



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union General Council /
Board of Directors Meeting Highlights
Zoom Meeting Tuesday, July 20th
2021 0 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

1. Meeting Comes to Order

MOTION B21-07-01: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve Hamish Russell as Chair of the July 20th, 2021 General Council meeting. Moved by Sarah A (IC), seconded by Dhanela S (AF1&2). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-02: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move to adopt the agenda as presented. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Danielle K (AF3&4). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

MOTION B21-07-03: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to seat all guests and media with speaking rights. Moved by Rowan F (Ecology), seconded by Kirsten Y (Chem). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-04: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve the minutes of the April 27th, 2021 general council meeting. Moved by Saif S (Earth Sciences), seconded by Abhinav G (Aerospace). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-05: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to receive the executive committee reports. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Josh Q (FGSA). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-06: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to receive all other reports. Moved by Mariam K (Information), seconded by Lisa L (GSAS). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

MOTION B21-07-07: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors Committee to approves the proposed UTGSU restructure as presented under Item 3

BIFRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors instructs the UTGSU Primary Counsel, Executive Director and Executive Committee to draft suggested changes to the UTGSU governing documents, including its By-laws and Policies, for the purpose of implementing the GSU Restructure Proposal, all of which shall be submitted to general council for approval. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Saif S (Earth Sciences). MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-08: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors amend the motion to read “receives the proposed UTGSU restructure as presented under Item 3.” Moved by Adam H (CTLSA), seconded by Rowan F (Ecology). MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-09: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors call the question. Moved by Kirsten Y (Chem), seconded by Hannah D (Music). MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION B21-07-10: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors call the question. Moved by Lisa L (GSAS), seconded by Liam F (Geography). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

MOTION B21-07-11: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee: Padraic Berting (Public Policy) for Division 2, Kaiwen Z (MIE) for Division 3, and Lina M (Rehab Science) for Division 4. Moved by Adam B, seconded by Evelyn C (Public Policy). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

MOTION B21-07-12: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors maintain International Advocacy and Activism as a UTGSU Commitment in Future Years. Moved by Sarah A (IC), seconded by Justin P (EC). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



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www.utgsu.ca

**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union General Council /
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting Tuesday, July 20th
2021 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

UTGSU Staff

Brie Berry Crossfield (Executive Director)
Hamish Russell (Chair)
Hujma Chowdhury (Secretary)
Gail Fernando (Membership and Advocacy Coordinator)
Maha Babeker (Equity Officer)

UTGSU Executive Team

An-Noûra Compaoré (Civics and Environment Commissioner)
Danielle Karakas (Academics and Funding Commissioner: Divisions 3 and 4)
Dhanela Sivaparan (Academics and Funding Commissioner: Divisions 1 and 2)
June Li (Finance Commissioner)
Justin Patrick (External Commissioner)
Lwanga Musisi (University Governance Commissioner)
Sarah Alam (Internal Commissioner)

1. Meeting Comes to Order

MOTION B21-07-01: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve Hamish Russell as Chair of the July 20th, 2021 General Council meeting. Moved by Sarah A (IC), seconded by Dhanela S (AF1&2). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

a. Equity Statement

Hamish R (Chair) reviews ground rules for the meeting and goes over the agenda.

b. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION B21-07-02: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move to adopt the agenda as presented. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Danielle K (AF3&4). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

c. Seating Guests and Media

MOTION B21-07-03: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to seat all guests and media with speaking rights. Moved by Rowan F (Ecology), seconded by Kirsten Y (Chem). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

Lauren A (News Editor Varsity)
Lynne A (SJE/OISE)
Willis O (Social Justice Education)
Matthew J (Lawyer, Arbique & Ahde)

d) Approval of Minutes from the March 30th Meeting

MOTION B21-07-04: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve the minutes of the April 27th, 2021 general council meeting. Moved by Saif S (Earth Sciences), seconded by Abhinav G (Aerospace). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

Lynne A (SJE/OISE) notes she was incorrectly labeled as “guest” when she is a general member.

2. Reports

a) Executive and Committee Reports

Danielle K (AF3&4) is largely focusing on the food insecurity campaign and providing the foodbank with more of an annual reliable support and advocating their needs to the administration.

June L (FC) is wrapping up the Spring Conference Bursary, initiated a second round due to COVID-19, summer bursary is now up and running, may also do a second round for this. Looking to form the finance committee to create new bursaries and help with student support. The basic funding initiative is still in process and is estimated to start up next month.

Dhanela S (AF1&2) is continuing with the tuition waiver initiative, looking to extend it for this term and working on a funding increase. Any departmental issues or appeals for DIV1&2 please contact Dhanela.

Sarah I (IC) is working with the lawyer and ED on the CNCA, reviewing all the bylaws and policies and working on campaigns for the Fall.

An-Noura C (CEC) is working on the September campaigns, increasing awareness of housing affordability, tenants’ rights and creating the Civics and Environment Committee for the upcoming year.

Lwanga M (UGC) has been working together with SMART and preparing for the Fall semester.

Justin P (External Commissioner) is interested in forming partnerships with other organizations to strengthen campaigns and activism efforts. If anyone has ideas for partnerships please reach out to Justin. UTGSU has sent delegates to the Canadian Federation of Students National Graduate Caucus Meeting.

Adam B (Classics) any news if graduate students will be able to conduct their research on campus?

Danielle K (AF3&4) notes this has been brought up a few times but it will be department dependant. The university will be open but the departments will determine if things will be online or in person.

Adam B (Classics) What about accessing library spaces that are attached to a department?

Dhanela S (AF1&2) notes there have been no updates on reopening library spaces, Gerstein has opened, other locations are very limited in space. This will be brought up in the next administrative meeting.

Adam B (Classics) would like to push for access to library carrels for students.

June L (Finance) had a meeting with OVPS, the university is excited to open up spaces but they are going by Ontario guidelines, will send an email to OVPS asking to push the opening of carrels earlier.

Adam H (CTLSA) is wondering why there is no report from the UGC for March.

Sarah A (Internal) the UGC provided a verbal report which council approved, it was submitted after but not uploaded as the files are being updated.

Anna C (Religious Studies) in regards to tuition waivers, have there been discussions about this already? Any sense where SGS may land on that decision.

June L (Finance) notes SGS has mentioned it is extendable for two terms on a case by case basis, SGS is not inclined to implement it as a formal regulation across all departments but it is flexible on a faculty or department basis.

Adam H (CTLSA) notes bylaw amendments were not added to the bylaw document.

Sarah A (Internal) replies they are in the process of reviewing the bylaws and policies for the CNCA filing and updating the website; this will take some time but it is being worked on.

MOTION B21-07-05: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to receive the executive committee reports. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Josh Q (FGSA). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

b) Legal Ad Hoc Committee

June L (FC) provides a wrap-up of events as Legal Ad Hoc is currently dissolved. A cap was put on how much the law firm could spend on the SCI case (30k), an appeal has gone forward, the funds have been depleted, things have been wrapped up with BLG, the contract has been terminated for now, but if the appeal does move forward this issue will be brought forward to council to see if they wish to be involved once more.

Adam H (CTLSA) is wondering if there is a record of deciding to discontinue involvement in the SCI case?

June L (FC) notes it was not a decision as the task that council set out to do was completed and the funds are depleted, if we want to spend more UTGSU money this would need to be a separate motion.

c) Course Unions

Hannah D (Music) would like to acknowledge the situation that is happening at the Faculty of Music. There is a group of students and faculty speaking up about a long history of sexual harassment and violence, there is an open letter published online with a few demands for the University, it has over 950 signatures and has gained traction from the media. If anyone wishes to learn more about what is happening feel free to contact Hannah.

hannah.davisabraham@mail.utoronto.ca

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g_1VPoxYUzk9sZyGWKqaBXbSOUT5FFP9I2XOcojNnrA/edit?ts=60b16041#heading=h.na3wlhshs6b

d) Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses

No reports given.

e) Governing Council, Graduate Education Council, CUPE 3902, USW 1998

No reports given.

f) Motion to Receive All Other Reports

MOTION B21-07-06: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors to receive all other reports. Moved by Mariam K (Information), seconded by Lisa L (GSAS). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

3. CNCA Filing Update

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) legal counsel for the UTGSU enters the meeting to provide an update on the GSU restructure proposal.

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) is anticipating receiving the Certificate of Continence into the Federal Act in a few days, to comply with this Act there will need to be structural changes. The membership is still the driving force what will be changing is on the Executive and Board of Directors level.

The General Council will no longer sit as the Board of Directors itself but there will be a more focused decision-making influence at the Board of Directors.

Summary of proposed GSU changes:

- reducing the number of Executives from 8 to 5 with a new structure (President, VP-Internal, VP-External, VP-Academic, VP-Finance)
- a new Board of Directors model replacing the course union representation model: 20 division-based seats, 10 additional seats and 5 seats for the executives
- Board members will support execs by sitting on additional committees or acting as liaisons with levy groups, committees, or caucuses
- no member will be able to hold a Council Rep and Board position simultaneously
- moving Course Unions to an assembly model with changes to head grant requirements
- restructuring Standing Committees under the Executive portfolios
- no changes to Grad Minds or Board of Appeals
- formalizing the Equity Officer position
- updating the bylaws on informal and formal conflict resolution
- changing the position of CRO to an external hire
- amending bylaws to allow for online meetings
- implementing a vacation policy for Executives

Proposed timeline:

- approval of Draft Restructuring – July 2021
- final bylaw edits submitted for AGM – December 2021
- implementation/effective date – January 2022
- Winter 2022 elections would follow new structural changes

There is a one to two-year buffer to adapt to the changes of the CNCA.

MOTION B21-07-07: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors Committee to approves the proposed UTGSU restructure as presented under Item 3

BIFRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors instructs the UTGSU Primary Counsel, Executive Director and Executive Committee to draft suggested changes to the UTGSU governing documents, including its By-laws and Policies, for the purpose of implementing the GSU Restructure Proposal, all of which shall be submitted to general

**council for approval. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Saif S (Earth Sciences).
MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.**

Rowan F (Ecology) who would be responsible for voting for the 6 elected positions on the Board of Directors?

Sarah A (IC) notes models are still being looked at for running a large election, nothing has been decided yet.

Adam B (Classics) wonders what the rationale is for splitting academic divisions from two seats to one seat when the needs of the divisions are very different?

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) having a five-person committee allows for votes to fall on an odd number, Council can finalize the number of execs if they wish to increase it.

Willis O (SJE) is in favour of this restructure.

Saif S (Earth Sciences) is wondering if this information will be made available somewhere?

Sarah A (IC) notes once it is passed the details will be made available for the larger membership to know about and refer to.

Adam H (CTLSA) are the Standing Committees going to continue performing the work of the General Council?

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) The Board of Directors would be steering the governance structure of the UTGSU in a format that is more monthly meetings, General Counsel would inform the Board of Directors. This will be cleared up in the written drafts.

Keuna J (GSAS) is wondering why there are only first-year representatives on the Masters and Doctoral seats for the Board of Directors?

Brie B (ED) the 20 division-based seats are for anyone who is already a student, the appointed Masters and Doctoral seats will help to get incoming students involved in union spaces, giving them a space to learn from upper-year students while providing more representation. The assumption is that upper-year students would be running in either division-based seats or the allotted additional seats.

Lisa L (GSAS) is there anywhere in the new structure allocated for representation from UTSC and UTM graduate students?

Brie B (ED) they have slightly separate agreements in comparison to the other course unions but this is something that was considered and will be looked into.

Rowan F (Ecology) has there been discussion for separate representation for students affiliated with the ROM and other departments?

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) it hasn't been discussed yet but it is something that can be noted.

Adam H (CTLSA) would like to amend the motion from "approves" to "receives."

MOTION B21-07-08: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors amend the motion to read "receives the proposed UTGSU restructure as presented under Item 3." Moved by Adam H (CTLSA), seconded by Rowan F (Ecology). MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.

Padraic B (Public Policy) agrees with the change, many of us don't know enough about these changes to approve it.

Keuna J (GSAS) agrees with the change in wording.

MOTION B21-07-09: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors call the question. Moved by Kirsten Y (Chem), seconded by Hannah D (Music). MOTION CARRIES.

Adam B (Classics) is in favour of these changes because it is allowing people to draft more complete rules and present them to a larger democratic body to accept or reject them.

Mahmoud B (Cell and Systems Bio) is wondering who the best person is to contact to address questions or concerns while the more complete version of this is drafted?

Matthew Joseph (Arbique & Ahde) notes that Sarah A (IC) has been very involved with the process but there will also be more opportunities for discussion at council and at the member's meeting in December.

Sarah A (IC) is happy to address questions or concerns via email at internal@utgsu.ca.

MOTION B21-07-10: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors call the question. Moved by Lisa L (GSAS), seconded by Liam F (Geography). MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

4. Financial Business

a. Finance Committee Appointments

June L (FC) notes the Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the UTGSU budget for the upcoming year. It is a great opportunity to make some impactful changes, the committee will review bursary applications, request funding for events, grants and set up new bursaries and grants. Time commitment is about twice a month during the school year and once a month during the summer unless otherwise needed.

MOTION B21-07-11: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoint the following members to the UTGSU Finance Committee: Padraic Berting (Public Policy) for Division 2, Kaiwen Z (MIE) for Division 3, and Lina M (Rehab Science) for Division 4. Moved by Adam B, seconded by Evelyn C (Public Policy). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

5. Any Other Business

Justin P (EC) motivates that UTSGU occasionally participates in votes at CFS meetings and other collation meetings that are about international issues. We are a part of a global student movement this motion ensures that future external commissioners maintain international advocacy in their decision-making.

Hamish R (Chair) notes this motion is looking to amend the duties of the External Commissioner in the bylaws to include references to international student issues.

MOTION B21-07-12: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors maintain International Advocacy and Activism as a UTGSU Commitment in Future Years. Moved by Sarah A (IC), seconded by Justin P (EC). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.

Rowan F (Ecology) are council meetings going to continue online?

Brie B (ED) notes that they will continue online given the size of council.

Adam H (CTLSA) notes there is no record of the exec ratified minutes since May on the website, will this be remedied?

Hamish R (Chair) replies he needs to sign off the minutes, this may have caused the delay.

Lynne A (OISE) wonders what the Board of Appeal is working on at the moment, is there a report?

Hamish R (Chair) notes the Board of Appeal needs a Chair, this will probably be addressed in September; that is why it hasn't been active or responsive.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Hujma Chowdhury

Hujma Chowdhury
GSU General Council Secretary

UTGSU Council Meeting July 20, 2021

GSU COUNCIL REPS

Department	First Name	Last Name
Aerospace (UTIAS) - 3 votes	Abhinav	Grover
Aerospace (UTIAS) - 3 votes	Daniel	MacGregor
Anthropology (2 votes)	Erica	Kilius
Anthropology (2 votes)	Fernando	Mercado Malabet
Astronomy and Astrophysics	James	Lane
Biochemistry - 2 votes	Cami	Aprosoff
Cell & Systems Biology (2 votes)	Mahmoud	Bitar
Chemistry - (3 votes)	Kirsten	Yeung
Classics	Adam	Barker
CTL (4 votes)	Adam	Hill
CTL (4 votes)	Hugo	Chang
Drama	Munia	Tripathi
Earth Sciences	Saif	Al-Silwadi
East Asian Studies	Mark	Lush *PROXY
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (1 vote)	Rowan	French
English (2 votes)	Erin	Baldwin
Environmental Studies (2 votes)	Emiko	Newman
Forestry	Josh	Quattrociocchi
Geography and Planning (2 votes)	Liam	Fox
HPME (3 votes)	Tolulope	Ojo
Information - Masters	Courtney	DeMaeyer
Information - PhD (1 vote)	Mariam	Karim
Law (2 votes)	Rishabh	Nigam
Management - PhD (1 vote)	Leandro	Simoes Pongeluppe
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (3 votes)	Kaiwen	Zhang
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (3 votes)	Mohammad	Roostaie
Medical Biophysics (3 votes)	Ji	Zhang
Medical Research (2 votes)	Jo	Nguyen
Medical Science (3 votes)	Robinson	Truong
Medieval Studies	Olena	Karbach
MMPA (2 votes)	Flora	Liu
MMPA (2 votes)	Kexin	Zheng
Molecular Genetics (3 votes)	Anson	Sathaseevan
Molecular Genetics (3 votes)	Emily	Xiong

Molecular Genetics (3 votes)	Iosifina	Fotiadou
Museum Studies	Rebecca	Ford
Music (3 votes)	Hannah	Davis-Abraham
Physical Therapy (3 votes)	Danielle	Tsirulnikov
Physical Therapy (3 votes)	Farhanna	Hassanali
Physics (2 votes)	Alex	Cabaj
Psychology (2 votes)	Jacklyn	Koyama
Public Policy & Governance (2 votes)	Padraic	Berting
Rehabilitation Sciences (1 vote)	Lina	Musa
Religious Studies	Anna	Cwikla
Scarborough GSAS (3 votes)	Keuna	Jeon
Scarborough GSAS (3 votes)	Lisa	Labine
Slavic Lang & Lit	Kirsten	Tarves
Spanish and Portuguese (1 vote)	Valeria	Tapia-Cruz

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Academics 1 & 2 Commissioner	Dhanela	Sivparan
Academics 3 & 4 Commissioner	June	Li
Civics and Environment Commissioner	Danielle	Karakas
External Commissioner	Justin	Patrick
Finance Commissioner	AnNoura	Compare
Internal Commissioner	Sarah	Alam
University Governance Commissioner	Lwanga	Musisi

STAFF

Council Chair	Hamish	Russell
Council Secretary	Hujma	Chowdhury
Executive Director	Brie	Berry-Crossfield
Equity Officer	Maha	Babeker

GUESTS & GENERAL MEMBERS

OISE/Access for Wellbeing	Lynne	Alexandrova
SJE	Willis Akala	Opondo
GSAS	Lamia	Akbar
Chemistry	Harsiman	G
Museum Studies	Natalie	Scola
The Varsity	Lauren	Alexander
Lawyer, Arbique and Ahde	Matthew	Joseph

Number of Reps:	55	
Number of Guests:	7	
* Please contact Gail at membership@utgsu.ca for corrections to the roll call.		
* Corrections can also be made at the next Council meeting during approval of minutes.		