall apply to all Students' Council meetings of the Federation of Students.

- A. Students' Council Meeting Agendas
1. The Council agenda and any information which this Council is requested to make a decision, must be in each Council member's mailbox or email inbox at least six (6) days prior to the meeting at which Council is requested to consider said information or motion. The Agenda for the meeting is to be posted and the meeting is to be advertised.
 2. Council may waive the required six (6) days notice by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote only in urgent situations and when unavoidable circumstances prevail. These circumstances must be justified.
 3. Any item of business for the agenda must be submitted in writing to the Speaker and Secretary. All motions put forward by a councillor prior to the agenda being released will be added to the agenda. This regulation does not include committee reports.
 4. Executive Reports to Council must be in each Council member's mailbox or email inbox at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

5. When corrections to minutes are made, such corrections are to be made in copies of the minutes kept in the Federation Office and on the Federation of Students website.

B. Students' Council Meeting Attendance

1. Councillors are required to attend in person, all Students' Council meetings held within their terms of office.
3. Councillors wishing to be excused from a meeting must request an excused absence from the Speaker before each meeting for which they wish to be excused. Failure to do so will result in a Councillor being considered unexcused, at the discretion of the Speaker
4. Councillors shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses in accordance with Board Procedure 10.

C. Students' Council Motions

1. There are three types of motions which shall be adopted:
 - a. Policy Statements shall consist of all Federation statements of long-term goals, objectives and fundamental principles. They shall present the considered view of the Federation with respect to any issue and may have limited or unlimited temporal reference. Policy statements shall be placed on the books for five (5) years by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any Council meeting. A policy may be renewed every five (5) years by a simple majority and a simple majority may at any time remove it from the books.
 - b. An Operating Resolution shall prescribe the rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of the Federation and its Committees. This shall include, but not be limited to, the allocation of Federation resources. An Operating Resolution requires a majority vote and has unlimited temporal reference unless otherwise specifically defined in the motion.
 - c. A Simple Resolution shall be a resolution which is not defined by 3.a or 3.b of this procedure and shall include, but not be limited to, procedural motions and directives to the Federation Executive. A Simple Resolution requires a majority vote.

D. General Students' Council Procedures

1. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
2. Upon the request of a member of Students' Council and at the Speaker's discretion, any non-member shall be allowed to address that meeting of Council provided that address is pertinent to Council's immediate business.

3. When any officer of the Federation of Students, either paid or voluntary, is directed by a motion of Council to perform some duty or task, that officer will do so at the earliest possible time and shall report progress regularly to Council.
4. In cases where the Speaker will be absent from a Council meeting, the President shall serve as temporary Speaker. If the President is unable to perform this function, the voting membership of Students' Council shall ratify a temporary Speaker at the beginning of the Students' Council meeting for which the temporary Speaker is needed.

1st J. Williams, 2nd I. Kasper. J. Williams explains how BPP discussed the changes directed by council, considering their impacts on other policies or practices. Major changes include changing the number of days notice for council agenda from five to six days. Executive Reports have been given a due date of 3 days prior to council. While council gave direction for seven days, that posed a problem as the Secretary generally does not work on Sundays, and seven days notice would generally mean the agenda would actually be published 9 days prior. Nine days being too long a period of time for relevant and timely reporting. Sometimes council meetings can be only two weeks apart.

Another change was to stipulate that any item put forward by a councillor for the agenda will be included on the agenda as long as it is submitted prior the distribution of that agenda as outlined in the procedure. All motions require a councillor to move and second anyways.

S. Andrey: The provision for Emergency meetings and Special meetings are already set out in bylaw 1, where Board will make any emergency meetings, while council requires notice.

I. Kasper proposes an amendment to add a section 4 dealing with Special Meetings of Council (2nd A. Iseyemi) where the President must be the one to call a meeting of Students' Council and there must be written confirmation that quorum will be met and the meeting which is to be called. I. Kasper would like to create a requirement that council meetings are not called until there is a confirmation that quorum will be met.

S. Andrey: Speaking against this amendment, it is not consistent with the Bylaws. The idea of having confirmation that quorum will be met is interesting, but requires that councillor email in a week before with their expected attendance.

J. Williams: I would like to speak against the amendment. The reason I speak against this is not only the issue with the Bylaws but it will be practically challenging to manage this system, many councilors may not get back with much notice before the publishing of the agenda. This will result in less consultation of Students' Council and reliance on the Board of Directors to make more decisions because the impracticality of calling a meeting of Students' Council.

I. Kasper proposes an amendment to his amendment whereby the President would not be required to call the meeting, but that if a meeting is to be called, that it be called within these new guidelines (2nd by A. Jayakumar).

D. Pereira echoes concerns about overlap with Bylaw1 and there is no way that we could actually know if quorum is to be met until the meeting is called to order.

A. Jayakumar: I call the question. (2nd J. Williams)

Vote on calling the question carries 10-4-1.

Speaker: Now we will be moving to vote on the amended motion.

J. Williams reads the proposed amended amendment to the main motion.

The amendment to the amended main motion carries 13-0-2. Back to the original amended main motion.

D. Pereira: speaking against the amended main motion the VPAF notes that we don't know that we will meet quorum until at the moment the meeting begins and after it has been called. To require that quorum be met before calling the meeting would not be possible. We would never know if we would meet quorum ahead of time.

J. Williams rereads the amended question. Seeing no further discussion, council moves to vote. Amended motion fails 1-10-2, back to main motion.

D. Pereira while speaking for the main motion commented that it can be very difficult putting together a report for council as it can take time from other duties and may, as in the case with the VPAF, not be possible to report on the details of his day-to-day activities due to the sensitivity of the nature of some of the work. The VPAF suggest looking into further guidelines for these executive reports that considers the differing responsibilities and reportability of different executive portfolios.

Main motion carries 15-0-0.

3. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a) Vice President, Internal

The Vice-President Internal gave a verbal executive report to council. A text report was promised for council.

b) Vice President, Education

The Vice-President Education was away on business with OUSA for the annual lobby conference.

c) Vice President, Administration & Finance

The Vice-President Administration and Finance gave an oral report.

The VPAF noted the dental plan claims are 99.9% on target, showing we are near perfect at the moment with the fee charged for services rendered without a debt or surplus.

Negotiations continue with Bud Walker of UW Business Operations regarding the transfer of our share of the Tim Hortons revenues.

I am working on a lot of the society finances. Many of them are not well managed. A few of the societies are now in debt and have not paid their taxes properly over the last six years.

The SLC Aussies space is still in need of planning. It seems to have fallen through the cracks, hoping to get something going for September of next year.

Fed Express is doing well and is very successful. Fed Hall may even make some money for the first time in its history.

I'm working with Sumaiya on Board Procedures. I'm also working on a couple of new job descriptions.

I'm also working with Dennis to settle the numerical discrepancy between the Dental plan claims number with the number of paid student fees.

In terms of future Executive Reporting Criteria I would like to point out that there is no guarantee that what is included in our reports is in fact follow up on. The Executive might know but council would not. For the reports, I believe they should be more results based to show what has actually been accomplished. These reports are good for the record, but it should show accomplishments, and not only intensions.

d) President

The President gave an oral report to compliment his written executive report to council.

Hello Council,

It is my honour to present to you my November Council Package. Below you will find some renewed requests and updates on my work.

1) Senate

In the vein of continued issues at Senate. I have been working with Senators to work on a resolution to the UAE discussion and push the University to consider rights issues associated with the campus. In addition to this, I will also be making a presentation to Senate about the Federation of Students and our current internal review and planning process.

2) Orientation

Still going strong, still looking for input, and I will update council as this moves forward. Someone remind me to talk about the loss of 2 days!

3) Board Review

Directors Andrey and Tasneem have been working with Del and I on review and updating the FedS Board Procedures and we are a bit past $\frac{3}{4}$ done now.

4) Student Leadership Facilitation Interviews

I had the pleasure of being a part of the interview of facilitators for the leadership program from OHD. This looks like it is going to be a very interesting project, and I am sad that I missed the third day of interviews.

5) Lobby Con

Andres, John and I are heading to Lobby Con. I will have to arrive late on Monday night, because of my senate commitments

6) SLC

Expect some interesting changes to the SLC over the next 6 months. Details will follow!

Council was wondering how the SLC space review was going. J. Williams replied clubs space review is still ongoing, but we are looking to move to have more bookable space available to all clubs and students, even if some clubs need to give up their office. We are looking into using some of the SLC surplus funds to finance the renovations.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND QUESTION PERIOD

S. Cook has been having discussions with her society and soliciting feedback. Has been working with ASU regarding EWB. ASU has created a mailing list of students and has been helping with presentations to all of their society groups on what FEDS does and how FEDS can help.

A. Iseyemi has been talking to engineering students about how they can get involved in FEDS in subsequent terms.

M. Heppler gave an oral report, noting how Independent Studies will soon be reviewed.

I. Kasper would like to propose to Justin that Feds revitalize the bulletin boards in the MC, they are badly out of date. Councillor Kasper is also trying to get the word out about FEDS and to discuss issues with the Math Society. There is room for more partnering between MathSoc and FEDS. MathSoc had their charity ball.

M. Poirier was interested to know about how many seats on council are vacant.

Speaker: There are several vacancies. If someone is interested, please have them contact the Executive Researcher. The council vacancies will be posted to the website shortly.

S. Andrey has been discussing Saturday labs with Science Professors, who have been agreeing not to schedule labs on future Saturdays. OUSA participation was very positive, and Waterloo was very effective in shaping the OUSA voice in the year to come. We put

down an odd anti-international student sentiment that some member schools seemed to possess.

7. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Williams: There is some food available after the meeting for anyone interested in staying after council and discussing outreach initiatives after the meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

1st D. DesRosier, 2nd A. Iseyemi. Motion carries unanimously.