



2nd MEETING OF COUNCIL 2022/2023

24 August 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

31 August 2022

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/91451088408>

7:00PM

Meeting ID: 914 5108 8408

Passcode: **391901**

One tap mobile 391901

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1. **Call to Order (7:04pm)**
2. **Land Recognition**
3. **O Canada**
4. **Western Song**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Comments from the Chair**
7. **Approval of Agenda (Mohan/Kermack/passes/unanimous)**
 - a. **ADDED: Presentation from Dr. Mike Silverman at 7:30 (after Motion 1 and before the first reading of Motion 2) (Gardner/Ouslis/passes)**
 - b. **ADDED: Establish the USC's Position on Western's Mask Mandate (Kermack/Ouslis/passes)**
8. **Approval of Minutes (passes/unanimous)**
 - a. **Copy of 20220720_(Minutes) Meeting of Council 1_Parts A and B**
9. **Presentations (00:10:03)**
10. **Board of Directors Report**



11. For Action

Motion 1 (00:10:08 of the August 24, 2022 recording)

Election of Councillors to 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.

GARDNER/Maheshwari/passes/unanimous

Jones (self)

Jung, by Daunt

Adjournment for August 24, 2022 Mohan/Cohen 9:36

Meeting to continue at 7:00pm on August 31, 2022

Reconvene @ 7:08



12. For Action Second Reading (to be heard on August 31, 2022)

Motion 2 (00:06:30 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Executive Reports

Be it resolved that Council accept the executive reports for August 2022.

GARDNER/Mohan/passes/unanimous

Motion 3 (00:07:47 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Motion Regarding Clarification of Working Group Policy

Whereas, working groups within the USC Council have largely been ineffective;

Whereas, working groups within the USC Council have had little structure or expectations;

Whereas, the USC is concerned working groups will continue to be ineffective when they could be contributing valuable research and opinions to the Council;

Be it resolved that, Council approve amendments better outline expectations of working groups;

Be it resolved that, templates and examples are provided for future working groups to better succeed.

GARDNER/Mohan/passes/unanimous

Motion 4 (00:10:00 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Motion Regarding Modernizing the Constituent Council Grants Policy

Whereas, the former Constituent Council Grants Policy was outdated in addressing the bank accounts that the USC holds for each faculty council;



Whereas, the former Constituent Council Grants Policy did not recognize authority nor autonomy of Faculty Councils;

Whereas, Faculty Councils are unclear as to how to access or utilize their funds collected from student fees;

Whereas, Faculty Council leaderships would often need to change and provide personal payment information for recurring payments;

Whereas, the USC is concerned the former Constituent Council Grants Policy was not being followed as it had become too irrelevant to current operations;

Be it resolved that, Council approve amendments that recognize the authority granted to signing authorities of their respective Faculty Council;

Be it resolved that, Council approve amendments that clarify the options available to Faculty Councils in utilizing their bank accounts;

Be it further resolved that, Council approve amendments to allow Faculty Councils to register recurring payments with the USC.

GARDNER/Cohen/passes/unanimous

Motion 5 - ADDED (00:11:18 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Establish USC's Position Regarding Western Masking Mandate

Whereas, Western has announced a continued imposition of medical-grade mask wearing within instructional spaces, starting in September of 2022.

Whereas, students have voiced their overwhelming opposition to this announcement.

Be it resolved that, the USC officially adopt a position of opposition to Western's continued mask mandate policy.

KERMACK/Cohen/fails (38%/56%/6%)



13. For Discussion

14. New Business Gardner/Dart/passes: update on survey

Motion 6 - NEW BUSINESS #1 (00:31:40 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

**The USC adopt a position against Western's
COVID-19 vaccine booster dose mandate**

Whereas, Western University has mandated that students on campus must receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by October 1, 2022, and

Whereas, This requirement was announced on August 22nd, a week after undergraduate tuition payments were due, and

Whereas, Western University is the sole post-secondary institution in Canada to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine booster community-wide, and

Whereas, Students have voiced concerns regarding Western University's booster dose mandate,

Be it resolved, that the USC officially adopt a position against Western's COVID-19 booster dose mandate

MOHAN/Ouslis/fails (45%/55%/0)

Motion to extend for more questions (10 minutes): Dart/Maheshwari/no objections

Amendment:

Chauhan/Maheshwari/fails

Change the BIRT clause to the following:

"Be it resolved that the USC officially pursue Western's COVID-19 booster dose mandate timeline"



Motion 7 - NEW BUSINESS #2 (01:10:00 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

**Pertaining to transparency and communication by Western administration,
and to Western's COVID-19 Policy**

Whereas, there has been consistent feedback from multiple constituencies that the Western COVID-19 policy announcement was late and without warning.

Whereas, Western's COVID-19 policy announcement has harmed students' mental health and jeopardized their trust in Western administration.

Whereas, students have reported feeling ill-informed as to why the mandates have been introduced as Western administration has not provided sufficient information explaining their consultations, the scientific evidence that supports their decision, and how they ultimately came to their decision.

Whereas, the USC has an obligation to support students and keep them sufficiently informed about Western-related events, policies and initiatives.

Whereas, according to Western's COVID-19 policy, students moving into residence will be given a two-week grace period to become fully vaccinated (3 doses, as outlined by Western).

Be it resolved, that the USC releases a statement outlining why the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is necessary, given the direction of health experts, such as Dr. Mike Silverman.

Be it resolved, that the USC advocates for clearer and more transparent communication from Western administration about this and other policy decisions that impact the student population at large.

Be it further resolved, that the USC releases a statement highlighting/condemning the lack of transparency and consideration that Western administration put into this policy decision.

Be it resolved, that the USC advocates for student leaders being consulted in some capacity when Western makes policy decisions in the future, especially ones that affect the student population at large.

Be it resolved, that the USC encourages Western administration to provide clear parameters for students with exceptions/exemptions, and make necessary and sufficient accommodations for them.



Be it resolved, that the USC releases a statement that encourages Western administration to extend the grace period to 30 days from the day the policy was released. This would mean that students in residence would have until Wednesday, September 21, 2022 in order to obtain full vaccination status (3 doses, as outlined by Western)

TURNER/Mohan/passes (unanimous)

Motion to extend question period: Kitamisi/Turner/passes with no objections

Motion 8 - NEW BUSINESS #3 (01:37:15 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Add a presentation from VPEA Look

Gardner/Mohan/passes

Motion 9 - NEW BUSINESS #4 (01:39:15 of the August 31, 2022 recording)

Add a presentation from VPUA Jarman

Gardner/Mohan/passes

15. Termination 8:47 Kermack/Mohan/no objections

[Voting Record](#)



Appendices

Appendix A

- ☰ Motion Regarding the Election of Councillors to University Affairs Mental Health Roundtable

Appendix B

- ☰ Executive Updates - Council August 22-23

Appendix C

- ☰ Motion Regarding Clarification of Working Group Policy

Appendix D

- ☰ Modernizing the Constituent Council Grants Policy