Minutes of the second Meeting of the 2015/2016 University Student’s Council of the University of Western Ontario held on Oct. 28/15 in the Community Room, Room 269C, University Student Centre.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Lalka called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

**2. O CANADA**

**3. WESTERN SCHOOL SONG**

**4. ATTENDANCE**

To be updated once attendance records are available

Present

Absent With Regrets

Absent Without Regrets

Non-Voting Members and Observers

**Speaker:** Andrew Lalka **Deputy Speaker:** Alif Karmali **Recording Secretary:** Katie Groulx

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. Helpard motioned to add two new items into the section of new business for discussion.

WHELAN/Cheeseman

Motion carried to approve Ms. Helpard’s amendments to the agenda.

Mr. Lalka called upon a mover and seconder to adopt the current agenda.

BASSI/Hamadache

Motion carried to adopt the agenda.

**8. FOR ACTION**

 ***i) Local and Campus Affairs***

**a) Peer Support Centre Programming Policy**

Motion 1-Approve Peer Support Centre and Program Policy

**Whereas,** the University Students’ Council (USC) undertook a restructuring initiative for the Peer Support Centre and Program in 2014-2015;

**Whereas,** the existing policy was no longer consistent with the minimum standard of care;

**Be it resolved,** that the USC approves the Peer Support Centre and Program Policy

KITELEY/Peterson

Ms. Kiteley introduced and further explained the motion.

Motion 1 carried unanimously.

**b) Advocacy Papers 2014-2015**

Motion 2- Approve 2014-2015 Advocacy Papers

**Whereas,** Council tasked the 2014-2015 Executive with writing an advocacy paper on international students;

**Whereas,** Council tasked the 2014-2015 Executive with writing an advocacy paper on teaching quality;

**Whereas,** Council is entrusted with the authority to reject or accept said papers, and enshrine the recommendations therein as official positions of the University Students’ Council;

**Be it resolved,** that Council approves and accepts the 2014-2015 advocacy paper on international students, and all the recommendations therein, and

**Be it further resolved,** that Council approves and accepts the 2014-2015 advocacy paper on teaching quality, and all the recommendations therein.

MINIELLY/Manuel

Mr. Minielly introduced and provided further insight with regards to the motion.

Mr, Dodgson inquired about the process in which these papers are drafted and reviewed by the committee whereby, Mr. Minielly directs the question to Ms. Helpard.

Ms. Helpard explained that there is an Advocacy Papers Policy in place, which was established in 2012 to replace the Purple Papers Policy. The goal of making amendments was to improve the quality of these papers and to better reflect the process of these papers. However, in doing so, the Advocacy Papers from the previous year are only being brought to Council for approval at this time in order to give them the attention that it deserves. There will be ongoing amendments made to the policy to prevent future Advocacy Papers being brought to Council outside of their usual approval time.

Mr. Dodgson spoke against the motion in that the Advocacy Papers were not in a state that he felt were acceptable for approval due to formatting and various other grammatical errors. Mr. Dodgson expressed his concern for the lack of revision and suggested that the Advocacy Papers would benefit greatly from undergoing a much more thorough review prior to approving them.

Mr. Lalka called motion 2 to question and the motion carried.

Note: There were abstentions

**c) Advocacy Papers 2015/2016**

Motion 3- Approve 2015-2016 Advocacy Paper Topic Selection

**Whereas,** the University Students’ Council (USC) is mandated to author three (3) advocacy papers per academic year that outline the USC’s commitment to advocating for the enactment of recommendations contained therein;

**Whereas,** the USC identifies open educational resources, teaching-only faculty, and experiential learning for students in non-STEM disciplines as topics worthy of consideration and research,

**Whereas,** the aforementioned topics are all directly related to both the academic experience and campus quality of life;

**Be it resolved,** that Council approves open educational resources, teaching-only faculty, and experiential learning for students in non-STEM disciplines as the topics for this year’s advocacy papers and

**Be it further resolved,** that Council tasks the Executive branch with the drafting of papers on said topics.

LITTLE/ Minielly

Mr. Little spoke on behalf of the motion and provided further insight into the proposition of the motion.

Mr. Grainger inquired about the process with regards to how topics are chosen for consideration for these yearly papers.

Ms. Helpard informed Council that they try to align students’ interests with the USC’s advocacy priorities for the academic year. These particular topics were chosen following external research that Ms. Helpard and Mr. Benac obtained. Once a list of potential topics was formed, they were sent to the Local and Campus Affairs Standing Committee for further discussion and the final topics were chosen following this meeting.

With no further discussion or debate, Mr. Lalka called motion 3 to question.

The motion carried.

**d) First Year Student’s Caucus Terms of Reference**

Motion 4-First Year Students’ Caucus Terms of Reference Amendments

**Whereas,** the University Students’ Council (USC) has expanded and restructured its caucus system;

**Whereas,** the Terms of Reference for the First Year Students’ Caucus did not reflect the actual practice, nor was aligned with the systems of the other caucuses;

**Be it resolved,** that the USC approves the First Years Students’ Caucus Terms of Reference amendments to accurately reflect its structure and practice.

KITELEY/ Hardy

Ms. Kiteley introduced the motion and provided council with the additional reasoning for these specific amendments.

Mr. Sussman expressed much concern with regards to the lack of controllability in ensuring equitable representation of each constituency on the First Year Caucus.

Ms. Hardy spoke for the motion in stating that the committee has done an exceptional job aiming for equal representation considering the circumstances that this Caucus is in at the moment.

Ms. Peterson suggested that there should be an expectation set that students on the First Year Caucus should be utilizing the resources available to them and contacting other constituencies to ensure that these members are doing their do diligence in representing all first year voices.

Ms. Cheeseman also spoke against the motion, echoing Mr. Sussman’s concerns.

Mr. Sussman requested clarification as to the reasoning behind the comment made previously regarding the unattainability of having equal representation on this year’s First Year Caucus.

Ms. Helpard stated that this decision was voted upon via main campus requirements with regards to their residence voting procedures.

Mr. Sussman proposed multiple possibilities that would protect the Caucus against having unequal representation.

Ms. Catton spoke against the motion as she believed that the affiliate voice is particularly unique and is often over looked. Further, she advocated that there be a better recruitment strategy in place in order to get a bigger variety of candidates that would translate into a more accurate representation on the Caucus.

Mr. Palin spoke against the motion and recommended that the motion be referred back to the committee.

PALIN/Sussman

Ms. Kiteley strongly advised against the motion going back to the committee for numerous reasons. Instead, she suggested that Council should come up with tangible solutions to address the multitude of concerns regarding the First Year Caucus due to the rapidly approaching deadline for applications.

Mr. Sussman spoke in favor of Mr. Palin’s motion, in that the motion required some additional amendments and should not pass in its current state.

Mr. Palin and Mr. Sussman did not agree with having an application process in motion without having a proper outlined process in place from the beginning. Additionally, Mr. Palin did not believe that hastening passing the motion for the sack of concluding the process is not a valid enough argument.

Mr. English addressed Ms. Hardy’s inquiry with regards to the timeline of this motion to which Mr. English stated that referring this motion back to a committee for any changes would not make it possible for the amended motion to be brought back to Council by November’s Council meeting.

Following no further debate, the motion is called to question and the motion did not carry.

Mr. Hamadache motioned to amend the main motion in that the terms of reference would include non-voting resource member positions that would be filled by one first year representative from each faculty and affiliate council.

HAMADACHE/Sussman

Ms. Peterson requested clarification as to whether resource members would still be included as members of the First Year Caucus or rather just as reference points when needed throughout the year.

Me. Hamadache explained that he intended for these members to provide insight as needed in order to substitute for the otherwise shortage in representation.

Mr. Farfan spoke against the amendment, as he believed that this would grossly make the First Year Caucus disproportionate.

Mr. Sussman responded to Mr. Farfan’s opinion in stating that members of council are more worried about the disproportionate amount of voices than a disproportionate vote.

Ms. Kiteley motioned for the amendment to not include professional schools, as the original intention of the First Year Caucus was never to encompass professional schools.

KITELEY/Farfan

Mr. Lalka called the secondary amendment to question and the motion carried.

Mr. Palin stated that although Council is moving towards a tangible solution; he felt as though it was redundant to have extra students as part of the First Year Caucus discussions if they weren’t even members to begin with.

Mr. Sussman proposed a secondary amendment to include that once first year students have been selected; unrepresented constituencies will have the opportunity to send a first year delegate to take part in the Caucus as resource members.

SUSSMAN/ Everitt

Ms. Cheeseman spoke against the amendment with regards to the resource members not having the same level of voice and how that may not make them feel like they are apart of that community in making a difference.

Mr. Sussman and Ms. Helpard spoke in favor of the motion and emphasized that the voice is sometimes more important than the vote.

Mr. Grainger called the amendments to question and the motion dually carried.

Mr. Farfan called the main motion to question and the motion carried.

Mr. Palin motioned for a brief ten-minute recess.

PALIN/Cheeseman

The motion passed. Council reconvened following a quick intermission.

**e) International Students’ Caucus; Mature and Transfer Students’ Caucus**

Motion 5- International Students’ Caucus/ Mature and Transfer Students’ Caucus Terms of Reference

**Whereas,** the University Students’ Council (USC) has expanded and restructured its caucus system;

**Whereas,** the Terms of Reference for the ICS and MTSC are constantly improving to meet the demands of their function;

**Be it resolved,** that the USC approves the ICS and MTSC Terms of Reference amendments to accurately reflect its structure and practice.

KITELEY/ Manuel

Ms. Kiteley introduced the motion to Council.

Following no further discussion, Mr. Lalka called the motion to question and the motion carried unanimously.

***ii) Program Service Level and Portfolio Review***

**Motion 6- Ally Western Recommendations**

**Whereas,** the Committee has thoroughly completed its review of Ally Western, including analysis of a student-at-large survey (receiving 241 responses);

**Whereas,** the Committee has developed recommendations for Ally Western to be submitted to both the VP Internal (Alex Benac) and Ally Western Coordinator (David DiBrina);

**Be it resolved,** the following recommendation be incorporated into the Ally Western Program, with justifications outlined in the attached document:

1. Increase promotion and awareness of Ally Western University
2. Restructuring of executives
3. Look into collaborations with Equity and Human Rights Services
4. Offer drop-in training sessions for students-at-large

**Be it further resolved,** VP Internal and/or Ally Western Coordinator follow-up with the Committee if any recommendations cannot be incorporated into the program, and provide justification for this decision.

HARDY/Whelan

Ms. Hardy spoke on behalf of the motion and provided further insight into the proposition of the motion.

Mr. Lalka called the motion to question and the motion carried.

***iii) Senior Operations***

**Motion 7- Speaker Terms of Reference Changes**

**Whereas,** the role of the Speaker of Council has remained ambiguous throughout the University Students’ Council (USC) By-Laws and policies;

**Whereas,** with the changes to Governance Officer and the new role of the Secretary-Treasurer, there is opportunity to clearly define the role of the Speaker to enhance capacity and support to Council,

**Be it resolved,** that Council approves the Speaker of Council Terms of Reference, and,

**Be it further resolved,** that Council repeal section 5.07 and section 17.00 of By-Law #2

FARFAN/Hardy

Mr. Farfan introduced the motion.

Mr. Sussman inquired about whether or not the Speaker had the ability to break a tied vote.

If so, where is that information located?

Mr. Lalka stated that this information could be found in the membership section of By-Law 1.

Mr. Dodgson, Ms. Peterson and Mr. Palin spoke against the motion primarily due to the position being hired and not elected.

Ms. Helpard spoke in favor of the motion and brought forth insight into the discussions that were had regarding the motion.

Mr. Sussman spoke strongly against the motion for the democracy aspect of the motion as well as the Speaker’s current position to report to the Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, Mr. Sussman asked whether having the Speaker internally elected and reporting to the Board of Directors would eliminate the issue of having them employed by the corporation.

Ms. Helpard stated that if the Speaker was internally elected, they could report to Council, which would solve any issue as they would no longer have any human resource obligations to the Corporation because they are not being paid under employment by the USC.

Mr. Sussman made a recommendation to separate the position into the administrative role of the Speaker and then into the role as the Chair of the general assembly meetings that is independently accountable to Council.

Mr. Grainger spoke against the motion as he felt that changing something on principal just because something might be technically more feasible is wrong.

Mr. English provided further context with regards to the approach and framework of the Speaker Terms of Reference.

Ms. Manuel called the motion to question.

MANUEL/Sussman

The motion did not carry.

***New Business Motion***

**a) Western Song**

**Whereas,** the singing of the Western song during council meetings is unncessary;

**Be it resolved,** that we remove the singing of the Western song from the agenda for all future meetings.

FARFAN/Abbott

Ms. Hardy, Mr. Drew Sussman, Mr. Nate Sussman, Ms. Helpard, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Grainger spoke against the motion as the Western song lightens the mood at the beginning of the meeting and only takes up a minute out of our lengthy meetings. Further, it was stated that we should be embodying the school spirit of Western and be ale to pay respects to this beautiful campus with this song. Lastly, the Western song is a reminder to all of us that we are all students and that we shouldn’t take things so seriously.

Ms. Addison explains that knowing the Western song as students, especially at Western Events where faculty is present, is something to be proud of and eliminating it would only mean that students would no longer know the Western song.

Ms. Peterson called the motion to question.

PETERSON/Manuel

The motion did not carry.

**b) Destruction of OUSA Ballots**

Mr. Lalka asked for a motion to destroy the ballots from the election of the OUSA Delegates.

JOHNSON/Oliver

The motion carried.

**c) Ratification of Mr. Disqueira to the Board**

Mr. Lalka asked for a motion to ratify the Nominating Committee’s decision to appoint Mr. Richardo Disqueira to the board.

ABBOTT/ Catton

Mr. Lalka called the motion to question and the motion carried unanimously.

**9. FOR INFORMATION**

1. ***Executive Reports***

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| President |
| Ms. Helpard released the date and time for her State of the USC address as well as encouraged everyone to attend the event. She informed Council that the intention for Kevin’s consultations with every council member was so that they would have one-on-one time with an Executive to not only speak about any issues that they had, but for the Executives to also gain information from council members. Ms. Helpard also discussed her efforts alongside the VP Internal to establish a Campus Advocacy Symposium aimed at bringing together all Faculty and Residence Councils to converse about broad advocacy issues across campus within the next few weeks. Ms. Helpard further discussed collaboration between Tamara Hinan, Society of Graduate Students President, on reviews with University Governance from the Senate, Board of Governors and Student Services Committee.  |
| Secretary Treasurer |
| Mr. English informed Council that the Grants Committee has been selected and will be meeting in the upcoming week. Additionally, Mr. English stated that he has helped to initiate the Income Tax clinic that should be taking place in the near future. Mr. English explained that preliminary budget discussions began between both the Executive and the Corporation and that it is still ongoing. Furthermore, Mr. English provided context to Council with regards to the 1st Fiscal Quarter Update. Specifically, Mr. English announced that in comparison with their previous assumptions, there are 29 0116 full time students, which equated to $75000 in savings from their estimated budget. Mr. English noted that the Executive budgets are on track and that there are areas of concern that cannot be particularly discussed in depth until the end of the Second Quarter when more information becomes available.   |
| VP Internal |
| Mr. Benac stated that Sophie and himself received the USC Annual Update on the State of Endowment Funds from Alumni Western and that the money generated by this endowment has helped over 220 undergraduate students pay for their post secondary education in the previous academic year. Mr. Benac addressed Council with respect to a number of updates relating to his portfolio, namely, that majority of the Internal portfolio services held their first awareness activity during the month of October. He specifically spoke to the successes of enviro week, sexual violence prevention forum and mental health awareness week. Mr. Benac further informed Council that the application process has been outlined for a new award that will be housed in the teaching program called the USC President’s Medal for Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching. Additionally, Mr. Benac discussed working alongside Student Experience and Institutional Planning and Budgeting in order to familiarize himself with students at large through surveys regarding mental health and wellness.  |
| VP External |
| Ms. Perkins discussed a transit initiative whereby LTC would be coming to campus to facilitate conversation with regards to the changing bus routes. Additionally, Ms. Perkins explained her work with regards to the OUSA focus groups. In particular, she articulated how this achieved a broader Western perspective in allowing more students to review the papers and recommendations. Ms. Perkins informed Council about Local Advocacy Week and the Tenant Rights Campaign, which will be taking place in the near future.  |
| VP Student Events |
| Ms. Scripnick discussed her work with Mr. English in regards to the reform of the Clubs Governance Committee. Ms. Scripnick mentioned the successes of the haunted house put on by the Charity Committee as well as Theatre Western’s fall play that will have its debut shortly. Additionally, Ms. Scripnick gave an orientation update with regards to consulting all those involved in some capacity during Orientation Week before moving forward with final recommendations for improvement. Furthermore, Ms. Scripnick informed Council about the outcomes of the Hoco debrief meeting and the Soph Town Hall that took place recently.  |
| Communications Officer |
| Mr. Hurren informed Council that his time has been primarily devoted between the preparation of the Executive Report and consultations with council members. Additionally, Mr. Hurren stated that upcoming projects would include preparing for USC Elections, concerning social media, promotions and increasing student voter turnout. Furthermore, Mr. Hurren spoke with regards to the successful Ally Western Survey with PSLPR, the process for the Public Arts Survey as well as seeking out best practices for collecting feedback and soliciting student input from other Institutions.  |
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***i) Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors***

Mr. Jacobi informed Council about a presentation that the Board had received from an Alumni named Bruce Palmer, who talked about risk mitigation and because of that, a motion will be coming forward in order to enhance the risk mitigation that we use as a Corporation. Mr. Jacobi stated that the Board members have acknowledged the impact that past Alumni presentations have had and are looking into having more past Alumni come in speak as part of their training. Additionally, Mr. Jacobi explained that the Board of Directors approved the Gazette Publishing Committee terms of Reference and reviewed their budget process. Mr. Jacobi thanked Council for ratifying the Nominating Committee’s decision and mentioned that the Board of Directors is looking to set timelines for the selection of Appeals Committee members. Mr. Jacobi further discussed that the Board is also looking into a type of committee review just like Council is in order to maximize workflow and productivity.

***ii) Western Student Senators Report***

 Ms. Addison reported that the Senate has held two Senate meetings since the beginning of the school year and that progress is beginning to take place. Ms. Addison informed Council that they are updating how scholarships work, learning about research funding at the University, and acquiring the rationales behind last year’s Chakma situation. Ms. Addison further discussed that a motion will be coming forward to create a more open Senate in order to conduct better conversations at the next meeting. Additionally, Ms. Addison stated that the student senators have met and have worked on what their priorities are for the year: reviewing the exam timetable, looking into exam accommodation policies, looking at library hours during midterm season and access to classrooms, pass/fail electives, more governance changes, citation software and advertisement around on campus.

***iii) Standing Committee Report***

1. **Local and Campus Affairs**

Ms. Kiteley addressed that majority of what the committee has been working on is what came to Council floor tonight. Ms. Kiteley stated that the approval for the Caucus Terms of Reference by Council allows the committee to move forward in making their selections on November 5th. Additionally, Ms. Kiteley further discussed the process for an upcoming advocacy week and working to create a research request to the Executive in order to gather more information with regards to how students interact with the city and ways to improve those interactions.

1. **Long Term Planning and Budget**

Mr. Sussman said that Mr. English previously mentioned what the committee has been working on and has no further updates.

1. **Portfolio Service Level and Program Review**

Ms. Hardy reported that the committee’s new name is now Program Audit and Review Committee. Additionally, she explained that the committee is halfway through the review on public arts and that the survey is now live. Ms. Hardy further informed Council that the committee has been holding discussions with FIMS, Arts and Music Councils as part of their reviews in order to get feedback. Lastly, Ms. Hardy announced that the Committee has decided that they are no longer reviewing First Year Involvement and will begin the review of Ethno Cultural Support as soon as possible.

1. **Provincial and Federal Affairs**

Mr. Farfan informed Council that the Committee didn’t actually meet as they were waiting on the OUSA papers so that they could discuss them as a committee.

1. **Student Outreach and Communication**

Mr. Pillon was not present therefore, no update was given.

1. **Senior Operations**

Mr. Lalka stated that he was unable to attend the previous Senior Operations meeting and thanked Mr. Farfan for conducting the meeting in his absence. The agenda was approved.

**10. FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Lalka brought forward one item for discussion with regards to the special meeting of Council upcoming, specifically, the Executive Composition. He reminded Council that it is their responsibility to report any conflicts of interests to him before that meeting takes place.

**11. TERMINATION**

Mr. Lalka asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SUSSMAN/ Cheeseman

The meeting is adjourned at 10:44pm.