

## **SOGS COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Approved MINUTES**

**March 31, 2011**

**6:05 – 8:30 pm**

**UCC Room 56**

**Speaker: John Nater**

**Recording secretary: Olga Sauer**

#### **1) Ratification of Agenda**

Alter Agenda as follows

Ratify election of President and motion to destroy ballots

Election to fill various positions

Orders of the Day - BCC

Followed by Executive Reports

Moved – Amanda Stuart-Ross

Seconded – Mary Ellen Wennekers

Amended agenda ratified

#### **2) Guest Speakers**

Jennifer Meister, Acting Ombudsperson, outlined the functions of the Ombuds Office.

Chelsea Mohler clarified that any aspect of student life can be brought to the Ombuds office for further investigation.

Desiree Lamoureux – If there is a systemic problem what can be done? (A) Ombuds office can investigate and make recommendations. An annual report is available on line. The current issue is being prepared.

Kevin Goldthorpe, UWO VP External, made a presentation to Council.

Saad Anis – funding for international students is of great concern to many. (A) Alumni are being contacted to create scholarships to support international students. He acknowledged this is a problem that the University is trying to tackle.

Rick Telfer – expressed concern about private funding and how that might influence the flavour of the University. (A) private funding will ensure that things that wouldn't be funded otherwise will be funded.

Alumni donations exceeded the annual goal; although doing well, it could still be better

Saad Anis – why is it that if an OGS is accepted, the WGRC is taken back. (A) uncertain, will take this back to Administration for comment. It is understood that more has to be done to help international students.

Rick Telfer – expressed concern with private funding citing that at UofT, private donors stipulate who comes in. He would highly suggest that the government be pressed for more public funding.

Julie Herczeg suggested that more funding should not just be limited to research based programs, but also for Category II programs. Mr. Goldthorpe agreed.

#### **3) 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) Light refreshments available at the front of the room.

d) The next Council meeting will be on April 28<sup>th</sup> in this room.

e) Elections next month – VP External & Communications and VP Student Services.

f) Please tell your peers to remind undergraduate students to submit nominations for the GSTA Awards for full and winter term courses by no later than April 8.

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.

**4) Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes February 24, 2011**

Minutes received and ratified.

**5) Elections**

**Ratification of Presidential Vote**

**MOTION: BIRT Council ratify the results of the 2010-2011 Presidential Election and destroy the ballots**

**Moved** – Amanda Khan

**Seconded** – Saad Anis

**Carried**

**Finance Committee**

Yves Plourde Business (PhD)

Eric Sadowski H&R Science

**Health Plan Committee**

Eric Sadowski H&R Science

**Working Group for Information Security**

***Anyone interested should contact the SOGS office.***

**Moved** – Amanda Khan

**Seconded** – Amanda Stuart-Ross

**Carried**

**6) Orders of the Day**

Whereas during the January 2011 Council meeting the BCC was directed to review and recommend changes to the Bylaws to clarify the status of ex-officio members of Council, and Whereas the BCC undertook an extensive review of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society

BIRT 6.1.3 in the Constitution be amended as follows.

Council shall consist of representatives of each department (or program) referred to as "Councillors", executive officers of the Society, non-executive officers of the Society, and ex-officio members of Council as defined in 6.1.7.

BIRFT 6.1.x in the Constitution be added between 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 to read

Enrolment for the fall term shall determine the number of Councillors each department (or program) shall have on Council for the academic year. The specific number of representatives to be elected by each department (or program) shall be determined as follows: The number of Councillor positions at Council will be set at a base number of 120. The number of full members of the Society in a particular department (or program) will then be divided by the total number of full members of the Society. This number will be multiplied by 120. The resultant figure shall then be rounded up to the nearest whole number, which will be the number of Councillors that each department will elect to Council. Each Councillor must be a full or associate member of the Society. A Councillor may not hold another position on Council.

BIRFT the constitution be renumbered as appropriate.

**BIFRT** Bylaw 15.3.3 be amended to read:

15.3.3 All Councillors and Executive members are expected to attend the Council meetings.

**BIFRT** Bylaw 15.3.x be added following 15.3.3 to read:

15.3.x All non-executive Officers, ex-officio members of Council and any other person may attend and may speak at Council if recognized by the chair, but may not move, second, or

vote. Non-members of the Society may be excluded at Council's discretion.

BIRFT the Bylaws be renumbered as appropriate.

MOVED – R. Azarderakhsh (Engineering)

SECONDED – D. Sutherland (President)

M.E. Wennekers - info requested

R. Telfer – against

D. Jacques – for

R. Telfer – against

Question Called

Moved – R. Azarderakhsh (Engineering)

Secinded – R. Unrau (Earth Sciences)

No – 6

Carried

Yes – 50

No – 18

Abstentions – 5

Carried

## 7) Executive Reports

### **President – Duncan Sutherland**

- Access Copyright letter taken to G. Kulczycki and S. Jarrett.
  - CFS Referendum is April 5-7 9:30 am – 7:30 pm daily
  - trying to centralize all SGPS committee needs through SOGS
  - Meetings with G. Kulczycki - Administration, L. Miller – SGPS, S. Jarrett – Access Copyright, S. Grindrod – residences; L. Logan – student services.
- Report accepted as presented.

### **VP Academic – Fiona Simpson**

- WRF successful; will propose structural changes for next year
- GSTA accepting nominations; anyone with ideas as to how to reach students should contact Fiona

### **VP External – Saidur Chowdhury**

- Equity committee conducted an informative Racism Day on March 21; active committee; petitions submitted to City and UWO
- GSIC committee proposes to survey graduate students on various issues. They have raised a concern about water quality around campus.
- anyone with issues that could be taken on by GSIC should contact the VP
- Chair, Sustainability Committee, noted that they too were looking at water quality issues around campus and could combine their resources.

### **VP Finance – Jordan Harel**

- SOGS and Grad Club budgets were presented to UWO and endorsed
- Grad Club could be doing better; hope to have a survey to get student input
- Grad Club expansion loan has been paid off; cost cutting measures will be looked at (they will close on Sundays and have shorter hours of operation), snow days cut into profitable Christmas party days, shift in departments away from that part of campus also has an impact on Grad Club. Concern was raised that often students sit around a table with little or no food/drinks and there is no place for eating/drinking members to sit
- a survey will be coming out shortly

- Audited financial statements are presented in August.

**VP Student Services – Christopher Hum**

- Health Plan – Profit Participation Plan (PPP) signed by President and VP Student Services for 2009-10 - \$21,770 returned to students with a possible \$37,887 being returned for 2010-11 if contract re-signed.

- any contract signed on behalf of SOGS must be signed by two Executive officers.

- BCC should look at this bylaw and possibly discuss a dollar amount

MOTION: BIRT the BCC relook at the bylaw concerning signing of contracts.

Moved – D. Sutherland

Seconded – R. Unrau

carried

Motion to Adjourn

Moved – D. Sutherland

Seconded -