



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union General
Council/ Board of Directors Meeting Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Tentative
proposed date)**

Directors must register by emailing register@utgsu.ca before the meeting.

1. Meeting Comes to Order

The meeting is called to order at 5:30pm.

a. Approval of Chair

Motion 22-01-1a: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve Hamish Russell as Chair of the January 25th, 2022, General council meeting. Moved by: Lwanga Seconded by: Hannah D (Music)

Motion Carries Noted Abstention: Adam H (CTLSA)

b. Equity Statement (Commitment) (Page 3)

Chair asked for four volunteers to read the Equity Statement

c. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion & Decision)

The chair went over the items of the agenda. The chair explains that motion regarding impeachment in the agenda requires notice to be provided and at the following meeting, the motion would be dealt with. But, seeing as the executive named in the motion feels comfortable proceeding, the chair leaves the decision on whether to accept the agenda with the motion included, up to the council.

Adam H (CTLSA) asks if the motion should be ruled out of order since it was not moved or seconded at a general meeting according to section 9 of the bylaws.

The chair asks Adam H (CTLSA) if he would object to discussing the motion today since it's his motion and the person who is being impeached is comfortable with proceeding with the motion.

Adam H (CTLSA) is concerned about not following the bylaws but agrees it's the will of the council.

The chair asks the council if they are comfortable discussing the motion tonight.

Danny M (IMS) asks the chair to clarify the question.

The chair states that there have been attempts to bring this notice of impeachment at a different meeting where it

was inappropriate and the materials regarding the impeachment have been circulated and sent to everyone already. Bylaw 9 requires that notice be provided in order to provide council and the person being impeached with the opportunity to prepare a defense. The chair suggests that since information has been shared already, the motion can be discussed at the meeting today. But leaves that the decision to council.

Danny M (IMS) suggests that he's comfortable addressing the motion today and asks how to proceed.

Chair clarifies that the agenda needs to be adopted but if council wanted to address the motion at the next meeting, the agenda could be amended.

Motion 22-01-1b: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors adopt the January 25, 2022, meeting agenda as presented or amended. Moved by: Kristen M () Seconded by: Lawson G (GESA) Motion Carries with opposition and abstentions.

d. Seating Guests and Media

The chair asks guests and media to identify themselves in the meeting.

Motion 22-01-1c: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move to seat all guests and media with speaking rights. Moved by: Christiana M (Linguistics) Seconded by: Dominic P (Comp Lit) Motion Carries

e. Approval of Minutes from the November 23, 2021, Meeting

Motion 22-01-1d: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve the minutes from the November 23, 2021, meeting. Moved by: Selin K (Political Science) Seconded by: Kirsten (Chemistry) Motion Carries

2. Reports

a. Executive Committee Reports (Information & Decision)

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) has been working with the emergency food bank following the AGM motion to fund them. Moving towards creating a long-term partnership with them as well as getting them funding from SPS. There have been meetings with grad minds and the Career Development Centre to provide stakeholder feedback and partnerships to deal with food insecurity.

June L (Finance) has wrapped up the Black Graduate Student Excellence Bursary and the Graduate Development Community fund. There were a number of applicants and winners will be decided by the end of February. The Student Conference Bursary is currently open and applications are available on the UTGSU website. Following the AGM motion to spend \$250,000 to set up new grants and bursaries for students in case of emergency, currently looking for areas to allocate the funds like into housing, resources for computers and are opening to have a draft of MOUs and bursaries by late February to early March. If anyone has ideas, June has requested they reach out to her via email.

Dhanela S (AFC 1&2) has been doing a lot of advocacy work with students related to appeals their facing in their departments or regarding their return to their programs. They have been working on campaigns for the month of February and March by collaborating with the various caucuses and committees on a virtual program in February focusing on equity serving groups as well as a International Women's Day programming.

Justin P (EC) spoke about a recent multi-year partnership with the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy Toronto who organized on the cops off campus campaign. They spoke about the solidifying the GSU's involvement in various international coalitions that they joined over the last semester. In particular, an organization working on

unemployment from the Congo reached out about a partnership and the agreement was approved. More information can be found in the report. The Equity and Advocacy Committee continues to work on the campaigns guide. Lastly, the GSU will be participating at the CFS Lobby Weeks both provincially and federally.

Sarah A (IC) has been working on organizing the weekly executive meetings and items related to the general council. They have also been supporting students who have reached out regarding forming their course unions and other student inquiries.

An-Noûra C (CEC) has been sitting on the Community Liaison Committee regarding the new developments occurring on campus as well as sitting on the Student Initiative Fund, and Hart House Committee. They have been working on a housing grad campaign to increase graduate housing in partnership with Danielle K (AFC 3&4) and a provincial election awareness campaign.

Lwanga M (UGC) reported more on the Black Graduate Excellence Bursary. The deadline was extended to January 16 where several applications were submitted, and the vetting process has been completed and submitted to SGS. They will be consulting with Indigenous students and groups on campus for the Indigenous Students Bursary.

The Chair asked if anyone had questions.

Adam H (CTLSA) states they have a question regarding the Internal Commissioners Report but due to an ongoing no-contact request would like to pose the question to the Executive Committee. On the final page of the report, item 9, they read the statement verbatim regarding the emails from Adam Hill to the commissioner. They asked if primary counsel referred to Matthew Joseph, legal counsel to the GSU.

The Chair said it was up to the discretion of the executives whether they wanted to answer

Adam H (CTLSA) adds that if no one will answer the question for legal reasons they would like it noted in the minutes that the motions which alleged non-compliance with the Ontario Corporations Act and the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act were ruled out of order by legal counsel without communication to Adam H from legal counsel.

Motion 22-01-1e: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors accept the Executive Committee reports for January 25, 2022. Moved by Hannah (Music) Seconded: Kristen T (Slavic Languages) Motions Carries with noted abstention from Adam H (CTLSA)

b. Course Unions (Information & Discussion)

The Chair asked if anyone had any report, they wanted to share from their course unions.

The Chair notes that they notice people wanting to enter the meeting but further guests will not be admitted at this time unless it's council members arriving late.

Joel (SJE) noted an observation that the constitution for the course union is still not linked to the main website for the UTGSU. They asked if someone could attend to that. Sarah A (IC) asked for an email to be sent with the updated constitution to be add onto the website.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order regarding late guests. States that members who would like to listen should not be excluded.

The Chair responds that all guests are seated at the beginning of the meeting, otherwise separate motions will need to be done to seat guests at later stages. To their knowledge, that has not been the process in the past.

Adam H (CTLSA) states that access need have to be respected and not everyone can be present at the start of the meeting.

The Chair responds that if someone would like to be a guest at the meeting, they need to be present at the beginning to be seated.

Adam H (CTLSA): states that being seated guest for speaking rights is different than members who would like to observe the meeting.

The Chair says they will uphold their ruling and go on with the meeting.

c. Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses (Information & Discussion)

No announcements or reports given.

d. Governing Council, Graduate Education Council, CUPE 3902, USW 1998 (Information & Discussion)

No announcements or reports given.

f. Motion to Receive All Other Reports (Decision)

The Chair states that since no reports were received, the meeting will proceed.

3. CRO Nominating Committee Update

Rowan F (Ecology & Evolution) provided an updated. The committee met 3 times and received 3 palliations for CRO. The committee advertised widely on social media and the list serve and they will be extending the deadline to February 4th and hoping to receive more applications.

The Chair clarified that the guests are normally done in the beginning. The chair asks that whoever is posting in the chat to clarify if they are here as a guest since they didn't announce their position when the meeting started. The chair states that this is to ensure that when the meeting goes in-camera, they can identify who is a guest.

Unidentified person: asks who is considered a guest

The Chair responds that a guest is anyone who is not an elected representative or an elected representative of their department. Council members can come in at any point and having voting and speaking rights. The chair asks if anyone is a guest to rename themselves to include guest on their name.

4. GSU Building Update

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) provided an updated on the GSU Building reopening. Stated that due to the latest wave of omicron, the decision on when to reopen has been moved to April 2022. If anyone has any issues, they could email staff or the executive. All services will continue to be virtual.

5. EAL Update

Sarah A (IC) gave the update that the former executive member resigned in December due to had some personal reasons.

The Chair clarified the position is appointed and asked if they should elect someone or leave it vacant – and understands the logistical issue doing it at this date and opened the question to the executives for how to move forward.

Sarah A (IC) says that if the election happens, it will need to be done at the next meeting – for the position to start from February to April.

The Chair says that it would be helpful if there was direction from counsel on what to do next.

Robyn (Physics) – asked for clarity about the position.

The Chair clarifies that the position provides an extra helping hand and supports the executive in their work. Council appoints the position so it's up to council to decide what to do.

Sarah A (IC) states that the position will not be there in the future – according to the updated bylaws.

The Chair asked for guidance from what needs to happen and asks if the Executive Director for assistance.

Brie (Executive Director) states that it's on the agenda for council to determine. Brie clarifies that there has not been an EAL since November and the way the current bylaw is written, the position is filled from general membership and elected by general council. So if the council wanted the position filled, they would need to post the position following the meeting today and elect them at the next meeting. The EAL position will start on March 1 until April 30. Brie mentions that in the last semester it took 2 attempts before someone was elected to the position.

The Chair welcomes a motion to discuss the issue.

The Chair clarifies that the motion to waive bylaw needs to pass with consensus

Lamia (GSAS) asks if there is an acting EAL.

The Chair responds that there is none.

Rowan F (Ecology & Evolution) asks for more clarification on the position and if the position is essential. Asks if one of the executives can comment on whether the process and training someone will be more burdensome than having someone in the position.

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) responds that the position is more helpful when they are present for the whole term

Dominic (COMP Lit) suggested that it be noted in the minutes that waiving this bylaw is an exception and special circumstance because the position will no longer exist in a couple of months. Concerned that it's not good practice in general but the decision is being made with specific context.

An-Noûra C (CEC) states that since the beginning of their term there has not been an EAL and things are going smoothly for their position. Speaking from their position, the EAL does not need to be filled right now.

The Chair clarifies that the motion to suspend a part of the bylaws. If the council is in favour, the vote will need to be unanimous with no abstentions. If anyone has any questions, they should feel free to ask them now.

The Chair states that the position for EAL will be elected at the next meeting.

Motion 22-01-1f: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors waive/suspend the bylaw around vacancy and leave the EAL position vacant for the remainder of the term. Moved by Rowan F (Ecology & Evolution) Seconded Dominic (Comp Lit) Motion Fails with abstention Adam H(CTLSA)

Victoria D (IHPME) asks if there is a report about the process of the application for the Black Graduate Excellence Bursary and the role SGS has in the applications or other evaluation teams

The Chair responds that the best time to have raised that question was during the Executive Reports but suggests that if anyone can answer that question or they do so in the chat.

Jordan B (Anthropology) has a point of information regarding seating guests. Asks if there can be a motion to seat guests after the initial motion if they come late. Concerned that the membership under the bylaw should be allowed to attend

The Chair responds that they felt they were suggesting the easiest way to seat guests, which is to do it all at once at the beginning. But is concerned that if people want to come in as guests, the chair doesn't want to cause issues by prohibiting them for entering.

Jordan B (Anthropology) says they are unsure if people still want to come in, but is curious if it's possible for them to do so.

The Chair responds that the meeting is technically a closed meeting that makes exceptions for guests that request it. It's a meeting of council and not a general membership meeting. The meeting is composed of members that are elected by their departments to represent and stand as the Board of Directors for the organization. Since people want to join the meetings, there is a stage to do so. But if there is someone from their department who can't come until later and they would like to have them seated, that motion can be made at any time.

Jordan B (Anthropology) responds that they don't have anyone specifically but was just looking for more information.

The Chair responds that it's the will of the board if they want to seat guests and without that direction from council, they won't be pausing the meeting to seat more guests.

6. COVID Update

Lwanga M (UGC) notifies Victoria D (IHPME) that their email is there if they have any questions or concerns regarding the bursary.

Lwanga M (UGC) provides the University of Toronto's covid update. Monday February 7, the university plans to increase in person teaching and activities, the plan will vary based on local factors. At the various meetings they have brought up the issue regarding the toll the ambiguous plans have had on students. Some undergraduate faculties will deliver their courses as originally planned; programs that include placements may prioritize in person placing while continuing remote instruction for other areas. Campuses, divisions and departments will be reaching out to students with more information. Lwanga notes that these decisions do contradict the advise and statistics released by researchers and professionals. They shared links in the chat and advised everyone share them around broadly. They note that the university has indicated they have a shortage of supply of rapid screening kits but there are plans to prioritize them in higher risk situations. Advises that anyone who is currently enrolled in the University of Toronto's rapid screening program, continue to upload their results. Discussed the UCheck website for students to upload documentation related to proof of vaccination and booster doses for all students with on campus activities

not exempting employees. Non-classroom facilities will be open to students to facilitate remote studying and dining. Libraries are available to members of the university community. If anyone has any questions they should visit the university website or email the executive directly.

The Chair suggests that everyone take a 10 minute break and if anyone has any questions regarding the covid update they can do so after the break.

The meeting will resume at 6:40pm

The Meeting resumed at 6:40pm

7. Bylaw Update

An-Noûra C (CEC) states that the bylaw update is changing the the language from “shall not” to “may be” this allows the committee flexibility to hire a CRO. At the current moment there were not many applications for CRO so the deadline has been extended.

The Chair clarifies that the change in language is only to 9.2.1 and nothing under the second section. Rowan F (Ecology & Evolution) asks if under 9.2.4.3 is a sentence fragment and asks what the end of that sentence should be.

The Chair looks at the bylaws and says that it was just cut off since there was no changes for that section.

Danny B (IMS) asks for clarification on the definition of member.

The chair clarifies that the way the current bylaws read, the CRO must not be a member of the graduate student union at the University of Toronto. This current change in language will allow for the CRO to possibly be a member of the union.

Danny B (IMS) thanks the chair for clarification and knows what to pass along to their department.

Adam H (CTLSA): seeks clarification on the bylaw change. If these are new bylaws that come into effect on May 1, than the language needs to be changed to the old bylaws since the hiring of the CRO and election of new officers would still be subject to the old bylaws.

The chair responds that to their knowledge there was a motion to state that the next elections will be conducted in accordance with the new bylaws. Therefore, that would incorporate the CRO hiring process.

Adam H (CTLSA): Suggests that 9.2.1 be completely removed if there is no restriction on who the CRO can be.

The chair responds that this would be a different edit and both edits would require a bylaw change. The current language change is just as good.

The chair responds to conversations in the chat by asking Lynn A (Guest, SJE) to stop posting in the chat.

The chair asks if there are discussions on the bylaw amendment.

Motion 22-01-1g: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors change the language under Duties of Chief Returning Officer 9.2.1 from “shall not” to “may be” a member. Motion carries with abstentions

8. Elections and Referenda Committee Update

An-Noûra C (CEC) states that they need 3 individuals to join the elections and referenda committee.

The Chair suggests that more clarification about the position may be needed.

Brie (Executive Director) indicates that the position can be found under 8.3 of the current bylaws and clarifies that the committee works with the CRO to ensure the elections take place. They are also responsible for the all candidates meeting and organizing the campaigns debate where members can ask questions of those running. The current bylaws don't have a clear process for DRO and requires a representative from Div 1&2 and Div3&4. The current bylaws have shrunk this down to just 3 positions.

The chair asks if it matters which division individuals are from.

Brie (Executive Director) suggests that ideally if they came from different divisions but not necessary. Brie clarifies that the new bylaw framework comes into effect around the time of the elections. The new bylaws would be the body handling the elections.

The chair clarifies that the committee supports the CRO in running the election and in the event an issue arises during the election, the committee acts in the appeal process. The chair stresses the importance of the position and asks if there are any volunteers.

Mariam (Mathematics) asks for more clarity.

Brie (Executive Director) clarifies that every year during the elections there is a CRO and a committee struck to make sure that the elections run smoothly. Since the elections have moved online, the CRO oversees sending out the link to the members in order to vote and the committee ensures that the participants are following the election guidelines and handle any appeals or complaints that come through. The CRO handles all complaints first but in the event it needs to be escalated or appealed, the ERC renders a decision. The CRO does on average 60 hours of work and the committee is about 20 hours, but it depends on the election which varies every year.

The chair asks for any volunteers.

Lawson G (School of Environment): nominates themselves.

The Chair thanks Lawson G (School of the Environment) and encourages anyone else who is interested to do so.

The chair asks Lynn A (Guest, SJE) to stop posting in the chat and if they would like to be added to the speakers list to do so.

Motion 22-01-1h: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoints Lawson G (School of Environment) to the Elections and Referenda Committee Moved: Lawson G (School of Environment) Seconded Joseph D (Political Science) Motion Carries with abstention.

9. Executive Impeachment (In-Camera)

Motion 22-01-1i: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move the meeting in-camera. Moved by Joseph D (Political Science) Seconded Rowan F (Ecology & Evolution) Motion carries with abstention from Adam H (CTLSA)

The Chair indicates that the meeting has now moved out of camera.

Lwanga M (UGC) asks if they can read out a statement.

Adam H (CTLSA) says that a cease-and-desist order was sent to the executives

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) interrupts with a point of order

The chair agrees.

Dominic (Comp Lit) states that the spirit of the bylaw gives the individual who is being impeached the chance to defend themselves and understands that the emotional distress outweighs the notice and if the person feels they have the chance to prepare it's a good reason to break the bylaw.

The Chair states that the motion to discuss the impeachment must be unanimous and if you abstain, you are opposing the motion being discussed today.

Motion 22-01-1j: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors suspend the bylaw regarding notice in relation to the motion on the impeachment of the Internal Commissioner Motion fails with noted abstention from Adam H (CTLSA)

The chair asks if Adam H (CTLSA) has shared the confidential response on their Facebook page

Adam H (CTLSA) responds that they did as well as on their blog

The chair indicates that this is a violation of procedure

Lwanga M (UGC) asks to move a motion to reprimand Adam H (CTLSA)

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order and states that the response from the commissioner was sent to the board of directors via the list serv and this is the second time they have been defamed and harassed by the organization.

Lamia (GSAS) point of order and asks if Adam H (CTLSA) was the member who brought forward the motion, can they also abstain from the motion and does this mean they are against it.

Chair clarifies that the motion was to suspend the bylaw and was not regarding the motion to impeach.

Sarah A (IC) states that Adam H (CTLSA) requested a written response from the executive regarding the allegations and the response was therefore included in the package that was shared to the council.

Hannah D (Music) asks what a reprimand can do to change the situation and states that this is the second time this has occurred.

The chair responds that the best the council can do is a collective "slap" on the hand and that the new bylaws have measures that will respond to issues like this in the future.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order and asks what they are being reprimanded for.

Hannah D (Music) ask for there to be more respect towards the chair

Motion 22-01-1k: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors reprimand Adam H (CTLSA) for sharing confidential information for an in-camera discussion on his social media and blog Moved: Lwanga (UGC) Seconded Joseph (Political Science) Motion Carries with abstention from Adam H (CTLSA)

10. Any Other Business

There is no other business.

11. Adjournment

Chair ends the meeting at 7:26pm and encourages everyone to take care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Russell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hamish Russell
General Council Chair

Menal Blair

Menal Blair
Minute Taker

UTGSU Council January 25, 2022

Department	First Name	Last Name
Aerospace (UTIAS)	Daniel	MacGregor
Anthropology	Jordan	Bryson
APHD	Diana	Burchell
Architecture	Alex	Sheinbaum
Architecture, Landscape & Design	Ophelia	Lau
Biochemistry	Nicholas	Silver
Biochemistry	Raabez	Ahmad
Biomedical Engineering	Janice	Pang
Biomedical Engineering	Mary	Liu
Cell & Systems Biology	Kyungwook	Kim
Chemical Engineering	Sadaf	Kashi Kalhour
Chemistry	Grace	Shimokura
Chemistry	Kirsten	Yeung
Civil & Mineral Engineering	Mennatallah	Aln (name incomplete)
Civil & Mineral Engineering	Charles	Balkenbusch
Comparative Literature	Dominic	Pizzolitto
CTL	Adam	Hill
Dentistry	Omnia	Elebary
ECE	Nafiseh	Ghoroghc (name incomplete)
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Rowan	French
Economics	Albi	Bilali
English	Erin	Baldwin
English	Walter	Villanueva
Environmental Studies	Lawson	Gillespie
Exercise Sciences	Christopher	Pilieci
Financial Economics	Anna	Qu
Forestry	Lauren	(name incomplete)
Geography and Planning	Liam	Fox
HAPSAT	Adriana	Ciocchi
History	Hannah	Cooley
HPME	Victoria	Davis
Immunology	Robbie	Jin
Italian	Jan	Marta
Lab Medicine and Pathobiology	Jasmine	Bhatti
Lab Medicine and Pathobiology	Sasha	Blay
Lab Medicine and Pathobiology	Siobhan	Wilson
Linguistics	Christy	Moser
Mathematics	Mariam	Alhawaj
Mathematics	David	Miyamoto
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering	Mohammad	Roostaie
Medical Biophysics	Aiden	Gray

Medical Biophysics	Ian	Cheong
Medical Research	Jason	Tang
Medical Science	Daniel	Diatlov
Medical Science	Danny	Bojic
Medical Science	Shengjie	Ying
Medieval Studies	Olena	K
Molecular Genetics	Kiki	Huang
Molecular Genetics	Anson	Sathaseevan
Molecular Genetics	Emily	Xiong
Molecular Genetics	Iosifina	Fotiadou
Museum Studies	Natalie	Scola
Museum Studies	Rebecca	Ford
Music	Kolby	Zinger-Harris
Music	Hannah	Davis-Abraham
Nursing	Claire	Smith
Nutritional Sciences	Hailey	Yang
Occupational Science & Therapy	Isabella	Alonso
Occupational Science & Therapy	Jade	Langille
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Chris	Rodgers
Pharmacology	Nidhi	Kulkarni
Physical Therapy	Danielle	Tsirulnikov
Physical Therapy	Farhanna	Hassanali
Physical Therapy	Tyler	Muirhead
Physics	Robyn	Learn
Physiology	Sajad	Sadat
Political Science	Jenna	Quelch
Political Science	Joseph	Dattilo
Political Science	Selin	Kepenek
Psychology	Ella	Lam
Psychology	Nayani	Ramakrishnan
Public Health	Heba	Qazilbash
Public Health	Lily Thao	Nguyen
Public Policy & Governance	Padraic	Berting
Rehabilitation Sciences	Lina	Musa
Religious Studies	Anna	Cwikla
Scarborough GSAS	Keuna	Jeon
Scarborough GSAS	Lamia	Akbar
Slavic Lang & Lit	Kirsten	Tarves
Social Justice Education	Joel	Mukwedeya
Social Work - PhD	Michael	Wall
Social Work MSW	Liz	Tettman
Social Work MSW	Ruben	Rosen
Sociology	Maria	Finnsdottir

Sociology	Patricia	Roach
Speech Language Pathology	Laura	Tulk
Statistics	Kathleen	Miao
UTMAGS	Harsimran	Garcha

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

Guests		
Department	First Name	Last Name
SJE	Lynne	Alexandrova
Occupational Science & Therapy	Japneet	Brar