

Minutes of the **7th Meeting of Council** Meeting of the 2015\2016 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on **Wednesday, March 2, 2016** in the Community Room, 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 7:40 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

Speaker: Alif Karmali
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth da Ponte

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Speaker looked for a motion to adopt the agenda as amended.
Unilateral/Carried.

6. SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker of Council apologized for any confusion about the AGM dates. He further discussed the demerit pointed system and how Councillors are expected to submit regrets.

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President:

Ms. Helpard discussed the following items in her executive report to Council:

- Budget and transition planning over the last month
- Shadowing, for the new executives
- Secretary-treasurer interviews are currently taking place
- Praise from the faculty of the University for All the Work that was done by the elections committee.
- Volunteer Expo was a success
- Work with respect to the provincial budget

- OUSA priorities consistent with the Ontario budget
- London rapid transit discussions and advocacy

Ms. Helpard addressed Council with the VP Student Events Report:

- O-week interviews taking place
- Club application are currently open
- Processing as many applications as possible
- Upcoming Clubs Gala
- Reverie, arts festival with faculty councils
- Theater Western, musical currently on stage
- Charity committee work (success of the Dining in the Dark event)
- First year coordinator – conference to attend for next year.

Mr. Benac addressed Council with the VP- Internal Report:

- Advocacy papers were approved
- Currently drafting recommendations
- President's innovation award
- Entertaining a new committee structure on sexual violence
- Received ombudsperson report – 600 student visits
- New ancillary fee recommendation in advocacy papers
- Breakdown of student fees and how things are items that students pay into.
- Programming updates
- STD Testing – Western holds the record (12 hours, over 800 people)
- EnviroWestern
- International Women's Day

Ms. Perkins addressed Council with the VP- External Report:

- OUSA – New Communications Officer
- General assembly meeting
- Promoting the OUSA teaching awards.

Municipal:

- Restorative justice –Code of Conduct (Lindsay Justice)
- How this process works. Dalhousie program.

Federal Advocacy -

Liberal government student loan programs. Approving three topics (papers) briefs will be ready. Ottawa.

Mr. Hurren addressed Council with the Communications Officer Report:

- Assisting with the Budget presentation
- Establishing the supplementary – line by-line breakdown

- Hiring new Communications Officers and Secretary-treasurer
- Working with HR to make the process have become more competitive.
- Associate and Coordinators applications are open.
- Big initiative in March – communication centric approach

Mr. English addressed Council with the Secretary -treasurer Report:

- Budget work over the last month.
- Logistical support to the EGC, with CRO.
- Meeting with faculty councils and academic coordinators
- Grants reform
- Game of Life for Financial literacy.

Mr. Jacobi addressed Council with the Board of Directors Report:

- Board and Appeals Nomination committee hiring in progress
- 10 applicants Interviewed
- 4 new Board members hired
- Training this week
- Geoff Pimlatt attending the last Board meeting to discuss the new USC elections software.
- Q2 update and cash flow analysis.
- Approved the budget.
- Strategic plan in motion.
- HR policies updated are updated and approved.
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Mr. Lucas addressed Council with the Board of Governors Report:

- Light rail proposal
- Meeting with Dr. Chakma on Friday.

STANDING COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Kiteley – Local & Campus Affairs

- LCA – productive meeting – kinesiology students. Pedestrian safety.
- Rapid transit on campus.
- Early outreach paper.

Mr. Abbott – Long Term Planning & Budget

- Tried to meet, unsuccessful to meet quorum.

Ms. Hardy – Portfolio Audit Review Committee

- Charity ball review complete

Mr. Farfan – Provincial & Federal Affairs

- No report for Council. Meeting held last month.

Mr. Pillon – Student Outreach & Communication

- App not ready for this academic year.

8. FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Farfan noted that the PDF of the Budget is missing the Secretary-treasurer and Council projections for next year from the version on OWL.

Mr. Hamadache: Move to a Committee of the whole.

Speaker advised Council

HAMADACHE/Catton/Carries.

Speaker advised that this must be moved.

Mr. Dodgson: *Council should be discussion any administrative fee increases. Noted that there should be justifications for these increases and why we need it.*

Ms. Helpard: Noted that the cost to maintain (i.e. Clean and update) space a rising cost. Looking into keeping room bookings free for students. All students pay so that all clubs can use the space. Looking to this fee increase much like a public good, therefore looking to increase the student fee rather than charging individual groups.

Dodgson: *If this is not a new initiative, why is this cost going up?*

Ms. Helpard: The cost to maintain the space is going up, and we are looking to not have these costs levied to the students. Student groups are using the space more and more.

Mr. Farfan: *With respect to the Communications Officer line in budget - Promotions allocation of 18K in his budget?*

Mr. English: This allocation covers the promotion officer.

Mr. Farfan: *This was not allocated to the Communications Officer this year?*

Mr. English: This cost is currently under the President's portfolio.

Ms. Kiteley – *In the SPO portfolio, there are no changes to food support, emergencies. etc. What if the demand for these services increases?*

Mr. Benac: The allocation is not increasing this year because of community assistance. There has not been an increase in costs.

Mr. Palin: *In the Secretary-treasurer budget, there is an increase in the spending for elections committee. The increase doubles the previous projection, is the demand that high?*

Mr. English: Increase given in spending for the CRO, to train committee members, added polling stations to campus and appreciation to members.

Brandon Palin: *Was the allocation of 2K always too small, weeing as the year to date as of December was below 2K?*

Mr. English: Many of the costs were incurred in January. The CRO expenses are currently at the 4K mark. Much of this was the get out and vote campaign, debates in an enhanced facilitation. There were also polling stations in a number of locations. Volunteer appreciation was also increased.

Councillor: Inaudible question

Mr. English noted that Western TV was brought under the Gazette.

Mr. Hurren: Western TV was previously under the Communication's Officer portfolio.

Mr. Hamadache: *Could they rebrand?*

Mr. Hurren: the branding has fluctuated radically over many years. This would allow the next team to work that out themselves.

Mr. Little: *Isn't branding that supposed to be a permanent thing? Is there any strategic plan for the long term?*

Mr. Hurren: the strategic vision is lacking right now. With the amount of work needing to be done, this is not something that a full time coordinator can handle. Western TV can access Gazette resources that will assist with helping them plan for the future.

Ms. Hardy: *how much of the Gazette fee increase, is due to the incorporation of Western TV?*

Mr. Hurren: The Gazette 4 dollar increase was approved at Council last year. The \$3.23 is the amount they need for the coming year. The Western TV increase in capital, and will share equipment between the two groups.

Mr. Boekhoff: The increase was to assist with hiring more reporters and editors, and increasing the number of students receiving honorariums.

Mr. Dias: *The Gazette received 19K over the summer council, but the presentation on what the funds were used for was not given at the September meeting. How were the funds used?*

Mr. Boekhoff – the presentation had been given to the Board of Directors and the Publishing Committee. All of the funds were not used as allocated.

Mr. Palin: *General cost question. With respect to the current state of doll to US and programming costs (Wave and Spoke), has there been any thought to the increases to these programs?*

Helpard: Noted that talent was the biggest noted change coming from the state of the US dollar. There would be less big name tenant over the next year, and more Canadian talent.

Ms. Helpard further noted that they were looking to food costs, and are exploring new ways to buy food, including seasonal contracts to stabilize our food costs. In an effort to not increase the cost to students, they looked to remove menu items that cost more.

Ms. Kiteley: *Why does the Communications Officer have and Advocacy allocation?*

Mr. Hurren: the Communications Officer should not be personally political, but assist with elections and campaign efforts. When hired, the platform is political but to further the initiatives of the elective members.

Mr. Farfan: *USC Daycare fee – how many USC Undergrad Students use those services?*

Ms. Helpard: Noted that usage numbers could be located.

Mr. Hamadache: *Did moving the Council meeting to the Community Room add a cost to the Council Budget?*

Mr. English: An increase to the cost was noted, for this year only and mostly via production costs, etc.

Mr. Hamadache: *so this will be cheaper in the coming years?*

Mr. English: Increased cost coming from paying for labour and live-stream for staff. It should be roughly \$5600, in partnering with productions.

Mr. Palin: *Is it possible to look into for more power for next year?*

Mr. English: Yes, making that room more robust for meeting settings a priority.

Mr. Palin: *Are there viewer numbers for the live stream. Is it cheaper to not live stream?*

Mr. English : We can investigate this. We log the Council meeting videos for transparency.

Ms. Cheeseman: *Why have we moved the AVP governance officer role?*

Mr. English: Historically, the USC had a legal officer. Consulting on legal matters has been moved to external counsel. The Governance Officer responsibilities were moved to the secretary –treasurer portfolio. The AVP Governance is for policy development.

Mr. Hamadache: *Is Purple Bikes, beneficial to student body and occupancy expense?*

Mr. English: Purple Bikes have good usage rates. One student intern does all of the work. In the past, funding has been provided via grants. He can provide usage numbers after the meeting.

Mr. Farfan: *I am wondering if this Council has purview over the Gazette budget.*

Ms. Helpard: *Allocations or totals?*

Mr. Farfan: Both.

Ms. Helpard: The increase in student fee for the Gazette budget, Council can reject or deny.

Mr. Farfan: *Considering that this is 600K of student fees, the actuals have been posted online if council would like to see it.*

Mr. Pillon *If not all the money was used in the summer, what happened to it?*

Mr. Boekhoff: The remaining money was rolled back to the USC at the end of the year.

Mr. Dodgson: *Could we further break down budget, external retreat, transition and travel?*

Ms. Helpard: In the summer months the executive network with peer institutions, including travel and attend conferences. The retreat is for incoming and outgoing executive, the partner's breakfast with municipal partners, and the signing ceremony for staff.

Mr. Palin: motion to leave committee of the whole.

Speaker of Council – looking to Council for a motion to recess.

Mr. Palin: 10 minute recess.

PALIN/ Hamadache/Carries.

Ms. Peterson: *What is the line in the Communications Officer budget for surveys? Is this for student feedback?*

Mr. Hurren: This line referred to survey incentives.

Ms. Peterson: LTPB has not met in order to provide their recommendations to Council about the budget.

Mr. Groves: LTPB has not met, but has discussed the budget over Facebook.

Mr. Orbach-Miller: *What the budget draft sent to LTPB?*

Mr. English: The budget was sent to the Chair and Vice-Chair (February 3rd).

Ms. Catton: *To clarify, January 13th was the last meeting of LTPB?*

Ms. Amoah: *There are Round tables budgeted but do they happen?*

Ms. Helpard: The budget for the round tables has not remained the same. They have been reduced.

Mr. English: The president's round table budget was a notable one. The others that have been completed, and coffee and food provided to bring people out.

Mr. Hamadache – finance roundtable, other round table.

Speaker: Committee of the whole comes to an end.

Amendments to the Budget:

Farfan – motion to consider the motion he has send Speaker.

Mr. Hamadache: Bring forward a budget amendment to bring back the first year involvement committee and coordinator and allocations.

Ms. Cheeseman: speaking against the motion; this is a duplication of services.

Mr. Palin: By removing this funding we are taking away funding and opportunities to first year students for the USC.

Ms. Hardy: *Point of information. How many first years are on the committee?. Planning first year events?*

Mr. Orbach-Miller: Speaker to keep this position. Consider the message this sends to first years. Remove first year involvement coordinator, we send the wrong message.

Ms. Hardy: Speaking against the motion. There is a lot of overlap for programming currently in existence. Prefer to see efforts moved towards the first year caucus. We did vote to remove the first year caucus.

Mr. Palin: *Could this budget be transferred to first year caucus?*

Mr. English: The caucus already has the same budget that the committee had.

Ms. Peterson: *Point of information. page 12 (100 dollar change)?*

Mr. English: This used to be under the Presidents portfolio.

Motion #1 – Gazette Budget

Whereas, the Western Gazette is a unit of the USC;

Whereas, the Western Gazette is mainly a student-run organization that cost undergraduate students \$641,169.00 in 2015/16;

Whereas, Council should be given the opportunity to examine and discuss the Western Gazette's budget in detail before agreeing to pass it;

Be it resolved, that a standing order of council be created stipulating that:

- The detailed Gazette annual budget be included in every USC annual budget with line by line breakdowns of all money spent that year & all money projected to be spent in the following year
- The Gazette provide a special budget presentation to Council each year (similar to the special budget presentation from CHRW) where councillors have the opportunity to discuss it and ask questions to the managing editors

FARFAN/Palin/Carried. (Passes 91, 3 against, 6 abstain.)

Mr. Farfan: *I'm concerned that we do not have a detailed budget presentation to pass budget. Could this be a Standing Order of Council?*

Ms. Cheeseman: This is a valid concern. CHRW presents to Council annually. Council should know where the Gazette funding is going.

Mr. Hamadache: Speaking in favour of this motion. The Gazette should present these items to Council.

Ms. Helpard: Noted that the Gazette budget could be separated out and Council could go on and pass the USC budget.

Ms. Farfan: *Can we pass the USC budget without passing the Gazette budget?*

Mr. English: We could remove the two.

Mr. Farfan: Concern about the legal aspects of doing so.

Mr. Farfan: This is not required to pass this evening? This will take a few minutes next week.

Speaker: Council could table Mr. Farfan's motion.

Mr. Farfan: I would like Council to vote on this motion now, then approve budget.

Mr. Palin: Speaking for this motion. This motion peaks to accountability, holding the Gazette and CHRW accountable to students. Call the question.

Motion to vote by clicker.
Hamadache/ Abbot

Ms. Hardy: Motion to call the question.

Mr. Farfan: The Gazette can field question at the next meeting.

Speaker – SOC meeting is required for the AGM I and II agendas.

Mr. Boekhoff: *Who would you like to answer Council's questions?*

Mr. Farfan: Whomever you feel is most qualified to answer our questions.

Mr. Dodgson: implored Council to carefully consider the student fee increase.

Mr. Hamadache – motion to adjourn.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Everitt/Hamadache. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

President

Recording Secretary

Approved on: _____

Sign In/Sign Out

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time In</u>	<u>Time Out</u>
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Consultation Feedback/Discussion Points

Councillor Feedback

- ▶ Include 2014/2015 Actuals; include Caucus spending allocation; small formatting issues/missing entries in tables.

Discussion Points

- ▶ The selection process of the Deputy Speaker/Speaker.
- ▶ The Admin Fee increase of \$2.50 outside of inflation.
- ▶ The Council Budget.

