

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL  
31 October 2018**



### **October Council Meeting Recap**

The University Students' Council (USC) met on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for the second regular meeting of council. Councillors were presented with a full agenda, including six motions, three presentations, and regular reporting from executive and standing committees.

Council received presentations from Secretary Treasurer Bejan, Radio Western Station Manager Andrew Barton, and Vice President Chang. Bejan provided an overview of the USC's governance revival which was completed throughout the summer and "prioritizes strong governance, which is essential to the functioning of an organization and ensures our processes are as effective as possible," according to Bejan. The amendment of twenty policies and the striking of eight policies was passed by councillors unanimously in a consent motion.

Mr. Barton presented an update to Council regarding Radio Western programming. Radio Western, formally 94.9 CHRW, falls within the purview of the USC and is funded partially through student ancillary fees. Mr. Barton shared updates on capital upgrades, improved and expended programming, and a significant increase in undergraduate volunteers. Vice President Chang expressed his thanks to Mr. Barton for his continued work over the past three years to transform Radio Western based on feedback from previous councils; the USC Executive looks forward to continued collaboration with Radio Western to facilitate on campus student work and volunteer opportunities in radio media and the diligent oversight of student dollars.

Vice President Chang was accompanied by Associate Research Jacob Ferguson to discuss updates to the USC's Teaching Quality policy paper, which is listed in the USC's policy library and guides internal advocacy by the Vice President's portfolio. "Teaching and assessment are a critical component of the undergraduate student experience," said Chang, "it is vital that our policies and advocacy efforts align with how education is evolving and how students learn most effectively both today and in the future." The paper, which was unanimously approved by Council, covers student feedback and evaluation of instructor quality, promotion of Western degree outcomes, classroom technology and open educational resources, and peer tutoring services.

A motion to create an ad hoc committee to address mature and transfer student issues was passed by council. The committee will engage with mature and transfer students in order to more effectively represent their unique interests. Council also unanimously passed a motion to formally endorse and distribute an inclusivity and accessibility checklist to event programmers on campus which will serve as a guide for all future events within the umbrella of the USC. On behalf of the Student Experience Standing Committee, Councillor Barroso expressed her excitement about the implementation of this resource. "The checklist will exist to promote inclusivity and accessibility for all campus community members at USC events", said Barroso.

President Pratt led discussion on Western's draft Freedom of Expression policy. Pratt represents undergraduate students on the Provost's Ad Hoc Committee on Freedom of Expression. Various councillors shared sentiments from their faculty councils and student constituents which will be taken into consideration during continued review of the policy. "It's important that elected student representatives speak to the various aspects of the Freedom of Expression Policy that impact their constituents," said Pratt, "I encourage all councillors and students at large to review the policy and provide their feedback to the Ad Hoc Committee or directly to me by November 2<sup>nd</sup>."

Finally, Councillor Magliocco introduced discussion regarding the ongoing UWOFA faculty contract negotiations and Council considered the USC's position and role during the negotiations. The USC's "Role of the USC During a Labour Dispute" policy outlines that the organization shall maintain clear and open lines of communication with both administrative personnel and union representatives, while representing the best interests of students and updating students on the possible ramifications of labour disruptions. The USC encourages both parties to reach an agreement through a peaceful and productive negotiating process that minimizes any negative effects on students. Following the meeting, Vice President Chang reiterated, "the USC remains optimistic about the current negotiations between UWOFA and Western's administration; we hope that the collective bargaining process can ensure that the undergraduate student experience continues to be a priority at Western." The Executive remains committed to providing current and transparent information on the status of the negotiations and any potential ramifications to undergraduate students.

The USC Executive is excited to continue to work with council on an ongoing basis and address the issues important to councillors and their constituents. Council is encouraged to continue to engage with the Executive and USC Staff to effectively represent and support the over 30,000 undergraduate students at Western. The next USC Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – as always, all are welcome to attend.

*The University Students' Council (USC) is a student-led organization that exists to advocate for and represent the over 30,000 undergraduate students at Western University. Our mission is to enhance the education experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at Western University and our vision is that students have the power to change the world.*

**To enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at  
Western University**

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