

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2009

6:15 – 8:35 p.m.

Middlesex College Room 105b

1) Adoption of Agenda

Changes to Agenda

- Guest Speaker will speak at 7 pm.
- removal of Speaker's Note from 7. i)
- Elections added after Orders of the Day

Passes

Move Motions 1-5 to after New Business.

Moved – D. Sutherland

Seconded – G. Keller

For – 24

Against – 19

Abstained – 5

Fails

Introductions of Executives & Non-Executive members.

2) Speaker's Note

Speaker, Alison Braley, outlined her understanding of Council attendance requirements.

3) Guest Speaker –

Dr. Nanda Dimitrov presented information on the 360 professional development programs. Brochures are available in the SOGS office.

(Appendix B)

4) Announcements

- Welcome to all Councillors to the first SOGS Council Meeting for the 2009-2010 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 of when you arrived and 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.
- Light refreshments.
- Next meeting will be in this room on November 26 in this room.
- This year's quorum is 30.

5) Reception and Approval of the SOGS Council Minutes for the September 24 Council Meeting

Quorum lost above #8 – should be noted

G. Keller (Computer Science) – it should be noted that president left meeting and we lost quorum,
R. Telfer (President) – quorum was lost before I left
K. Penev (Engineering) – was Amy Ratcliffe's presence counted?
J. Peters (Sociology) – accept minutes as written
Seconded – K. Asquith (Media Studies)
Passes

- 6) Orders of the Day
a) Motions arising from the President

MOTION #1:

BIRT the Society of Graduate Students adopt the following positions in support of international students:

1. The Society opposes tuition fee increases for international students that are higher than increases for domestic students.
2. The Society supports the restoration of public provincial health care coverage for international students.

Seconded – R. English (Music)

R. Telfer – domestic fees are being raised by 4% but international fees are being raised much higher – SGPS feels that 4% would be a sufficient increase, but the University Administration feels a larger increase is needed. – Mr. Telfer asked Council to empower him to speak against higher fees for international students.

S. Armstrong (Law) – are you talking about proportionally higher?

R. Telfer – yes

S. Armstrong – change motion to reflect this.

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2. The Society supports the restoration of public provincial health care coverage for international students.

Seconded – K. Godbout (English)

G. Zeni (Medical Biophysics) – Does university get funding for domestic students?

R. Telfer – yes

Passes

International students are forced into the expensive UHIP program and this puts them into a dire situation, especially for those with families.

B. Shearer (Senator) – SOGS and SGPS work together for the same constituency, confrontational wording doesn't set up a good relationship. We could disagree, but respect the work they do.

S. Armstrong – wording is important.

R. Telfer – original motion is clear, direct. SGPS will already propose 4%. They have asked SOGS to be against the higher increase. They don't support this increase.

K. Godbout (English) – for – "oppose" better than new wording.

S. Colwell (English) – against – motion says what our stance is – this wording changes that.

M. Rytelwski (Microbiology & Immunology) – what is the relationship between 1 and 2?

R. Telfer – should be passed as a package of support for international students, but it can be divided.

A. Rochweg (History) – what is SGPS?

R. Telfer – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

J. Osumek (Physiology/Pharmacology/Toxicology) – motion to separate motion.

Seconded – J. Tong (Microbiology & Immunology)
J. Osumek – these are two separate issues
J. Meyer (Biochemistry visitor) – for separation
D. Sutherland (VP Finance) – table the motion to November. This is a complicated motion and should be considered when numbers are available.
Seconded – J. Osumek
K. Penev (Engineering visitor) – separate into two and bring back as new business.
R. English – Point of Information – will postponing make it too late?
R. Telfer – it will weaken SOGS' position.
S. Armstrong – Point of Information – Do we have numbers for the second part?
R. Telfer – this is a major campaign for the CFS.
P. Baiden (Sociology visitor) – against
N. McGinnis (Philosophy) – against
S. Colwell – against – not voting on course of action – either for or against.
K. Asquith – call question
Seconded – K. Godbout
passes

Initial motion passes (27)

MOTION #2:

BIRT the Society adopt the following position:

The Society of Graduate Students opposes deregulation, defined as the elimination of government-established limits on tuition fee increases.

The Society of Graduate Students therefore opposes a policy of so-called "tuition fee setting flexibility" as advocated by Dr. Amit Chakma, the President of The University of Western Ontario.

Seconded – R. English (Music)

R. Telfer – although it's not explicitly stated, it is inferred that President Chakma is suggesting the deregulation of fees, thus allowing universities to raise fees.

C. Gray (Kinesiology) – if this is a position we have already adopted, then why bring it up again?

R. Telfer – we want to be sure that our stand is clear.

R. English – anything that will stop students being fleeced.

S. Teichert (Biology) – why are there two parts?

R. Telfer – the second clause addresses the fact that the President isn't using 'deregulation' but rather 'tuition fee setting flexibility' – but the meaning is the same.

P. Baiden (Sociology visitor) – we should give the President our support.

N. Islam (Computer Science) – without an explanation from Dr. Chakma, should we pass this motion?

R. Telfer – President was being evasive. He wants total institutional control over fees.

N, McGinnis (Philosophy) – for motion – this means giving up control to limit tuition fees. Access to higher education is hampered.

B. Sherar – proposed a motion to postpone until Dr. Chakma has given clear information on tuition fees. No Secunder.

S. Armstrong – call the question

Seconded – J. Peters

Question called

Motion passes

MOTION #3:

BIRT:

1. the Orientation Committee propose a protocol for producing the Society's annual handbook/dayplanner; 2. the proposed protocol clearly delineate time-lines and also

lines of communication and decision-making authority; 3. development of the proposed protocol give consideration to the importance of input from executive and staff members of the Society; and, 4. the proposal be submitted to Council for consideration by no later than the January 2010 meeting of Council.

Seconded – D. Sutherland (VP Finance)

R. Telfer – compelled to revisit – outline a detailed protocol to ensure things don't get out of hand.

D. Sutherland – if we don't have this, then we should.

G. Keller – Point of information – is this needed? Does the OC need this?

J. Jiang (VP Student Services) – we did have a protocol, everything was set out properly. There was a plan on what and how things were to be done.

J. Meyer (Biochemistry visitor) – there already is an outline that was not followed this year.

K. Beaucage (Physiology/Pharmacology/Toxicology) – Point of Information – what is meant by protocol?

R. Telfer – these are guidelines that set out detailed steps on what is to be done.

J. Jiang – there was a protocol that was not followed

K. Godbout – call the question

Seconded - R. English

Question called

Motion passes (34)

MOTION #4:

BIRT the Society's bylaws be revised to prohibit the practice of voting by proxy within the Society.

Seconded – K. Godbout

R. Telfer – proxy voting is anti democratic, proxies should be banned.

K. Godbout – if voting on a question, it should be done by the person not through someone else.

D. Sutherland – Point of Information – what does that refer to?

Speaker – it would refer to every part that speaks to a proxy.

B. Sherar – this is a change to the Bylaws and should go to BCC first

R. Telfer – doesn't say that it must go to BCC; it's a long standing problem.

J. Meyer – BCC does research on questions; Council amends motion(s)

S. Armstrong – motion to postpone

Speaker – 5 minute recess to resume at 8:30.

Resumed – 8:31

Quorum lost

Motion to adjourn

Moved - G. Zeni (Medical Biophysics)

Seconded – J. Caughlin (Education)