

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the 2018/2019 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on 22 July 2018 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 of Council called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.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. LAND RECOGNITION

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Sunapee and Attawandaron peoples, who have long standing relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

5. ROLL CALL

Speaker: Madison Ing

Recording Secretary: Coordinator, Council Services

6. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker of Council welcomed Council to the second meeting of the 2018-2019 USC Council.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Denezis requested that an amendment be made to the two motions from the Student Experience Standing Committee, noting that the seconder for both of the motions should be Councillor Barroso.

The Speaker of Council noted as amendment to the For Discussion section of the Agenda, to include an LTC Update from the USC Executive.

MOTION: Call the Question (Main Motion)

DENEZIS/Polster/Carried. (Unanimous)

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the 11 March 2018 Annual General Meeting were passed as presented.

FORMAN/Anthony/Carried. (Unanimous)

9. PRESENTATIONS

10. RECESS

Council Visioning Session

11. FOR ACTION

Governance & Finance Standing Committee:

Motion 1

Motion to Amend Bylaw 2 to Include Special Procedures for USC Conference Rooms

Whereas, USC elections candidates are expected to hold meetings with stakeholders during elections campaign periods;

Whereas, no current space is allocated for these meetings to take place, therefore making the campaign process both inefficient and disorganized for all parties involved; especially in the case of Student Programs Officer election candidates;

Be it resolved that, the following amendments to Bylaw #2 Section 11 be approved by Council (Appendix #1).

MA/Rocchese/Carried. (Unanimous)

Councillor Rocchese spoke in favour of the motion, but noted that there were concerns at the committee meeting about the amount of time and available space that would be taken from other groups and clubs.

QUESTION PERIOD: No questions to note.

DEBATE PERIOD:

The Student Programs officer spoke in favour of the motion, and addressed the concerns relating to the use of conference rooms by the SPO candidates during the SPO campaigning period. Ms. Gabriele noted that during her own campaign, it was difficult to have meetings with Council members.

Councillor Rocchese requested clarification on whether all the SPO candidates would be sharing the one conference room.

The SPO noted that one conference room would be booked and shared between the candidates and the CRO would govern the use of the space.

The Speaker of Council noted to Council that Points of Information do not require the recognition of the Speaker and that resource members may answer points of information without the necessity of deferring speaking rights.

Councillor McCauley -- *withdrawn*

Councillor Barroso requested clarification on the wording of the motion, noting that the motion implies that Council elections could be interpreted as falling under the terms of the motion, and requesting clarification on whether Council member candidates will be permitted to use USC conference rooms as well.

Councillor Rocchese noted that the wording could be limited to just SPO elections.

Vice President Chang noted that the requested amendment was not in the Bylaw amendment.

Councillor Denezis noted that the current amendment refers to elections in general.

The President noted that the spirit of the motion was specifically referring to SPO elections to assist candidates in preparing more thoroughly and eliminate the need for informal meetings and travel.

Councillor McCauley requested clarification on whether the USC Executive had reviewed the usage rates of conference rooms during that period, noting that the Elections Governance Committee also reserves a conference room during that time and conference rooms are often booked during that period.

The President noted that the Executive has reviewed the usage rates and can provide them to Council.

Vice President Chang -- *withdrawn*

Councillor Sun (proxy) noted that an amendment was not necessary.

Councillor Teja noted that is an amendment was necessary, Bylaw 2 (Section 11.9.1.1) could be amended, but he noted that the amendment was not necessary

MOTION: Amendment

Appendix 1

Bylaw 2

11. Rules for Elections, Plebiscites, and Referenda

11.9 On Campus Campaigning

11.9.1 Candidates shall not campaign in the USC Main Offices (including the workspace or office of any Staff, Executive, or volunteer) or Council Chambers, or during any meeting of Council or the Standing Committees of Council regardless of location. This prohibition shall include but not be limited to the display of campaign materials, verbal campaigning, and discussion of campaign logistics.

11.9.1.1 **In the case of the election of the Student Programs Officer**, the USC Main Office shall not be taken to include the USC Conference Rooms. Usage of the USC Conference Rooms for the purpose of campaigning shall not be taken to be a benefit acquired by virtue of office as long as the candidate obtains access to the USC Conference Rooms through the CRO. All access to the USC Conference Rooms for the purpose of campaigning must be obtained through the CRO. The CRO shall be responsible to ensure that candidates' access to USC Conference Rooms is supplied equitably and equally. The EGC may establish, repeal, and amend procedures to manage the allocation and usage of the USC Conference Rooms by candidates.

CHANG/Sun/Carried. (Unanimous)

MOTION: Call the Question (Amendment)

SPEAKER/Carried. (Unanimous)

MOTION: Call the Question (Motion as Amended)

MAIN MOTION: Carried as amended.

Motion 2

Motion to Amend Bylaw 2 to Allow for USC Employees to Work Up Until the Campaign Period

Whereas, any current student who is an Executive, Associate Vice-President, Intern, or Coordinator with the USC who runs to be a candidate in any USC election must take a leave of absence immediately upon submitting their nomination form;

Whereas, this leave of absence during the nomination period is not necessary to allow for a fair election as campaigning may only take place during the campaign period regardless, and enforcing the mandatory leave of absence during the nomination period negatively impacts the USC's ability to function and provide value to students;

Be it resolved that, that the following amendments to Bylaw #2 Section 7 be approved by Council (Appendix #1).

MA/Rocchese/Carried.

Councillor Rocchese spoke in favour of the motion, noting that the Governance & Finance Standing Committee felt that the requirement for Associates and Coordinators to leave their positions during the nomination period was necessary. She noted that the Committee was content with Associates and Coordinators being able to work until the campaign period began.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Councillor Teja requested clarification on whether the Committee had considered the work that Coordinators and Associates put into their platforms and the work that this would entail. He further noted concerns with Associates and Coordinators continuing to work in a capacity with the USC and working on meetings for their campaign concurrently.

Councillor Rocchese noted that the discussion was limited on the motion.

DEBATE PERIOD:

The President spoke in favour of the motion, noting that students rely on their income from USC paid positions and the motion is intended to allow Associates and COordinators the opportunity to work until the campaign period without the necessity for an unpaid leave.

Councillor Teja spoke in favour of the motion, but noted concerns about Associates and Coordinators working at the same time as creating a campaign.

Councillor Barroso requested clarification on whether the Associates and Coordinators are required to leave their roles during the nomination period.

Councillor Forman spoke in favour of the motion, noting that platform consultations take months, and asking a Coordinator or Associate to step down from their income is necessary.

Councillor Sun (proxy) spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Marginean requested clarification on the leave of absence.

Councillor Rocchese noted that currently the leave of absence was not optional.

Councillor Marginean clarified her question, noted that she was

Councillor Rocchese spoke in favour of the motion, noting that Coordinators or Associates may not be able to find a replacement during this time.

The Vice President notes that this would only affect paid USC employees, noting that there would be a conflict of interest if an Associate or Coordinator remained employed while working on a campaign.

Councillor Teja -- *withdrawn*

Councillor Denezis noted that having paid USC staff continue working until the campaign period could be problematic due to the readily available access to the people who could be voting for this persons in an election. He further noted that, while there are provisions around use of a benefit conferred by virtue of an office, that this could still be perceived as staff using access to Council.

Councillor Sun (proxy) noted that Bylaw 2 is specific about the types of meetings candidates may have prior to a campaigning period. He further noted that taking a leave could affect the income these student earn to pay rent or groceries.

Councillor Marginean (POI) is a USC employee is taking a leave, what steps are taken to fill in these gaps?

The President noted that the work is moved to the coordinators or back to the Executive to perform.

Councillor Rocchese notes that the issue of access to Council members is not a benefit of the office, that access is available though meeting attendance.

USC President -- *withdrawn*

MOTION: Call the Question (Main Motion)

SPEAKER/Carried.

MAIN MOTION: Carried as presented.

Student Experience Standing Committee:

Motion 3

Make Kosher and Halal Meals Available on Campus

Whereas, there are currently no kosher or halal meal options available on campus;

Whereas, students with these dietary restrictions are restricted and inconvenienced;

Whereas, student residences have already figured out how to cater to these needs by having meals readily available in the refrigerators;

Be it resolved that, Council task the Executive with investigating the feasibility of offering kosher and halal food options at The Spoke and The Wave that are of comparable quality to non-kosher and halal options, and reporting to the Student Experience Standing Committee with a recommendation on future action at the September meeting.

KAMENETSKY/Denezis/Refer to Committee

MOTION: Call the Question (Refer Motion to Committee)

SPEAKER/Carried. (Unanimous)

Motion 4

Provide Free Feminine Hygiene Products

Whereas, menstrual cycles are an unavoidable and costly expense;

Whereas, self-care items such as condoms are already being provided free of charge;

Be it resolved that, Council task the executive with investigating the feasibility of offering free feminine hygiene products, obtained through either purchase or donation, at Food Support Services, and reporting to the Student Experience Standing Committee with a recommendation on future action at the September meeting;

KAMENETSKY/Deneziss/Refer to Committee

MOTION: Call the Question (Refer Motion to Committee)

SPEAKER/Carried. (Unanimous)

Other:

Motion 5

Motion for the Continued Support of Transgender and Non-Binary Students

Whereas, it is the interest of the USC to promote inclusivity and accessibility on campus;

Whereas, there continues to be a growing understanding of gender identity;

Whereas, transgender and non-binary students continue to be the target of discrimination and systemic oppression;

Whereas, it is in the interest of the USC and the student body to build upon and continue the initiatives of the previous academic year;

Be it resolved that, Council task the 2018/2019 USC Executive with investigating and devising a plan to create additional all gender washrooms on campus and provide an update to Council during the September meeting followed by a cost estimation for the project during the November meeting;

~~**Be it further resolved that**, the USC executive will work with Western administration and necessary provincial stakeholders to create a system which allow students to more efficiently seek out name changes on their official documents;~~

~~**Be it further resolved that**, the USC executive will work with Western administration and necessary provincial stakeholders to remove questions on applications which ask individuals to disclose their gender identity when such information is not necessary or related to the application in question;~~

Be it further resolved that, the Student Programs Officer will work with the necessary campus stakeholders to organize a transgender pride flag raising ceremony, to commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th.

Be it resolved that, council task the 2018/2019 USC Executive with consulting with queer affiliated groups on campus to investigate the feasibility of creating additional all gender washrooms on campus and providing an update to Council during the September meeting;

FORMAN/Anthony/Carried as Amended.

Councillor Forman spoke in favour of the motion, noting that the motion is intended to continue the work from the previous Council term, and improve signage for all-gender washrooms as well as a day of remembrance in November.

Councillor Sun spoke in favour of the motion noting that this motion was created with the consultation of the LGBTQ+ Committee and various student stakeholders.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Councillor Teja noted that the motion provided on the Agenda differed from the motion in the presentation.

DEBATE PERIOD: No debate to note.

MOTION: Call the Question (Main Motion)

SPEAKER/Carried.

Motion 6

Amendments to the 2018 - 2019 USC Council Legislative Calendar

Be it resolved that, Council approve the amendments to the 2018-2019 USC Council Legislative Calendar.

PRATT/Forman/Carried. (Unanimous)

The President spoke in favour of the amendments, noting that the changes were made due to a conflict with the Partners in Higher Education dinner and the OUSA Spring GA.

Councillor Forman spoke in favour of the motion.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Councillor McCauley requested clarification on whether the amendments were in compliance with the SPO election rules in Bylaw 2.

President Pratt -- yes.

DEBATE PERIOD: No debate to note.

MOTION: Call the Question (Main Motion)

SPEAKER/Carried.

MAIN MOTION: Carried as presented.

12. FOR INFORMATION

Executive Reports (45 minutes)

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

The Chair of the USC Board of Directors provided a report to Council on the activities of the Board.

Report from the Chair of the Student Senators (10 minutes)

The Chair of the Western Student Senators provided a report to Council on the activities of the WSS.

Report from Standing Committee Chairs (10 minutes)

a) Governance and Finance Standing Committee:

Councillor Ma addressed Council with an update on the work of the Governance and Finance Standing Committee.

b) Advocacy Standing Committee:

Councillor Teja addressed Council with an update on the work of the Advocacy Standing Committee.

c) Student Experience Standing Committee:

Councillor Denezis addressed Council with an update on the work of the Student Experience Standing Committee.

d) Agenda and Council Operations Standing Committee:

The Speaker of Council addressed Council with an update on the work of the Agenda and Council Operations Standing Committee.

13. FOR DISCUSSION

LTC UPDATE:

The USC Executive and Council members discussed concerns related to the construction on Western Road and concerns relating to accessibility during the project. Councillors notes that the students frequently walked across the active construction site to access housing, and a lack of bussing was a concern for incoming students.

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. TERMINATION

The Speaker sought a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03
ADAIR/Vezina/Carried. (Unanimous)