

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2013/2014 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on November 27, 2013 in Council Chambers, Room 315, University Community Centre

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 7:12 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	Fong, Eric	Mathews, Alex
Aideyan, David	Gillis, Avery	McCann, Catherine
Atwal, Harman	Ginou, Chris	Ng, Hilarie
Baertsoen, Alicia	Grainger, Tom	Nguyen, Lisa
Bhatia, Meghan	Griffin, Sabrina	Nishimura, Mitchell
Blixt, Taylor	He, Jenny	Obradovic, Vladimir
Bricknell, Doug	Henshaw, Mark	Pearson, Jordan
Chan, Caleb	Hirsh, James	Perkins, Lindsee
Chan, Adrienne	Holdren, Melissa	Pilo, Nikki
Clemente, Angela	Jansen, Jazmyn	Schnurr, Cooper
Cohen, Robbie	Jim, Gucio	Soti, Emily
Cousins, Sean	Kalsi, Gurvir	Syed, Ahsan
Crich, Laura	Kremic, Stefan	Tithecott, Emerson
Doshi, Samik	Krishnapillai, Samanta	Ward, Cody
Eftekharpour, Amir	Lamoureux, Connor	Whelan, Patrick
El-Boraie, Ahmed	Li, Kelsey	Wolfe, Nicholas
Emms, Sarah	Li, Qingning	Wright, Steven
Engineer, Anish	Litchfield, Jack	Yang, Megan
Eve, Reagan	Litsas, Maria	Zawalsky, Michael
Faller, Adam	Mabtoul, Karima	Zhu, Maggie

Absent With Regrets

Campbell, Haley
Carter, Jen

DeCaluwe, Kyle
Gil, Nicholas

Goodfield, Taylor
Sobel, Jacob

Absent Without Regrets

Bonofiglio, Michelle
Cote, Dalai
Giles, Alyssa

Hamel-Carassi, Isabelle
Khanna, Sujoy
Palin, Brandon

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
Richard Sookraj, Senator
Brian Belman, Associate Vice-President External

Speaker: Andrew Lalka

Deputy Speaker: Arjun Singh

Recording Secretary: Andrew Shaw

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Speaker advised that the presentation on the State of Municipal Affairs would be removed from the agenda and that the presentation on the Peer Support Network would move to directly prior to the motion on the same topic.

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

Litsas/Emms/Carried

6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS

Motion to ratify the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the 2013/2014 University Students' Council held on September 25, 2013 and the minutes of the 4th meeting of the 2013/14 University Students' Council held on October 23, 2013.

Chan, A./McCann/Carried.

7. SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker informed Council that the attendance duties would be delegated to the Deputy Speaker of Council for the rest of the year and that all regrets should be forwarded to the Deputy Speaker in the future. The Speaker also informed Council of information sessions for students interested in the USC's Board of Directors happening later that week. Lastly, the Speaker informed Council that he would be monitoring the weather situation outside and that the USC would make sure that all Councillors made it home safely.

8. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eftekharpour reminded Council of a survey being put out by the USC and OUSA on post-secondary representation and encouraged Councillors to fill it out.

Hirsh announced that the Student Legal Society at Western had become the second organization to sign on to the constitution of the Law Student Society of Ontario.

9. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE WESTERN COMMUNITY

Steven Wright, FIMS Councillor, speaking on behalf of his constituents, asked about the progress with the information kiosks in the UCC.

Whelan responded that the kiosks were a work in progress and that there were hardware and software issues that needed to be sorted out. Irwin added that the actual construction of the website the kiosks would run was still in progress.

Jack Litchfield, Senator, speaking on behalf of his constituents, raised the issue of a lack of parking on campus and asked if the USC planned to advocate on this issue.

Whelan answered that the Western administration was currently working on solutions for the future.

Richard Sookraj, Senator, speaking on behalf of his constituents, asked if there was anything that could be done about the unsatisfactory snow clearance at the Sarnia and Western Road intersection?

Whelan responded that he would add it to his agenda for his next meeting with Western administration.

10. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

10.1 OUSA GA Recap (See Appendix #1 for Presentation.)

Brian Belman, Associate Vice-President External, presented a recap of the recent Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance General Assembly that was held at Western at the beginning of the month.

10.2 Budget Presentation (*See Appendix #2 for Presentation.*)

Whelan and Brown presented on the current status of the USC budget and changes to the structure of the budget that Council will see in February.

Is there any way for Council to receive the presentation from the Budget Town Hall?

Brown responded that he would have it sent out to Council.

Why is the Service Stabilization Fund being reduced?

Whelan answered that the Stabilization Fund was only a short-term solution and that long-term solutions were being implemented that that would remove the need for such a fund in the future.

11. STUDENT CAUCUS ON GOVERNANCE REPORT (*See Appendix #3 for Presentation.*)

Pilo presented the report from SCOG and reviewed the questions asked by student Senators at the most recent Senate meeting and the responses provided by members of the Administration.

12. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS
(<http://westernusc.ca/councillors-corner/>)

Whelan provided an update on the work done in the Executive portfolios since the last meeting of Council.

Who should Councillors send submissions to for Concrete Speech?

Irwin responded that individuals interested in submitting to Concrete Speech should contact the Publications Coordinator.

Will Concrete Speech be launching on November 28th as planned?

Irwin answered that the launch of Concrete Speech would be pushed back to the following week.

Would it be possible to update the USC Calendar with all USC events?

Irwin responded that it should currently be updated and that the goal is to keep it updated with USC events. In the future the goal is to have club events on there as well.

Are there plans to address the overlap of Executive access to the Grants Fund and the Executive Innovation Fund?

Whelan answered that the issue would be addressed at the January meeting of Council.

How serious are the security risks associated with Gmail as recently reported on by the Gazette?

Whelan responded that the concerns were raised primarily by other schools and that there is always a possibility of the university splitting email clients for students and faculty. Whelan added that the spirit of the platform point was for better email service for students and that he wasn't necessarily married to the idea of Gmail if another option was available.

Are faculty councils currently included on the USC Calendar?

Irwin responded that the current infrastructure that the USC was working with would not allow that but that upgrades were being pursued to make that a possibility.

Can the Peer Support Network Calendar be updated to reflect events going on in the center?

Irwin responded that a link will be added to the USC Calendar which is up-to-date.

Is there any truth to the rumours that Ontario universities would be seeking to differentiate?

Eftekharpour answered that the idea of differentiation is being discussed and that a general framework had been released. He added that the idea was still rough but that universities were starting to try to find their place within the framework.

Motion to extend for 5 minutes.

Jim/Blixt/Carried.

What is differentiation?

Whelan answered that differentiation focused on universities focusing on qualities that made them unique. Eftekharpour added that schools would specialize in certain areas.

Is there any more information on the development of more Associate Vice-President roles?

Whelan responded that it was part of his team's platform and was in progress. He added that they were working on solving problems of a lack of time to do things by adding more resources.

Where do Standing Committees fit into the new policy process?

Whelan answered that Council would be setting the priorities for policies and commissioning papers and that the Standing Committees would be involved in reviewing draft papers and recommending them to Council for approval.

Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Executive Report(s).

Addison/Perkins/Carried.

13. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (*See Appendix #4 for presentation.*)

Whelan updated Council on the activities of the Board of Directors. Whelan also advised on the thoughts of the Board on the upcoming motion regarding Board composition.

Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the Chair of Board of Directors.

Wright/Yin/Carried.

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 Standing Committee.

14.2 Long-Term Plan and Budget

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

How many students participated in the budget survey conducted by the USC?

Litchfield responded that over 1000 students had participated in the survey.

10. PRESENTATIONS, cont'd

10.3 Peer Support Network Presentation (*See Appendix #5 for presentation.*)

Krishnapillai presented on the background work that had gone into formulating the Peer Support Network Usage Policy that would be presented to Council in section 14.3 of the agenda.

What is the Peer Support Network supposed to do?

Krishnapillai advised that the Centre would be home to support groups and provide a space for those groups to function, would provide programmable space for the student service Coordinators, and would contain resources for accessing support on campus. She

added that the goal was for students to be able to walk into the space without feeling off-put by graphic conversations or behaviour.

How does the USC Executive define grass-roots activism?

Krishnapillai responded that the Peer Support Network was not intended to be used for grass-roots activism.

Irwin illustrated the difference between advocacy/services and activism and advised that, while activism is certainly valuable, it does not fit the USC's mandate as an organization. Whelan added that Council sets the tone for the Executive and that "grass-roots" activism, by definition, shouldn't be coming from the government, i.e. the USC.

Why does the USC seek to prevent activism on campus?

Smith answered that the USC does not intend to deny student voices and that the policies that are in place for space usage are intended to ensure fair access to spaces and to ensure that individuals who have booked the space have that right protected.

Does the USC's obligation to follow Western's policies impact its position on activism on campus?

Whelan responded that while the USC has to abide by Western policies he does not feel that said policies are particularly restrictive.

Where can people book space in the UCC?

Smith responded that space could be booked through Mustang Central or Western Connections.

Are activist groups allowed to book space?

Whelan answered that as long as the proper processes were followed, such groups would be allowed to book space.

Are the monthly Peer Support Network Town Halls going to be continued? Is enough feedback being gathered?

Krishnapillai responded that the Town Halls would continue and that the USC has been using other methods to help supplement the feedback from Town Halls. Krishnapillai added that 17 people had responded to the survey and 40 attended the last Town Hall.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, cont'd

14.3 Portfolio Service Level and Program Review

Zhu presented the report of the Portfolio Service Level and Program Review Standing Committee and presented the motion coming forward from the Committee regarding the Peer Support Centre Usage Policy.

Motion #1 – Peer Support Center Space Usage Policy

Be it resolved that, Council adopts the Peer Support Centre Policy as presented.

ADDISON/Litsas/Carried as amended. C13/14.5.1

Addison spoke to the motion and encouraged Council to ask any questions they needed.

Be it resolved that the policy be amended to change the wording of section 2.02 from “cultures, heritages, religions, sexualities, and races” to “identities.”

Jim/Yin/Carried. C13/14.5.1.1

The amendment was carried and debate returned to the main motion.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
	- Further revision to the policy is needed to clarify the mandate of the space

What happens if an individual is not abiding by the policy?

Whelan answered that Council can hold the Executive Branch accountable for any violations of policy. Krishnapillai added that more staff/volunteers would be in the space to enforce the policy.

What is a “Relax and Restore” space and how does it differ from people hanging out?

Krishnapillai responded that such a space would be separate from the main space and would be for the purposes of quiet activity designed to help stressed individuals relax. She added that while the volunteers would not be instructed to remove individuals using the space to study the space would be set up in such a manner as to discourage studying.

Does the Procedural Authority section of the policy give too much power to one individual?

Whelan explained the difference between policy and procedure and noted that any procedures implemented would have to fall under the scope of this policy.

Does the UCC 301 office space not cover the needs of the Commissioners and Coordinators associated with the Support Services?

Krishnapillai answered that the office space in the Peer Support Centre was necessary due to the demands of the position with regards to time and space concerns. She added that the office space also allowed for one-on-one conversations with students.

Does the office space also act as storage for the services?

Krishnapillai responded that the spaces were also used for short-term storage for items that were used regularly by the services.

**Call the previous question.
Grainger/Hirsh/Carried**

Motion #1 was carried.

14.4 Provincial and Federal Affairs

Wright presented the report of the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee.

Motion #2 – Policy Paper Commission

Be it resolved that, Council direct the Executive to research and write policy papers on the following three topics: International Students, Teaching Quality, and Public Private Partnerships within the University in accordance with further consultation with campus stakeholders.

WRIGHT/Crich/Carried. C13/14.5.2

Wright introduced the motion and advised that the intention of commissioning these papers through Council was to have as many voices in the process as possible. Crich added that it would ultimately be beneficial for Council to have standing policies to advocate on in the future.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper topics are good topics for the current challenges facing students and universities - Papers will ultimately be reviewed by the Local and Campus Affairs Committee as well 	

How long do the Executive have to write these policies?

Wright answered that the timeline would be dependent upon the creation of the new policy process and that these papers would be grandfathered into that process.

Are the papers going to be research-based or recommendation-based?

Wright responded that ideally the papers draw upon thorough research to make recommendations.

Motion #2 was carried.

14.5 Student Outreach and Communications

Tithecott presented the report of the Student Outreach and Communications Committee.

Can the Chair give more specifics on the topics discussed in the meeting?

Tithecott elaborated that the Committee had explored commissioning surveys on different topics, including the slate system, had talked about the large number of Communications policies of the USC, and had been brainstorming ways to work with VP Communications from constituency councils to improve campus communications as a whole.

Irwin added that the Committee also discussed commercialization as that is an area not governed by the Advertising Oversight Committee and thus fell into the hands of the Executives.

14.6 Governance and Agendas

Lalka presented the report of the Governance and Agendas Committee.

Motion #3 – By-Law #1 Amendments

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the USC passed a motion at their previous meeting to advise Council that the proposed changes will not have a negative impact on the corporation.

Be it resolved that, Council approve the following changes to the USC's By-Law #1 for the purposes of changing the composition of the USC's Board of Directors:

4.00 MEMBERS

4.03 Composition of Council

(1) The Non-Voting, Resource Members of Council shall be:

- i. the Vice-Presidents Communications, Finance, and Student Events;
- ii. the Deputy Speaker of Council;
- iii. all Commissioners and Coordinators;

- iv. all student-at-large representatives appointed by the Corporation;
- v. the president of the Inter-fraternity council and the president of the Panhellenic council;
- vi. the presidents of the Residence councils;
- vii. the remaining Senators and Governor;
- viii. the ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) students-at-large who are elected to the Board of Directors;
- ix. ~~the four (4) community members who are not undergraduate students who are elected to the Board of Directors.~~

8.00 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8.01 Composition

(1) Subject to the Act, the directors of the corporation shall manage or supervise the management of the Corporation, and shall be composed of:

- i. ~~Five (5)~~ Eight (8) Western undergraduate students-at-large, voting;
- ii. ~~Four (4) community representatives who are not Western undergraduate students, voting;~~
- iii. President/CEO, *ex-officio*, voting;
- iv. Vice-President Finance, *ex-officio*, non-voting, as Secretary/Treasurer;
- v. ~~Governance Officer, *ex-officio*, non-voting, as Secretary.~~
- vi. Chair of the Advisory Committee, *ex-officio*, non-voting.

11.00 TERMS OF OFFICE

11.01 Term of Office for Ordinary Members, Directors, President, Vice-Presidents, and Commissioners and Coordinators.

- (1) An individual elected or acclaimed to Council shall hold her position as an Ordinary Member commencing at the second part of the Annual General Meeting until the adjournment of the second part of the Annual General Meeting of the following year.
- (2) Councillors who are members of the Governance and Agenda Committee shall continue to serve as voting members of that committee, but not as voting members of the Council, between the end of the second part of the Annual General Meeting and the election of a new committee at the first

meeting of the new Council.

(3) Directors shall hold office for the following terms:

- i. ~~Community Representatives shall serve for a three (3) year term, commencing June 1st and terminating May 31st of their third year;~~
 - a. ~~Community Members shall be elected as per (3) i thereafter.~~
- ii. Student Representatives shall serve for a two (2) year term, commencing June 1st and terminating May 31st of their second year;
 - a. ~~Student Representatives shall be elected for terms as per 3 ii thereafter.~~
- iii. The President, and Vice-President Finance, ~~and Governance Officer~~ shall serve for a one (1) year term, commencing June 1st and terminating May 31st of the following year.

(4) Members of the USC Executives shall hold office for a term of one (1) year commencing June 1st and terminating May 31st of the following year.

(5) Each Coordinator and Commissioner shall hold office commencing May 1st until April 30th of the following year, unless otherwise terminated in accordance with this By-Law.

(6) Notwithstanding subsection (4), the USC Executive may create Commissioner and Coordinator positions that commence prior to May 1st and terminate prior to April 30th of the following calendar year.

GRAINGER/Bricknell/Carried. C13/14.5.3

Grainger presented the motion to Council and explained the recent history of changes to the Board of Directors moving from Executives to students and Executives and ultimately to the motion on the floor.

Arguments For	Arguments Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due diligence has went into these changes, as opposed to previous changes, which has resulted in the right iteration of the Board being found - Council will still be involved in the implementation process through the Governance and Agendas Committee - No real change in community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for Board members is insufficient to account for knowledge gaps - Unsure whether community members would be committed to an advisory committee

<p>insight from before motion passes to after while retaining possibility of community insight down the road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are capable of acting professionally and in the best interests of the corporation and the Nominating Committee should be trusted to find the right people - Students should govern students - Community members have more to lose sitting on a Board and would be judged to a different standard under the Act - Would be awkward to ask a community member to step down from the Board 	
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Will the changes to the people on the Board impact the voting structure of the Board (i.e. will the final numbers be odd or even)?

Grainger advised that the changes would result in there being nine voting members of the Board, as opposed to the current ten.

Why is Council ok with giving students fiduciary duty to the corporation?

Whelan advised that it was harder for a community member to assume the risk when many of their main duties are carried out to one extent or another by Council. He added that it would be much easier for students to resign and replacements found should an individual no longer wish to have such a duty.

What are the consequences of a student stepping down from the Board?

Grainger replied that the consequences would be minimal in contrast to the consequences of a community member stepping down. He added that there is a very small group of people who are willing to sit on non-profit boards as community members and that having one of them resign would have a great impact on the USC's reputation in such a community, whereas students resigning would not have the same impact.

Whelan added that Council also has the power to remove and select Board members.

What type of community members would be sitting on the advisory committee?

Grainger advised that the committee would be looking for the same type of members as would have been sought for the Board, the difference being the lack of legal responsibility. Whelan added that the Nomination Committee would create a skills

matrix for what they were looking for in committee members, highlighting such things as financial knowledge, HR skills, and/or experience with government organizations.

Would community members still be willing to join an advisory committee without the prestige associated with being on the Board?

Soti responded that the Implementation Committee had strategies in mind for recruiting community members and that the issues with recruiting community members would not change significantly with the motion passing.

Addison added that there was a perception among community members that advisory committees were easier to be part of.

Would removing the Executive from the Board hinder oversight of the organization?

Hayward advised that staff and other resources would still be available for the Board to have knowledge of the day-to-day affairs of the organization. Eftekharpour added that Board training would help erase knowledge gaps and that the outside, student perspective would ultimately be of benefit to the corporation.

Can the criteria for selecting community members be clarified?

Soti advised that those criteria would be set by the Nominating Committee as it sees fit.

Could a member of the University administration sit on the advisory committee?

Grainger responded that the composition of the advisory committee was not being debated at this time.

Soti added that there might be some consideration for Western staff by the Nominating Committee.

Motion #3 was carried.

15. COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no Council Business to conduct.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

Can individuals declare candidacy as individuals or must they have a full slate to declare their candidacy?

Hayward answered that the Elections Committee was encouraging individuals to declare on their own and to form slates with other individuals who have declared.

17. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

18. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn.
Pilo/Nishimura/Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

President

Approved on: _____

Recording Secretary

Sign In/Sign Out

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time In</u>	<u>Time Out</u>
Kelsey Li	7:30	
Gucio Jim	7:30	
Emily Soti	7:50	
Guvrir Kalsi	7:40	9:05
Reagan Eve	7:20	9:05
Harman Atwal		9:45
Eric Fong		9:45
Robbie Cohen	9:28	