

ARTS & SCIENCE STUDENTS' UNION

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING 2024-25

Minutes

Friday, September 27, 2024

Sidney Smith Hall 2118

Attendance:

C. Gilliland (USAS), A. Dong (USAS), G. Wills (ASA), C. Crasto (ASA), Z. Klouchnikov (AU), T. Johnson (BUSS), A. Sarma (BUSS), I. Ando (BCBSA), M. Jakobsen (BMSSA), Y. Qi (BMSSA), J. Pham (BPSU), N. Violet (BPSU), C. Stipleman (CANSSU), G. Lin (CSBSU), T. Markel (CSBSU), O. Leng (CSU), J. Ge (CSU), F. Liu (CINSSU), S. Delicata (CINSSU), T. Mladin (CLASSU), T. Delaney-Girotti (CLASSU), P. Santos (CASA), A. Matei (CASA), P. Thakur (CSSU), J. Barahan (CSSU), E. Qin (CASSU), L. Chen (CASSU), E. Palaypay (CESSU), S. Bannon (CESSU), C. McNeil (CRIMSA), D. Tessaro (CRIMSA), A. Bhatti (DTSU), A. Yoo (DTSU), F. Fatola (SUDS), R. Robitaille (SUDS), M. Roland Marun (UESA), K. Wang (EASSU), Z. He (EASSU), Z. Kang (EEBU), S. Peters (EEBU), E. Ward (ESU), N. Lalla (ESU), C. Zuo (ENSU), T. Reyes (ENSU), G. Rickwood (ES&LSA), G. Merry (ES&LSA), E. Freeburn (ESSU), H. Choi (ESSU), J. Arskova (ESSA), N. Dimitrov (FCU), H. Kim-Cragg (FCU), A. Wong (TUGS), K. Abian (TUGS), A. Kolluru (GSSU), R. Qin (GSSU), K. De Carlos (HSSU), T. Kwong (HSSU), P. Hays (HSA), A. Popov (HSA), M. Smart (HASA), G. Liu (HBSU), J. Singh (HBSU), M. Mamun (IMMSA), S. Caandeepan (IMMSA), D. Rasheed (IRHRSA), R. Ibrahim (IRHRSA), S. Ding (LMPSU), R. Alvarez (LMPSU), K. Zhang (SLUGS), E. Wong (SLUGS), H. Weininger (LCTSU), C. Ding (LCTSU), Z. Soliman (MCSSU), M. Bagnell (MCSSU), A. Mann (MU), J. Chakkour (MU), M. Pickett (MGYSU), E. Cho (MGYSU), F. Sevim (NMCSU), A. El-Hemasy (NMCSU), N. Khan (NAUS), B. Milne (NAUS), E. Jiang (NSSA), R. Nazar (NSSA), N. Rudder (PCJS), S. Ziadat (PCSU), J. Requejo (PCSU), M. Hewitt (PhySU), R. Xu (PhySU), T. Markel (UPSA), K. Seo (UPSA), E. Dobrovnik (APSS), J. Perez (APSS), A. Ma (PSA), T. Yang (PSA), A. Saleh (UPPSA), A. Hui (UPPSA), S. Sagar (RUSA), M. Crabtree (RUSA), C. Bridon (ARS), T. Vainio (ARS), H. Xu (USSU), J. Yuen (USSU), Y. Wang (URSSU), P. Gorn (URSSU), S. King (WGSSU), F. Kayed (ASSU Treasurer), M. Rodrigo (ASSU Executive), F. Sadid (ASSU President), M. Wong (ASSU Executive), S. Zaman (ASSU Executive), J. Seto (Chair), M. Bezner Kerr (Secretary), Anusha Madhusudanan (CRO)

Observers:

L. Mhaish, S. Sarin, R. Liu, G. Johnson, R. Fathi, J. Buchan

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm.

1) Land Acknowledgement Statement

J. Seto read out a land acknowledgement statement.

2) Approval of the Chair

J. Seto explained that Gavin Nowlan is the regular Chair of ASSU Council, but because he is away, she would Chair this first meeting.

MOVED (Abian/Wang): "That J. Seto be appointed ASSU Chair for this first Council Meeting."

*CARRIED

3) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Sadid/ El Hemasy): "That the agenda be accepted as presented."

*CARRIED

4) Approval of the Previous Minutes

The Chair declared the minutes of March 22, 2024 adopted as presented.

5) Executive Summer Report

F. Sadid addressed ASSU Council and welcomed everyone back. He reported on a few items that ASSU is currently working on: ASSU has started the process to revamp the ASSU website. He has met with CUPE 3902 to discuss a TTC

Transit pass for students and other CUPE members. The group sent out a survey to A&S students over the summer – 78% would be in favour of paying for one. There is a joint committee with UTM and UTSC members to discuss asking for a CR/NCR deadline extension – hoping to move the deadline to the last of final exams. He mentioned the CU social that was held in September. He went over some of the budget changes for CU funding this year. ASSU is taking on Deferred Exam Fees – have had discussions with the Faculty – they are open to lowering fees if other faculties do the same. He met with the University Registrar to ask about changing the Absence Declaration usage from 1 to 2 – hopes to have more updates in October. ASSU is looking to organize a big speakers series with some collaboration with the Faculty. Finally, he wants to get the Faculty to add a timetable history to ACORN.

F. Sadid also reported on the recent meeting with the Dean, where the Executive brought up the following items – Pushing back the drop deadline for courses; amending the timeline by which students are informed of potential academic offences so they do not have to endure extra stress during the exam period and CUs having sovereignty separate of their departments.

M. Wong reported that ASSU's Arbor Journal was completed and printed over the summer.

S. Zaman reported that she wants to work on improving accessibility needs for students – she is working on compiling a list of accessibility issues for students.

M. Rodrigo announced that they were taking applications for Editors for the Arbor Journal and that the deadline is being extended for 2 weeks. She will also be helping S. Zaman with the accessibility project.

F. Kayed reported that is working on the Arbour Journal with M. Rodrigo. She also reported that in regards to the Syllabi Project, they are hoping for earlier access to syllabi for students – but would not be ready until next year.

6) Striking of the Elections Appeals Board

J. Seto explained what the duties of the Appeals Board were.

MOVED (Sadid /Wong): "That the Elections Appeal Board be struck in accordance with the Fall 2024 election procedures."

*CARRIED

J. Seto asked for volunteers to sit on the Board. She declared the following elected to the Board – K. Wang (EASSU), G. Wills (ASA), A. Bhatti (DTSU), T. Johnson (BUSS), and M. Hewitt (PHYSU).

7) Executive By-Election

J. Seto turned the Chair over to the CRO Anusha Madhusudanan. A. Madhusudanan introduced the candidates to Council – each of them had 2 minutes to address Council. There were two questions asked of each candidate.

A. Madhusudanan declared the following two elected to the ASSU Executive: G. Johnson and J. Buchan. She turned the Chair back to J. Seto.

MOVED (Mladin/El Hemasy): "To destroy the ballots after two weeks."

*CARRIED

8) Summer Financial Statement

F. Kayed presented the Summer Financial Statement to Council and answered questions from members.

MOVED (Kayed/Zaman): "That ASSU Council accepts the Summer Financial Statement from May 1, 2024 to September 26, 2024 as presented."

*CARRIED

9) Proposed Budget 2024-25

F. Kayed presented the Proposed Budget to Council and answered questions from members.

MOVED (Kayed /Rodrigo): "That the ASSU Budget, for the period of May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, be accepted as presented."

*CARRIED

10) Striking of the Budget Review Committee

J. Seto explained the role and duties of the BRC to Council.

MOVED (Kayed/Sadid): "That the Budget Review Committee (BRC) be struck to review Course Union budget requests as per the ASSU constitution."

*CARRIED

J. Seto asked for volunteers to sit on the BRC. She declared the following elected to the BRC: C. Zuo (ENSU), T. Mladin (CLASSU), A. Bhatti (DTSU), H. Xu (USSU), Y. Wang (URSSU)

11) Question Period

There was a question about how the SPF works – J. Seto explained.

12) Course Union Matters

T. Mladin asked the Executive if anything was ever brought up to the Dean's Office about the fact that a lot of half-year courses have the same workload as full-year ones. F. Sadid said he would look into it.

Someone mentioned that while they are housed in VIC, they do not have the same room booking access as VIC clubs.

CINSSU is trying to get funding from their Department for honoraria for their Execs and were wondering if other CUs had similar arrangements with their Departments. BMSSA asked SMCSU who said no, but now they are going to approach their actual program. HSA said they receive a small amount from the History Department.

BCBSA talked about their students not having priority enrollment into courses because the program encompasses courses from various Departments. CLASSU related a similar situation where they could take substitute courses, but do not have priority to enrol.

PCSU asked how or if other CUs have access to email addresses for their students. A few CUs mentioned that they have someone in the Department who will send out emails for them to the Department listserv. Others ask students to sign up for their emails on Quercus or just use social media.

13) Other Business

None.

14) Lucky Draw

J. Seto drew names and gave out t-shirts and tote bags.

15) Adjournment

MOVED (Zaman/Rodrigo): "To adjourn."

*CARRIED

Secretary to the Executive