

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING

Approved MINUTES

October 28, 2010

6:10 – 8:10 pm

UCC Room 56

Speaker: John Nater

Recording secretary: Olga Sauer

1) Ratification of Agenda

Agenda ratified. (Doyle/Anis)

2) Announcements

- Welcome to all Councillors to the first SOGS Council Meeting for the 2010-2011 year. I would like to extend a special welcome to all the new Councillors. Councillor Packages are available at the front if you haven't already received one. Read the information in the package to familiarize yourself with the running of the Council meeting. Bring the binder with you to every meeting.
- Make sure that you sign in every evening with both the time when you arrive and your signature. If you leave before the meeting is adjourned, you must indicate the correct time on the Council attendance sheet. If you leave at the end of the meeting you do not need to sign out, but leave the cards in the front.
- Not all departments have full representation. If you are unsure of how many positions your department has, please see Olga after the meeting. Before a new Councillor can start, they will need to fill out a nomination form and obtain the appropriate signatures.
- OSOTF, Out of Province and Grad Club Bursary applications are due on October 31. Peggy Collins Scholarship for part-time students is also due on the 31st.
- Opt out cheques were sent to Department Graduate Assistants last week on Thursday.
- Next meeting will be in this room on November 25 in this room.
- This year's quorum is 30.
- Light refreshments will follow the meeting at the Grad Club. Drink tickets were given out at the end of the meeting.

3) Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes September 30, 2010

Minutes received and ratified (Smith/AIAssuity). Carried

4) Orders of the Day

a. Motions arising from the President

none

b. Motions arising from Other Committees

Bylaws and Constitution Committee

Whereas in June 2010, SOGS council directed the BCC to review the impact of automatically voting on the performance of SOGS Executive officers or Commissioners when two consecutive reports are not submitted to Council and

Whereas Executive officers (except the President) are subject to recall procedures as laid out in Bylaw 7.2.

Whereas the BCC provides its recommendation with regards to Commissioner report delinquency in the report above.

BIRT that the following Bylaw be introduced after 1.1.14 to read

1.1.15 Any Executive member other than the President is to be in dereliction of duty if he or she fails to submit a written or oral report to Council for two consecutive regular council meetings.

BIFRT that the following By-law be introduced between 7.2.3 and 7.2.4 to read

7.2.X A motion for recall is automatically included in the following regular council meeting agenda for any Executive Officer in dereliction of duty as defined in Bylaw 1.1.15.

Moved: C. Hum (VP Student Services)
Seconded: E. Doyle (Philosophy)

D. Dechene (Engineering) presented the motion on behalf of the BCC.
Carried unanimously

c. **Other Motions**

Submitted by: Speaker, John Nater

BIRT Council re-elect the oversight committee.

BIFRT in case they are no longer members of the Society, Council elect additional individuals to act as replacements

BIFRT Council elect additional members in the event that the CFS does not involve itself with the referendum.

Moved: E. Doyle (Philosophy)

Seconded: D. Sutherland (President)

Carried

Submitted by: Speaker, John Nater

BIRT the CRO sets the spending limits for the referendum.

Moved: C. Smith (Biomedical Engineering)

Seconded: D. Sutherland (President)

Carried

Submitted by: Dan Dechene, GEC Member - Engineering

Whereas The University of Western Ontario's (UWO) minimum funding guarantee for PhD is \$12,000 plus tuition, and

Whereas this level was established in 2005, and

Whereas while tuition increases due to inflation are accounted for in the above model, but the \$12,000 cost of living component is not, and

Whereas the cost of living component of the funding guarantee should be indexed to CPI to maintain the real monetary value of the guarantee.

BIRT SOGS formally adopt the stance that UWO's funding guarantee's cost of living component be indexed to CPI and

BIRFT SOGS executives, graduate student senators, board of governors representative, and GEC members be encouraged to support this stance.

Moved: D. Dechene (GEC – Engineering)

Seconded: A. AlAssuity (Engineering)

Carried

d. **Tabled Motions**

5) **Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports**

a. **President**

Sutherland highlighted his report.

P. Baiden (GEC - Social Sciences) – the letter from CFS was not signed, why? – (A-DS) the attached letter had been emailed and was without a signature. The original has now been received by mail and does have a signature.

P. Baiden (GEC - Social Sciences) – have we fulfilled our obligations to CFS? – (A-DS) yes, we have met our obligations by paying fees for summer 2010. The letter, with the cheque, has been received. They have not met their obligations.

S. Anis (Philosophy) – in the meeting with SGPS was there any special consideration given to international students? – (A-DS) International students would benefit from this funding model.

- M. Milczarek (Geography) – What will happen next with CFS? – (A-DS) We hope not to have to go to court. However, if this becomes necessary, there has been a surplus in our funds over the last ten years, due to the growth in graduate student numbers. Currently SOGS pays CFS about \$61,000 yearly.
- D. Dechene (GEC - Engineering) - Also, additional funds have already been set aside.
- S. Black (Engineering) – if we leave the CFS will we still be able to get ISI Cards? – (A-DS) we would save sufficient money to buy the needed ISI Cards.
- b. VP Academic
 Simpson reiterated that all Academic Committees (Western Research Forum, GSTA Awards, Western Graduate Review) need members in order for these programs to move forward. Joint Fund Applications should be sent at least one month before the event so that the application can go to the review committee (consisting of SOGS, Research Western and SGPS) before the event.
 Simpson and Harel attended strike contingency meeting. Timely updates on the FAQ page on the UWO website. Questions about the strike were entertained.
- c. VP External & Communications
 Chowdhury outlined his report. Information to be included in the SOGS Newsletter should be sent to him by the middle of the month.
- d. VP Finance
 Harel met with Carol Stinson and Kevin to discuss various options. Ms. Stinson is looking into various options that might be suitable for SOGS.
 Goblet of Knowledge has been stolen from the Grad Club. A reward is being offered for its safe return.
 Y. Plourde (Business – PhD) – are you looking at different options to make the Grad Club more profitable? – (A-JH) Some drink prices have been increased; however, they are still cheaper than most other places.
 S. Anis (Philosophy) – Is there a charter for the Grad Club? – (A-JH) There is a best practices policy manual. Currently they are looking at putting them on the website.
 E. Doyle (Philosophy) – what needs to be done for the Grad Club to make money or at least break even? – (A-JH) The Grad Club has a \$27,000 deficit after the audit because of amortization. Without it the Grad Club actually made \$64,000.
 E. Doyle (Philosophy) – Prices at the Grad Club aren't that low. – (A-JH) We don't have the volume of sales that the Undergrads have.
 J. Nethery (Public Administration) – after the increase in prices is the executive still looking at profitability of the Grad Club? – (A-JH) We are working at bringing down losses while keeping the prices reasonable. – (A-CH) We are working with Marc to bring more activities to the Grad Club. – (A-DS) You can look at this in several ways - by making money, the Grad Club contributes more to bursaries. Or, the Grad Club can be the hub of graduate activity, a student-base centre. The Grad Club is a not-for-profit, therefore we always aim to break even.
 S. Anis (Philosophy) – the ambiance is not of a student centre, but more of a sports bar.
 B. Valsamis (Neuroscience) – my friends avoid Rock Band – Grad Club was empty yesterday. – (A-CH) we need students to get more involved.
 F. Simpson (VP Academic) – Spoke and Wave constantly lose money.
- e. VP Student Services
 Hum outlined some of the activities executed under his portfolio – horseback riding event, soccer team, dodgeball team, latin dance class (4185 Thames Hall).
 Come out to the Halloween party from 5:30 – 8:30 in the Grad Club before heading to other events.
 Health Plan Committee is working hard at organizing the survey with a possible distribution date of November.

Upcoming events include a holiday season party in early December. In January, plans are being organized to have a formal dinner at the Grad Club before taking a bus to the convention going on the Charity Ball.

- f. SOGS Commissioners' Reports
Disabilities Commissioner
none
- g. Councillor Reports
none
- h. Senator and Board of Governor Reports
None

9. Elections – Committees (Internal & External)

Erden Ertorer – Academic Committee
Reza Azarderakhsh – GSTA Committee
Alison Braley – GSTA Committee
German Kalugin – Academic Committee

Bursaries & Subsidies Committee

Mike Burell
Melanie Columbus
Morgan Kleiber
Katie Kryski
Nilofar Mani

Shamsi Mohtashim
Matthew Riopel
Aryan Salmanpour
Haroon Sheikh
Siamak B. Tajali

Finance Committee

Melanie Columbus
Dan Dechene
Duane Jacques

Kai Pisters
Ayan Salmanpour
Vahid Sotoudehnejad

Grad Club Committee

Nick Fillion
Matt Fox
Meghan Macleod
Stephen Marklevitz

Jennifer Martin
Deana Schwarz
Vahid Sotoudehnejad
Sonja Teichert

Sustainability Committee

Diego Velasquez
Priscila Ribeiro
Prado Barros
Sonja Teichert
Kari Everett
Akhter, Shathi
Amanda Adams
Cassia Noelle Vilneff
Chelsea Mohler
David Arie
Fredrick Michael Cooper
Jennifer Meaghan Martin
Jessica Dubinsky
Katrina Lyn Iglie
Mehran Dastmalchi
Michelle Bondy

Michelle Tyldesley
Olga Kharytonava
Rachel White
Reza Saberianfar
Siamak Bashardoust Tajali

Moved: E. Doyle (Philosophy)
Seconded: S. Black (Engineering)
Carried

10. New Business/Open Forum

Due to an oversight, Shahram Amirnia (Chair IGSIC Committee) had not received his honorarium. Because this was only noticed recently, and the books for 2009-2010 are closed, Council has to authorize this expenditure.

MOTION: BIRT Shahram Amirnia be awarded an honorarium for being Chair of the IGSIC Committee for 2009-2010.

Moved: C. Hum (VP Student Services)
Seconded: D. Sutherland (President)
Carried

CFS

Members of the referendum oversight committee as required by the CFS By-laws.

Members

Dan Dechene
Desiree Lamoureux

Alternates

Amanda Stuart Ross (Alternate)
Bridget Valsamis (Alternate)

Moved: E. Doyle (Philosophy)
Seconded: S. Black (Engineering)
Carried unanimously