

SOGS Council Meeting Minutes

Approved

April 29, 2010

6:10 – 8:30 pm

1. Agenda Changes

- J. Jiang added new motion from Health Plan Committee.

Agenda approved.

2. Announcements

- a) Welcome to all Councillors to the SOGS March Council Meeting with a special welcome to new Councillors. There are new Councillor packages available .
- b) Quorum is 30.
- c) When addressing Council, Councillors were asked to stand up and speak loudly. The recorder does not pick up sound well in this room, and it is very hard to use the recording to recreate minutes when necessary.
- d) The summer Council meetings will be on May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26.
- e) Starting May 3, SOGS Summer Office hours will be Monday – Thursday 9am – 4 pm and Friday 9am – 12 noon.
- f) Bus passes for the summer term are available. Remember that student cards must be presented.
- g) 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.

3. Reception and Approval of the SOGS Council Minutes of the March 25 Council Meeting

Minutes received and approved without changes.

4. Elections

VP External & Communication

S. Chowdhury acclaimed

VP Student Services

T. Ahn

C. Hum

S. Bashardoust Tajali

Each candidate was given 3 minutes for presentation. 15 minutes was allocated for candidates to answer questions.

C. Hum voted in as VP Student Services.

Interim VP Finance

Jordan Harel was acclaimed.

5. Orders of the Day

a) Brent Sherar - Senator

Whereas the Graduate Education Council (GEC) meets collectively four times a year and graduate student representatives to the GEC have the option to serve up to two years.

Whereas the majority of new graduate students arrive in the Fall Term (i.e. the new Academic Year).

Whereas in an attempt to recruit new graduate students to the GEC, the start of a new term of membership for graduate student representatives to the GEC will commence on October 1 and terminate on September 30 following the second calendar year.

Whereas there are eleven graduate student representatives to the GEC, one per faculty (i.e. Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, FIMS, Music, Science, Social Science, Ivey [Business], Law, Education, and Schulich [Medicine & Dentistry]) with the purpose of maintaining diversity,

Whereas the BCC is currently examining the constitutionality of granting all graduate representatives to the GEC *ex-officio* status on SOGS,

Whereas we believe elections to serve on the GEC to be both democratic and consistent with the selection process for student Senators and Board of Governors:

BIRT graduate student representatives to the GEC are elected during the September SOGS Council meeting.

BIFRT SOGS email all graduate students within seven business days of September 1st to call for nominations for the positions that are vacant or for those whose current member has reached the completion of their term.

BIFRT nominations are made in person to the SOGS office within seven business days after the call for nominations, in order to verify a nominee's status and home faculty prior to election.

BIFRT should a faculty fail to nominate a member, the faculty with the largest number of graduate students with a second nominee be awarded an additional graduate GEC representative.

BIFRT no faculty shall elect more than two graduate student representatives to the GEC.

B. Sherar not present.

Motion to postpone.

Moved – D. Dechene

Seconded – Steven Beasley

Carried.

b) Motions Arising from the President

none

c) Motions Arising from Other Committees

BIRT the Chairs of the Finance, Grad Club, Bursary and Sustainability Committees receive their honoraria.

BIRT the GSIC and Equity Issues Committee Chairs' Rebecca Williams and Graham Ross be awarded the honorarium upon the recommendation of the GSIC and Equity Issues Committee.

Initial Motions changed to the following:

BIRT the total honoraria for all active committees be released pending committee approval.

Moved – S. Colwell (English)

Seconded – C. Pilkington (Political Science)

Passed

Health Plan Committee

BIRT Council approves and dispenses the Health Plan Survey via email to SOGS members (as circulated through the SOGS executive) no later than Tuesday May 4th, 2010.

The following questions will be shown on the survey:

1. Would you be interested in paying a 9% increase to your Dental Rates to increase the maximum from \$500.00 to \$750.00 (for same basic dental coverage)? YES or NO

2. Are vision benefits a valuable component of your supplementary Health plan? YES or NO
3. Would it affect you in a negative way if the Annual Drug Maximum was decreased from \$3500.00 to \$2500.00? Reducing the drug maximum claim to \$2500 would result in a 2% decrease in rates. YES or NO
4. Do you think the SOGS health plan benefit is sufficiently advertised? (1-5) 5 being the best
5. Do you have any comments or concerns about SOGS supplementary health and dental plan and the current plan rates? Correspondence to SOGS through email

Results collected from the survey will sequentially aid the upcoming renewal rates, as applicable. Submitted information, comments will remain confidential.

Moved – J. Jiang

Seconded – J. Caughlin (Education)

BIRT the following questions be included in the survey 1,2,4,5.

Moved – D. Dechene

Seconded – K. Pisters

Carried

Change date to “as soon as reasonably possible”.

Moved – C. Pilkington (Political Science)

Seconded – J. Dechene

Question Called – D. Sutherland

BIRT Council approves and dispenses the Health Plan Survey via email to SOGS members (as circulated through the SOGS executive) as soon as reasonably possible.

The following questions will be shown on the survey:

1. Would you be interested in paying a 9% increase to your Dental Rates to increase the maximum from \$500.00 to \$750.00 (for same basic dental coverage)? YES or NO
2. Are vision benefits a valuable component of your supplementary Health plan? YES or NO
3. Do you think the SOGS health plan benefit is sufficiently advertised? (1-5) 5 being the best.
4. Do you have any comments or concerns about SOGS supplementary health and dental plan and the current plan rates? Correspondence to SOGS through email.

Moved – J. Jiang

Seconded – J. Caughlin (Education)

Carried

3 against

3 abstained

BCC Motions

Motion to omnibus BCC Motions 1,5,7,9,11.

Moved – D. Dechene (Engineering)

Seconded – C. Pilkington (Political Science)

Quorum lost remainder of motioned tabled to next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:10 pm