



REGULAR MEETING #3

November 14, 2014

A meeting of the University Students' Council Board of Directors was held on the above date in the USC Board Room at 9:41 a.m. with the following present:

From the Board: I. Jacobi (Chair), A. Lalka (Treasurer), D. Bitondo, A. Brijpaul, P. Demarco, M. Helfand, S. Jayawardena, S. Kerr, H. Zafari

Administration: J. Armour, C. Clarke, S. Courtice, C. Passi

Guests: S. Kilgour, N. Vassiliou

Minutes taken by: S. Musaphir

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Mr. Jacobi.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared for the public meeting.

3. CHANGES TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Jacobi stated that a few meetings have been held for the Board and Appeals Nominating Committee. He noted that a Director will most likely be appointed by the next Board meeting in December.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Mr. Zafari and seconded by Mr. Demarco that the minutes of October 10, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND BOARD TRAINING/EDUCATION

Mr. Courtice provided a presentation outlining various responsibilities of a Board member and the accountabilities management have with the Board.

Ms. Clarke asked if a political issue were to arise during a Board meeting, how that would play with a Director's fiduciary responsibility. Mr. Courtice said that if the political issue would potentially do harm to an organization, then as a fiduciary, the Board would have to address the issue with Council.

Mr. Lalka clarified his role on the Board. He noted that he does not sit on the Board of Directors as an Executive member, but as the Corporate Secretary. Therefore, as a Corporate Secretary, the advice he gives should not be coloured with a political lens.

7. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

a) Gazette Publishing Committee Report

Mr. Courtice said the Gazette Publishing Committee had its first meeting a month ago, and has committed to doing a Business Plan for the Gazette over the next three years. Ms. Passi will be distributing questions to committee members and editors to do an environmental scan and will examine a number of alternatives in response to that scan.

b) Council Initiated Referendums – Orientation Week, Marching Band

Mr. Kilgour said there are two potential fee referendums that will be put to Council at its November meeting. Mr. Kilgour said that the current funding model requires first-year students to purchase an O-Pass online or upon arrival at Western. Given the high rate of purchase this past year (97.5%), the OPC has recommended that the funding model change to a student activity fee rather than requiring students to purchase the pass. The fee would be \$90 dollars and be levied on all students who are eligible to participate in the week.

Mr. Bitondo asked if there would be any significant charges with the new fee. Mr. Helfand said that the new model would provide an overall reduction in labour costs.

Mr. Lalka said the Marching Band is struggling with funding and is requesting a fee to assist with funding their operations. He noted that for this referendum to move forward, Council must be willing to move and second a motion calling for a referendum. Another option is investigating if the funding could be sourced from Student Recreation Services through their fee, which is governed by the Student Services Committee.

Mr. Kerr asked if there is any indication of how much the fee will be. Mr. Helfand said the band is asking for \$0.50 per student, with the fee to increase by inflation each year thereafter. He noted that the USC would monitor the band's budget and collect the fee each year then transfer it to the band.

Mr. Lalka mentioned that there is risk if the memorandum is ratified. The Marching Band may travel and as a result, become a liability for the USC.

Mr. Brijpaul asked if the band could find more funding elsewhere. Mr. Lalka said they could receive additional funding through a collective fee, which is an ancillary fee through the Student Services Recreation.

c) LTC Contract Update

Mr. Vassilliou said the LTC has signed an additional 1 year agreement. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been negotiated that guarantees the annual increase does not exceed over 5% in the future. As well, the LTC wants to collaborate with students to improve ridership services.

d) Strategic Plan Survey

Mr. Lalka said the strategic plan survey was a success, with over 3000 responses. Students are slightly happier than they have been in the past, but a few trends that are worth noting are students wanting to see additional resources in training professors, additional health services in the UCC without paying additional fees, and better transit. Mr. Lalka noted that students feel very comfortable, included and familiar on campus and about 80% of students have participated in a club at the USC.

e) Budget Update

Ms. Passi provided a presentation to the Board outlining the 2014/2015 Budget timeline.

f) President and CEO Update

Mr. Helfand said the Executives have completed half of their term and the morale is still very high. He noted that over 90 events were held in the UCC Building during international week and the Audien concert, Remembrance Day Ceremony and the State of the USC Speech were all successful events. However, the Get Out and Vote campaign did not translate into as many students voters as predicted. He said July talk and Midnight Breakfast are taking place later this month. He noted that the budget submission was well received by the University and that he's currently working with the University on external donations for mental and physical wellness of students. He discussed how UWOFA and University Administration have reached a tentative agreement on the Collective Bargaining agreement, a campus master plan is currently being developed, and a new Entrepreneurship centre would be built on campus in the future. He mentioned that the investigation of the Frosh issue has been completed and communication would be sent out soon. Finally, he noted the Executives are currently analyzing the AVP and Coordinator structure.

g) General Manager Update

Ms. Clarke noted that all members on the Board have a copy of the General Manager Update and can read through it at their leisure.

It was MOVED by Ms. Jayawardena and seconded by Mr. Brijpaul that the agenda reports for items a - g be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Mr. Helfand said the current budget process has Council as the final body that approves the budget before it is presented to the University Board of Governors for approval of fees. In order to mitigate a structural incentive to withhold information from Council, the USC Board of Directors would have to be established as the body that grants the final approval of the budget before it is presented to the University Board of Governors. Mr. Helfand noted that if there is a case where an amendment is made by Council but the Board disagrees with the change, the Budget Conflict Resolution Process would take place.

Ms. Jayawardena asked if the President would sit on the Budget Conflict Resolution Process committee. Mr. Helfand said that he would sit on the committee as an unbiased voting member.

Mr. Brijpaul asked how the taskforce would present the final decision to the Board of Governors. Mr. Helfand said that it would be mentioned that the Budget Conflict Resolution Process was used.

Mr. Bitondo asked how the confidentiality of the Budget would be maintained if the new process is implemented. Mr. Helfand said the Budget has always been documented in public minutes, as well as recorded and posted online for anyone to watch. Ms. Passi added that staff are also well aware of what's in the Budget.

Mr. Kerr asked how the members are selected. Mr. Helfand said that 4 members would be nominated by Council, and 4 members would be nominated by the Board.

Mr. Brijpaul asked if 24 hours to inform Council of any objections is equivalent to one business day. Mr. Jacobi said yes. Mr. Helfand added if a Board member does not attend, they will forgo their right to vote.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jacobi and seconded by Mr. Zafari to adopt the amendments made to the Budget Process.

CARRIED

It was MOVED by Mr. Bitondo and seconded by Mr. Helfand to recommend to Council the changes made to the Budget Process and the Budget Conflict Resolution Process.

CARRIED

9. INQUIRIES AND OTHER BUSINESS

There were no inquiries or other business items to discuss.

10. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

It was MOVED by Mr. Kerr and seconded by Mr. Helfand to adjourn the public meeting at 11:33am.

CARRIED

Secretary



Chair