

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

**September 30, 2010
6:10 – 8:10 pm
UCC Room 56**

Speaker: John Nater

Recording secretary: Olga Sauer

1) Ratification of Agenda

Agenda ratified. (Pilkington/Sutherland)

2) Guest Speaker

None

3) Announcements

- Welcome to all Councillors to the SOGS September Council Meeting.
- Summer quorum is 22.
- Refreshments are available at the front. If anyone has allergies they should speak to Olga.
- Next meeting will be on October 28 in this room. All councillors will need to be re-nominated to continue next year.
- If full-time students are leaving Canada to do research, from September 1 they will be able to apply for "Insurance Extension". As long as the student has OHIP or the equivalent (i.e., UHIP), they will be eligible to apply for coverage.
- A reminder, you must sign with the correct time at the beginning of Council and if you leave the meeting prior to it being 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. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes September 30, 2010

Minutes received and ratified (McMillan/McGuinness). Carried

5. Speaker's Ruling

Speaker outlined his ruling.

6. Vice Presidential Elections

VP Academic

Presentations were made by: Mehran Behazin (Chemistry), Jahidur Rahman (Engineering), Fiona Simpson (Physiology and Pharmacology).

Fiona Simpson elected.

Motion to destroy ballots – carried.

VP Finance

Jordan Harel (Sociology) Interim VP was acclaimed.

7. Orders of the Day

- a. Motions arising from the President**

BIRT Council authorize the hiring of two part time receptionists,
BIFRT Council authorize an increase in the payroll expenses line item to account for the new position.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Chowdhury (VP External)

Number of students has increased by 33% in recent years. Help is needed in the office.

S. Black (Engineering) – How much will it cost? (A) - \$41/day.

Budget line will be increased to accommodate the expenditure.

Carried

BIRT council financially endorse the tax clinic.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Chowdhury (VP External)

T.Ahn (Anatomy & Cell Biology) – international students have been able to receive this service in the past – what has changed. (A) – D. Sutherland – increase in number of students. USC has asked our assistance in offsetting costs about \$300-400.

C. Bennett- AbuAyyash (Psychology) – how many graduate students use this service? (A) – D. Sutherland – numbers aren't taken, but they noticed an increase in graduate student usage.

R. Kissack (History) – where will the money come from? (A) – D. Sutherland – It can be taken from the presidential discretionary fund.

S. Teichert (Biology) – our tuition pays for some services, does it go to cover this? (A) – D. Sutherland – not that I am aware of.

No – 2

Carried

b. Motions arising from Other Committees

c. Other Motions

d. Tabled Motions

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]).

Reaffirming the motion passed by Council in April 2010 stating that the SOGS Constitution 6.1.7 should be amended to: "Members of the Society who serve as

graduate student representatives to The University of Western Ontario Senate, Board of Governors, **Graduate Education Council**, or Graduate Students Teaching Assistants Union shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of Council.”
Whereas we believe elections to serve on the GEC to be democratic:

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

BIFRT SOGS email all graduate students ten (10) business days before the September SOGS Council Meeting to call for nominations for the positions that are vacant or for those whose current member has reached the completion of their term.

BIFRT graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect appear in person to the SOGS office within seven business days after the election, in order to verify a representative’s student status and home Faculty.

BIFRT SOGS forwarded the names of the graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect to the chair of the Operations/Agenda and Nominating Committee of the GEC for ratification.

Moved – R. English (Music)

Seconded – N. McGinnis (Philosophy)

Brent Sherar presented information on the Graduate Education Council (GEC).

R. Azarderakhsh (Engineering) – Why is it 70% for funding? (A) – B. Sherar – 70% is required to be admitted to a graduate program, but until now, 78% was required for funding. Now it will be 70% for both.

S. Chowdhury (VP External) – Can GEC change policy? (A) – B. Sherar – SOGS Council can make suggestions to the GEC to make changes. Some policies might be influenced/changed within reason.

Carried

The following were elected/acclaimed to the GEC -

Arts & Humanities – Katie Fulford (Philosophy)

Education – noone

Engineering – Dan Dechene

Health Sciences – Chelsea Mohler

Information & Media Studies - Vincent Manzerolle

Ivey – John Diogenous

Music – noone

Schulich – Stephanie Dorman

Science – Brent Sherar and Gaston Keller

Social Sciences – Philip Baiden

Law – noone

8. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

a. President

Motion:

Whereas the UWO graduate students compiled a petition on 15 October 2009 to the purpose that SOGS secede from the Canadian Federation of Students;

whereas the petition was served to the Canadian Federation of Students on 19 October 2009;

whereas serving the petition placed the Canadian Federation of Students under a legally enforceable obligation to cooperate in a secession referendum amongst the UWO graduate students;

whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has deliberately and persistently obstructed the secession referendum; and

whereas any further delay in the referendum would pervert the democratic rights of the UWO graduate students;

Be it resolved that:

(i) SOGS shall conduct a Referendum on Continued Membership in the Canadian Federation of Students [the "Referendum"].

(ii) SOGS shall conduct the Referendum in accordance with the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students as they were on 19 October 2009, except to the extent that is reasonable to overcome any lack of cooperation from the Canadian Federation of Students.

(iii) Notwithstanding any departure from the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students referred to in item (ii), SOGS shall deem the Referendum to be an official Referendum on Continued Membership, and shall be bound by the result.

(iv) SOGS shall allocate \$10,000 to pay any expenses that should arise in the course of the Referendum [the "referendum fund"].

(v) The SOGS Executive shall have the authority to conduct the Referendum, including the authority to allocate the referendum fund and to set the time and date of the Referendum, and the discretion to interpret the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students.

SOGS is trying to facilitate the call for a referendum which had been initiated by over 10% of the membership. CFS National has been slow in responding to our letter (dated June 15). We are attempting to follow CFS bylaws. In November, 2009, the referendum percentage was changed from 10-20%. This increase will require over 800 signatures on any petition that is sent to CFS. The sovereignty of SOGS is in question. By conducting the referendum, the voice of SOGS' membership will be heard and acted upon.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Russell (Earth Sciences)

G. Zeni (Medical Biophysics) – If we leave CFS what options do we have?

(A) – D. Sutherland – CASA is available, or we can go alone. WE are a small drop in the bucket. Everything will depend on what Council decides.

S. Russell (Earth Sciences) – for – from Univ. of Manitoba. CfS is good at blocking debate. CASA sued U of M for fees.

J. Nethery (Public Administration – visitor) – Point of Information (PoI) – are there broader problems?

(A) – D. Sutherland – CFS doesn't follow their own referendum requirements.

A. Alassuity (Engineering) – last year there was a lot of time spent by GSIC to consider the differences between CASA and CFS.

S. Black (Engineering) – for – CFS does offer some services; but the democratic process is encouraging.

J. Nethery (PA – visitor) – against – this may be nasty; wants a month for consideration.

S. Chowdhury (VP External) – for – CFS representative. At the Ontario AGM last month, CFS executive members were asked to reply to the letter SOGS had sent in June. They said they will reply within 10 days – nothing has been received yet.

- R. Kissack (History) – Pol – how was the allocation of dollars arrived at? (A) – D. Sutherland – 3% of the surplus. If CFS are not compliant, CFS friends will have to speak for them.
- R. Kissack (History) – Pol – can we just decide to willy nilly spend our surplus? (A) – D. Sutherland – last year the renovations ate up our surplus. This will not push us into deficit.
- R. English (Music) – for – strongly support – lack of professionalism and disrespect. Shouldn't be ignored.
- J. Brown (Biology) – when will this happen? (A) – D. Sutherland – “friends” will be chosen at next council meeting.
- C. Bennett-AbuAyyash (Psychology) – for – will SOGS be endorsing either side? Will the \$10,000 be used for SOGS propaganda? (A) – D. Sutherland – the money will be used for room rentals, pro and anti CFS materials, etc.
- S. Woolmore-Goodwin (Health & Rehab Sciences) – is there any money for legal fees? (A) – D. Sutherland – a motion was passed earlier this summer to allocate \$20,000 for legal fees.
- S. Teichert (Biology) – called the question
Seconded – R. English (Music)
Question called

For – 35
Against – 2
Motion passes

- b. VP Academic
 - N. Szudy thanked her committees, executive and staff. Reminded departments to apply to Joint Fund for support.
- c. VP External & Communications
 - S. Chowdhury reminded graduate students to join the official SOGS facebook page. An Equity petition is being circulated to show support to the University and City that audible traffic signals be installed along Western Road.
- d. VP Finance
 - Things are going smoothly. J. Harel is looking forward to productive year.
- e. VP Student Services
 - Horseback riding will take place on October 16.
- f. SOGS Commissioners' Reports
 - Disabilities Commissioner
 - C. Mohler asked Councillors to take the petitions seriously and get other students to sign.
- g. Councillor Reports
 - none
- h. Senator and Board of Governor Reports
 - None

9. Elections – Committees (Internal & External)

10. New Business/Open Forum