UWSA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 7th, 2012

4:30pm

Council Chambers

--

Chair:

Mohammd Akbar

Voting Members Absent:

Osman Raza
Jennifer Siboman
Philip Tramblay
Heather Harvie
Stephen Peters
Amanda M Panetta
Stephanie Hang
Caroline Jacobson
Nadia Elise Timperio

--

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:34.

2.0 Chairs Business

Kim : Motion for Mohammad Akbar to be president, I have to leave early.

Mostafa 1st and natali 2nd

For Mohammad to be president

15-0-0 - Passed

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Approve agenda

Kim – will make the best effort to get agenda by Monday at 4

Entire month of May, executive transitions into position.

Kim- back wall shows all goals and how long they will take to complete

Alyssa has been planning on welcome week – water carnival for student one day, water toys, slip and slides, out west hoedown (barrels of hay, mechanical bull) – we are trying to incorporate all different students likes – Kelvin Harris,

Students collectively 16 billion need to introduce grants to students

4.0 Minutes of Emergency Meeting May 17, 2012

5.0 Reports

5.1 Motion to accept the report of the executive

12-0- 3 Carries

6.0 Presentations

6.1 Summer proxies

If you send proxies in your place, counts as an absence
During the summer if you have a proxy to show up for you, it won't count as an absence.

BIRT enforcement of By-Law 10 4.5/4.6 attendance rules be suspended for the purposes of Summer/intersession 2012 Council meetings,

BIFRT Councilor proxies remain valid for the purposes of summer/intersession 2012 Council meetings.
BIFRT the UWSA council task IPC with changing the relevant by-laws.

6.2 Change the council time to Friday at 10 am

– Reason we are looking at this time is that Thursday at 4 seems to be a prime class time, hoping that Friday is a less class intensive time for the week. This creates some problems for science and engineering students due to labs, we would like to have some input on this

Kim leaves, Mohammad Akbar takes over

7.0 On to posted motions

7.1 Quebec Student Strike Stance

Motion friendly amendment – passed

on March 22 the students started the strike

On May 21st – Quebec government passed a law to prevent protesting, 1500 fine on people who were to protest – bill condemned by UN – 500 000 15% of Quebec population came out in protest of this bill. – currently the situation the government is refusing to lower because they will lose the election – The goal of this motion is to show some form of solidarity and support for these students, because if they lose we all lose because this teaches the government that they can keep raising as much as they want.

A lot of students stop going to school because they can't afford it. Do a referendum question that ask the student what they feel should happen, where the tuition freezes of if there is a set increase every year

Mohamad Almoya-board of governors made a 4% increase, most students did not know let alone protest. Our students are so disconnected from what's going on. Quebec culture has students are so active and are keeping their tuition down. We should take examples from this culture. – number one issue to students in tuition, yet as a student union we don't have a position on it.

Shawn Steven – for – friendly amendment – I agree on the general points, about students speaking up. – We should explain in the motion WHY we are doing this, as it is now there are no explanations (even though the presentation explained this very well)

Mohammad Akbar- the UWSA makes it clear what solidarity in terms of this motion entails, and what the UWSA's intention is in showing solidarity - second by Almoyad

Natalie – this seems unnecessary

Omar zghal- Show what we will do to show this solidarity

- 4 – 9- 0 – amendment fails

Scott lock – I don't think that we should show solidarity with the students in Quebec, they started peaceful, but they are not anymore. We should not do anything for or against without the students input. The culture in Quebec and Ontario are completely different.

Omar Zghal – against- does not like referendum – depending on how we word it, students are obviously going to be against the tuition increase

Mohammad Akbar- we will hold a referendum on tuition fees, the question always comes to counsel anyways, we will develop the wording, this motion is that we will hold the referendum, the wording will come later and counsel will decides at a later date. Talk to Scott's point – concerned about the 'tactics' posters made by anarchist, where there has been violence, it hasn't been by students, students have actually subdues violent protesters. Confused how this has to do with this referendum. The motion says we will support the students, the rest just says stuff that I am going to do

Scott – education on advocacy, this is part of your job we don't need to tell you how to do it. Quebec receives a lot of government money for school that is why their tuition is so low, not all students are doing violent protests, that is the image for these students as violent protesters. This images wills stay with people, and could negatively affect us when we try to do something later. The Quebec govern has done many things to make things better for students such as extending the semester so students can finish their classes.

Mohammod Almoya – if we show solidarity to the students, the unions are not advocating for violence. – We are showing solidarity with the unions, there response to the tuition strikes, not the anarchy.

Natalie – friendly amendment – add student unions – to make it more clear

Mo – make this change

Natalie – students need to become aware that not only is Quebec tuition is going up, but that ours is 5% more every year and is already the highest

Arti – agree – we should not see this as a provincial issue, and Mr Akbar's said that all governments are looking to see what they can do.

Alyssa – speak against the referendum question – The way you phrased the question was very loaded, the question does have the impact, are we going to go on strike also? Are we going to educate them that tuition has to go up because of inflation?

Trevor – against – stigma around the strike, greediness and violence, people causing trouble at these events, students not intending to cause violence they get caught in the fray. Like Natalie's friendly amendments. – Cover of education solutions – results from a province wide poll, the answers are around and pretty common sense. Education on issues around the strike, students are self-educated, we should focus on Ontario, and using Quebec as a launch pad on what to focus on , I think we should not focus on Quebec, we should start focus on Ontario tuition which is ridiculously high, with subsidies being really low

Shawn Steven – motion to divide the motion 2nd Scott

14- 0-1

Jordan – very dangerous to vote on this all together – this binds us to do a referendum, when we haven't gotten anywhere near the discussion on this

Mohammad Akbar – the problem is not that they are getting too much, it's that we aren't getting enough, or any. The money from one fighter jet, they (the government) could pay for tuition for 7 years. Quebec pays highest taxes, students pay taxes, they work the hardest, to get free education in Quebec, would be 1% of the budget not doing it not because it's not politically

possible, it is because they feel it will show they were wrong, and they will lose the election. 2500 hours, 45 of those the government said he would meet them, gave the students 1 hour, that's it. His solution, even from most conservative side, said that is was a political cop out. – student leaders took it back to students, students said no, because it was so political- students said go back there and get a better deal. This movement is directed by the students. Direct vote. The students are repressing the violent students. Students have been treated terribly by the government, the UN apposed the law. All I am asking is that we send a letter so they know we support them.

Trevor - It's hard to say we don't support anarchy, when the word anarchy is in name
Mohammad- That's not the meaning of the name
Trevor – this is a provincial issue, we should not support this until we find out what the students want. We need a poll or ref to show 51% of students support this support of Quebec .

Alyssa – call these motions to question – can't do all – 1st one then – 13-0-2 motion to vote passes

1 BIRT the UWSA express solidarity with the striking students' unions in Quebec;

Vote on first motion – 11-4-1 – motion passes

Motion for roll call vote Trevor – 2nd 2-10-2 - fail

Motion to approve Eric as chair - 12-1-0 Eric's chair

Discussion on the second motion

Shawn Steve – friend amendment – so that it's not about the strike, it's about the things going on that caused it, tuition increases in general, government subsidies, current issues, and inflation

Mohammad Akbar- explains what friendly amendments mean - friendly amendments

2 BIRT the UWSA task the VPUA with performing the following measures in regards to the strike:

Educate students on the issues of tuition increases in general, government subsidies, current issues, AND INFLATION.

Develop materials on our tuition fees and the aforementioned issues

Use Facebook, Twitter and other social media to educate students on the aforementioned issues advocate for lower tuition fees

BIFRT the UWSA request materials on the aforementioned issues from the Canadian Federation of Students and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance

Call 2nd into question – 16- 0-1 – passed

3rd motion into question – Mohammad Akbar – this aids me in making policies, give the counsel a stance. This is vague so we have a lot to work with on this

Eric – as chair I want to put a time restriction of 10 min on this
Shawn Steve – this might be too far away and be useless; Quebec might not be on strike anymore can we defer it?

Mohammad Akbar – you can vote it down or table it

Mohamed Almoayad- possibly getting different societies to poll their students, each department focuses on their students, to find out the information. I don't think referendum is effective because students won't vote.
Natalie – if we pass this, this has to happen? There isn't really a point to pass this, committing to a referendum might not be necessary.

Jordan – This might bind us to something we aren't sure we want to do, because there is no time limit, there is no reason to do it now.

Omar Z – research needs to be done first .

Alyssa – if we ask students if they want to pay less and get more. We know students will say yes. What are we trying to accomplish with this, a strike?

Scott – favor – we have no position – we need to find out what the students want us to do, what areas the students want us to go for. We need to know HOW they want us to do it, not just that they want us to do it.

3 BIRT the UWSA hold a referendum on the position of students on tuition fees

3rd Call to question – vote 2-15-0

7.2 Accommodation of Summer Proxies

BIRT enforcement of By-Law 10 4.5/4.6 attendance rules be suspended for the purposes of Summer/intersession 2012 Council meetings,

BIFRT Councilor proxies remain valid for the purposes of summer/intersession 2012 Council meetings.
BIFRT the UWSA council task IPC with changing the relevant by-laws

Natalie – this should be written into the bi-laws – if we are doing this every year, it should become permanent – add an end date – 1st meeting after school starts.

Friendly amendment – Shawn Steve – define date better

Motion – 14-3-0 to summer proxy –passes

7.3 Movement to move council meeting time

Natalie – terrible time

Shawn Steven – I agree motion to change counsel time, but not Friday

Scott – everyone should be allowed input when the best time for them is.

BIRT Council meet every other Friday at 10am.

Motioned to tabled

Tabled till next meeting

8.0 Question Period

9.0 New business

Shawn Scott –facebook group – only people in counsel can read it.

10.0 Motion to adjourn 558pm