

MEDIA ADVISORY

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL

22 July 2019



Council Meeting 1 Recap

The University Students' Council (USC) met on Sunday, July 21st, 2019 for the first regular meeting of Council, which concluded summer council training. The meeting allowed Council to formally meet the 2019/20 USC Executive and help set the USC's direction for the coming year. Council received two presentations and passed eight motions during the meeting.

Council first heard a presentation regarding Purple Fest from President Bardia Jalayer to update councillors on the USC's efforts to provide alternative programming to the unsanctioned Broughdale street party. The USC is dedicating significant resources to the Broughdale and Purple Fest files, working in close collaboration with the University and community partners in order to address the serious safety concerns on Broughdale. "The USC is not in the business of curbing school spirit at Western, but we know Broughdale is simply not safe," said USC President Bardia Jalayer, "we are providing Purple Fest as a safer alternative venue for students to have a place to celebrate their Purple Pride on campus."

During the second presentation, President Jalayer introduced the 2019/20 USC Executive Roadmap to councillors on behalf of the Executive team. The Roadmap marks the first time an Executive has publicly shared their goals and priority files for the year. A total of 22 priorities were selected, including general priorities, advocacy focuses, campus issues, and initiatives. Councillors later endorsed the Roadmap in Motion 8. The final document will be published in the coming weeks through a Press Release.

Councillor Zain Al-Shamil moved a motion tasking the Executive to advocate for campus pedestrian safety and vehicle calming measures. Councillors expressed their concerns about pedestrian safety on various campus roads and asked the Executive to work with University administration and the City of London on initiatives to implement safety precautions on campus as soon as possible.

USC Associate Vice President Mackenzie Metcalfe presented the interim Womxn's Safety Policy Paper which passed unanimously in Motion 2. The paper provides recommendations to guide the USC's advocacy on changes to Western's Policy on Sexual Violence coming this Fall. The paper also includes sections on recommendations for residence policies and programming regarding survivor support, prevention, and intervention of sexual violence. "The 2018 Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey clearly demonstrated that Western has significant problems with sexual violence on campus," said USC Vice President Cat Dunne, "our policy paper brings an important student perspective to these issues and we hope the University takes our recommendations seriously as they review their policy in the coming months." The final paper will be presented at the September meeting of Council.

Councillor Ellie Kozak moved Motion 3, which asks Student Programs Officer Cecilia Liu to work with Western's Sexual Violence Prevention Education Coordinator and an external partner to develop survivor-centric training for Sophs (orientation leaders) prior to Orientation Week. Consistent with the spirit of Motion 2, Councillors agreed that student leaders should be trained by external experts based on leading practices that prioritize the survivors of sexual violence. Western's Orientation Leaders are expected to receive this training in August.

Motion 4 (to approve the World University Service of Canada Fee Committee Terms of Reference), Motion 5 (to accept the Orientation Budget as Presented), Motion 6 (to Accept the Student Programs Officer Programming Budget), and Motion 7 (to Create an LGBTQ2+ Student Issues Subcommittee) were also passed by Council without amendments.

Throughout the meeting, the Executive emphasized their desire to involve councillors in ongoing advocacy and programming. Councillors are encouraged to voice their constituents' concerns and participate in executing initiatives of interest. "Our Executive team is thrilled with the level of interest and professionalism of this year's council and we are looking forward to a productive year working collaboratively with councillors across faculties and campuses to effectively represent our 30,000 constituents," said Jalayer.

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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Nico Waltenbury
Communications Officer
communications@westernusc.ca