



**UWSA Board of Directors
 Meeting #12**

Our mandate: "To serve, represent and advocate for students."

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING):

- **Board Facilitator** Sami Pritchard
- **Board Chair** Mohamed Mahmoud
- **Board Minute-taker** Ahmed Abdallah
- **President** Jeremiah Bowers
- **VP Student Advocacy** Arop Plaek Deng
- **VP Student Services** Ahmed Abdallah
- **VP Finance & Operations** Sahibjot Grewal
- **General Manager** Maria Hamilton (Board Observer)
- **Society Presidents** Various (Board Observer)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INVITED:

Advait Desai	Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Rep.	Paramjot Gogia	Science Rep.
Amber Tazzman	Education Rep.	Petar Bratic	Business Rep.
André Ducharme	Business Rep.	Biane Deghaiche	Senator
Davinder Singh	Computer Science Rep.	Lena Sleiman	Senator
Jasleen Dayal	FAHSS Rep.	Linden Crain	Senator
Kevinprecious Fawehinmi	International Students' Rep.	Mohammad Hannan Sadar	Senator
Mohamed Mahmoud	Engineering Rep. – 6:18pm	Quessia Mugabo	Senator
Nyusha Samiei	Law Rep.		

Incoming Board members/Execs present:

- Herman Dayal, Petar Bratic, Paramjot Grewal, Jasleen Dayal, Mohammed Abdulaziz, Pedro Katati, Biane Deghaiche, Linden Crain, Emily Fraser, Mia Riviere, Jason Wong, Lia Thompson, Perween Ismail, Sumeet Kaur

ITEM DISCUSSION

ACTION

1.0 Call to Order – 6:11pm

2.0 Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded and traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Potawatomie, and the Odawa. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

- 3.0 Chair's Business**
 - 3.1 E-Meeting Etiquette**
 - 3.2 Appointment of Board Minute-taker**

MOTION TO APPROVE

BIRT Ahmed Abdallah be appointed as the Minute-Taker

Moved: Amber Tazzman / **Seconded:** Linden Crain

(CARRIED)

- 4.0 Unfinished Business** Discussion
- 5.0 Approval of the Agenda*** Approval
- 6.0 Approval of the Minutes*** Approval
 - 6.1** January 21st, 2020
 - 6.2** February 3rd, 2020
 - 6.3** February 24th, 2020
 - 6.4** March 23rd, 2020
- 7.0 Business Arising from the Minutes/Action Items**
- 8.0 Presentations to the Board** Information
 - 8.1 COVID-19 Update** J. Bowers
 - Discussions about the COVID-19 pandemic were made, and Jeremiah and the rest of the Executives updated the Board on University and UWSA decisions on refunds for certain fees, residence, how students will be affected academically and financially, and other essential information such as keeping the Food Pantry open or mental health tips online from the Peer Support Centre.
 - Questions on whether things are being done at other universities and whether or not we're reaching out, the answer was that we're doing our best to keep in touch with other student unions. Other questions were asked about specific academic questions that were responded as detailed as possible, yet we don't have all the information to provide since a lot of it will be decided through the VP Academic of the University and other University administration.
 - 8.2 Chief Returning Officer's Report** I. Bilbilovska
 - CRO reported on the elections results and the process. Also discussed the report written by CRO post-elections. Issues and concerns were brought up and folks were made aware to keep those considerations in mind for next year's elections. Barriers were also discussed that were reached in result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 8.3 Board Transition** Executives
 - *To occur after Item 9.1
 - A quick run-down on what UWSA is, how we function and what the responsibilities of each different committee and positions that UWSA has to offer. Also expressed how UWSA Board Functions as well. Incoming Board Directors and Executives expressed why they ran, and what their motivation was for running. Outgoing Board Directors and Executives expressed their views on their year and tips for their incoming successors.
- 9.0 Proposed Motions** Approval
 - 9.1 UWSA General Election 2020 Ratification** BOD200330-9.1

MOTION TO APPROVE

BIRT the results of the 2020 General Election, as submitted in the Chief Returning Officer’s Report, be ratified.

Moved: Andre Ducharme / **Seconded:** Jasleen Dayal **(CARRIED)**

9.2 GPC Recommendation – Senators/BOG Rep BOD200330-9.2

- It was clarified that this is the meeting where the motion will be voted on for approval or defeat. Discussions were made on the purpose of this committee to allow Senators to join standing committees. Also, GPC is working on policy changes to make sure that this represents the idea that Board Faculty Representatives have priority first to sit on standing committees and allow Senators to fill in space if they’d like to.

MOTION TO APPROVE

BIRT By-Law 80.01(d)(i) be struck, which reads as follows: “Senators and Board of Governors representation may only sit on the University Affairs Committee.”

Moved: Andre Ducharme / **Seconded:** Biane Deghaiche **(CARRIED)**

9.3 GPC Recommendation – Executive Position Renaming BOD200330-9.3

- Jeremiah motivated and discussed the reasoning for this. As the job descriptions for the positions have changed. Vice President Student Advocacy will now be responsible for service centres and Vice President Finance and Operations will now be responsible for events and programming related to student life. To represent this appropriately, a change from Vice President Student Services to Vice President Student Life would be appropriate.

MOTION TO APPROVE

BIRT the Executive position of “Vice President Student Services” be renamed to “Vice President Student Life” in all applicable instances of the By-Laws, including By-Law 70.05(c) and 80.05(a)(1) and policies.

BIFRT “Student Services Committee” be changed to “Student Life Committee” in all instances of the By-Laws, including By-Law 80.05, and policies.

Moved: Biane Deghaiche / **Seconded:** Paramjot Gogia **(CARRIED)**

10.0 Reports Information

- 10.1** Operations Committee
- 10.2** Standing Committees
- 10.3** Ad-hoc Committees

11.0 New Business Discussion

11.1 Contributing to the Fight Against COVID-19

- Discussions were made in support of this motion. Expressing that it’s essential for UWSA to support the greater community and help out in ways that we can. Clarifications were requested to discuss where exactly this money would come from. It was discussed that this will be taken from our Health reserve of the Health and Dental fund, meant for initiatives such as this or other initiatives such as mental health.

MOTION TO APPROVE

BIRT the UWSA Board of Directors approve the contribution of \$15,000 from the UWSA Health and Dental reserve towards medical supplies for Windsor Regional Hospital.

Moved: Amber Tazzman / **Seconded:** Paramjot Gogia **(CARRIED)**

12.0 Question Period

Information

13.0 In-Camera

14.0 Adjournment

Approval

MOTION TO ADJOURN

BIRT the meeting adjourns.

Moved: Amber Tazzman / **Seconded:** Paramjot Gogia **(CARRIED)**

Please carefully review the 'starred' (*) consent agenda items. As per the April 5th, 2018, meeting, 'starred' items are deemed non-controversial items and therefore will not be discussed during a scheduled meeting unless a member specifically requests that a 'starred' agenda item be 'un-starred' and therefore open for discussion/debate. This can be done any time before (by forwarding the request to the minute-taker/chair) or during the meeting. By the end of the meeting, agenda items which remain 'starred' (*) will be deemed approved or received.

Item: **9.1**

MOTION:

BIRT the results of the 2020 General Election, as submitted in the Chief Returning Officer's Report, be ratified.

Item For: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Governance & Policy Committee**

Rationale ("Whereas"):

- In accordance with Section 90.01(2) of the Elections Policy, the Board of Directors must ratify the unofficial results.
- The unofficial results of the 2020 General Election are to be reported by the Chief Returning Officer, Ivona Bilbilovska, on Monday, March 30th, 2020.
- The unofficial results for the Directors-elect and Executives-elect for the 2020-21 term are as follows:
 - President – Herman Dayal
 - Vice President Finance & Operations – Petar Bratic
 - Vice President Student Advocacy – Paramjot Gogia
 - Vice President Student Services (Student Life) – Jasleen Dayal
 - Board of Governors Representative - Nyusha
 - Senator – Mohammed Abdulaziz
 - Senator – Emily Fraser
 - Senator – Pedro Kantati
 - Faculty of Business Representative – Mia Riviere
 - Faculty of Science Representative – Jason Wong
 - Faculty of Science Representative – Lia Thompson
 - Faculty of Social Work Representative – Perween Ismail
 - International Students Representative – Sumeet Kaur

Item: **9.2 (By-Law Change)**

MOTION:

**BIRT By-Law 80.01(d)(i) be struck, which reads as follows:
“Senators and Board of Governors representation may only sit on the University Affairs Committee.”**

Item For: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Governance & Policy Committee**

Rationale (“Whereas”):

- A similar proposal was put forward to the Membership at the UWSA’s 2020 AGM but was never considered as it was tabled.
- This By-Law currently restricts Student Senators and the Board of Governors representative (“BOG Rep”) from serving on any committee other than the University Affairs Committee.
- The By-Law was written with consideration to the fact that Senators are already required to sit on 2 University of Windsor Senate committees, and the BOG Rep has immense responsibility at the Board of Governors level.
- Over the years, we have experienced issues with committee participation from faculty and special constituency representatives (i.e. Directors who are not Student Senators or the BOG Rep), often due to low numbers of Directors or limited capacity of Directors. In these circumstances, we have seen Senators wanting to participate but unable to.
- This proposal acknowledges that Senators and the BOG Rep should have the **option** of joining other Board committees, if so desired.
- Notably, unlike other Directors, this does not make it a requirement for the Senators and BOG Rep to sit on any committee other than the University Affairs Committee, enabling the voluntary participation at the discretion of the individual Senator/BOG Rep.
- **As per By-Law 130.01, this By-Law amendment requires two readings: a first reading, which this meeting will constitute, and a second meeting, which the March 30th meeting will constitute at which time the Board may approve the by-law change. The Board’s By-law change will only be in effect until confirmed, confirmed as amended, or rejected by the Membership at the UWSA’s next Annual General Meeting.**
- **Amended Note (March 30th meeting): The GPC will be exploring a policy change that ensures Faculty and Constituency Representatives (i.e. Directors who are not Senators/BOG Rep) are given priority for available UWSA standing committees. This will guarantee that all Faculty and Constituency Representatives join a committee, and any willing Senators or the BOG Rep may voluntarily choose to join a standing committee after such.**

Item: **9.3**

MOTION:

BIRT the Executive position of “Vice President Student Services” be renamed to “Vice President Student Life” in all applicable instances of the By-Laws, including By-Law 70.05(c) and 80.05(a)(1) and policies.

BIFRT “Student Services Committee” be changed to “Student Life Committee” in all instances of the By-Laws, including By-Law 80.05, and policies.

Item For: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Governance & Policy Committee**

Rationale (“Whereas”):

- At the March 12th, 2019 Board meeting, the Board, pursuant to a recommendation from the Operations Committee, made the decision to reshuffle responsibilities among the Executive positions. Particularly, the service centres will now report to the Vice President Student Advocacy, allowing the Vice President Student Services to focus on event programming and enhancement of student life on campus.
- In February 2020, the Board received, for information, the revised job descriptions for the positions of Vice President Student Advocacy and Vice President Student Services, delineating these duties.
- As the name “Vice President Student Services” is no longer reflective of the role, the Governance & Policy Committee, pursuant to the Operations Committee’s recommendation, is proposing the new name of “Vice President Student Life.”
- The Board Minute-taker is empowered to correct “non-substantive errors” in the By-Laws and policies, but it is debatable whether the renaming of an Executive position qualifies as a “non-substantive error.”
- **In the committee’s view, and unless otherwise determined by the Facilitator, we would err on the side of caution and treat this as substantive and therefore require an amendment to the By-Laws.**
- **The revised By-Law 130.01 *Board-Facilitated Amendments*, as approved at the 2020 UWSA AGM, empowers the Board to make by-law changes, upon recommendation from the Governance & Policy Committee.**
- **As per By-Law 130.01, this By-Law amendment requires two readings: a first reading, which this meeting will constitute, and a second meeting, which the March 30th meeting will constitute at which time the Board may approve the by-law change. The Board’s By-law change will only be in effect until confirmed, confirmed as amended, or rejected by the Membership at the UWSA’s next Annual General Meeting.**

Item: **11.1 – Contributing to the Fight Against COVID-19**

MOTION:

BIRT the UWSA Board of Directors approve the contribution of \$15,000 from the UWSA Health and Dental reserve towards medical supplies for Windsor Regional Hospital.

Item For: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Operations Committee**

Rationale:

- At 2 PM today, University President, Dr. Gordon, spoke with our President, Jeremiah Bowers, regarding a collective contribution to medical supplies for Windsor Regional Hospital. This contribution would be \$15,000 each from the University of Windsor, St. Clair College, our Alumni Association, and the student associations of both institutions.
- St. Clair College's Student Representative Council (the UWSA's college counterpart) has already confirmed their \$15,000 contribution.
- Today, public health authorities announced 44 cases in Windsor-Essex, with over 300 test results pending. The local Chief Medical Officer of Health confirmed there is community transmission of the virus, escalating the vulnerability for our population.
- While we are already employing other methods of supporting our 15,000-student population, such as academic, financial and wellness advocacy, this is a practical means of supporting our students and the broader Windsor-Essex community.
- As we consider this measure, we also reflect on the UWSA's mission statement: *"We shall be a community conscious organization. We will strive to foster a culture of inclusivity and safety within the greater Windsor community. We shall strive to be progressive, exploring leading practices that fit with being a socially conscious organization. We shall strive to constantly work to assess and improve the quality of services and programs provided to students."*
- At our Operations Committee meeting earlier today, the Executives discussed the proposal and hereby recommends the attached motion to our Board of Directors.

Outgoing Tips for Incoming Directors and Executives.

- Read the agenda and bring snacks to the meeting, the board room is a sauna so be prepared. (Amber Tazzman)
- Spend time in the office from time to time to see what day-to-day operations looks like. (Amber Tazzman)
- Get familiar with UWSA by-laws and policies. (Quessia Mugabo)
- Don't ever shy away from making how you feel about something heard! Your opinion is always valuable & welcomed, and the Board always love to hear everyone's variety of thoughts, concerns, and opinions. (Jasleen Dayal)
- Don't take your role & responsibilities lightly. You are a director of a \$6M+ corporation. That comes with legal obligations and moral obligations. It's sad to see the number of directors that have been removed for not showing up to enough meetings. This isn't a student council like in high school - the UWSA has a huge budget paid entirely by students. There's a lot of sobering responsibility there and you want to live up to the commitment you've made (Petar Bratic)
- Don't ever be afraid to speak up in a meeting. Nothing seems sillier than being too shy to ask a question and instead you end up texting people across the room so that there is a conversation in-person and a parallel virtual one going on. You are a director - you were elected - remember that and do your constituency and the corporation justice in doing so (Petar Bratic)
- Be active and engaged at all meetings. Get involved outside of board meetings and let students know who you are. (Linden Crain)
- Just make sure to participate, the more you talk in meetings the more you will get out of it. You don't have to always agree make sure to always voice your opinion. (Andre Ducharme)
- Connect with students on campus. Meet people and let them know what UWSA is and stands for. Your role on UWSA can be more than just attending meetings. (Linden Crain)
- Know that you all, as members of the Board, are the nodes that power this organization. It's one of the largest non-profits in the city, so keep in mind that the accountability principle remains active, and that the burden of responsibility will often be placed on your shoulders (insofar as you take it as such). So be sure to acknowledge your responsibility and the initiative that you took to represent your respective constituencies. Best of luck to all. (Paramjot Gogia)
- Don't forget that you play such a big role in student change when going back to the core goals of representing students, advocating for students, and through service to our friends and colleagues! From new initiatives, grade changes in light of wild circumstances, EPIC concerts, etc. remind yourself after every victory that YOU played an important role in that, change that will be consequential for years and generations to come! But while you're giving so much to this, don't forget you can take away so much too. You will all continue to improve as student leaders, will improve as negotiators and advocates, and improve as Lancers doing their part to enrich the student experience for ourselves and our peers here at UWindsor! (Herman Dayal)