

ARTS & SCIENCE STUDENTS' UNION

4th COUNCIL MEETING 2023-24

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Sidney Smith, Room 1073

5 pm

Attendance:

R. Crowley (USAS), E. Shore (AU), S. Lee (AU), V. Mak (BUSS), M. Jakobsen (BMSSA), L. Ji (BMSSA), L. Wang (BPSU), C. Miranda-Radbord (CANSSU), J. Rosen (CANSSU), L. Hong (CSBSU), D. Liu (CSBSU), R. Fry (CSCU), O. Leng (CSU), M. Chow (CSU), V. Huang (CINSSU), T. Fan (CINSSU), T. Mladin (CLASSU), C. Fairchild (CSSU), L. Scheffer (CSSU), H. Yin (CASSU), A. Jeon (CASSU), N. Persaud (CRIMSA), D. Tessaro (CRIMSA), A. Joshi-Dave (DTSU), N. Katz (SUDS), Z. Uzunel (UESA), J. Chow (UESA), C. Wang (EASSU), Z. He (EASSU), M. Cheng (ESU), E. Lee (ESU), J. Annekan (ES&LSA), L. Li (ES&LSA), G. Hrelja (ESSA), Y. Khan (FCU), S. Chen (TUGS), K. Abian (TUGS), T. Streibel-May (GSSU), W. Wynne (HSSU), E. Porter (HSA), T. Cullum (HSA), C. Leong (HASA), K. Zhang (HASA), A. Spurr (HPSUS), M. Wang (HBSU), C. Tao (HBSU), J. Scott (IMMSA), J. Akbari (IRHRSA), X. Zhou (IRHRSA), J. Im (IRS), P. Vij (IRS), L. Xu (LMPSU), H. Khan (SLUGS), E. Hui (SLUGS), S. Mechel (LCTSU), S. Cui (LCTSU), J. Bona-Landry (MU), H. Gong (MU), M. Sun (MGYSU), I. Li (MGYSU), A. El Hemasy (NMCSU), J. Arsenault (NAUS), JP. Escorcia Domingez (NAUS), N. Cao (NSSA), A. Sandhu (PCJS), L. Chun (PCJS), O. Li (PCSU), C. Requejo (PCSU), R. Xu (PCU), M. Kamran (PCU), S. Lakerdas-Gayle (PhySU), A. Zhang (PhySU), T. Markel (UPSA), K. Seo (UPSA), G. Yang (APSS), J. Lim (PSA), H. Xu (PSA), A. Sherry (UPPSA), A. Singh (UPPSA), K. Klanreungsang (RUSA), H. Henderson (ARS), M. Hirons (ARS), J. Yuen (USSU), E. Mastracci (USSU), L. Watson (SSU), R. Sacco (URSSU), B. Terry (URSSU), A. Madhusudanan (ASSU President), S. Lopez (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 5:17 pm.

1) Land Acknowledgement Statement

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

2) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Khan/Persaud): "To approve the agenda as presented."

*CARRIED

3) Approval of the Previous Minutes

MOVED (Arsenault/Wang): "To accept the minutes of November 13, 2023 as presented."

*CARRIED

4) Executive Reports

A. Madhusudanan welcomed everyone back. She reported that we held a successful EXAM JAM in December. She also spoke on three main projects: 1) ASSU's commitment to supporting Buddhism & Psychology students with the potential closure of their program 2) working with ASSU on fighting fees for deferred exams and 3) working with FCJ Refugee House to get UofT to change their policy for undocumented students who have no status in Canada – currently, these students must pay international fees even though they may have lived their entire lives in Canada.

She answered questions from Council regarding the BPM program and other smaller program issues.

F. Sadid also mentioned EXAM JAM and that we would be running another one in April as well. He reported that Robarts Library did end staying open until 2 am during the exam period and he is hoping to negotiate the same hours for the April exam period. Finally, he mentioned that the Arbor journal committee was currently working on selecting articles.

S. Lopez updated Council on the URC – a date has been picked – Friday, February 9th – she hopes that Council will come out to hear the presentations from their fellow students. The URC committees are finalizing their selections and they are still looking for a keynote if anyone has suggestions.

F. Kayed reported on her work with trying to set up a syllabus repository – instead of an “archive”, she is hoping that instructors can upload their syllabus to Quercus and then students can have access to them with their utorID. She has been connecting with Professor Don Boyes from the Dean’s Office – he has met with the tech team to see if this is possible. Also, there is no “deadline” for instructors to share their syllabus – she is pushing to have current syllabi posted before classes start.

M. Wong reported that she and the members of the BRC have been looking over SPFs and she reminded Council to submit requests if they have special projects. She also mentioned that she is sitting on the Undergraduate Research Fund Committee and would report back after they met in February.

5) Financial Statement

F. Sadid presented the Financial Statement to Council.

MOVED(Sadid/Wong): “That ASSU Council approve the Financial Statement for the period of May 1, 2023 to January 17, 2024 as presented.”

*CARRIED

6) Striking of the ASSU Scholarship Committee

MOVED (Lopez/Kayed): “That ASSU Council strike the ASSU Scholarship Committee in accordance with ASSU Policy.”

*CARRIED

Hanfu Gong (MU) was appointed to the Scholarship Committee.

7) Approval of the CRO

MOVED (Mladin/ Miranda-Radbord): “That Basmah Ramadan be appointed the CRO for the March 2024 ASSU Elections.”

*CARRIED

8) Other Business

The IRS mentioned that there was coffee at the front of the room that was left over from an early event.

H. Khan (SLUGS) – talked about the issues that CUPE 3261 and the food service workers on campus are facing. He suggested that an ad hoc committee be struck to come up with ways that students can help support them. This committee would be made up of 3 Council members and 2 ASSU Executives.

MOVED(Khan/Mladin): “To strike an ad hoc food service support committee.”

*CARRIED

The members are H. Khan (SLUGS), T. Mladin (CLASSU), H. Gong (MU) and the 2 ASSU members are to be decided.

A. Madhusudanan informed Council that CUPE 3902 (TAs and sessional lecturers) are currently in bargaining with the University. ASSU has heard that there could be a potential strike if bargaining does not continue to go well. CUPE 3902 is looking for solidarity support from ASSU - A. Madhusudanan is meeting with their President next week to see what they are looking for from ASSU.

H. Gong (MU) went over some of the bargaining issues that CUPE 3902 has been facing.

J. Seto reminded Council that Winter Budget request forms were due by noon hour on January 31st. Fall Receipts must be submitted before winter grant cheques are released. The February 5th Council Meeting will be held in New College, Wilson Hall, Rom 1017 at 5 pm.

9) Question Period

There was a question about whether ASSU could do anything about making the faculty follow mark deadlines – a lot of students are still waiting for their marks. ASSU has brought this up with the Dean's office in the past – the issue is that instructors have a deadline to submit to their Department/Program Office, then they must be approved there before they are sent to the OFR to be uploaded into the system. But ASSU will bring it up again.

Someone asked about the Academic Handbook – if an instructor is not following the Academic Handbook and the issue is brought to the Dean's Office, the Dean's Office will follow up with the instructor.

It was mentioned that having past academic timetables on the website was helpful to students who were looking to plan future courses they were thinking of taking – the Fall 2023 one has been taken down from the A&S website – ASSU will ask about having it put back up.

There was a question about whether the Waitlist has been shortened this year – it seems to be shorter than previous years. ASSU will bring this up at the next Dean's Meeting.

10) Lucky Draw

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

11) Adjournment

MOVED (Sandhu/Watson): "To adjourn."

*CARRIED

Secretary to Council

js

cupe 1281