



i#5 MEETING OF COUNCIL 2023/2024

TIME:

Wednesday
November 22, 2023
7:00PM

Wednesday
November 29, 2023

PLACE:

Community Room

ZOOM INFO FOR OBSERVERS:

Isabella DiMenna is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: November Part 1

Time: Nov 22, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/96725571699>

Meeting ID: 967 2557 1699

Passcode: 128268

Topic: USC November Meeting Part 2

Time: Nov 29, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/91022956043>

Meeting ID: 910 2295 6043

Passcode: 783768

Echo360: Nov2023

1. **Call to Order (07:03pm)**
2. **Land Recognition**
3. **Western Song**
4. **Roll Call**
5. **Approval of Agenda** Haug/Salofsky/passes
 - a. ADDED: Liakakos/MacDonald/no objections- [SRA Policy Stance](#)
6. **Approval of Minutes** Liakakos/Ouslis/passes
 - a. [20231025_\(Minutes\) Meeting of Council](#)
7. **Comments from the Chair**
8. **Announcements**
9. **Presentations**



- a. CASA (20 minutes)-*E. Poirier, Vice-President External Affairs*
- b. Interfraternity & Panhellenic Council Relations (20 minutes)-*Ouslis, S., Eckenswiller, E., Walker, M., and Zolf, E.*

10. Board of Directors Report

11. For Action

Motion 1 (00:00:00 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix A](#)

Selection of Councillor for the Board of Directors Hiring Committee

Be it resolved that Council elect one Councillor to sit on the Board of Directors Nominating Committee.

AJAK/Ghattas/passes/unanimous

Nominations

Ouslis nominates Kermack, declines

Salofsky nominates Liakakos, accepts

Second Reading (November 29, 2023)

Reconvene at 7:04

12. For Action

Motion 2 (00:00:05 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix B](#)

Executive Reports

Be it resolved that Council accept the executive reports for November 2023.

AJAK/Haug/passes/unanimous



Motion 3 (00:01:45 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix C](#)

CASA Referendum Question

Whereas, federal advocacy remains an important part of the USC's advocacy strategy.

Whereas, membership in a strong federal advocacy organization facilitates that strategy.

Whereas, the CASA report as written by the VP External Affairs recommends that the USC join CASA.

BIRT the USC council approve the following referendum question:

Should the USC join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations at the cost of \$2.44 per full-time student, subject to an annual increase by CPI?

BIFRT the USC take the affirmative side and run a campaign on the affirmative.

AJAK/Bobkowicz/passes

Motion 4 (00:20:38 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix D](#)

Motion to Establish Student Rental Experience Working Group (SREWG)

Whereas, Canada is in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis, which has prompted the USC to explore ways to improve the student housing experience at Western

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of upper-year students at Western rent off-campus housing

Whereas, a group of Ivey students, under the name of the "Student Rental Experience Project" (SREP) desires to collaborate with the USC in the form of a Working Group in order to help facilitate tenants' rights education and protection for student renters



BIRT Council create a Student Rental Experience Working Group (SRWEG) and approve its Terms of Reference as attached, with the purpose of “identifying challenges students experience while renting housing and developing solutions to combat those challenges”

WANG/Haug/passes (unanimous)

Motion 5 (00:22:15 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix E](#)

Faculty Councils Account Policy

Whereas Council requested a one-year review period when approving this policy in 2022, and

Whereas amendments have been made to align the policy with the current Executive structure,

BIRT Council approves the amended Faculty Council Accounts policy.

AJAK/Ratanshi/passes/unanimous

Motion 6 (00:23:05 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix F](#)

Interfraternity & Panhellenic Council Relations

Whereas, Fraternity and Sorority organizations represent over 1,000 undergraduate students on Western campus and are not being represented as a student group by the USC; and,

Whereas, the USC wishes to adopt an approach of restorative justice in its relationship with fraternities; and,



Whereas, both the Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council have expressed an interest in re-integrating into the USC Community; and,

Whereas, both Councils have provided written commitments to actively engage in anti-gender based violence education, as well as their policies and processes for addressing gender based violence should it occur;

Be it resolved, that the USC advocates to Student Experience for a partnership between IFC and Western that will see the development and delivery of ASGBV and anti-hazing training;

Be it further resolved that, upon completion of this training, IFC and Panhel will be provided with access to USC spaces for chapter meetings, philanthropy/charity and recruitment events

Be it further resolved that, the USC commits to ongoing dialogue with both Councils

AJAK/Ghattas/fails

Councilor Ouslis declared a conflict of interest, no longer able to second
Speaker took a seconder from the floor (Councillor Ghattas)

Amendment: Jan/Ding/fails 7/28/2

Be it resolved that to keep fraternities and sororities accountable, a working group will be formed consisting of 1 elected councillor, 1 board of director, USC President, VP UA, and 3 general students who will review individual applications and determine if the privileges in question should be granted, such as access to USC spaces for chapter meetings, philanthropy, and recruitment events. These applications will be written individually rather than under one umbrella applications for all fraternities and sororities.

Be it resolved that fraternities and sororities would have to submit an end of semester report outlining how they fulfilled the commitments that have previously been proposed. The same committee would be used to assess these reports and evaluate whether the fraternities and sororities will continue on with their privileges.



Motion 7 (01:28:56 of the November 29, 2023 recording) - [Appendix G](#)

Approval of the Student Mental Health Policy Paper

Whereas The USC policy paper renewal cycle on the mental health paper is 2023-2024 term;

Whereas advocating for students within the mental health world needs to be a priority for the USC;

Be it resolved that The USC approves the new Student Mental Health Policy Paper.

AJAK/Tellez Jimenz/passes (unanimous)

Amendment to the policy paper: Sahni/Liakakos/passes (unanimous)

Add in to MH Paper under Provisions of Service:

Dedicated Varsity Sports Mental Health Specialist(s)

Varsity athletes add much to Western's culture and are a source of pride. Their dedication to sporting excellence should be reciprocated with access to dedicated mental health supports that will allow them to thrive personally and excel at their peak performance levels. Athletes are expected to maintain high academic standards while trying to balance grueling practice and game schedules, frequent travel and injuries. Their demanding schedule makes accessing counsellors through Western's Wellness and Well-being site even more challenging. Western's coaches and assistant coaches are required to take a 45 minute training session on mental health^[1] which is inadequate to address the varying needs of diverse athletes. The majority of universities across Canada have recognized the additional challenges that athletes face and many have already included mental health coaches and dedicated specialists to their athletic teams. Many have also implemented SAMHI Campus Teams^[2] (Student Athlete Mental Health Initiatives) to promote positive mental health in sport.

Recommendation: Western University should hire dedicated mental health specialists to service student athletes.

Recommendation: Western University should establish a chapter of SAMHI to promote mental health and well being among varsity level athletes.



Motion 8 ADDED (01:34:20 of the November 29, 2023 recording)

**Approval of Building a Coalition of On-Campus Actors to
Develop a Short-term Self-Reported Absence (SRA)**

Whereas SRA pilot policy expired as of August 31, 2022

Whereas students found SRA to be beneficial to their academic experience

Whereas other U6 and U15 schools have adopted a similar academic consideration policy

Be it resolved that the Vice President University Affairs build a coalition of on-campus actors to develop a short-term self-reported absence process that Western University can adopt.

LIAKAKOS/Sasu/passes (unanimous)

13. For Information

14. For Discussion

a. LTC Negotiations-*E. Poirier, Vice-President External Affairs*

i. *Motion to postpone to January: Tellez Jimenez/MacDonald/passes*

15. Questions and Comments from Western Community

16. New Business

17. Termination Salofsky/Haug/no objections

[Voting Records](#)



Appendices

Appendix A

[Copy of 20231122_Selection of Councillor for the Board of Directors Hiring Committee](#)

Appendix B

[EXECUTIVE REPORTS](#)

Appendix C

[Copy of CASA Referendum Question Motion](#)

Appendix D

[Copy of 2023.11.07 - DRAFT Motion to Establish Student Rental Experience Working Group](#)

Appendix E

[20231106_Faculty Council Accounts Policy](#)

Appendix F

[Copy of 2023.10.25 Motion - Interfraternity & Panhellenic Council](#)

CORRECT APPENDIX: [Copy of 2023.10.25 Motion - Interfraternity & Panhellenic Council](#)

Appendix G

[Copy of Motion to Approve Mental Health Policy Paper](#)