



REGULAR MEETING #5

February 10, 2015

A meeting of the University Students' Council Board of Directors was held on the above date in the USC Board Room at 9:30 a.m. with the following present:

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| <u>From the Board:</u> | I. Jacobi (Chair), A. Lalka (Treasurer), D. Bitondo, A. Brijpaul, P. Demarco, M. Helfand, S. Jayawardena, S. Kerr, H. Zafari |
| <u>Regrets:</u> | H. Kim |
| <u>Administration:</u> | J. Armour, C. Clarke, S. Courtice, C. Passi, K. Pacheco |
| <u>Guests:</u> | K. Pacheco |
| <u>Minutes taken by:</u> | S. Musaphir |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 said the application for the Board of Directors position is now available on the USC Website. Mr. Jacobi noted the deadline to apply is February 13, 2015 and both a cover letter and resume need to be submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was MOVED by Mr. Kerr and seconded by Mr. Jayawardena that the minutes of January 16, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND BOARD TRAINING/EDUCATION

- None

7. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

a) President and CEO Update

Mr. Helfand said the elections period will be technologically sound. He noted that the number of students willing to run in elections for Students Council positions has decreased over the years and this may pose a relevant problem to the organization in the future. Mr. Helfand said that with the development of the Promotions Department, the USC is hopeful that marketing plans will be created to increase student engagement in Council once again.

Mr. Helfand noted that two referendums are on the elections ballot. The first being the O-Week referendum where the Orientation Pass will become part of student fees. Mr. Helfand said if the referendum passes there may be some budgetary implications for O-Week since it is a shared venture between the USC and Western University. The second referendum is the Marching Band receiving 50 cents per student. Mr. Helfand said there has been some indication that Western Athletics is willing to take on the administration of the Marching Band if the referendum is passed.

Mr. Helfand said he's creating the "Student Move Out Garbage" project where he's working with students to reduce the amount of garbage around move out days. He's also developing an endowment using the Access Copyright dollars. Mr. Helfand also noted that the VP External is developing a few MOU's with the City and London Police. The MOU would focus on communication around important events. Finally, he said there has been great interest in AVP, Intern and Coordinator positions at the USC.

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 Mr. Bitondo and seconded by Mr. Kerr that the agenda reports for items a – b be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

a) Board Self-Evaluation Policy

Mr. Jacobi said the Board Self-Evaluation Policy will allow for regular review of a broad number of factors that contribute to good governance, and to identify areas of improvement. Mr. Courtice added that this is the first year of the Board's new structure and it would be beneficial to gather information on areas of improvement as the USC develops new training modules and Board processes.

It was MOVED by Mr. Kerr and seconded by Mr. Bitondo to approve the Board Self-Evaluation Policy.

CARRIED

b) Budget Presentation

Mr. Lalka provided a presentation outlining various aspects of the 2015/2016 Budget.

Mr. Bitondo asked for further clarification on WUSC. Mr. Lalka said WUSC provides hope and opportunity for student refugees. Every year, Western University provides schooling to 2

student refugees. Mr. Helfand added that the federal government would be matching all WUSC dollars paid by university students.

Mr. Bitondo asked what the difference is between projected student fees and actual student fees and how it's different for this year. Ms. Passi said that when the budget was set last year, all evidence led towards a 30,000 student base. However, Western changed their admittance number so the USC ended up tracking 29,000. Ms. Passi said the USC tries to be more conservative when it comes to looking at what the student base is, and typically look to the prior year audit as well. Mr. Helfand added that there was a 2 percent decline in enrollment this year and it's subject to factors that are beyond the University.

Mr. Kerr asked for an explanation on the freezing of the Government budget. He said this is the one area of the corporation where more is expected every year. Mr. Helfand said the freezing of the Government budget is more of growth check. He said there are avenues on the Government side where significant changes can be made. For instance, eliminating a VP Portfolio or look for external funding through donations for some of the projects that exist. As well, support from the corporate side through Advocacy, Promotions and Volunteer Services also takes a lot of pressure off of the Government budget. He added that in the future, the executives will have to challenge themselves to work within the budget. If an increase to the budget needs to be made, it can be taken to Council for approval.

Mr. Brijpaul asked if the Executives could tap into the contingency fee if the Government budget is not sufficient. Mr. Lalka said the Executives would be able to go into the contingency fee, and they wouldn't have to go through the Board or Council since the contingency fee is already approved by those bodies. Mr. Brijpaul said he's worried that the incoming Executives are campaigning for promises that may cost a lot of money and this could potentially drain the contingency fee. Mr. Helfand said that a culture would be created where the Executives consider what the costs are and create budget plans.

Mr. Jacobi asked how flexible the USC is with some of the projected budgets. Mr. Lalka said there is flexibility in the budgets.

Mr. Brijpaul said he believes the USC could contract out of the income tax clinic on the basis of negligence if it's made explicit. Mr. Lalka said the USC could definitely contract out and it's up for consideration.

Ms. Passi noted that the USC will bring forward a fee stabilization reserve fund policy. She said that without the fee stabilization budget being in place over the next four years, the USC could find itself in a large deficit. The fee stabilization fund would allow the USC to push its departments through the strategic plan to see what fits, what changes could be made, and how it could become more relevant to students. Therefore, the budget would ultimately allow the USC to grow and evolve before it implements a student fee increase.

Mr. Bitondo asked what causes the sudden deficit in 2018 if there is a fee stabilization budget in place. Ms. Passi said even though there would be fee stabilization, there would still be surpluses and deficits, wherein surpluses in some years balance out deficits in others.

It was MOVED by Mr. Bitondo and seconded by Mr. Brijpaul to approve the Budget.

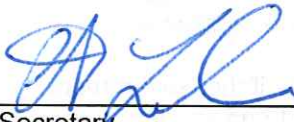
9. INQUIRIES AND OTHER BUSINESS

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

It was MOVED by Mr. Jacobi and seconded by Mr. Brijpaul to adjourn the public meeting.

CARRIED



Secretary

Chair