



Council

Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2018

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Place: NH 3407

AGENDA and Minutes

Time	Item
4:00 pm	<p>7.a Delegation- Due to timing constraints the Delegation was heard before the regular session of Council.</p> <p>Associate Provost, Students, Chris Read Council heard an overview of portfolio and office of the Associate Provost Students, including: Projects: <u>SLC/PAC</u> expansion was initiated at the request of FEDS/GSA and is a united project with UW to increase lounge, study and dining space and connect to the PAC to improve and increase existing space. Building will connect to the MC and other spaces on campus. The project is not moving as quickly as they would like, the expected completion is in discussion.</p> <p><u>Fieldhouse:</u> one phase of the long-range plan to improve student space on north campus for recreational and sports.</p> <p><u>Student Services Centre:</u> GSPA, Registrar and SSO are bringing together a common front “counter” – plan to improve service levels for student needs. Project began a year ago-expect it to be complete by end of fall term.</p> <p><u>New Student Transition:</u> Try to improve this for new comers to campus. Work with them to improve what is offered for students, reviewing what they do and provide new opportunities for grad students.</p> <p><u>President’s Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health:</u> There are about 36 recommendations to improve student well-being. The implementation committee has been struck and has met over the summer, 2 students are on the committee.</p> <p><u>Student Portal</u> is becoming the site for students, and it is well used. About 60 widgets exist. The analytics and data tell that a lot of students are using it.</p>

4:30 pm	<p>1. Speaker's Welcome and Opening Remarks Chair announced that quorum is present and regular session begins at 4:30 pm. Vogt acted as Secretary.</p>
	<p>2. Adoption of the Agenda as amended. (Freure/Reid) CARRIED.</p>
	<p>3. Declarations of Interest - none</p>
4:35 pm	<p>4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting a. July 11, 2018 (Freure/Samuel) no discussion. 8:0:1-Reid. CARRIED</p>
4:40 pm	<p>5. Consent Items+ a. Executive Reports Motion to accept President's Report (Maraga/Reid) CARRIED 2 abstain. Councillors will not have opportunity to ask VP questions, but will have opportunity to contact President. b. Committee Reports</p>
4:50 pm	<p>6. Council Membership Report Welcome to new Councillors and thank you acknowledgement to out-going Councillors for their service.</p>
4:55 pm	<p>7. Discussions, Presentations & Other Business Saudi Arabian Students are told to leave Canada by their home country. Councillors discussed what could be done to assist these students, most of whom are graduate students.</p> <p>A communication will be sent out by Ian Rowlands, the situation is complex and involves national governments. The GSA can provide support to students based on the student's decision. President has had conversations in supporting them in their decision and not deciding for them. We are trying to reduce the impact to students as much as possible? If a student decides to leave, UW will provide as much documentation as possible. Canadian Government is working to set up transfers to other countries, GSPA is looking at ways to help the students such as by adjusting schedules. The issues these students and the university faces are very complex. The GSA as an organization needs to be clear on their response based on our advice.</p> <p>Our advocacy efforts should be concentrated at the University. This step has already been done by the President. If a councillor received a question, tell them the university is looking into it and stand by for any news from the university. We are not giving legal advice. This is not something that the GSA could take on-but let the University know we wish them to act. The</p>

	<p>GSA does not have resources, time (manpower), to move forward, - maybe university has better options.</p> <p>Problem for us is everything is happening really fast.</p> <p>University is approaching students –We do not have the capacity to provide additional information, consequences. University is trying to deal with students trying to complete before they have to leave.</p> <p>President will go back to Waterloo International and UW to and will be able to update council. Would like to wait to give a statement so that not to give conflicting information.</p> <p>A communication has not been given directly to students, but they have contacted them in order to accommodate their needs.</p> <p>Recess at 5:24 pm</p>
5:30 pm	<p>8. Update from the Board, Al Sachs</p> <p>Proposed Ends:</p> <p>Board met to discuss and approve the Council proposed ENDS but Board ran out of time and at the next regular meeting on July 17th did not get to discuss the ENDS fully. On July 31st Board made no decision. Asked for Council for more clarity and context to assess risk.</p> <p>GP1 – Board job description: would like to add: Conclusion without context could not approve, a draft was made and will be submitted to Council for discussion.</p> <p>Will look at GP 1.2.a - to change how policies are amended. They will circulate the language draft to Council.</p> <p>Cost of Governance Report: A strategy/plan needs to be done to assign expenditures. Board is asking Council to develop policies, an annual agenda etc. Help Council to decide how much money to ask for in the budget.</p> <p>Vice President Hiring Committee: Propose a Vice President in order to be a senior level staff member and a student. The staff support role would be merged with a Vice President to support President and serve as a successor. The terms of the hiring committee were approved. On July 31, decided that Council input is needed since the role could take over the President's position. The President is an executive and the hiring process should be decided on from time to time by the Board and Council. Board decided that a policy is needed to define the VP position and Council to be actively involved in the process. Now there are two councillor reps involved in the process. Having a good VP policy will support a good reporting process.</p>

	<p>Conclusion: Council will be consulted on the ends policy, involved with the budget for governance, and volunteers for a committee to help write policy and process.</p> <p>Questions arose about the committee meeting and the role of the joint policy review committee.</p> <p>A summary response about the role of the joint policy review committee – it is not the responsibility of the committee to vet all the gaps. The ToR is a procedure to review the entire policy manual and will meet at least 2 times per year. The committee can meet as often as they like.</p> <p>Board meeting times are announced to the members of the Board, and perhaps Council Speaker can distribute the dates to the Council.</p> <p>Training for Council is needed and it needs to be done. Leading the process of training needs to be done by Council.</p>
6:00 pm	<p>9. Motions – Motion to extend meeting by 30 minutes (Reid/ Moraga) CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Motion to extend the term of office of the Council Executive Committee b. Motion to elect new members to the Council Executive Committee c. Motion to adopt Council Procedures Policy d. Motion to revise recommended Ends e. Motion to recommend Ends based on Political Positions
6:35 pm	<p>10. Members' Discussion Councillor raised the question of whether there was sufficient healthy food available on campus. There are a lot of options available on campus and nearby.</p>
	<p>11. Notices of Motion- none</p>
6:40 pm	<p>12. Adjournment at 6:40 pm.</p>

+ Consent Items are those items that in the judgment of the Executive Committee require the attention of Council but that neither require nor imply a decision by Council on any procedural or substantial matter. By adopting Consent Items, Council formally receives information for entry into the minutes. Council may discuss Consent Items at its pleasure.

Christopher van Bommel
Speaker of the Council
GSA-UW

August 9, 2018

DELEGATIONS

Chris Read
Associate Provost, Students

Chris Read will discuss key priorities he is involved in and provide an opportunity for Q&A.

The Associate Provost, Students is responsible for the effective direction and leadership of student services at the university, including housing and residences, student success office, campus wellness, retail services, athletics and recreational services, food services, student government (FEDs and GSA), and velocity.

RESOLUTIONS

9a Motion to extend the term of office of the Council Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Council Executive Committee has been tasked with the development of the Councillor Election Policy and Councillor Training; and

WHEREAS the development of these items is a long-term project requiring considerable time and attention; therefore

BIRT the term of office of the members of the Council Executive Committee be extended to April 30, 2019. **(Moraga/Reid) Carried unanimously.**

9b Motion to elect new members to the Council Executive Committee

BIRT the GSA-UW Council elect the following members of Council to the Council Executive Committee:

- **Science: Nikhil George motion to appoint. (Moraga/Freure) Carried.**

9c Motion to adopt Council Procedures Policy

WHEREAS the implementation of the new GSA policy manual also brought the repeal of the previous Council Policy; and

WHEREAS some of the procedures outlined in the previous Council Policy are not captured by the new GSA policy manual; therefore

BIRT the GSA-UW Council adopt the Council Procedures Policy provided in the agenda package. **(Moraga/Reid) Carried**

9d Motion to revise recommended Ends

BIRT the GSA-UW Council revise its previously recommended Ends to the Board to the following: **(Reid/Freure) CARRIED unanimously.**

- Graduate students at the University of Waterloo are able to pursue academic and/or non-academic paid employment from commencement of their studies to completion without negatively impacting their funding. Moreover, every graduate student has equitable opportunity to take leaves without negatively impacting their present or future status in Canada.

Rationale: The federal government has made recent changes that prevent international students from taking a leave of absence from their program to work for a term, unless it is specifically part of their program (e.g. co-op). Moreover, an international student is required to maintain continuous full-time enrolment in order to be eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit. All students should have equitable opportunities to take on work experience and/or leaves of absence as they feel would be beneficial without facing negative consequences.

- Graduate students and their interests are represented and promoted to federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government.

Rationale: After the GSA's withdrawal from CASA and OGSA, Council wishes to ensure lobbying efforts continue in some form.

- Graduate students are knowledgeable of the signs and symptoms of the most common mental illnesses, and have ongoing access to training to increase awareness and support strategies.

- **Rationale:** Graduate students should be able to support one another in having good mental health.

- Graduate students have work spaces that promote safety and support mental and physical wellness.

- **Rationale:** Graduate students' work spaces should not negatively impact their mental or physical wellness.

- Graduate students are aware of and have full access to any required accommodations recommended by a medical professional to promote their studies and research, and that students who require these accommodations are evaluated equitably.
- **Rationale:** The 2017 Vital Signs Survey found that between 7.8 and 15.0% of graduate students rate Accessibility Services as low quality to some degree, and 28.6 to 35.0% of graduate students rate the visibility of Accessibility Services as not very visible to some degree. Students should not be penalized for using recommended accommodations.

Jenn asks Chair of Board if there is possibility that the board would not pass the ENDS now that the rationale has been provided. Desire from the board for more clarity is to determine if there is a risk to the GSA. If the END lacks rationale to assess the risk then Directors cannot approve the ENDS without more clarity and/or expert consultation. Some of the ENDS could be interpreted as means and may then be conflicting/or limiting the scope that management can take to address the issues.

Jenn: wants to know that ends about advocacy is passed due to delay and deems it immediately.

Van Bommel: Is there appetite that the Board approves the END with small changes and then ratified by Council. Jenn is okay with this.

9e Motion to recommend Ends based on Political Positions

WHEREAS the recently adopted Council Procedures Policy requires that every political position have an associated End; and

WHEREAS Political Positions were adopted at the previous Council meeting without an associated End; and

WHEREAS a Political Position provides rationale for the recommendation of an associated End; therefore

BIRT the GSA-UW Council recommend the adoption of the following Ends:
(Moraga/Reid). CARRIED.

- Research-based graduate students' net student funding levels (total funding minus tuition fees, mandatory incidental fees, and taxes) are no lower than the cost of living in Waterloo.

- Graduate students are not required to take non-academic work to afford their education and living costs.
- Graduate students have a dedicated secure working space, independent of any “wet” research lab, reasonably close to their research group and supervisor, and unrestricted access to a computer.
- The University of Waterloo considers the long-term environmental sustainability of its operations to be a top priority.
- Graduate students have access to on-campus housing, and there exists targeted marketing of available social and academic services in residence and off-campus housing related resources.
- Graduate students are actively involved in deliberation and decision-making regarding the legitimate interests of the University and/or the University community.
- Graduate students, through the GSA, receive complete information on university proposals, and are not required to financially contribute to any proposal not approved by the GSA.