



UWSA Board of Directors
Date: Thursday, March 7th, 2017
Time of Meeting: 5:30 p.m.
Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

AGENDA AS PROPOSED

Directors/Senators: Ahmed Khalifa, Chase Tribble, Makram Al-Matary, Ronald (R.J.) D'Aguilar, Waseem Abunnadi, Israa El-Sabbagh, Justin Bueayong, Andres Curbelo-Novoa, Jeremiah Bowers, Shawn Kingsbury, Katy Webb, Liam Adams, Hagar Elsayed, Bethany Russell, Anthony Dalla Bona, Abdul Abu Libda, Dayana Hassoun, Ghadeer Alghosein, Youshaa El-Abed, Ayub Khan, Amber Shaheen, Mazen Saadi

Matthew Dunlop, Vuk Zubic, Moussa Hamadani, Daniel Popaj, Khushboo Ahuja, Nicole Morrell

Absent: Justin Binkley, Yasin Avci, Shahan Mahmood

- 1.0 Call to Order – 5.35 PM**
- 2.0 Chair's Business**
 - 2.1 Teleconference**
- 3.0 Approval of the Agenda**
- 4.0 Presentations**
 - 4.1 Elections**
- 5.0 Reports**
- 6.0 Unfinished Business**
- 7.0 Proposals/Posted Motions**

7.1 WHEREAS the UWSA 2017 General Election took place on February 15th and 16th, 2017;

WHEREAS the official results were released at the March 2nd Board meeting by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and;

WHEREAS there were discrepancies noted in the process aspects of the

UWSA 2017 General Election;

BIRT the UWSA Board of Directors obtain independent legal counsel to work in cooperation with the UWSA Elections Committee and the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), to investigate the decisions and processes of the 2017 General Election, to be sought and hired by the General Manager.

BIFRT a public statement be issued by the General Manager in consultation with the Governance and Policy Committee (GPC) to the Members of the UWSA regarding the Board's decision.

BIFRT a final binding report on the conclusions of the investigation and the decisions therein be provided to the UWSA Board of Directors. **(PASSED)**

7.2 BIRT the motion adopted at the March 2, 2017 regarding the UWSA General Election be rescinded **(PASSED)**

7.3 BIRT _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ be appointed to the hiring committee for the UWSA Services coordinators

8.0 New Business

9.0 Question Period

10.0 Adjournment



MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM.

2.0 Chair's Business

2.1 Israa was taken on teleconference as requested

3.0 Approval of Agenda

3.1 BIRT the agenda of today be approved.

Moved: Amber

Seconded: Makram, Liam

(All in favour)

PASSED

4.0 Presentations to the Board

4.1 Governance and Policy Committee (GPC) did a presentation in which they addressed certain queries they had with respect to the motion passed on March 2, 2017. They also presented a new motion, as a recommendation, so that no By-Laws are violated.

5.0 Reports

6.0 Unfinished Business

7.0 Proposals/Posted Motions

7.1 WHEREAS the UWSA 2017 General Election took place on February 15th and 16th, 2017;

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WHEREAS there were discrepancies noted in the process aspects of the UWSA 2017 General Election;

BIRT the UWSA Board of Directors obtain independent legal counsel to work in cooperation with the UWSA Elections Committee and the CRO, to investigate the decisions and processes of the 2017 General Election, to be sought and hired by the General Manager.

BIFRT a public statement be issued by the General Manager in consultation with the Governance and Policy Committee (GPC) to the Members of the

UWSA regarding the Board's decision.

BIFRT a final binding report on the conclusions of the investigation and the decisions therein be provided to the UWSA Board of Directors.

Moved: Shawn
(All in favour)

Seconded: Makram
PASSED

Discussion:

The meeting started with the General Manager (GM) addressing the Board. GM received queries from students post the meeting, held on March 2, 2017, regarding what exactly the motion, which was passed by the Board, meant and what was the process of implementation of the same. Therefore, GM along with GPC wanted to address some questions regarding the motion. GPC and GM realized that certain parts of the motion passed were not enforceable. Hence, they presented their recommendations to the Board to amend the motion so that it can be enforceable. Also, they wanted to present to the Board the Public Statement which they had put together. Public statement needs to be issued to the UWSA members regarding the decisions taken in the Board Meeting about UWSA General Election 2017.

GPC presented the recommendations to the Board. As per the initial motion, the findings of the external legal team will be brought to the Board. This implied that the findings by the legal team is not binding and Board of Directors get the authority to decide for themselves, which does not seem correct as per the By-Laws. The two-options available to the Board are; one they let the legal advisor work in coordination with the Election Committee (EC) and CRO and let EC give their final decision on the investigation or second, work outside UWSA i.e. approach the Province of Ontario post the investigation. Board cannot be directly involved with the elections as per the By-Laws.

GPC got in touch with the non-voting member of EC. He was not able to give an official statement as he was travelling out of country for some personal reasons. He gave his confidence in EC and their decisions.

GPC and few Board members had certain concerns about the old motion. First one was to clarify that the investigation was not to place the blame on one body but to correct the processes with team work. Also, findings coming back to the Board will set a dangerous precedent. It would imply that the Board has power to decide on its own election results. It would also be violation of the By-Laws; as per them Board is not to be involved with the Election Process and EC has a final say for the same. Hence the findings of the legal team will be with EC and the same will be presented to the Board along with the decision taken by the EC post the investigation.

Few Board members questioned about the involvement of EC in the investigation as the part enquiry was to see if EC had followed all processes and if decisions taken by them were correct. GPC responded saying that the By-Laws give EC the right to make the final call with respect to the General Elections. Also, since the investigation was about the election process EC and CRO will be the only two parties who will be able to guide the investigation team in the process. Board noted that there would be a conflict of interest in this scenario and hence requested if the legal findings were presented to the Board before EC takes a final call on the same. The intention to do so was to point out any discrepancy or bias, if any, done by EC in taking the final call on the issue. It was agreed by all present and the same was mentioned in the motion too. As per the motion at hand, the finding of the legal investigation team and the decision taken on these finding by the EC will be presented to the Board. If the Board is not satisfied with the final decision taken by EC post the investigation, then they can approach the Province of Ontario to challenge EC's decision, but currently as per the By-Laws EC has complete authority to make the final decision.

Amber questioned the time frame of the investigation to which the GM replied that once we have the legal investigators on board we can check with them on their guess about the time frame. GM recommended one Law Firm from London. No one from UWSA has ever worked with this law firm before and since the firm is from a different city this minimises the queries about the investigating team being biased. Budget wise this law firm looks to be affordable, but since all law firms charge on per hour basis the budget depends on how long the investigation takes place. To have a further control on the budget, GM said that she can request the law firm to let an articulating student work with the lawyer as they cost less. The Board advised that if that happens, GM should be cautious about the part that the articulating student have no affiliation with the bodies investigated whatsoever.

The motion was moved by Shawn and seconded by Makram. The motion was passed by all in favour. The public statement, which is to be issued to all UWSA members, was read out loud by the GPC for Board to refer. The public statement was read for information and not for the Board to approve. The speaker's list was closed.

7.2 **BIRT** the motion adopted at the March 2, 2017 regarding the UWSA General Election be rescinded.

Moved: Makram
(All in favour)

Seconded: Amber
PASSED

Discussion:

For the new motion to be in effect, the motion adopted at the March 2, 2017 regarding the UWSA General Election be rescinded.

7.3 **BIRT** Jeremiah Bowers, Justin Bueayong, Liam Adams, Hagar Elsayed, Bethany Russell (as nominated) be appointed to the hiring committee for the UWSA Services coordinators.

Moved: Anthony
(All in favour)

Seconded: Hagar
PASSED

Nominations were opened for Hiring Committee who in-turn will be service coordinators for the UWSA. Moussa cleared the fact that members on this committee cannot be Senators.

Jeremiah, Justin, Liam, Hagar and Bethany were nominated by the Board and they accepted their nominations.

BIRT the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Jeremiah
(All in favour)

Seconded: Liam
PASSED

The meeting was adjourned at 07.13 P.M.

8.0 New Business

9.0 Question Period

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 07.13 PM.