

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2014/2015 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on March 26, 2014 in Council Chambers, Room 315, University Community Centre**

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**Note:** This meeting can be viewed in full or in part via streaming video at <http://www.usc.uwo.ca/government/council/meetings/index.asp>.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**2. O CANADA**

The Speaker led Council in the singing of O Canada.

**3. WESTERN SCHOOL SONG**

The Speaker led Council in the singing of the Western School Song.

**4. ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Addison, Emily	Goodfield, Taylor	Malhotra, Harshika
Ainsworth, Samuel	Grainger, Tom	Nguyen, Lisa
Amoah, Rebecca	Hamel-Carassi, Isabelle	Obradovic, Vladimir
Armstrong, Kaitlyn	Henshaw, Mark	Onete, Daniel
Baertsoen, Alicia	Holdren, Melissa	Sakellis, Alex
Bhatt, Viraj	Hunt, Trevor	Saravanabavan, Sujen
Bonofiglio, Michelle	Ibrahim, Mays	Schoenhoff, Stephanie
Brandreth, Siobhan	Jacobs, Kevin	Singh, Arjun
Bricknell, Doug	Jansen, Jazmyn	Sookraj, Richard
Buckle, Ashley	Jenner, Cortney	Suleman, Saleh
Carter, Jen	Kremic, Stefan	Sussman, Drew
Crich, Laura	Krishnapillai, Samanta	Tithecott, Emerson
Eftekharpour, Amir	Lesarge, Jonathan	Whelan, Patrick
Emms, Sarah	Leung, Eugene	Wolfe, Nicholas
Gene, Mathew	Litchfield, Jack	Yang, Megan
Germain, Emma	Mabtoul, Karima	Yau, Sabrina
Gil, Nicholas	Macklin, Jillian	Zhang, Johnny

**Absent With Regrets**

David, Heather	Lee, John	Shakfa, Noor
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**Absent Without Regrets**

Adsett, Braden	Eve, Reagan	Li, Kelsey
Aideyan, David	Ferguson, Sophia	Mathews, Alex
Atwal, Harman	Giles, Alyssa	Pilo, Nikki
Bury, Laurel	Griffin, Sabrina	Schnurr, Cooper
Chen, Alex	Jim, Guccio	Syed, Ahsan
Doshi, Samik	Lamoureux, Connor	Zawalsky, Michael

**Non-Voting Members and Observers**

Emerson Tithecott, Vice-President Communications  
Andrew Lalka, Vice-President Finance  
Sam Kilgour, Vice-President Student Events  
Kojo Hayward, Governance Officer  
Thomas Argent, Faculty of Music Students' Council President-elect  
Elizabeth Nash, Arts and Humanities Students' Council President-elect  
Hien Ngo, Brescia University College Students' Council President-elect  
Steven Wright, 2013/14 Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee Chair  
Kyle DeCaluwe, Chair of Governance Review Ad-Hoc Committee  
Pashv Shah, Chief Returning Officer  
Stuart Ruffalo, EnviroWestern Coordinator

**Speaker:** Andrew Lalka

**Recording Secretary:** Andrew Shaw

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Speaker advised that the presentation on the Peer Support Centre would be removed from the agenda and presentations on Oil Divestment and External Leadership Options.

**Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.**

**Jacobs/Litchfield/Carried.**

**6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS**

There were no minutes to be ratified.

**7. SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Speaker welcomed the 2014/15 Council to their first meeting and reminded the members to use the Sign In/Out sheet if they came in late or needed to leave early. He also reminded Councillors to fill out contact information forms. Lastly, the Speaker informed Council of the upcoming Council Appreciation Dinner and the President's State

of the USC Address. He also thanked the Deputy Speaker for standing in for the last few meetings.

## **8. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Members' Announcements.

## **9. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE WESTERN COMMUNITY**

There were no comments or questions from the Western community.

## **10. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

### **10.1 James R. Walden Award Presentation**

Whelan announced that the recipient of the 2013/14 James R. Walden Award as Maria Litsas.

Litsas thanked Council for the award.

### **10.2 OUSA Review** (*See Appendix #1 for Presentation.*)

Steven Wright, outgoing chair of the Provincial and Federal Affairs Standing Committee, presented the findings of the 2014 Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Review and recommended that the USC retain full membership in OUSA.

*What are some of the common priorities of OUSA and CFS?*

Wright responded that accessibility and affordability of education were common priorities. He added that they agreed in some areas on priorities but had no overlap in others.

*Will OUSA be given the recommendations specified in the review to work on?*

Eftekharpour advised that as the President of OUSA he would ensure that the OUSA home office is advised of the recommendations.

*What are the membership fees for OUSA?*

Wright answered that each student pays \$2.90 towards OUSA.

*What campus promotions has OUSA run in the past?*

Wright offered the Blue Chair campaign as an OUSA campus initiative. Eftekharpour added that OUSA ran an OSAP awareness campaign this year, although it was not as successful as hoped for.

### **10.3 Governance Review Ad-Hoc Committee**

Kyle DeCaluwe and Litsas presented the preliminary report of the Ad-Hoc Committee. They noted that the Committee had discussed both year-specific and systemic concerns with elections that the Committee would be issuing recommendations on in the future. The Committee noted that the Elections By-Law was an extremely difficult document to read and understand and noted a concern that demerit points cost candidates their own money.

*Did the Committee focus on demerit points?*

DeCaluwe advised that the Committee’s mandate included all aspects of the elections and that demerits and reimbursements were only one aspect.

*Where does the money go when candidates are fined for demerit points?*

Shah responded that the money was taken out of the candidate’s bond and not returned. Bond money is held at the front desk and returned to candidates after the election. Whelan added that any money fined for demerit points goes back into Elections subsidies and therefore into reimbursing candidates.

*What happens to reimbursements if an appeal is pending?*

Hayward responded that the reimbursement is held until after the appeal to ensure that the candidate is reimbursed the correct amount dependent on the appeal.

Motion to move the remaining presentations down on the agenda to just before the motions they address.

**Brandreth/Leung/Carried.**

**11. WESTERN STUDENT SENATE REPORT** (See Appendix #2 for Presentation.)

Sookraj presented the report of the Western Student Senate.

*What will the number of incoming students be capped at for the 2014/15 year?*

Lalka responded that the numbers would be capped at 4350-4500 students for main campus.

*Why are the international student fees for the MOS program increasing?*

Sookraj advised that the program fees were being moved in line with the provincial average due to the program being one of high interest. Litchfield added that the change would raise the competitiveness of the program.

**12. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

Whelan presented the Executive Summary.

*Who do the First Year Student Caucus reports go to?*

Whelan advised that the Chief of Staff and Vice-President Internal were working on the FYSC and were having a conversation regarding the future of the caucus.

Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Executive Report(s).  
Singh/Litchfield/Carried.

**13. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** *(See Appendix #3 for Presentation.)*

Whelan presented the report of the Chair of the Board.

Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the Chair of Board of Directors.  
Bricknell/Jacobs/Carried.

**14. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*(All Standing Committee reports can be viewed on the USC website at <http://westernusc.ca/standing-committees/>)*

**14.1 Governance and Agendas**

Lalka presented the report of the Governance and Agendas Committee.

**Motion #1: Amendments to Standing Orders**

**Whereas**, the only current way for students without a position to allow them to speak at USC meetings is through the process of being deferred such speaking rights by a current member of Council.

**Be it resolved that**, Council adopt the following amendments to the Standing Orders of Council to allow students-at-large to speak at Council Meetings:

**5.00 Speaker Authority**  
In addition to the regular authority given to the Speaker of Council by virtue of holding the position itself, the Speaker shall also have the authority to do the following without having to ask for a motion from Council:

(1) The Speaker shall have the authority to call for a vote on any given question or amendment should she determine that debate or discussion of the question

has gone off topic or has become circular in nature. The Speaker may call for a vote at any time, regardless of the number or nature of names remaining on the Speaker's List.

- (2) The Speaker shall have the authority to recess a meeting at her sole discretion. This includes a short recess for Members to take a break and a recess until a later date for the purposes of gathering more information or conducting research for the benefit of Council.
- (3) The Speaker shall have the authority to refer any motion or question back to a Standing Committee or Ad-Hoc Committee of Council should she determine that more discussion or research is necessary before Council can make a decision. The Speaker may refer a question or motion before any discussion or debate has taken place in the Council meeting proper.
- (4) The Speaker shall have the authority to recognize any non-member and grant them the floor provided that the individual register with the Speaker or acting Speaker prior to the session being called to order.
  - i. The Speaker shall only be permitted to grant the right to speak and not the right to vote.
  - ii. Any individual recognized by the Speaker shall be subject to all of the rules of Council as expressed in the Act, the By-laws, RONR, and any applicable policy or procedure.
- (5) The Speaker shall have the authority to sanction Members who are in breach of Council decorum (e.g. personal attacks on another Member, causing disruptions to the meeting, etc.). Sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - i. A verbal warning;
  - ii. Removal of Member for the duration of the question on the floor;
  - iii. Removal of Member for the duration of the meeting;
  - iv. Application of a demerit point penalty to the Member no larger than 1.0 points; and
  - v. Recommend the removal of a Member from Council subject to Member Removal provisions of By-Law #1.
    - a. Removal of a Member from Council shall be considered to be a last option used only in the case of repeated offenses or grossly inappropriate behaviour.

**Be it further resolved that, the Governance and Agendas Committee be tasked with conducting a review of the authorities of the Speaker.**

**JACOBS/Singh/Defeated. C14/15.1.1**

Jacobs introduced the motion and highlighted the increased agency for students-at-large permitted by the motion and added that it would promote a more inclusive Council.

<b>Arguments For</b>	<b>Arguments Against</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More inclusive and transparent Council</li> <li>- Representatives can only do so much</li> <li>- Would avoid problems of concerns becoming jumbled by being passed between different people</li> <li>- Direct democracy is preferable where possible</li> <li>- Each Councillor cannot speak to all constituents</li> <li>- Changes do not lessen the agency of a Councillor</li> <li>- Further regulation can be added down the road if necessary</li> <li>- Speaker has full discretion to ensure the privilege is not being abused in a manner detrimental to Council</li> <li>- The USC is seen as being a closed organization as is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will slow down the debate at Council with grandstanding</li> <li>- It is a representative's (Councillor's) job to represent students and speak for them at Council</li> <li>- Should be empowering individual Councillors and constituencies</li> <li>- Impossible to have everyone in the room</li> <li>- Students already have a variety of ways to make their voices heard</li> <li>- Council is already overly large so more voices should not be added</li> <li>- Would create a chaotic Council environment</li> <li>- The Council floor is not the only way for students to give effective feedback to the USC</li> <li>- Councillors got the right to speak by being elected by students-at-large</li> <li>- Job of the representative to speak for constituency as a whole; individuals coming to Council will only speak as individuals</li> <li>- Councillors who are more educated about the issues should not be deprived of the ability to speak to accommodate others</li> </ul>

**Be it resolved that** the motion be amended to include the statement “Be it further resolved that, the Governance and Agendas Committee be tasked with conducting a review of the authorities of the Speaker.”

**JACOBS/Singh/Carried. C14/15.1.1.1**

The amendment was carried without debate and discussion returned to Motion #1.

*Can the Speaker sanction students-at-large who signed up in this manner for violations of rules of Council?*

Lalka responded that the Speaker could levy sanctions as these individuals would be treated the same as any non-voting member of Council.

*How will students know to register with the Speaker if they want to speak?*

Helfand answered that the USC would use advertising strategies to inform people of the option.

*When a Member defers their speaking rights to a non-Member does it count against that Member's speaking allowance?*

Lalka advised that deferring speaking rights does count against the allowance.

*Can Council move the "Comments and Questions from the Western Community" Agenda section to before motions to give non-Members an opportunity to speak about motions?*

Lalka responded that the "Comments and Questions" section was already before motions on the Agenda.

*How will students-at-large be recognized under the proposed system?*

Lalka answered that permission to speak would be at the discretion of the Speaker of Council.

*Would it be possible that a Councillor does not get to speak to a motion because a student-at-large takes their place on the Speaker's list?*

Lalka responded that the possibility did exist.

*Could students-at-large speak to anything on the agenda?*

Lalka advised that the students-at-large would be given the same rights as all Members to speak to any item of business.

*Is there any way to cap the amount of time that student-at-large speakers have during the meeting?*

Lalka responded that Robert's Rules of Order specified that each speaker can speak twice to a motion for a total duration of five (5) minutes.

**Motion to Call the Question.  
Grainger/Bonofiglio/Carried.**

Motion #1 was defeated.



**10. PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)**

**10.4 Oil Divestment**

Ruffalo presented on the topic of Oil Divestment highlighting the financial and ethical benefits of divesting from oil companies and investing in other indexes.

*How is divestment financially feasible for Western?*

Ruffalo responded that it would be feasible by comparing investment indexes.

**14. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)**

**Motion #2: Oil Divestment and USC Investments**  
**Whereas** the Local and Campus Affairs Committee considered a Purple Paper concerning oil divestment;  
  
**Whereas** climate change is a global issue and Western and the USC do not have restrictions on their ability to invest in oil companies;  
  
**Be it resolved that** the USC VP Finance inquire into the nature of the USC’s investments, determine the financial impacts of oil divestment on the USC reserve fund, and report back to Council no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 2014/15 Council (October);  
  
**Be it further resolved that** the 2014-15 Advocacy Group further investigate the proposals of EnviroWestern and Divest Western regarding oil divestment and solicit student feedback on the issue.  
  
**GRAINGER/Singh/Carried. C14/15.1.2**

Grainger presented the motion, stating that the motion asked for research first before making a decision that would, at this time, be based on very little information. Singh added that the USC must be certain of the impact on its revenues before committing to any course of action.

<b>Arguments For</b>	<b>Arguments Against</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addresses two pertinent issues</li> <li>- Motion shows the USC taking divestment seriously</li> </ul>	

*Does the motion ask for the USC to divest or to advocate for the University to divest?*

Brown responded that the motion asked for the USC to investigate the feasibility of both.

**Motion to Call the Question.  
Litchfield/Saravanabavan/Carried.**

Motion #2 was carried.

**Motion for a 15 minute recess.  
Eftekharpour/Singh/Carried.**

Council took a 15 minute recess.

**Motion #3: Grants Fund Usage**

**Be it resolved that**, all remaining grants funds for the 2013/2014 Council year be rolled into an internally restricted grants fund to be allocated by the 2014/2015 Grants Committee.

**Be it further resolved that**, Council task the 2014/2015 Long-Term Plan and Budget Committee to review options for a long-term solution.

**SINGH/Grainger/Carried. C14/15.1.3**

Singh presented the motion and highlighted the options for Council.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The money still goes to students</li> <li>- Money collected for grants should continue to be used for grants</li> <li>- Consistent with previous decisions by Council regarding fund allocation</li> </ul>	

*What does internally restricted mean?*

Brown advised that it meant that it could not be put into deferred income. He added that it was another way of saying that the money had to be used for grants.

*If the motion is not passed, where does the money go?*

Brown responded that the money would pass into the bottom line of the USC like all remaining revenue at the end of the fiscal year.

*What were some of the concerns of the Long-Term Plan and Budget Committee?*

Litchfield responded that the Committee discussed the options but ran into logistical problems that prevented a full discussion. He added that the problem needed a solution regardless.

*Was there a surplus of remaining grants funds in previous years?*

Brown answered that previous years had not returned a surplus but that grants policies concerning charity and risk management had changed which resulted in less grants being given out. He added that the Grants Committee did well with promotion and advertising.

*Would removing this surplus from the bottom line affect future accounting?*

Brown advised that the USC always budgeted to spend all of the money allocated for grants so the surplus was not expected to cover other areas of the organization. Litchfield added that the USC was generally in a good position financially so there would be no real impact on the financial health of the organization.

Motion #3 was carried.

## **10. PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)**

### **10.5 External Leadership Options**

Carter highlighted the various commitments of the Vice-President External and presented the effects of the Vice-President External also being the President of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance on these commitments.

## **14. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)**

**Motion to go *in camera* to discuss Posted Motion #4 and to include any members of the 14/15 Council who currently do not have voting rights (e.g. constituency presidents who have not yet been ratified by their constituency).**

**Carter/Singh/Carried.**

Council entered a confidential session at 9:48pm

**Motion to rise from the confidential session.**

**Jacobs/Baertsoen/Carried.**

Council rose from the confidential session at 10:09pm

## **15. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **15.1 Election of Speaker of 2014/15 Council**

The candidates for Speaker of the 2014/15 Council, Emily Soti and Doug Bricknell, gave opening remarks and responded to questions from Council. Voting was conducted by secret ballot.

Shah announced the winner as Doug Bricknell.

**Motion to destroy the ballots.  
Litchfield/Singh/Carried.**

**15.2 Election of Members to the Governance Review Ad-Hoc Committee**

Whelan explained the duties of the Ad-Hoc Committee and gave Council a briefing on the Committee’s activities.

The Speaker called for nominations from the floor.

Nominees: Sussman, English, Sookraj, Grainger, Yang, Onete, Goodfield.

*Is it within the Committee’s purview to review USC Staff members or Coordinators?*

Whelan advised that By-law #4 delegates authority over staffing matters to the General Manager. Litchfield added that the Committee’s focus should be on structural matters with Elections and not on the parts played by individuals.

The nominees were acclaimed.

**16. QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions from the floor.

**17. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn.  
Yang/Bonofiglio/Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

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**President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Recording Secretary**

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign In/Sign Out**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Time In</u></b>	<b><u>Time Out</u></b>
Schoenhoff, Stephanie	7:15	
Kremic, Stefan	7:15	
Crich, Laura	8:00	
Suleman, Saleh		8:30
Baertsoen, Alicia	8:00	
Jenner, Courtney	9:00	
Henshaw, Mark		9:30
Brandreth, Siobhan	7:30	
Lesarge, Jonathan		10:00
Sakellis, Alex		10:00
Obradovic, Vladimir		10:15