

**UWSA Council Meeting**  
**July 23, 2014 | Council Chambers, CAW Student Centre| 11:00am**

**Attendance:**

Council Members:

Calvin Chak  
Basit Ishtiaq  
Sukhjot Dhindsa  
Shaun Steven

**Regrets:**

Council Members:

Mohamad El-Cheikh  
Sarah Salloum

Board Members:

Ye Hong

Board Members:

Jessaline Fynbo  
Farah El-Hajj  
George Ogunbande  
Adam El-Dika

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am.

First order of business is to elect a Chair.

Basit Ishtiaq nominated Shaun Steven to be the Chair. Shaun accepted the nomination.  
**Carried**

The second order of business is to wave notice of the meeting.

**It was moved by Calvin Chak and seconded by Basit Ishtiaq to wave notice of the meeting.**  
**Carried**

**2. Agenda**

**It was moved by Calvin Chak and seconded by Sukhjot Dhindsa to wave notice for the agenda.**  
**Carried**

**3. Presentations**

**3.1 Green Mango Proposal by Roy Opata Olende**

Roy: Student governments, including the UWSA, are unique environments. They do not have the stability of regular organization because the leadership changes over year by year. It's a great opportunity for students, but it also comes with a lot of challenges.

There is a lot of energy and creativity, but there is also the challenge of a solid foundation and creating longevity. My job is to figure out how we can put in structures to complement who we are as an organization while at the same time building a strong enough foundation.

As an outsider, I would really like to do a deep dive in the discovery of the UWSA. Once we get a good picture of what led up to this situation, then we can get to develop a governance structure so that this is far less likely to happen again, and to leave the organization with the tools to continue to develop. I don't want you to be stuck in the same situation a few years down the road. Your organization is different from other schools, and your uniqueness is something that you value.

Nicole: This year we had a few situations where we had nothing in our bylaws, or nothing in our constitution dictating what we should do in certain situations. I want there to be certain fallbacks and keep certain emergencies into mind so we can firmly make a decision based on our bylaws.

Shaun: Too many different bodies trying to interpret the bylaws. The language has to be clear enough that we don't have too much vagueness.

Roy: Because of the amount of people who are in leadership positions, there is an opportunity for pretty wild things to happen. There has to be enough rules that things can't fall through the cracks.

Nicole: Things have been slow during the summer and it's been difficult to keep the momentum. I think it would be helpful for a third party to come in because the students don't have the capacity to sit down and rework the governance by themselves.

Shaun: The other reason why the energy is so low is that the university is trying to stop what we do. I have attended Senate meetings at the University and have been asked to leave. They are refusing to acknowledge us as appointees.

Basit: When will the by-elections be held?

Nicole: It will be in October, to give students enough time to be aware of the elections and the available positions.

Basit: Will this process be over by the by-elections?

Roy: I can make it happen. The completion date can be in time for the by-elections.

Nicole: The whole idea is that we can present the new governance to the new members, and let them tweak it and approve it.

Shaun: So will we have to run the new positions under the old governance?

Nicole: Unfortunately we will have to. I don't really want to touch that. I want the full council to go through and decide if it's valid. I think this council will be able to approve the elections policy because it is just a policy, but not the constitution and bylaws.

Shaun: Are there going to be different options for us to approve, or is it just going to be one option that we can tweak?

Roy: I'm going to give you one option that has flexibility.

Nicole: Who does the survey go out to?

Roy: It would be this group and the full-time staff members. I would love to have a sit down with everyone individually as well to get some context around everything that's happened. I would like to send the questionnaire out tomorrow and give everyone a week to complete it. The interviews will be one on one.

Nicole: Will this be face to face? Or over the phone?

Roy: I would like to do it face to face.

Nicole: Will you look at the survey results before you do the interviews?

Roy: I don't have to do one before the other. I would like to sit down with at least 30 people. It's important to get as many perspectives as possible.

Nicole: Do you want students that are just involved with council and board (i.e., have an understanding of the bylaws and constitution), or students that are just angry about the UWSA?

Roy: 80-90% I would like people that are involved and know the process.

Shaun: We need to more clearly define our relationship with the University.

Nicole: There is nothing in the governance that defines the relationship with the University. We're not the only school that has had fees held, because we have nothing in writing. That's what we have to look at, or like a memorandum dictating how it works. Right now we have nothing, and that will happen in the next little while.

Roy: There's an assumed relationship, but nothing on paper.

Roy: One thing to integrate into this would be to have a plan every 3 or 5 years to investigate and revamp things.

Nicole: That's a difficult thing because of the rapid changeover. Even our old GM was here for 10 years, but if I didn't come into the position, who would know about it?

Shaun: There seems to be no continuity from year to year. Also, how do we hold people accountable for not following the rules?

Roy: There has to be a foundational structure that doesn't change from month to month, where all those things are outlined in detail. Like an operations manual, where the disciplinary action is clearly outlined.

Shaun: Some people aren't going to go through so much text and understand everything, or take everything into account. What happens if something has been glossed over for so many years which then invalidates everything?

Roy: There are ways to get around that but it takes a bit of work. It needs to be designed in an engaging way so people can be thoroughly versed in the text.

Shaun: I think part of the problem is that our training is not thorough enough.

Nicole: We need to have better training sessions, and be able to "dumb it down" so it's digestible. I don't think we've been doing a good job at this, and it's something we need to improve on.

Calvin: I think we need to better advertise the elections, and get the information out there what the positions actually entail. Students have no idea what they are running for.

Roy: I think the marketing on this is important. The idea you're communicating is important. It's not an issue of cash, it's an issue of energy put into it. It's about raising the standards, improving our governance. Putting that energy and creativity into making it easier to access these services.

Nicole: Can you put together an introduction and we will send out the survey for people to complete. Let's make it due on Monday.

**BIRT the UWSA Council accept the Green Mango proposal as presented and move ahead with the updating of the UWSA governance documents.**

**It was moved by Calvin Chak and seconded by Sukhjot Dhindsa**

**Carried (All in favour)**

## **New Business**

### **3.1 CRO Proposal**

**BIRT the UWSA Council accept Ms. April Adams proposal for CRO of the UWSA for 2014-2015 as presented and recommended by the hiring committee.**

**It was moved by Sukhjot Dhindsa and seconded by Calvin Chak by the hiring**

**Carried (All in favour)**

### **3.2 Director of Student Life Resignation**

Nicole: Josh Paglione has resigned and will be leaving at the end of July. I've spoken to Todd Sharon, to help us out with welcome week. He knows about welcome week, and can work with the tech crew. Abe is also going to come because he's worked with welcome week before. I've already reached out to Curtis too. I want to be able to pay Todd, Abe, and Curtis for that week or two. I do have jurisdiction for staff under my portfolio.

## **4. Adjournment**

**It was moved by Sukhjot Dhindsa and seconded by Calvin Chak to adjourn the meeting.**

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.