

ARTS & SCIENCE STUDENTS' UNION

COUNCIL MEETING 2023-24

MINUTES

Monday, November 13, 2023
Sidney Smith, Room 2117

5 pm

Attendance:

R. Crowley (USAS), K. Murphy (USAS), K. Cristino (ASA), H. Hussain (ASA), E. Shore (AU), V. Mak (BUSS), Y. Zhou (BUSS), M. Jakobsen (BMSSA), J. Wang (BMSSA), L. Wang (BPSU), M. Ray-Ellis (CANSSU), L. Hong (CSBSU), D. Liu (CSBSU), E. Donald (CSCU), O. Leng (CSU), M. Chow (CSU), V. Huang (CINSSU), K. Domanski (CINSSU), T. Mladin (CLASSU), T. Delaney-Girotti (CLASSU), S. Im (CASA), Y. Santos (CASA), J. Namgyal (CASSU), E. Abraham (CRIMSA), D. Tessaro (CRIMSA), E. Chernyak (SUDS), A. Rorden (SUDS), Z. Uzunel (UESA), K. Stevenson (UESA), C. Wang (EASSU), D. Rodrigues (EASSU), S. Peters (EEBU), A. Lo (EEBU), N. Joseph (ESU), M. Todoroska (ESU), J. Sun (ENSU), A. Zavaleta (ES&LSA), B. Razavizand (ES&LSA), A. Middleton (ESSU), N. Oguntoye (ESSU), M. Keli (ESSA), E. Ahn (FCU), Y-L. Huang (FCU), K. Abian (TUGS), S. Wong (TUGS), T. Streibel-May (GSSU), W. Wynne (HSSU), E. Murray (HSSU), E. Porter (HSA), A. Rans Kolakovi (HSA), C. Leong (HASA), K. Zhang (HASA), A. Spurr (HPSUS), R. Caramazza (HPSUS), M. Wang (HBSU), N. Horace (HBSU), J. Scott (IMMSA), J. Akbari (IRHRSA), M. Guo (IRHRSA), A. Lysenko (IRS), P. Vij (IRS), R. Lee (LMPSU), S. Chow (SLUGS), J. Zhang (SLUGS), A. Mookerjea (LCTSU), M. Pickett (MGYSU), C. Huang (NSSA), A. Zhuang (PTSA), M. Kamran (PCU), S. Lakerdas-Gayle (PhySU), A. Zhang (PhySU), H. Chang (UPSA), K. Seo (UPSA), G. Yang (APSS), S. Malla (APSS), A. Saleh (UPPSA), K. Klanreungsang (RUSA), B. Quilliam (RUSA), H. Henderson (ARS), C. Bridon (ARS), J. Yuen (USSU), E. Mastracci (USSU), L. Watson (SSU), Y. Chen (SSU), B. Terry (URSSU), S. Indran (WGSSU), A. Madhusudanan (ASSU President), S. Lopez (ASSU Executive), D. Smith (ASSU Executive), F. Kayed (ASSU Executive), F. Sadid (ASSU Executive), M. Wong (ASSU Executive), S. Zaman (ASSU Executive), G. Nowlan (Chair), J. Seto (Secretary)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:19 pm.

1) Land Acknowledgement Statement

G. Nowlan acknowledged the land that we are meeting on today.

*CARRIED

2) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Abian/Terry): "To approve the agenda as presented."

*CARRIED

3) Approval of the Previous Minutes

MOVED (Keli/Scott): "To accept the minutes of October 4, 2023 as presented."

*CARRIED

4) Executive Reports

A. Madhusudanan reported that at the First Council meeting, there were concerns from Course Union members that there was not enough granted to hold socials, so for Winter budgets, the cap for socials has been increased to \$2000 with the max being \$1000 per social.

She also reported that the Free Printing service is going well.

The Executive met with the Dean to discuss the Faculty's Budget. At this meeting, ASSU pushed for a few things – more money for labs so that more students could get hired for work-study; increase aid for International students; and expansion of ASIP and having SS commons opened for longer hours. The Executive advocated for capping late penalties for assignments and the creation of a past syllabus repository.

F. Kayed spoke more about her interest in creating the past syllabus repository. She went over the concerns that the Dean's Office had about it (academic freedom/intellectual property and pressure on profs for the winter term) and asked Council for any suggestions or concerns. A. Madhusudanan added that the Dean's office would be willing to consider the repository with the following – making it optional, blocking out certain parts of the syllabus to protect intellectual property and ensure academic freedom and making the repository userID based.

F. Kayed also reported that she would be organizing ASSU's Open Mic for second term – scheduled for March 1st. She is looking at booking Cat's Eye and will be sending out posts about signing up to perform.

F. Sadid reported that the extended Arbor deadline had elapsed and that the committee would be looking at submissions now. He and M. Wong will be going over applications to hire a design editor. Last year, he worked on a Research Guide for undergrads seeking research opportunities - it will be posted shortly and he asked Council to share with their students. Finally, he updated Council on the progress of the Robarts Library study space – Robarts Commons and the Media Commons will be open 24 hours; and he heard over Reading Week, that Robarts proper will be open until 2 am during the exam period.

S. Lopez updated Council about the URC – the deadline for submissions was extended to this Friday. They have received about 80 abstracts, mostly from the Sciences and she encouraged more Humanities students to submit! Right now, they are looking for a keynote speaker if anyone has a suggestion.

M. Wong reported that she was working on the Arbor Journal with F. Sadid.

S. Zaman reported that she was working on a Grad Application Tutoring Program – which would help students with writing and submitting their applications for grad school – targeting Humanity students for now since their applications are due at the end of December. This program would see Grad students helping undergrads, with grad students receiving honoraria for their time. She has been consulting with the OISE Grad Association. ASSU would also be looking at UTSU and GSU for help with funding this project. S. Zaman asked Council for any suggestions. A. Madhusudanan added that this would be a “pilot project”.

D. Smith talked about the URC and that they are looking at moving the date back a bit to allow students time to prepare after returning from the holiday break. She also asked Council for suggestions for a keynote speaker.

5) Financial Statement

F. Sadid presented the Financial Statement to Council.

MOVED(Sadid/Lopez): “That ASSU Council approve the Financial Statement for the period of May 1, 2023 to November 13, 2023 as presented.”

*CARRIED

6) Report of the Auditor

G. Nowlan presented the audited statements to Council. He explained that the Auditor goes over ASSU's receipts and Course Union receipts to ensure that the financial reporting is accurate and correct. Our Audit has already been submitted to and accepted by the University.

There was a question about our term investments – the term deposit came due in August and has been reinvested at higher interest rate in another term deposit.

MOVED(Madhusudanan/Sadid): “That ASSU Council accept the Audit Report prepared by MNP LLP Chartered Accountants.”

*CARRIED

MOVED(Madhusudanan/Sadid): “That ASSU Council appoints MNP LLP Chartered Accountants as the auditors for the Arts and Science Students' Union for the 2023-24 fiscal year.”

*CARRIED

6) Other Business

K. Abian reported that he is hosting a podcasts for both TUGS and CANSSU – if anyone would like to be a guest on one of them.

PhySU is hosting a trivia night this term modelled after Geoguesser.

CINSSU asked if any CUs were interested in collaborating with them for Friday Free Film nights.

PCU announced that this Thursday was World Philosophy Day and that there would be cool speaker giving a talk at 3 pm in the Jackman Humanities Building.

7) Question Period

HSA had a question about how ASSU can increase their funds. G. Nowlan talked about the COLA increase tied to ASSU's yearly fee – and that ASSU Council would just have to approve it each year and the Executive would just have to ask to receive it. G. Nowlan suggested they reach out to the ASSU Executive or BRC for further discussion.

8) Lucky Draw

We gave out 4 ASSU t-shirts and 4 ASSU tote bags!

14) Adjournment

MOVED (Mladin/Case): "To adjourn."

*CARRIED

Secretary to Council

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