

SOGS Council Meeting Minutes

Approved

February 25, 2010

6:00 pm

1. Agenda Changes

- No guest speaker
- Ratification of President
- Other Motions

2. Reception and Approval of the SOGS Council Minutes of the January 28 Council Meeting

Pg.11 to:

S. Beasley (Biochemistry) – at that time we didn't have a policy. The line item description was changed to be sure that the **funds** benefit graduate students directly. It was used for sustainability initiatives, V-day sponsorship, GTA Food Bank, etc. You must fill out a form and have matched funds requested.

Nicolas McGinnis – does Philosophy have 2 or 3 positions? – Olga to look into it.

Pg.13: R. vanderZanden (Engineering) – What's the difference? – to be removed

R. vanderZanden (Engineering) – “could this be taken on by GSIC?” should read – It was suggested by Council that GSIC work on this issue, would you please ask GSIC to look into the issue and report back.

Minutes received and approved with changes.

3. Announcements

- a) Welcome to all Councillors to the SOGS February Council Meeting with a special welcome to new Councillors. There are new Councillor packages available .
- b) Quorum is 30.
- c) The next Council meeting will be on March 25th in this room.
- d) The Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund, Out of Province and Grad Club Bursaries will be due no later than February 28th and the 125th Scholarship is due by 4 pm tomorrow.
- e) Please excuse the mess in the SOGS office. If anyone can help for an hour or so, it will be greatly appreciated. A Grad Club voucher will be supplied.
- f) Remember you **MUST** sign in at the beginning of Council with your signature and time and if you leave before the meeting is adjourned, you must indicate the correct time on the sign out Council Attendance Sheet. If you leave once the meeting has been adjourned there is no need to sign out.

4. Elections

As of February 12th, only one Presidential nomination had been received. Mr. Duncan Sutherland therefore will therefore be acclaimed as President of SOGS for 2009-2010. Acclamation ratified.

C. Pilkington (Political Science) – objection to how president is ratified.

Speaker – objection noted, but this must go to BCC as it would require changes to the bylaws.

Bylaws & Constitution Committee – S. Armstrong

Finance Committee – S. Armstrong

– R. vanzerZanden

5. Orders of the Day

a) Motions Arising from the President

b) Motions Arising from Other Committees

Motion 1

WHEREAS the use of proxies is currently required to maintain quorum in Society committees; and

WHEREAS restricting committee membership to devoted and useful members may help improve committee workings; and

WHEREAS some committees (e.g., maybe Academic Committee when WRF is in full swing?) may want to have a lot of volunteers who don't need to be present or count for quorum when making decisions for the committee business as a whole; and

WHEREAS committees are best able to determine for themselves their own policies; and
WHEREAS bylaw changes are explicitly required to allow committees to decide these policies:

BIRT Bylaw 9 (Committees of the Society) be amended to include 9.X, positioned between 9.3 and 9.4, to read:

9.X Committee policies

9.X.1 Each committee shall have a Committee Policy document, distinct from other committees' policy documents or any other policy document.

9.X.2 A Committee Policy document describes any policies used to conduct business in the committee or membership in the committee. Notwithstanding guidelines or restrictions mentioned in Robert's Rules of Order, each committee has the power, via its Committee Policy document, to:

a) Allow email voting, mail voting and/or fax voting and to specify the conditions under which these voting methods are permissible for conducting official business.

b) Limit membership to a specific number.

c) Establish a Steering Committee, where the Steering Committee has its own policies, as per 9.X.2, distinct from those of the committee as a whole. Official business done by the Steering Committee shall be automatically ratified and taken to be official business done by the committee as a whole. Motions and reports from the Steering Committee shall be considered official business of the committee under Bylaw 15.3.6.

9.X.3 All amendments to a Committee Policy document must be approved by the committee as official committee business. Amendments to a Committee Policy document come into effect immediately. Notice of any amendment to the Committee Policy document must be given to the Official Liaison of the committee within two (2) business days of being approved.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.3 (General) be amended to include 9.3.Y, positioned between 9.3.5 and 9.3.6, to read:

9.3.Y For the purposes of determining quorum, membership of any committee of the Society shall constitute only those members who are currently present or who have attended at least one meeting of the same committee in the past.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.2 (Duties of the Chairperson) be amended to include 9.2.Z, positioned between 9.2.8 and 9.2.9, to read:

9.2 The Chairperson shall:

9.2.Z maintain a Committee Policy document and make it available in the SOGS office.

BIFRT the bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

Moved – D. Dechene (Engineering)

Seconded – J. Dechene (Chemistry)

This motion will allow committees to set their own priorities.

Motion passes.

Motion #2 - Chain of command for CRO/DRO

WHEREAS the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Chief Returning Officer (DRO) have important duties during an election cycle, as per Bylaw 4; and WHEREAS it is important that the positions of CRO and DRO remain free of the politics of the SOGS Executive wherever possible; and WHEREAS the chain of command for CRO is insufficiently clear, specified only by bylaws 6.2.1.5 and 2.2.12, which read as follows:

6.2.1.5 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Speaker the duties shall be assumed by the chair of the BCC until a by-election can be held

2.2 The Speaker

2.2.12 shall serve, *ex officio*, as Chief Returning Officer of the Society, in which capacity he or she shall be responsible for the conduct of elections and referenda, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaws 3 and 4.

WHEREAS the duties of Speaker and CRO, even though typically done by the same person, should be separated as a matter of principle and clarity and to ease the transition in case future Councils of the Society wish for the roles to be assumed by distinct people; and

WHEREAS the President should be a last resort for the apolitical positions of CRO and DRO due to it being generally impossible for a president to run in a presidential election (exception that they have very recently been elected in a by-election), as per article 6.5.1 of the Society's Constitution:

BIRT Bylaw 2 (Duties of Non-executive Officers) be amended to include 2.X and 2.(X+1), positioned between 2.2 and 2.3, to read:

2.X The Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

2.X.1 shall be responsible for the conduct of elections and referenda, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaws 4, 5, 6.1 and 7.

2.X.2 must vacate the position of CRO in any election or by-election in which he or she is a candidate or intends to be a candidate or has a conflict of interest, as specified by Bylaw 11, with one of the candidates, or in any referendum in which he or she is a member of any referendum group.

2.X.3 must not be the same person as the Deputy CRO.

2.(X+1) The Deputy Chief Returning Officer (Deputy CRO)

2.(X+1).1 shall be responsible for overseeing investigations of campaign improprieties and charges of appeal during elections and referenda, in accordance with Bylaw 4.

2.(X+1).2 must vacate the position of Deputy CRO in any presidential election or presidential by-election in which he or she is a candidate or intends to be a candidate or has a conflict of interest, as specified by Bylaw 11, with one of the candidates, or in any referendum in which he or she is a member of any referendum group.

BIFRT Bylaw 2.2 be amended to include 2.2.W, positioned at end of 2.2, to read:

2.2 The Speaker

2.2.W must vacate the position of Speaker for the duration of a vote to recall the Speaker, as per Bylaw 7.2.

BIFRT Bylaw 2.2.12 by struck and replaced with:

2.2 The Speaker

2.2.12 shall serve, *ex officio*, as Chief Returning Officer of the Society.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.4.4.5 shall be struck and replaced with:

9.4.4 The Bylaws and Constitution Committee (BCC)

9.4.4.5 shall have a chair who

9.4.4.5.5 shall assist the Speaker in the performance of the Speaker's duties.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.4.4.5 be amended to include 9.4.4.5.Y, positioned between 9.4.4.5.5 and 9.4.4.5.6 to read:

9.4.4 The Bylaws and Constitution Committee (BCC)

9.4.4.5 shall have a chair who

9.4.4.5.Y serves, ex officio, as Deputy Chief Returning Officer of the Society.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.4.4 be amended to include 9.4.4.6, to read:

9.4.4 The Bylaws and Constitution Committee (BCC)

9.4.4.6 shall, at all times, maintain a Deputy Chairperson.

BIFRT Bylaw 6.2.1.5 be struck and replaced with:

6.2.1.5 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Speaker the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

i. by the chair of the Bylaws and Constitution Committee

ii. by a member elected Speaker pro tem at a Council meeting. The President or, in the absence of the President, any member of the Executive, shall serve as Speaker to oversee the election of a Speaker pro tem.

BIFRT Bylaw 6.2.1 (Chain of Command) be amended to include 6.2.1.Z and 6.2.1.(Z+1), position between 6.2.1.5 and 6.2.1.6, to read:

6.2.1.Z In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Returning Officer the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

i. by the chair of the Bylaws and Constitution Committee

ii. by the Deputy Chairperson of the Bylaws and Constitution Committee

iii. by a member elected Chief Returning Officer by Council or by the general membership at a General Meeting.

6.2.1.(Z+1) In the event of a vacancy in the position of Deputy Chief Returning Officer the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

i. by the Deputy Chairperson of the Bylaws and Constitution Committee

ii. by the President

iii. by a member elected Deputy Chief Returning Officer by Council or by the general membership at a General Meeting.

BIFRT the leading paragraph of Bylaw 11.1 be amended to read (amendment in bold):

11.1 A conflict of interest arises when a current member of Council, of the Society's Executive, **or of the Society's non-executive Officers**, or of a committee of the Society, has or could be seen to have the opportunity to use the authority, knowledge, or influence derived from her or his position to benefit improperly the member or another person. Such situations include but are not limited to the following:

BIFRT Bylaw 9.4.4.5.2 be struck.

BIFRT Bylaw 9.4.4.5.6 be struck.

BIFRT Bylaw 1.2.13 be struck.

BIFRT the bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

Moved – D. Dechene (Engineering)

Seconded – J. Dechene (Chemistry)

There was no chain of command before. Now it will be established.

Motion passes.

Motion #3 – Motion to allow effective investigation of appeal

WHEREAS nothing in the bylaws currently compels parties to co-operate with election and referendum appeals; an

WHEREAS the fairest outcome of an election or referendum depends upon effective investigations of election and referendum appeals; an

WHEREAS the scope in which SOGS members should be compelled to act should be limited to their duties as elected or potentially elected officers

BIRT Section 4.9 (Campaign Impropriety and Appeals) be amended to include:

4.9.4.1 Should a candidate/referendum group receive a request from the Deputy CRO to provide factual information which wholly pertains to an investigation of campaign impropriety, the candidate/referendum group must respond within one half of the investigation time. Failure to respond within the time frame will result in a report of non-response in the Deputy CRO's written report.

BIFRT the bylaws be renumbered as appropriate.

Moved – J. Dechene (Chemistry)

Seconded – R. vanderZanden (Engineering)

Amended motion:

BIRT Section 4.9 (Campaign Impropriety and Appeals) be amended to include:

4.9.4.1 Should a candidate/referendum group receive a request from the Deputy CRO to provide factual information which wholly pertains to an investigation of campaign impropriety, the candidate/referendum group must respond within one half of the investigation time or **twenty-four hours whichever is greater**. Failure to respond within the time frame will result in a report of non-response in the Deputy CRO's written report.

BIFRT the bylaws be renumbered as appropriate.

Moved – S. Armstrong (Law)

Seconded – C. Jubayer (Engineering)

Amendment passes.

Amended motion passes.

Motion #4 - Motion to create a process for joining committee

WHEREAS members currently can join committees either through an appointment of Council or by act of the Chairperson of the committee, as per Bylaw 9.2.2; an

WHEREAS Bylaw 9.2.2 currently reads

9.2 The Chairperson shall

9.2.2 have the authority to appoint members to the committee, for a term no longer than one year, renewable indefinitely

WHEREAS Bylaw 9.3.6 allows committee Chairpersons to remove members of the committee for dereliction (i.e., not showing up to meetings); an

WHEREAS the committee Chairperson may currently be the only person informed of a committee member being removed from the committee for other reasons (e.g., resignation); and

WHEREAS there is no record of who is a member of a committee and who is not:

BIRT all committee Chairpersons submit a list of members currently appointed to the committee to Council before the next Council meeting.

BIFRT 9.2.2 be struck and replaced with

9.2 The Chairperson shall

9.2.2 have the authority to appoint members to the committee, for a non-renewable term extending to the next Council meeting.

BIFRT 9.2 be amended to include 9.2.X, positioned between 9.2.2 and 9.2.3, to read

9.2 The Chairperson shall

9.2.X submit to Council a list of members appointed to the committee and removed from the committee since the previous Council meeting.

BIFRT 9.3 be amended to include 9.3.Y, positioned after 9.3.6, to read

9.3.Y Members of a committee appointed by the Chairperson shall be permanent members of the committee after their names have been submitted to Council, as per Bylaw 9.2.X, unless a motion to object to a member appointed to a committee via Bylaw 9.2.2 is passed by Council.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

Moved – D. Dechene (Engineering)

Seconded – R. English (Music)

Motion passes

c) Other Motions

MOTION #1 Victoria Sit (Sociology)

BIRT Council authorize the BCC to look into the inclusion of graduate student ~~(s)~~ representatives of the Graduate Education Council as ex-officio members of SOGS Council.

Moved – V. Sit (Sociology)

Seconded – R. English (Music)

Amended motion passes.

MOTION #2 Victoria Sit (Sociology)

BIRT the BCC be directed to look into the possibility of amending Bylaw 15.4.3 to read "15.4.3 **The graduate students representatives to the Graduate Education Council**, graduate student Senators and the graduate student representatives to the Board of Governors (if a full or associate member of the Society) shall have a standing invitation to all Executive meetings."

Moved – V. Sit (Sociology)

Seconded – N. McMillan (Psychology)

Motion passes.

6. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

a) President

Any questions about the President's report should be directed to him.

b) VP Academic

Speaker reminded Council that the Western Research Forum is this Saturday.

Registration is \$10 and that entitles the person to the whole day's events, refreshments, the keynote speaker and dinner.

Any questions about the VP Academic's report should be directed to her.

c) VP External & Communications

Any questions about the VP External & Communications' report should be directed to him.

K. Penev informed Council that this is Black History month. Undergrads had organized a very extensive program throughout the month. Mr. Penev also informed council that at the end of March there will be a racism awareness event. If anyone wants to help, they should contact the GSIC chair, Ross Graham.

d) VP Finance

D. Sutherland informed council that the Grad Club will be closing at 5 pm on Saturdays.

The Finance Committee is looking at the possibility of investing money. Prior invested money was liquidated to renovate the Grad Club.

e) VP Student Services

Any questions about the VP Student Services' report should be directed to her. J. Dechene informed Council that there will be an OC sponsored party in April. She also mentioned that the Orientation Committee Report was attached to the Council package.

f) SOGS Commissioners' Reports

g) Councillor Reports

h) Senator and Board of Governor Reports

7. New Business/Open Forum

Motion #1:

Whereas in Fall 2009, at least 10% of SOGS members signed a petition seeking a referendum on continued membership in the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, and Whereas the SOGS President received a letter dated December 1st, 2009 from the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario failed to recognize acceptance of such a petition, and Whereas the aforementioned petition was delivered by a process server to the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario on September 29th, 2009, and Whereas the contract between SOGS members and CFS-Ontario represents a significant financial contract,
BIRT SOGS write a letter to the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-O) condemning the denial of the petition by CFS-O and SOGS authorize drafting and sending of said letter by the VP External in consultation with the VP Finance.

Moved – R. vanderZanden (Engineering)
Seconded – D. Dechene (Engineering)

R. vanderZanden – petition was signed by more than 10% of graduate students and the petition was delivered to CFS-Ontario. They have denied receiving this document. We ask that the VP External, with the VP Finance, write a strong letter outlining SOGS concerns. The VP Finance should be involved because we a large portion of our budget is sent to the CFS.
D. Dechene – about 500 students signed the petition. There is an affidavit that says it was received, but they continue to deny receiving the document.

C. Bennett (Psychology) – why did they deny receiving the petition?

D. Dechene – They claim that no such paper was received even though we have a sworn affidavit that says the papers were served.

C. Pilkington (Political Science) – against – hasn't heard enough to make an informed decision.

S. Armstrong (Law) – for – evidence is compelling – they should have received the papers and acknowledged.

R. Kissack (History) – against – before condemning something, more information needed.

N. McGinnis (Philosophy) – against – conditional – on page 44 of the council package there is a letter that says CFS has received the letter.

D. Dechene – clarification – that is not the correct letter. CFS-National did receive the letter – CFS Ontario is not the same as CFS National.

K. Asquith (Media Studies) – against – talking about two different things. The motion is about CFS-Ontario not receiving the package, while the other concern is about having used a process server. – not sure what we are condemning them for – not receiving the package or use of process server.

D. Dechene – for – use of 'condemn' is standard wording – regardless if you are for or against the CFS, we pay them a large sum of money and they should accountable

R. vanderZanden – we shouldn't argue over semantics – more than 10% of the graduate population signed the petition and they should respect that

R. Maciel (Political Science) – Point of Information - why was the document sent with a processor and not by registered mail? (A – D. Dechene – CFS requires that such documents be sent by registered mail. When this was done in the past, they claim not to have received the document. They may not have accepted a registered mail document. By using a processor, this is going one step further. We wanted to ensure that the document arrived.

D. Sutherland – call the question

S. Armstrong – seconded

Question called

Yes - 22

No – 20

2/3 required to pass

Motion fails.

Motion #2:

BIRT the sponsorship line item be used to fund RNI New Year's event in matching funds up to \$250.

Moved – D. Sutherland

Seconded – S. Armstrong

2/3 required to pass

Motion passes.

Motion #3:

Whereas the SOGS President received a letter dated December 23th, 2009 from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) accepting reception of a petition seeking a referendum on continued membership in the CFS, and

Whereas in accordance with CFS Bylaws, SOGS must appoint two members to the Referendum Oversight Committee (ROC), and

Whereas the aforementioned letter also invites SOGS to appoint two members to the ROC once the names on the petitions have been verified, and

Whereas the names on the petition have already been verified by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,

BIRT SOGS council elect two SOGS members to be appointed to the ROC immediately following adoption of this motion.

Moved – D. Dechene

Seconded – R. vanderZanden

Chosen members:

Dan Dechene

Chad Pilkington

Alternate – Ryan vanderZanden

Motion to adjourn

Moved – D. Sutherland (VP Finance)

Seconded – S. Armstrong (Law)