



3rd MEETING OF COUNCIL 2021/2022

25 August 2021

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** 7:03 (10:13 on the recording)
2. **Land Recognition**
3. **O Canada**
4. **Western Song**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Comments from the Chair**
7. **Approval of Agenda** (Fakirani/Biswurm/passes)
 - a. Fakirani: add presentation re: COVID after Office of Ombudsperson (5 mins)
8. **Approval of Minutes** (Chen/Miller/passes)
[20210718_\(Minutes\) Meeting of Council 2](#)
9. **Presentations (22:17)**
 - a. Office of the Ombudsperson (10 minutes)-*J. Meister, Office of the Ombudsperson*
 - i. Motion to extend (5 mins): Biswurm/Xu
 - b. ADDED: COVID Changes (5 minutes)-Z. Fakirani, USC President
 - i. Motion to extend (5 mins): Adnan/Biswurm
10. **For Action**

Motion 1 (56:51)

Election of Councillors to Transparency Working Group

Whereas the Council authorized the Transparency Working Group, its membership should be chosen

Be it resolved that the Council appoint 3 councillors and 4 students at large to sit on the Transparency Working Group

CHEN/Dusick/passes (unanimous)

Chen (self)-elected

Tu nominates Dusick (accepts)-elected

Biswurm (self)-elected

Motion 2 (1:11:02)

Election of Councillors and Students at Large to Anti-Racism Working Group

Be it resolved that Council elect Councillors ____, ____, ____, ____, and ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, as Students-at-Large to the Anti-Racism working group.



MILANCZAK/Tu/passes (97%/0/3%)

Nominated:

Milanczak (self)
Dusick nominates Tu (accepts)
Adnan (self)
Xu (self)
Miller (self)
Tsang (self)

Elected

Milanczak
Tu
Adnan
Miller
Xu

Ramon Brown
Tasnia Rahman
Khaled Azzam
Mudia Iyayi
Peach Li

Recess (Biswurm/Xu): 20 minutes

Motion 3 (2:49:31)

Motion to Elect Councillors to University Affairs Mental Health Roundtable

Whereas the University Affairs Portfolio facilitates a Mental Health Roundtable each year to consolidate knowledge about the current state of mental health resources on campus and to identify gaps in service that should be addressed by the Vice President University Affairs;

Whereas the membership for the Mental Health Roundtable calls for two USC Councillors to be elected to this body;

Be it resolved that Council elect two (2) Councillors to the University Affairs Portfolio's Mental Health Roundtable.

FAKIRANI/Ghattas/passes (unanimous)



Nominated

Councillor Adnan -
Councillor Xu -
Councillor Magder -
Councillor Gattas -
Councillor Tu -
Councillor Clark -
President Jarman -

Elected

Magder
Jarman

Motion 4 (3:08:45)

Election of Councillors to Anti-Sexual and Gender Based Violence Working Group

Be it resolved that Council elect ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, to the Anti-Sexual Gender Based Violence working group.

BAJAJ/Thompson/passes (unanimous)

Nominated:

Thompson nominates Bajaj, accepted, elected.
Councillor Clark - Self nominated, elected.
Jarman nominates Bradley, accepted, elected.
Lee nominates Thompson, accepted,
Bajaj nominates Xu, accepted, elected.
Councillor Adnan - Self nominated, elected.
Councillor Gattas - Self nominated, elected.
Councillor Tu - Self nominated,
Councillor Tsang - Self nominated,

Elected

Bajaj
Bradley
Adnan
Clark
Xu
Ghattas



Motion 5 (3:27:57)

Executive Reports

Be it resolved that Council accept the executive reports for August 2021.

FAKIRANI/Xu/passes (unanimous)

Recess (Lee/Biswurm): 20 minutes

Motion 6 (4:16:42)

By-law 2 Amendments

Whereas elections at the USC are one of the most important functions our democracy;

Whereas By-Law #2 is a highly complex and lengthy document;

Whereas the USC has received feedback that this makes By-Law #2, and thereby USC elections, inaccessible to many students-at-large;

Be it resolved that Council approve the recommended amendments to By-Law #2.

FAKIRANI/Ghattas/passes (unanimous)

Motion 7 (4:29:04)

Motion to Amend the Legislative Calendar

Whereas Council meetings can often exceed a reasonable length of time for one sitting;

Whereas Councillors have expressed that the length of Council meetings materially reduces their ability to engage;

Whereas the current transition timeline of outgoing and incoming Executives leaves a gap of accountability;

Be it resolved that the Legislative Calendar is amended to reflect a two-reading model with two meetings of Council per month;

~~**Be it further resolved that** the AGM be moved to May in the Legislative Calendar.~~

FAKIRANI/Chasmar/passes (47%/45%/8%)



Amendment: Fakirani/Xu/passes

Vote on the BIRT clauses separately, move the second BIRT to Motion 7.2

Motion 7.2 (5:12:58)

Be it further resolved that the AGM be moved to May in the Legislative Calendar.

FAKIRANI/Xu/passes (unanimous)

Motion 8 (5:14:15)

Virtual Conferencing for Councillors on Placements

Whereas COVID-19 revealed accessibility issues precluding Councillors with out-of-city CEL opportunities and placements from attending Council meetings;

Whereas being on placement as an undergraduate student is a highly valuable experience;

Whereas the USC believes strongly in student development, inside and outside of the classroom as well as on and off campus;

Whereas the barrier of mandatory in person Council meetings should not be present for those students on such a placement;

Be it resolved that council allows Councillors with out-of-city CEL and placement opportunities the option to teleconference in to Council meetings;

Be it further resolved that councillors are required to provide notice of their physical absence to the Speaker of Council no less than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting in question.

FAKIRANI/Ghattas/passes (97%/0/3%)

Motion 9 (5:32:59)

OUSA Policy and Procedure Amendments



Whereas student authors deserve the opportunity to receive delegate status at the General Assembly in which the paper they author is being debated;

Whereas the USC's current Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Policy and Procedure is not up to date with current practices;

Be it resolved that the USC adopt the proposed amendments to the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Policy and Procedure

FAKIRANI/Ghattas/passes (94%/0/6%)

Due to time constraints, skipped to Motion 11

Motion 11 (5:46:43)

Encouraging COVID-19 Vaccination

Whereas safety should be the priority when returning to in-person study.

Whereas several outbreaks occurred in the student community in the past year [1].

Whereas returning to in person gatherings makes COVID-19 a growing concern in the coming academic year.

Whereas unvaccinated people are more likely to catch and spread COVID-19.

Whereas we are at risk of a "pandemic of the vaccinated". Almost 90 % of covid-19 cases in Canada since December were among those who were unvaccinated. In the US, more than 99 % of Covid-19 deaths and 97 % of hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals [2].

Whereas vaccines protect all from COVID-19, especially those most at risk, particularly the elderly and immunocompromised people [3].

Whereas there is clear evidence that COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and one of the best ways to protect against COVID-19.

Whereas vaccine uptake remains relatively low among university age students (57.5 % for 18 - 29 year olds, the lowest among any adult age group) [4].

Whereas students are concerned about and seek assurance of their safety when returning to campus.

Whereas other educational institutions and community groups have recognized that COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to protect the community. The top 25 Universities in the US have instituted vaccine mandates [5].



Whereas the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association has advocated for vaccines to be mandatory to all incoming students [6].

Whereas the actions of Western students have an impact that extends to the broader community, which includes university professors, staff, TAs, and residents of London.

Whereas the university has mandated vaccinations for all students

~~**Be it resolved that the USC endorses Western's plan to mandate vaccination for students, and its testing options.**~~

Be it resolved that Council advocate for vaccine mandates.

Be it further resolved that the USC advocate for vaccine requirements inclusive of international students and students who have valid medical reasons for not being able to be vaccinated

Be it further resolved that the USC advocate for increased vaccine uptake and outreach for students and marginalized groups who may not be able to conveniently access vaccines

Be it further resolved that the USC advocate for outreach to get international students who have not been vaccinated in their home country, to get vaccinated at Western

Be it further resolved that the USC supports the on-campus vaccination program, testing site and supports easily accessible testing and vaccination for all students.

CHEN/Adnan/passes as amended (94%/3%/3%)

Amendment: Fakirani/Biswurm/passes

Strike "Be it resolved that the USC endorses Western's plan to mandate vaccination for students, and its testing options."

Adnan/Chen/passes

Be it resolved that the USC advocate for vaccine mandates.

Meeting recessed at 1:17 AM to reconvene Wednesday, September 1st at 7:00 PM

Meeting resumes 2021/09/01 at 7:04 PM

Motion to Reconsider (Part II, 00:00:00)

(ADDED-Appendix N)

Whereas the motion to amend the Legislative Calendar passed by one vote;



Whereas new information has been made available that could materially impact a given Councillor's stance on the previously passed motion to amend the Legislative Calendar;

Be it resolved that Council reconsider Motion 7: Motion to Amend the Legislative Calendar.

FAKIRANI/Adnan/passes (91%/9%/0)

Motion 7 (Part II, 6:46)

Motion to Amend the Legislative Calendar

Whereas Council meetings can often exceed a reasonable length of time for one sitting;

Whereas Councillors have expressed that the length of Council meetings materially reduces their ability to engage;

Whereas the current transition timeline of outgoing and incoming Executives leaves a gap of accountability;

Be it resolved that the Legislative Calendar is amended to reflect a two-reading model with two meetings of Council per month, **beginning with this model in the second semester of the 2021/2022 academic year.**

FAKIRANI/Chasmar/passes as amended (49%/46%/5%)

Amendment:

Fakirani/Xu/passes

Add **"beginning with this model in the second semester of the 2021/2022 academic year;"** to the end of the first BIRT clause

Motion 10 (Part II, 48:38)

Peer Programs Mission Statements



Whereas: the Peer Programs updates all mission statements to improve transparency and accountability, and to better serve the needs of the marginalized student populations that they support across campus.

Whereas: the Peer Programs updates all vision statements to improve transparency and accountability, and to better serve the needs of marginalized student populations that they support across campus.

Whereas: the Peer Programs updates all Instagram biographies to improve transparency and accountability, and to better serve the needs of marginalized student populations that they support across campus.

Be it resolved that Council endorses the amended Peer Programs mission statements.

Be it further resolved that Council endorses the amended Peer Programs vision statements.

Be it further resolved that Council endorses the amended Peer Programs Instagram biographies.

FAKIRANI/Miller/passes (97%/0/3%)

Motion 12 (55:08)

Motion to declare a climate emergency

Whereas undergraduate students have led a call to action for the USC and the university to take climate action;

Whereas the USC shares in the concerns of our student body about the past, present, and future implications of climate change on our communities;

Whereas the USC has a responsibility to advocate for and implement sustainable changes to our operations, services, and university;

Be it resolved that the USC declares a state of "Climate Emergency" that requires urgent action;

Be it further resolved that the USC commits to investigating and implementing the ways in which we, as an organization, can practice sustainability;

Be it further resolved that the President Fakirani and VP External Affairs Oladejo report back on changes made to promote sustainability to Council at the AGM;



Be it further resolved that the President Fakirani and VP External Affairs Oladejo produce a policy paper (with the support of Council and EnviroWestern) on environmental sustainability identifying the ways in which the university, provincial government, and federal government can support climate action on campus no later than the end of the fall term.

Be it further resolved that the USC advocate for the university and the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association to adopt likewise climate emergency declarations.

FAKIRANI/Bilodeau/passes (unanimous)

Voting Record

11. For Information (Part II, 1:03:49)

- I. Board of Directors Chairperson Report
- II. Governance and Finance Standing Committee Report
- III. External Advocacy Standing Committee Report
- IV. University Affairs Standing Committee Report

12. For Discussion (Part II, 1:08:37)

- a. Academic Counselling ([Appendix M](#))-Z. Kotadia, *Vice-President University Affairs*

13. New Business

- 14. Termination:** Xu/Miller/8:23 PM on 2021/09/01 (1:16:54 on the recording)

Appendices



Appendix A

- Transparency Working Group Hiring Motion

Appendix B

- Election of Councillors to Anti-racism working group

Appendix C

- Motion Regarding the Election of Councillors to University Affairs Mental Health Roundtabl...

Appendix D

- Election of Councillors to Gender Based Violence Working Group

Appendix E

- August Executive Updates .pdf

Appendix F

- Motion Regarding By-Law #2 Amendments [August 25, 2021]

Appendix G

- Motion to Amend the Legislative Calendar

Appendix H

- Motion to Allow Councillors with out-of-city CEL Opportunities to conference in permanently

Appendix I

- OUSA Policy Motion

Appendix J

- Motion Regarding the Approval of Peer Programs Mission Statements, Vision Statements,...

Appendix K

- Motion Endorsing Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

Appendix L

- Climate Emergency Motion

Appendix M

- Council Brief- Academic Counselling

Appendix N