

We are changing how the USC minutes are done!

Council meeting minutes will no longer be recorded word for word but rather they will summarize the important action items during the meetings (motions and amendments carried or failed). The new format will allow for the most important details to be found easily.

As always, Council meetings are video recorded in full and can be viewed on YouTube at any time.

****Motions 5 and 7 in these minutes follow the new format while all the other motions have been completed in the old format.****

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the 2018/2019 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on 28 November 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 7:06 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. 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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to remove the Community Standards Policy from the consent agenda. Motion approved.

Motion to move second consent action (Motion to amend Bylaw 1) to the for action section. Motion approved.

Motion to adding presentation to agenda. Motion approved.

Motion to move Motion 5 (referendum) up to Motion 1. Motion approved.

Motion to change Q & A portion for Health plan from 5 minutes to 15 minutes. Motion approved.

QUESTION PERIOD: No questions to note.

DEBATE PERIOD: No debate to note.

MOTION: Call the Question (Amendment to the Agenda)

SPEAKER/Carried. (Unanimous)



9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the 31 October 2018 meeting were passed as presented.

Carried. (Unanimous)

12. PRESENTATIONS

- i. Student Health Plan (15 minutes, 15 minute Q&A) – Representatives from PBAS
- ii. Empowering All Students to Thrive (15 minutes, 5 minute Q&A) – J. Massey, AVP, Student Experience
- iii. Teaching Quality at Western Paper Presentation (10 minutes, 5 minute Q&A) – D. Chang, USC Vice-President

13. FOR ACTION

Motion 6 (1:04:26)

Motion calling for referenda concerning the Health and Dental Plan fee

Be it resolved, that the 2018-2019 USC Council ratify the referendum be presented to students for vote.

BALDWIN/Stebbing

Carried. (73%/24%/2%)

QUESTION PERIOD:

Will we give education pieces to students? Campus Trust might run as an interest party to educate students. Other information will be provided in the campaign.

What is result on a no-vote? Following a no-vote, would likely increase it by a percentage deemed reasonable, and decide how we want to remodel out health plan (i.e. deductible).

Where did the 9% come from? Through consultation, presented with 9% over 2 years, or 7% over 3 years. Means we deplete reserves substantially less.

DEBATE PERIOD:

Councillor speaks against motion. States huge lack of communication regarding where money goes. Asked for fee review, has yet to receive the information.

Proxy for Chang moves to amend motion: go to 7% cap.

Councillor speaks in favour of the motion. States that 9% is a cap, and students can use their discretion.

Councillor asks to table the motion. Motion does not pass.

Councillor states that there have been cuts to services, and after being part of a committee, she still does not have clear picture of options, believes it should not be presented to students to vote on, without giving them a clear picture.

Councillor speaks in favour of motion. Wants to bring question to students, but also wants to advocate to getting more financial information and providing more information to students prior to vote.

USC president speaks in favour of motion. Believes in transparency to students. Run positive information about what is in plan, and that it is opt-outable. Letting students choose whether they want to keep services the same, or change fee.

Councillor clarifies that question does not mandate 9% increase, it gives a mandate to make increases if necessary.

Councillor speaks to 2-week campaign period as the time to educate students and bring them information at that time.

Councillor speaks in favour of motion. Concern stems from even that referendum is decreased, would an increase happen in some way? It seems that an increase is inevitable, so the concern is opening it up to students' voices, and if they decline the increase, the increase happens anyways.

Communications officers clarifies that fees can increase 5% regardless.

Amendment: Call the Question

Carried. (Unanimous)

Motion 1 (1:30:59)

Standing Resolutions of Council: Resource Members

Be it resolved that Council approve the amendments to the Standing Resolutions of Council pertaining to Resource Members **Appendix 5**.

WATSON/Stebbing

Carried. (90%/3%/8%)

Motion 2 (1:32:11)

Bylaw 2 Amendment: Balloting for the Student Programs Officer Election

Be it resolved, Section 17.5.2 of Bylaw 2, "Voting shall take place by special ballot, with results becoming available upon request ten (10) days after the winner has been named" be amended to read:

"Voting shall take place by special ballot, with results accessible to the public within (10) days after the winner has been named. Results that are released shall not include the names of electors but will instead include a blind identifier corresponding to each elector only available to that same elector for release at their discretion."

BALDWIN/McCauley

Carried. (95%/5%/0%)

Motion 3 (1:35:14)

Motion to authorize voting members of Council as proxies.

Be it resolved that, Council ratify that authorizes members of council as proxies.

SAWYER/Hucal

Carried. (57%/40%/2%)

QUESTION PERIOD:

Councillor asked how it applies to AGM with overlapping votes. Answered: People at AGM can hold 4 votes, on behalf of 2 people.

Councillor asked if proxy has to vote with person's wishes, why does it matter if from different faculty? Answered: can be issues of conflict, ensures that voters represent the faculty students. Issue is new business that comes up, and proxy is not legally bound to vote a certain way.

Councillor asked why it isn't easier to amend the proxy form to get anyone within your faculty only, versus double votes? Answered: limiting external students from being proxies.

DEBATE PERIOD:

Against motion: emphasize potential power dynamic of having 2 votes. Recalls 2 past motions that died because of one vote; noting that those individuals had a lot of power in those moments. Also notes that some members have only one representative.

Against motion: echo previous statements; believes 2 votes goes against equality that council is built upon. Notes that social science does not vote the same way; has a very diverse population. Believes this motion would close doors, because others would go to other committees, rather than approach new people to become involved.

In favour of motion: limiting sentiments to faculty is not best option, but notes that one councillor could not find someone to be a proxy for this meeting. Believes further motions should be put into place to address exclusivity of the council.

Against motion: prefers someone from outside the council keeps the debate more diverse.

In favour of motion: not required to select a proxy; can just send regrets. The idea is not to limit debate or opinion or who you select; it meant to give more choice about attending another event. Gives a couple more people to rely on, who can adequately represent what you want.

In favour of motion: this is to maintain status quo. Thinks it is a fairly straight forward yes vote.

In favour of motion: in bad faith to think there will be a power struggle. Thinks it allows more options for someone to find a proxy.

Against motion: think it is idealistic to think that someone will choose an external person, rather than another councillor. Because most motions pass with 90%, does not mean that all motions pass with 90%. One vote can be crucial to deciding what happens with a motion.

For motion: Issue of 2 votes for 2 person is a principled stance. Look at it logistically from perspective of students who have things come up, propose to take a pragmatic stance and give yourselves more flexibility. Will benefit some faculties and individuals more than others, but does not hurt anyone. Issue of power struggle: is unfair to assume the worst in people. Understand there are some really close votes. Regardless of whether all faculties vote the same, provides a mechanism to ensure proxy will vote aligned with same constituencies. Exclusivity of proxy policy: not a means to increase student engagement; is a byproduct. Motion should be used to increase accommodations and flexibility for councillors.

Against motion: don't think this has been a recurring issue because there is a large population to secure a proxy. Does not think it is fair for someone to have 2 votes.

For motion: would be in favour of deferring vote to a fellow faculty councillor.

MOTION: Call the Question

Carried. (Unanimous)

Motion 2 (Removed From Consent Agenda) (2:34:35)

Motion for Amendment to Bylaw 1.

Be it resolved that, the following amendments to Bylaw #1 be approved by Council, per the attached **Appendix 4.**

FERNANDES/Watson

Carried. (90%/2%/7%)

QUESTION PERIOD:

Councillor asked if there is an upper limit to council, or a different limit (number 46 crossed off). Answered: in tandem to upcoming changes; without upper limit as it is now.

Councillor asked for clarification of what the motion is. Answered: purpose of this is to let it work with new model with representation.

Councillor asked how often it will be reviewed. Answered: every year.

Councillor asked if medicine is only MD students. Answered: Can amend chart.

DEBATE PERIOD: No debate to note.

Motion 5 (2:43:36)

Motion to Amend the Council Composition Procedure

Be it resolved that, that the following amendments to the Council Procedure be approved by Council (**Appendix 7**).

STEBBING/Ma

Carried. (95%/2%/2%)

QUESTION PERIOD: No questions to note.

DEBATE PERIOD: Appendix was changed to reflect November 1st 2017 faculty numbers.

Updated Appendix: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kuiZ3TWts8ZqUiofawLCBvqCy5KHRmP/view?usp=sharing>

Motion 7 (3:06:10)

Motion to Address Anti Semitism on Campus

Whereas, antisemitism persist on university campuses and in Canadian society as a whole;

Whereas, the USC currently has no programming to commemorate and provide education relating to the Holocaust;

Whereas, Jewish people were the most targeted group for reported hate crimes in Canada in 2016, the most recent year in which statistics are available; (Appendix 8)

Whereas, there was an incident regarding antisemitic vandalism committed in a residence elevator on the Western campus last year; (Appendix 9)

Be it resolved, that the University Students' Council (USC) officially adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism within the USC's Community Standards Policy as a means of addressing and combating anti-Jewish hate; (Appendix 10-11)

Be it further resolved, that the USC work in tandem with campus stakeholders to develop programming for International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27th) on a weekday;

Be it further resolved, that the USC establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the USC and Western Hillel to provide Jewish centred programming, specifically related to bringing awareness to antisemitism.

FORMAN/O'Connor

Carried. (Unanimously)

14. 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 Western Student Senators.

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.

15. FOR DISCUSSION

None

16. NEW BUSINESS

None

17. TERMINATION

The Speaker sought a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Carried. (Unanimously)