

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the 2016\2017 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on **Wednesday, September 14, 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 7:05 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. ROLL CALL

Speaker: Samir Hamadache

Recording Secretary: Coordinator, Council Services

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Little sought to add a motion. 8.4 (Motion 4)

Mr. Little indigenous land recognition amendment to the Standing Orders of Council.

LITTLE/Garno/ Carried. (Unanimous)

Mr. Avila sought to add two amendments to the agenda. Seeking to remove the reports section of this agenda and added to the need meeting of Council. The second amendment adding happy birthday to the Agenda. Approval of the Agenda.

AVILA/Chang/Carried. (Unanimous).

Motion to Approve the Agenda as amendments.

AMOAH/Vezina/Carried. (Unanimous)

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

10 July 2016

Speaker of Council approved the minutes as presented, no objections to note.

7. PRESENTATIONS

- i. Strategic Planning Presentation (30 minutes) – K. Burns, Chief Operating Officer
(see *attached presentation*)
- ii. Homecoming/Reunion weekend Presentation (30 minutes) – E. Avila, President
(see *attached presentation*)

The Speaker brought forward a motion to postpone the discussion relating to Homecoming Reunion for the for discussion section of the meeting.

PHILIPSON/Vezina/Carried. (FOR, 34/AGAINST, 8)

Ms. Shakfa amended motion to finish debate at the end of the Speakers list.

SHAKFA/Fiaz/Carries. (Unanimous)

Ms. Adamo noted that there was a rain plan for the Saturday.

Gabriel: what was the consideration for faculty Councils. How are they involvement?

Ms. Ross noted that faculty and students can volunteer or submit proposals for events on this weekend.

Mr. Cousins expressed his support for the charity element, in keeping with the correct charity. Concerns about branding and mental health branding around this festival weekend.

Mr. Backtash noted concerns that on any other weekend that this festival would be successful, but questioned whether there was a high-profile event that could be moved from reunion weekend to the original HOCO date.

Ms. Ross noted that the high profile event is on October 22nd, and that this HOCO weekend is meant to be a smaller event.

Mr. Avila noted that this was not a possibility to change a high profile act this late. He notes that the executive are not able to get another event moved or funding for this event.

The Speaker ended the discussion per the motion and referred discussion to the discussion section of the Agenda.

- iii. Mental Health Presentation (10 minutes) – J. Cleary, Vice-President
(see *attached presentation*)

Ms. Vezina asked whether affiliates were able to use these services?

Mr. Cleary noted that he would have to get back to her with respect to this question.

Ms. D'Souza enquired about the opt-out of student plan, and whether students have counseling

via private insurance.

Mr. Avila noted that counseling was covered on campus via the student health plan, but was uncertain about private insurance coverage.

The Speaker of Council sought a motion to recess.

Mr. Little put forward a motion to recess for 10 minutes.

LITTLE/Siou/ Carried. (unanimous)

8. FOR ACTION

Motion #1

Senior Operations (TOR) Amendments

Whereas, The Senior Operations Committee of Council was previously not aligned its original intention, or mission,

Whereas, this committee is currently tasked with work that is inappropriate for it, and is currently being completed in more appropriate ways,

Be it resolved that, Council approve the new Agenda and Council Operations committee terms of reference.

LAY/Chang /Carried. (FOR: 98%, AGAINST 0 %, ABSTAIN 3%)

Ms. Jaffrey noted a friendly amendment within the document that the standing committee name throughout the document.

Mr. Lay seconded Mr. Jacobi's points.

Mr. Chang made no comment.

Mr. DiBrina noted a friendly amendment as well.

The speaker called the question on Motion 1 (Main Motion).

Motion #2

Nominating Committees Terms of Reference

Whereas, the Nominating structure currently used to select members of the Board of Directors and Appeals Board is not specialized, and is inefficient,

Whereas, a review has concluded that specializing selection committees and building strict

reporting, and ratification measures would produce a more efficient system, with better candidates,

Be it resolved that, Council approve the new Nominating Committees Terms of Reference.

MOVER/Seconder

CHANG/Lay /Carried. (FOR: 92%, AGAINST 0 %, ABSTAIN 8%)

Mr. Jacobi outlined the changes to these committees and separation of the committee into two committees. Council would have final say on the ratification of board members. The appeals board nominating committee. This committee would have to report this to the Board of Directors. Executive selection committee, one director and councillor with resource members.

Mr. Philipson noted that there were 3 Councillors positions that were being removed.

Mr. Jacobi noted that reporting requirements and changes to the process would be at the discretion of Council. Mr. Jacobi further noted that ratifying Appeals Board members was never done at the Board level.

Mr. Orbach-Miller asked question what the process would be should there be a number of conflicts of interest with such a small group. Mr. Orbach-Miller further noted concerns that the outgoing members are replacing themselves and that this might be an issue.

Mr. Jacobi noted that substitutions could be made to the group, and that in a hiring situation, not all members would need to be present at the interview process.

Mr. Orbach-Miller suggested that it might be beneficial to have someone with an outside perspective on this committee.

Mr. Jacobi noted Mr. Orbach-Miller's concern.

Mr. Little noted that the only voice that is heard is not a student voice and that there are benefits to having a Councillor on the board.

Mr. Jacobi noted that the Board of Directors supervises the CEO (President) and that there could be issues insofar as the president is picking the people who oversee their accountabilities.

Mr. Franchetto, spoke in favour of the motion, noting that increased training for the Board of Directors and that these skills would be valuable on the committee. He further noted that this would allow for the customization of skills for the Committee. Mr. Franchetto noted that Councillors may or may not understand the Board duties, and the reporting structure being proposed better served this hiring process.

Mr. Chang – nothing to note

Mr. Lay – nothing to note

Mr. DiBrina brought forward an amendment that he would like to see.

Whereas, the newly created terms of reference for the Nominating Committee allows for highly specialized committees to more effectively distribute the nominating responsibility,

Whereas, the current process for appointing students to the Student Services Committee and the Orientation Governance Board lacks transparency, openness and fairness,

Whereas, earlier this year the USC voted to elect three (3) students to CHRW's board of directors, which is inconsistent with its own processes,

Let it be resolved, that the Nominating Committee expand to include two (2) additional specialized committees tasked with nominating a student to the Student Services Committee and the Orientation Governance Board, respectively,

Let it be further resolved, that council task the Secretary-Treasurer to research and recommend a method for nominating CHRW student board members that reflects USC processes by the January 2017 meeting of council,

Let it be further resolved, that none of the above changes to the structure of the Nominating Committee come into effect until January 1st, 2017.

5. Student Services Committee Representative Selection Committee

1. Mandate

i. The Student Services Committee Representative Selection Committee is responsible for coordinating promotion, developing interview questions, conducting interviews, and selecting the student who will serve a two-year term on the Student Services Committee.

ii. Recommendation must include information on specific skillsets, experience, and education that qualify recommended candidates for the position.

2. Composition

i. Incoming President and CEO

ii. Incoming Vice-President

iii. Two Councillors (preferably from different faculties)

6. Orientation Governance Board Representative Selection Committee

1. Mandate

i. The Orientation Governance Board Representative Selection Committee is responsible for coordinating promotion, developing interview questions, conducting interviews, and selecting

- the student who will serve a two-year term on the Orientation Governance Board.
- ii. Recommendation must include information on specific skillsets, experience, and education that qualify recommended candidates for the position.
2. Composition
- i. Incoming President and CEO
- ii. Incoming Student Programs Officer
- iii. Two Councillors (preferably from different faculties)

DIBRINA/Smith/Referred to Committee. (Governance and Finance)

Mr. Orbach-Miller noted that these committees exist to serve students and that the USC executive places students on this committee every year. He noted that OPC has a student at-large position, yet the appointment of the student to this position is completed by the USC President and the executive alone. Mr. Orbach-Miller noted that these recommendations would make the process more transparent.

Ms. Siou questioned whether both of these committee positions would be 2 year terms.

Mr. Orbach-Miller noted that members would not need to serve both years.

Ms. Codina asked who else would be on the committee.

Mr. Orbach-Miller noted that 2 positions were for undergraduate students and the USC Vice-President.

Ms. Adamo noted that she is a co-chair the committee. She noted concerns that this motion had not been vetted via a standing committee and would like the motion sent to Governance and Finance committee.

Mr. Orbach-Miller noted that there are no procedural issue with brining a motion to Council in this manner.

Mr. Avila noted that the issue being raised was a problem with respect to transparency, and in an effort to be transparent, that this issue should be moved to a standing committee prior to ratification.

The Speaker referred the motion to Governance and Finance.

Mr. DiBrina questioned how would the executive ensure that Councillors on this information.

Ms. Adamo noted that a report would come to Council.

Mr. DiBrina asked when this report would come to Council.

Ms. Adamo noted that the amendment had only just been referred to the Governance and Finance to look over and send back to Council with recommendations. She could not answer this until the standing committee reviewed the amendment.

Motion to refer the amendment to Governance and Finance.

Mr. Philipson notes that these changes would mean less council representation, but noted that the changes to the Appeals Board should be ratified.

Mr. Jacobi supported Mr. Phillipson's request.

Mr. Philipson move to amend to add Council ratification to the Appeals Board Members.
PHILIPSON/Rosina/Carried. (Unanimous)

Ms. Siou requested that a presentation to Council be a part of the ratification process.

Mr. Little – (POI) noted that there is no ratification process in place currently.

Called the Question Speaker on the Amendment (COUNCIL RATIFICATION)
Carried. (FOR, 28/ AGAINST, 5 / ABSTAIN, 2)

Called the question:

CHANG/Lay /Carried. (Unanimous)

Motion #3

Executive Officer Accountability and Discipline Policy

Whereas, the version of this document passed in early 2016 contained a loophole,

Whereas, this loophole provided no means of disciplining the executive, and has created accountability.

Be it resolved that, this loophole be fixed and accountability be bestowed upon the executive.

MOVER/Seconder

CLEARY/Avila/Carried. (Unanimous)

Mr. DiBrina spoke in favour of the motion to bring gender neutral pronouns in working documents.

Mr. Jacobi noted that the policy can be changed.

Mr. Backtash noted a change with S. 6.1.2.

My. Jacobi noted this as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Whelan had nothing to add.

Mr. Chang also noted nothing to add.

The Speaker called the question.

WHEAN/Lay /Carried. (Unanimous)

Motion #4

Amendment to the Standing Orders of Council: Indigenous Land Recognition

Whereas, Western University is located on the traditional home and beaver hunting grounds of the Attawandaran, Algonquin, and Haudenosaunee peoples;

Whereas, there are three other longstanding indigenous groups of this geographic region, including the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Leni-Lunaape peoples;

Whereas, the University Students' Council believes we have a duty to recognise, acknowledge and respect the land and history of these peoples, and land;

Be it resolved, that 3.1 of the Standing Orders of Council be amended to include an Indigenous Land Recognition directly following ii. Singing of "O Canada;"

Be it further resolved, that the land recognition wording be recommended by Western Indigenous Services;

Be it further resolved, that a member of Western Indigenous Services present on the significance of land recognition, and the First Nations of this land, and their history, at the first meeting of Council each year.

LITTLE/Perriera/Carried. (Unanimous)

Mr. Little spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr. Cleary spoke to the motion and answered why there was not the final wording for land acknowledgment, stating that the process was still in progress.

Ms. Siou noted the positive effects of including indigenous people in events and her support of the motion.

Mr. Garno noted that the motion should pass.

The Speaker called the question.

LITTLE/Pereira /Carried. (For 97%, Against 3%)

9. FOR INFORMATION

Executive Reports

Mr. Avila gave his report to Council.
Mr. Jacobi gave his report to Council.
Ms. Ross gave her report to Council.
Ms. Adamo gave her report to Council.
Mr. Cleary gave his report to Council.

Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors (10 mins)

Western Student Senators (WSS) Report (5 mins)

Mr. Orbach-Miller discussed the initiatives of the Western Senate

Report from Standing Committee Chairs (10 minutes)

Governance and Finance Standing Committee – M. Lay
Advocacy Standing Committee – D. Chang
Student Experience Standing Committee – J. Whelan
Senior Operations Standing Committee – S. Hamadache

10. FOR DISCUSSION

11. NEW BUSINESS

New Business Motion

Whereas; the newly created terms of reference for the Nominating Committee allows for highly specialized committees to more effectively distribute the nominating responsibility,

Whereas; the current process for appointing students to the Student Services Committee and the Orientation Governance Board lacks transparency, openness and fairness,

Let it be resolved; that the Nominating Committee expand to include two (2) additional specialized committees tasked with nominating a student to the Student Services Committee and the Orientation Governance Board, respectively,

Let it be further resolved; that none of the above changes to the structure of the Nominating Committee come into effect until January 1st, 2017.

DiBRINA/Codina/Carried. (unanimous)

Mr. Whelan noted concerns about the dates in the motion. He noted an amendment to the motion due to a lack of Council meetings in December.

Mr. Avila noted that the timeline change was reasonable.

Mr. Whelan proposes an amendment to change the date to November 26th, 2016.

WHELAN/Gariepy/Not Carried.

Mr. Little proposed that the presentation to Council be given at the October meeting of Council.

The Speaker clarified that the presentation to Council would be at the October meeting and that the report from the Governance and Finance Committee come to Council for the November meeting as the amendments to the main motion.

WHELAN/Little/Carried. (Unanimous)

12. TERMINATION

Motion to adjourn.

GARNO/Siou/Carried. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.

President

Approved on: _____

Recording Secretary

Sign In/Sign Out

Name Time In Time Out