

**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2013/2014 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on January 22, 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 7:11 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	Faller, Adam	Ng, Hilarie
Aideyan, David	Fong, Eric	Nguyen, Lisa
Atwal, Harman	Gil, Nicholas	Nishimura, Mitchell
Baertsoen, Alicia	Gillis, Avery	Obradovic, Vladimir
Bhatia, Meghan	Ginou, Chris	Palin, Brandon
Blixt, Taylor	Goodfield, Taylor	Pearson, Jordan
Bonofiglio, Michelle	Grainger, Tom	Perkins, Lindsee
Bricknell, Doug	Griffin, Sabrina	Pilo, Nikki
Campbell, Haley	Hamel-Carassi, Isabelle	Schnurr, Cooper
Carter, Jen	He, Jenny	Soti, Emily
Chan, Adrienne	Henshaw, Mark	Syed, Ahsan
Clemente, Angela	Hirsh, James	Tithecott, Emerson
Cohen, Robbie	Holdren, Melissa	Ward, Cody
Cote, Dalai	Jansen, Jazmyn	Whelan, Patrick
DeCaluwe, Kyle	Jim, Gucio	Wolfe, Nicholas
Doshi, Samik	Krishnapillai, Samanta	Wright, Steven
Eftekharpour, Amir	Lamoureux, Connor	Yang, Megan
El-Boraie, Ahmed	Li, Kelsey	Zawalsky, Michael
Emms, Sarah	Litchfield, Jack	Zhu, Maggie
Engineer, Anish	Litsas, Maria	
Eve, Reagan	McCann, Catherine	

**Absent With Regrets**

Crich, Laura  
Kalsi, Gurvir

Mabtoul, Karima  
Mathews, Alex

**Absent Without Regrets**

Chan, Caleb  
Cousins, Sean

Giles, Alyssa  
Kremic, Stefan

Sobel, Jacob  
Yin, Carol

**Non-Voting Members and Observers**

Jasmine Irwin, Vice-President Communications  
Spencer Brown, Vice-President Finance  
Adam Smith, Vice-President Student Events  
Kojo Hayward, Governance Officer  
Domenic Bitondo, Director  
Zack Silverberg, Director  
Brian Belman, Associate Vice-President External

**Speaker:** Andrew Lalka

**Deputy Speaker:** Arjun Singh

**Recording Secretary:** Andrew Shaw

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.**  
**Addison/Nguyen/Carried**

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

There were no minutes to be ratified.

**7. SPEAKER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Speaker advised anyone who missed roll call to sign in at the side of the room and mentioned that the elections for Speaker of Council would be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, with nominations opening two weeks prior.

**8. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Litchfield announced that Canadian Political Science Association conference would be held in the Mustang Lounge on January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

*Bonofiglio, on behalf of her constituents, inquired as to whether the online voting portal for elections was ready for the opening of polls.*

Whelan responded that the system would work as intended and that concerns from the previous year were down to human error. He advised that the USC uses Western's system for elections and that a revamp of the system has been continually delayed.

*Litchfield, on behalf of the Women in the House organization, inquired how clubs could subsidize travel costs.*

Whelan answered that clubs could apply for grants for travel through the USC grants system. He added that the advertising surrounding grants would be looked at again when the policy has been revised.

Brown advised that there has been a precedent for travel grants being issued but that there should be further discussion on how subsidizing travel fits within the mandate of the grants system.

*Pearson, on behalf of his constituents, asked how the USC was engaging with the new Western strategic plan.*

Whelan advised that the USC would have to see what the next university budget looked like before making judgments on some of the conclusions being drawn by other parties.

## **10. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

### **10.1 State of Municipal Affairs** *(See Appendix #1 for presentation.)*

Eftekharpour and Sookraj presented on the USC's relationship with the city of London and updated Council on municipal advocacy efforts.

### **10.2 Budget Presentation**

Brown gave a preliminary presentation of the upcoming USC budget and introduced the concepts of user fees and a service-based budget to Council. He advised Council that he is willing to meet with any member of Council at any time to discuss the budget and that it was his goal to meet with as many Councillors as possible prior to the budget being voted on in March.

*Does the USC negotiate fees levied by the University?*

Brown advised that the USC does negotiate but that the USC had no real leverage with which to negotiate.

*Has the USC factored the effect of the changes to Full Time/Part Time designation into the budget?*

Whelan responded that the USC was unsure about whether the changes to the university in this regard would affect what fees students would pay to the USC.

*Will Council see the budget before it is voted on?*

Lalka advised that Council will see the budget in February.

*Will convenience fees on tickets sold at Western Connections be applied to clubs or students?*

Brown advised that this was still under discussion but that an important factor was that neither clubs nor students were in any way mandated to sell tickets at Western Connections and that, currently, all students were subsidizing the service.

**Motion to extend the time allotted for the presentation by 5 minutes.  
Jim/Bhatia/Carried.**

*How were ticket sales handled prior to Western Connections?*

Brown responded that ticket sales were done at Infosource previously and that convenience fees had been applied. Smith reminded Council that no one was mandated to use the service.

*Would the user fee applied to Clubs fees be calculated on a per-club basis (i.e. every club has the same user fee) or would it vary depending on the club?*

Brown advised that the fee would be applied to the user directly and that the programming budget of the club would not be affected in any way (i.e. the user fee would not be taken out of the membership fee paid to the club but added on as a service charge).

*Would pay-per-use access to the Mustang Express be an option worth exploring?*

Brown answered that it hadn't been considered as the fee for the Mustang Express had been passed through referendum and would therefore require another referendum to change.

**Motion to extend the time allotted for the presentation by 1 minute.  
Pearson/Litchfield/Carried.**

*Was commercialization addressed during budget discussions?*

Brown advised that more vendors meant more money in Western Connections' bottom line but that there were no plans for more commercialization at this time. Whelan added that the conversation about commercialization was ongoing.

**10.3 Executive Research Trip Brief (See Appendix #3 for presentation.)**

Whelan gave Council an update on the findings of the Executive on their annual research trip.

*When did the Executive take the trip? Why is Council just receiving the report now?*

Whelan advised that the trip was taken in August and that the report was coming at this meeting because Council had asked for an update at the last meeting.

**10.4 Executive Portfolio Structure** *(See Appendix #4 for presentation.)*

Whelan presented on the structure of the Executive Portfolios and gave an overview of potential changes to the Executive Terms of Reference.

*Why are individual Executives branded as “gatekeepers”?*

Whelan responded that the term “gatekeeper” was just another way to articulate responsibility.

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

Pilo presented the report of the Western Student Senate.

Henshaw requested the permission of the Speaker to address a concern raised in the presentation and informed Council that Western’s ITS Department could ensure that one’s computer software is up to date which would alleviate some of the concerns with campus Wi-Fi signals.

*Where can students find out more information about Senate?*

Pilo advised that students can peruse the Senate website or talk to a Senator directly.

**12. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS** *(See Appendix #5 for presentation.)*

Whelan summarized the activities of the Executive since the last meeting of Council and opened the floor to questions.

*Can Executive Reports be put on the website quicker?*

Shaw responded that the reports could go up right after the meeting.

*When will the latest version of By-Law #2 be posted on the website?*

Hayward advised that it will be up as soon as possible. Whelan added that he would ensure that candidates are kept informed regardless.

*What can be done about smokers not observing the prohibition against smoking within 9m of doorways?*

Krishnapillai advised that individuals should contact Campus Police if they observe such behaviour.

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

**13. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** *(See Appendix #6 for presentation.)*

Whelan reported on the activities of the Board of Directors over the prior two months.

Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the Chair of Board of Directors.  
Carter/Chan, A./Carried.

The Speaker called a recess at 9:15pm.

Council returned from the recess at 9:30pm.

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

**14.1 Local and Campus Affairs**

Hirsh presented the report of the Local and Campus Affairs Committee.

**Motion #1 - Professional Students Faculty Council Agreement**

**Whereas**, students in professional faculties pay full USC fees as well as fees to their respective faculties;

**Whereas**, professional students receive the majority of their student services from their respective faculties;

**Whereas**, affiliate college students’ fee payment to the USC is governed by the Affiliate Agreement;

**Be it resolved that**, the VP Internal and VP Finance, as well as any other members of the

USC executive, determine the impact and utility of a professional students’ agreement similar to the Affiliate Agreement;

**Be it further resolved that,** this investigation includes direct consultation with professional student faculties (Medicine, Dentistry, Education, Law) regarding the provision of student services;

**Be it further resolved that,** the USC Executive must deliver a report on this issue to the Local and Campus Affairs Committee at its next meeting on February 13, 2014. This report should also be delivered to the Long Term Plan and Budget Committee ~~at its February meeting~~ **via email**. Specifically, this report should examine how different fee-payment schedules would affect the USC budget for the coming year.

**HIRSH/Henshaw/Carried as amended. C13/14.6.1**

Hirsh introduced the motion explaining that the motion was intended to task the USC to investigate the issue and was not intended to launch a discussion on the merits of an agreement for professional schools until the research has been done. He added that the professional schools faced similar issues to the Affiliate Colleges.

Henshaw seconded the motion and re-emphasized that the motion was for investigation only.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is important to do research before discussing such an agreement</li> <li>- The issue is worth talking about and this motion ensures that it will be talked about in the future with proper research</li> <li>- The Long-Term Plan and Budget Committee exists to look at the long-term effects of such a change</li> <li>- Potential large-impact budget concern deserves proper time and research</li> <li>- In line with service-based budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Long-Term Plan and Budget Committee should have more time to review the research</li> <li>- The timeline of the motion is too rushed</li> </ul>

*Can the mover expand on the idea that professional school students are “double-paying” for services? Doesn’t every student also contribute to their faculty’s student donation fund?*

Hirsh responded that professional school students pay large sums of money to their student organization on top of USC fees.

Whelan added that student donation fees were different than the fees being discussed in the motion.

*Can it be noted that Engineering and Ivey are not part of the “professional schools” group named in the motion?*

Hirsh responded that that could be noted.

**Be it resolved that** Motion #1 be amended to insert “(Medicine, Dentistry, Education, Law)” into the second BIRT statement.

**Hirsh/Litsas/Carried. C13/14.6.1.1**

The amendment was carried without debate.

*Is there a reason why the aforementioned faculties are listed as “undergraduate” by the university?*

Hirsh responded that the programs were undergrad programs despite most entrants having previously completed another degree.

*Is the timeline specified in this motion realistic?*

Brown responded that he would be able to have preliminary research done on by the date specified.

Hirsh advised that the Local and Campus Affairs Committee would be satisfied to see a preliminary report by that date to show that the issue was being progressed on and that a final report would not be necessary at that time.

**Be it resolved that** Motion #1 be amended to strike “at its February meeting” and replace it with “via email” in the third BIRT statement.

**Litchfield/Hamel-Carassi/Carried. C13/14.6.1.2**

The amendment was carried without debate.

Motion #1 was carried as amended.

## **14.2 Long-Term Plan and Budget**

Litchfield presented the report of the Long-Term Plan and Budget Standing Committee.

## **14.3 Portfolio Service Level and Program Review**

Zhu presented the report of the Portfolio Service Level and Program Review Standing Committee.

#### **14.4 Provincial and Federal Affairs**

Wright reported on behalf of the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee.

*Where can one find videos of Standing Committee meetings?*

Shaw advised that all videos of Standing Committee meetings could be viewed in his office.

#### **14.5 Student Outreach and Communications**

Tithecott reported on behalf of the Student Outreach and Communications Committee.

*What specific roadblocks did the Committee encounter at the last meeting?*

Whelan advised that there were contractual issues that prevented the Committee from proceeding on certain matters.

#### **14.6 Governance and Agendas**

Lalka presented the report of the Governance and Agendas Committee and advised that the committee did not reach quorum and therefore motions they were expecting to bring to Council would either appear as new business or would not be moving forward.

*Will the lack of changes to the Elections Appeals body affect the coming elections?*

Whelan advised that no real impact would be had on these elections and that a long-term solution was in the works.

*Has not getting quorum been a problem for the Committee?*

Lalka responded that this was the first time quorum had not been met for the committee and reminded Council that demerit points are awarded for missing Committee meetings as per the Attendance Policy.

### **15. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

There was no Council Business to conduct.

### **16. QUESTION PERIOD**

*How is the USC aiming for fewer acclamations in the coming elections?*

Irwin responded that the USC is trying new initiatives such as USC Day, is tapping into Team USC resources, and is trying to relate the experience of being a student representative to that of being a Soph. She added that it was unclear on the whole where the disconnect was with students that was causing the increase in uncontested positions.

Shah added that the Elections Committee needed help from Council, as leaders in their constituencies, to make their promotional attempts successful.

*Why hasn't a mass email been sent out about nominations?*

Irwin responded that the information was part of the most recent Mustang Monthly newsletter and that the USC could consider another email if the message was not getting out.

*Is there still a concern about a lack of advertising resources for the Elections Committee?*

Shah advised that the collaboration with Team USC had been successful to this point and that if more resources were necessary steps would be taken to acquire them.

*When did the Elections Committee take on an advertising role?*

Shah advised that it was taken on in response to a need and that the Committee had been divided such that each member had a specific function over the elections period. Whelan added that it was valuable to have the Elections Committee running an objective Get Out the Vote campaign in addition to the other campaigns during elections.

## 17. NEW BUSINESS

### **New Business Motion #1 - Delegates for London Advocacy Week**

**Whereas**, the USC is the voice of students to the City of London, City Council, and private groups in the city,

**Whereas**, the USC is to engage in its first Local Advocacy Week to bring student priorities to those in the city,

**Whereas**, the USC benefits when student Councilors take an advocacy role and communicate student priorities,

**Whereas**, the USC currently uses council members as delegates for General Assembly Meetings of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance,

**Whereas**, these delegates are elected internally by council,

**Be it resolved that**, the USC Council elect three (3) Councilors to serve as London Delegates for the 2014 Local Advocacy Week, to take place March 3-7th 2014

**WRIGHT/Carter/Carried. C13/14.6.2**

Wright deferred to Eftekharpour who briefly explained the opportunity to Council and the basic duties of the delegates.

*Are there more duties for delegates outside of the week itself?*

Eftekharpour responded that at the moment the only duties involved the week but that he was open to the delegates discussing other ways to help advocate municipally.

*What exactly will the delegates be doing?*

Eftekharpour advised that the delegates would be lobbying to municipal leaders about student issues.

New Business Motion #1 was carried.

### **New Business Motion #2 – Health Plan Vision Referendum Question**

**Be it resolved that**, the following referendum question be added to the ballot for the 2014 Elections period:

#### **Health Plan Service Enhancement - Addition of Vision Coverage**

The University Students' Council (USC) currently brokers a Health Plan for full-time undergraduate students. The plan includes a range of benefits including prescription drug coverage, and other extended health benefits that are not covered under provincial health plans. The current Health Plan does not include vision coverage; the USC would like to ask students if vision coverage is a service they are in favour of adding to the existing Health Plan.

Are you in favour of increasing the USC Health Plan fee by thirty dollars (\$30.00), in addition to permitted inflationary increases, for the 2014/2015 academic year in order to expand the plan's coverage to include vision benefits? The increase would be in accordance with the following:

- 1) The vision coverage would be inclusive of:
  - \$75 every 24 months to cover the cost of an eye exam;
  - \$150 every 24 months to cover the cost of prescription eye glasses or contact lenses.
- 2) Students may opt out of the Health Plan fee, which would include vision benefits, if they are able to show proof of alternative coverage. This is the current policy, which shall remain unchanged.
- 3) Vision coverage would be a service enhancement to the existing plan, so the \$30.00 increase would be a one-time occurrence. The overall Health Plan fee is permitted to increase by up to 7% on an annual basis as per the referendum that established fee.

**YES/NO**

**Be it further resolved that,** an Information-Based campaign take place during the referendum as per section 27.00 of the USC’s By-Law #2.

**WRIGHT/Carter/Carried. C13/14.6.3**

Wright presented the motion, stating that vision care was a common concern among many students.

<b>Arguments For</b>	<b>Arguments Against</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adds to existing health plan</li> <li>- Works well with having an optometrist in the lower level</li> <li>- Just want to ask the question to students and let them decide if this is a service they want</li> <li>- Information-based campaign will ensure the information that students get is clear and well-informed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opt-out systems rely upon students forgetting to opt-out and losing their money</li> <li>- Wording could be difficult for students to understand</li> </ul>

*Will health and vision coverage be part of the same plan?*

Whelan responded that they would be part of the same plan and that students would still be able to opt out of the full plan if vision is added.

*Why is the plan opt-out instead of opt-in?*

Brown answered that the plan had to be opt-out so as to not drive the prices up.

*Is such a plan built upon people failing to opt out?*

Whelan responded that all insurance works on the basis of everyone paying in even if not everyone uses it and that people know they have insurance on the off-chance they do need it. Brown added that insurance schemes were built to overcome years with variable funding.

*Will the USC be hit with any additional administrative costs from the university with the addition of the vision care to the health plan?*

Whelan advised that there would be no additional charge as it is an addition to a current service and not an additional service entirely.

*Why is vision added to the health plan and not separate?*

Brown responded that vision care was determined to be a health benefit by the insurance providers.

*How much would the plan cost on an opt-in basis?*

Brown advised that the cost of an opt-in plan would be \$150 every 24 months.

*Would there be a benefit to running a Yes/No campaign? How does the USC advertise opt-out currently?*

Brown responded that the USC usually sends out an accting1 email and runs a poster campaign to remind students to opt-out.

New Business Motion #2 was carried.

**New Business Motion #3**

**Whereas**, a Western student passed away suddenly last week due to an unforeseen illness.

**Whereas**, the student was a USC employee and noticeable member in the USC and greater Western community.

**Whereas**, the family is facing great financial difficulties in light of the situation.

**Whereas**, the Q2 report projected the Executive branch budget to be in a surplus position at the end of the fiscal year.

**Be it resolved that** the council authorize the donation of \$2000 to the Fondoh family, from the Executive Branch budget, provided that it will have no impact to the programming or service offering for the remainder of this fiscal year.

**ADDISON/Perkins/Carried. C13/14.6.4**

Addison introduced the motion and explained to Council the situation regarding the passing of Francis Fondoh and the struggles the family was currently facing. She advised that the Executive had been consulted about how best the USC could contribute.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is an important gesture towards the family of an individual who had touched the lives of so many on campus</li> </ul>	

*Does the money go to the family or the fund?*

Addison advised that the money would eventually go to the family as the fund was set up as a vehicle to receive donations.

New Business Motion #3 was carried.

**15. COUNCIL BUSINESS, cont'd**

**15.1 Election of London Delegation (3)**

The Speaker asked for nominees to be part of the London Delegation for the upcoming Local Advocacy Week.

Nominees: Bonofiglio, Perkins, Ng, Bricknell, Jim, Zhu, Syed

Hayward advised that the successful candidates were Perkins, Syed, and Bonofiglio.

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

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn.  
Litsas/Henshaw/Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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>
Jim, Gucio	7:20	
Soti, Emily	8:11	
Henshaw, Mark	8:15	
McCann, Catherine		11:00
Hirsh, James		11:00

**Name**

Ward, Cody

**Time In**

**Time Out**

11:05