



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union General
Council/ Board of Directors Meeting Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

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

1. Meeting Comes to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30.

a. Equity Statement (Commitment) (*Page 4*)

The chair requests reps to read out the Equity Statement. All members agree to the equity statement.

b. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion & Decision) ^{1b}

19-04-1b MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors adopt the April 26, 2022 meeting agenda as presented or amended.

Moved by Lawson G (GESA) , Seconded by Sarah A (IC).

This motion passes unanimously.

c. Seating Guests and Media 1c

Guests: Garmina Sharma (BOA candidate), Lynne Alexandrova, Saira Chhibber (incoming UTGSU ED), Neelofar Ahmed (Incoming VP-Finance)

19-04-1c MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move to seat all guests and media with speaking rights.

Moved by Lawson G (GESA) ,Seconded by Justin P (EC). Motion passes unanimously.

d. Approval of Minutes from the March 29, 2022, Meeting ^{1d}

19-04-1d MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve the minutes from the March 29, 2022 UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Sarah A (IC) , Seconded by Victoria D (HPME) . Motion carries with majority and abstentions.

2. Reports

a. Executive Committee Reports (Information & Decision)

The Chair invites the Executive to provide a brief summary of their year:

Sarah A (IC). - Worked on the restructure, as well as updating the bylaws and policies. Very pleased about new bylaws, there are still policies under review that will be worked on during the summer. The last day of our current ED will be April 29th.

Danielle K (AF Div 3/ 4) - Dealing with staff members and bargaining. Been working with students on academic appeals. Starting two new campaigns for emergency housing bursary and getting new faces involved with the UTGSU. Meeting with members and encouraging anyone to provide feedback to her about the UTGSU.

Dhanela (AF Div 1/ 2) - Summary of the year, lots of advocacy for students, attending admin meetings such as SGS, Graduate Education Council; advocating for tuition waivers, increasing funding opportunities for SGS grants. Also reactivating the Women and Trans Persons Caucus. Wanted to note that she was on vacation April 11-25th. Any questions, folks can follow up with her.

Justin Patrick (EC) - wrapping up and working on transitions for new VP external. Thank ED for all the work she has done at the UTGSU and students at U of T. Last meeting of the equity and advocacy committee before they transfer over as the Campaigns and Activism Team. Prioritized making UTGSU focus on global partners and international level advocacy. Suggests joining the GSG for next year as a standing member as this would provide opportunities to work with students all over the world.

Lwanga M (UGC) - Nothing much to add to report. Second comments in regards to our ED who is unfortunately leaving us and thanks her for her service.

An-Noura (CEC) - Spent the year working with the community liaison committee and Hart house to inform them on student needs. Organized black history months games and know your rights panel. Participated on the CRO Nominating Committee. Finally, we did a panel with the Ontario candidates for the upcoming election for University-Rosedale, which included the Liberal Party, NDP and Green Party. Thank you to our ED who has done a lot of work for us.

Sierra C (EAL) - thanks everyone for working with her while doing the minutes. This year, has learned a lot at the GSU and got a great opportunity to see what everyone has been working on during the year. Looking forward to working with everyone next year.

Rowan F (EEB) requests clarification from the ED as to why she is resigning.

ED says she would prefer to move in-camera if we would like to discuss this further.

BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move in camera with the Executive Director. Moved by Adam B (Classics), seconded by Sarah A (IC). Motion carries with majority.

The UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors comes out of camera at 6:20 PM

19-04-2.a. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors accept the Executive Committee reports for March, 2022. Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies) ,Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries unanimously.

b. Course Unions (Information & Discussion)

No reports from Course Unions.

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

No reports given.

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

Danielle K notes that the Graduate Education Council have made some changes, such as entry requirements for a few programs, and increased the amount of English proficiency tests - hopefully bring admission cost down from that.

e. Motion to Receive All Other Reports (Decision)

3. Board of Appeals Chair ³

ED: There are two people running for the position, Garima S and Micheal B.

Chair: Reminds everyone that the Board of Appeal is the final appeal body at the UTGSU. If a decision is made by Council, the Executive or some body of the Union, this is where you would go. Since this Board is continuing under the restructure and there was a resignation we need a new chair.

Garima is running and gives a brief statement: Almost completed first year of Masters in aerospace engineering. I have experiences working with diverse groups; previous experience of working in a team of about 50 people, working in high pressure situations and handling sensitive information. Have handled previous leadership roles; including as VP-Finance of the Indian Graduate Student's Association.

ED reads other statement of Micheal B . Expresses regrets on not being able to attend. Has been part of a number of student societies in Canada and the UK, including University College London, McGill and Oxford. Believes in making sure everyone is heard and just procedure. Currently a Doctoral student in the Faculty of Law.

A Zoom poll is launched for the two candidates and asks guests not to participate.

Poll Results: Garima S 37% and Michael B 63%

19-04-3. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoints Michael Beauvais (Law) as the Board of Appeal Chair until August 30th, 2022.

Moved by Adam B (Classics) ,Seconded by Rowan F (EEB). Motion carries with majority.

4. Board of Directors Chair ⁴

ED: We have extended the application deadline until May 6. I reached out to some former Chairs

and there is some interest from a former Member with experience who may be able to step in if a Chair is needed for a meeting, but can't commit to a full year. Please reach out to others and let them know if there's any concerns, there will be a smaller board next year.

Chair: Offers his advice and support to anyone who is interested.

A short break is taken until 6:40.

5. Financial Business

a. Mid-Year Financial Update ^{5a}

Lwanga M (UGC) - I will be presenting the mid-year financial statement of revenue received and expenses incurred. We have received our Fall and Winter cheques from the University of 12.9 million dollars. Some of this money is also from SGS's as their contributions to the BGSEB, GCDF and Intramural Sports. HDI makes up the largest portion and is around 8.78 million. Due to Covid the amount spent has been less than usually but union expenses are similar, house expenses have been less due to covid closure. We are seeing more activities taking place with committees and caucuses. Grad Minds and the Race and Ethnicity caucus has been the most active. We also have a surplus of over 3 million and so we will seek to move money into restricted funds. Should I continue with the motions?

Chair - Please provide some explanation on each of the motions.

Lwanga M (UGC) walks through each of the motions below.

19-04-5a. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approve the FY2022 Mid-Year Financial Statement as presented.

Moved by Neelofar A (LHAE) ,Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries with majority and abstentions.

b. Legal Expense Budget Line ^{5b}

19-04-5b.MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors allocate \$9000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the Legal Expense Budget Line.

Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies),Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries with majority.

ED - Just to add context; in previous years, the legal expense budget line was between 20-25K; it was reduced during the pandemic. However, we have utilizing quite a bit of legal support to make sure we have appropriate guidance with the restructure and bargaining; would like to top this fund up so it remains available to the Executive over the summer if needed.

c. Staff Expenses Budget Line ^{5c}

ED : To clarify, this is to top up staff expenses. We have a new ED incoming with an increase in their salary; as well as a staff member who will be taking medical leave - this is to help account for any additional expenses that may be incurred for Staff.

19-04-5c. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors allocate \$20000

from the Unrestricted Surplus to the Staff Expenses Budget Line.

Moved by Sarah A (IC), Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries unanimously.

d. **BGSEB** 5d

Chair: There are two motions here that seem to be connected; if this could be clarified here that would be helpful.

ED - We have two awards in partnership with SGS. When SGS provides us this money, they go into our unrestricted funds. In these final meetings we move that money to where it belongs.

19-04-5d. Black Graduate Students' Excellence Bursary-SGS

MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$15,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to the Black Graduate Students' Excellence Bursary Fund as contribution from SGS.

BIFRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$15,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to the Black Graduate Students' Excellence Bursary Fund as UTGSU's contribution.

Moved by Sarah A (IC), Seconded by Jordan B (Anthropology). Motion carries unanimously.

e. **GCDF** 5e

Lwanga M - Basically, what we are trying to do is keep this fund topped up. We receive \$5000 for SGS for the GCDF and the UTGSU contributes \$5000. We are looking to top this up, in the event that the SGS decides to end any funding, we would still be able to provide the exact same number of bursaries and possibly more.

19-04-5e. Graduate Community Development Fund

MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$5,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to the Graduate Community Development Fund as contribution of SGS.

BIFRT that the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$50,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the Graduate Community Development Fund.

Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies) ,Seconded by Lisa L (GSAS). Motions carries unanimously.

f. **Intramural Sports** 5f

Chair - I take it the money is similar here and is given by SGS?

Lwanga - Correct, it supports our Intramural sports and pays for the coordinator, we'll be hiring for the upcoming year.

19-04-5f. BIRT the UTGSU General Council / Board of Directors approve the allocation of \$1,200 from the Unrestricted Surplus Fund to the Campaigns budget line as contribution by SGS.

Moved by Lawson G (GESA) ,Seconded by Lindsey P (English) . Motion carries unanimously.

g. Creation of UTGSU Emergency Bursary Fund ^{5g}

ED - Just wanted to add for folks who may remember, this is from the AGM where students came forward to create an emergency student bursary. Because we are already moving funds, we wanted to be proactive and create the fund at the same time as this bursary is supposed to launch in the upcoming academic year.

19-04-5g. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$250,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to create the UTGSU Emergency Student Bursary Fund.

Moved by Lawson G, Seconded by Victoria D. Motion carries unanimously.

h. Creation of UTGSU Indigenous Students Bursary Fund ^{5h}

Lwanga - The initial motion from the AGM asked for a minimum of four bursaries between 15-20 thousand dollars. Moving this amount means we will have funding for the next few years and it is good to look into the future

19-04-5h. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$100,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to create the UTGSU Indigenous Students' Bursary Fund.

Moved by Victoria D (HPME) , Seconded by Lawson G (GESA) . Motion carries with abstentions.

i. UTGSU Student Conference Bursary ⁵ⁱ

Lwanga - This is just to top up our Conference Bursaries - to clarify we do not have a partnership with SGS for this.

19-04-5i. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$50,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the UTGSU Student Conference Bursary Fund.

Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies) ,Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries unanimously.

j. Director's Liability ^{5j}

Lwanga (UGC) - this has been used for big litigations and was originally intended to be a reserve in case the union ever dissolved.

19-04-5j. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$50,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the UTGSU Director's Liability Fund.

Moved by Nicolas S (Biochemistry) ,Seconded by Lwanga M (UGC). This motion carries with majority and opposition.

k. Building, Planning and Accessibility Fund ^{5k}

Chair - As Lwanga (UGC) previously stated this fund will be used for building improvements for the UTGSU.

19-04-5k. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$50,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the Building, Planning and Accessibility Fund.

Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies), Seconded by Linsey P (English). Motion carries unanimously.

l. Health and Dental Administration ^{5l}

Lwanga (UGC) - in the past we had more in this fund but we used some of it for improving our mental health coverage in last month's meeting. We think it would be good to top back up this fund.

19-04-5l. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$200,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the Health and Dental Administration Fund.

Moved by Danielle T (Physical Therapy) , Seconded by Adriana C (HAPSAT) Motion carries unanimously.

m. UTGSU Reserve Fund ^{5m}

Lwanga (UGC) - This was the emergency reserved as the directors liability has been used differently than originally intended. This fund is used to make up that space.

19-04-5m. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors approves the allocation of \$500,000 from the Unrestricted Surplus to the UTGSU Reserve Fund. Moved by Nicolas S (MBP), Seconded by Sarah A (IC). This motion carries with opposition.

5N. Appointment of Finance Committee

Sarah (IC) - As usual practice with call for finance committee members. We need four members from each of the divisions.

Chair - the call is out then for folks who want to join the finance committee with one person in each division. Is anyone interested? Can anyone speak to the time committee or a pitch for getting involved?

Lwanga (UGC) - I think I am in a good position to speak to this. It's about a 6 hour commitment per month. Our meetings are monthly and usually take no more than two hours. We usually go over bursaries, donations requests. I have been a part of the committee for a number of years and have really enjoyed the role, the most fun thing is to give money to students. We also have a one year long mandate and need people to commit to working with us in the summer but it shouldn't be too labour intensive.

Ian C (Medical Biophysics) Division 4 expresses interest in joining.

Chair - Any other interest?

Sierra (EAL) - Can we send this out to our members?

ED- It is a closed committee, as they deal with the finances of the Union. We would need to have two seats filled from the current Board, in order to ensure quorum. This has been the practice of prior years, where Finance Committee members are appointed in April as their mandates start May 1st alongside the Executive Committee. If we can get two seats from the current board that would be helpful to ensure quorum.

Chair - I'm unsure about appointing people on the Board now who won't be here next year?

ED - We were hoping to make this process more smooth in the next year when there is more continuity around the board. It is a bit odd but this is the practice that we've had.

Lynne (Guest) - It is not a good idea to leave the finance committee non-quorate. It is good to find a way to appoint people to serve on this committee.

Motion 26-04-5N: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoints Ian C (MBP) as the Division 4 rep of the Finance Committee.

Moved by Lawson G (GESA) and Lindsey P (English). Motion carries unanimously.

A break was called until 7:40PM.

Lisa L (GSAS) - I have a question regarding the function of the finance committee? Since only one person is appointed will this impair functioning.

Lwanga (UGC) - This will have some impact as we will not be able to pass donations requests

Lisa L (GSAS) - If needed I can step in for the summer but not passed that point.

Motion 26-04-5N: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors appoints Lisa L (Chemistry) as the Division 3 rep of Finance Committee. Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies), seconded by Sarah A (IC). Motion carries unanimously.

6. Elections and Appointments ⁶

a. Ratification of Elections Results ^{6a}

Chair: It has been the custom to ratify the results even if it is not necessary.

Sarah A (IC) - I would like to bring to your attention that a newly elected Board member has published another video in which he intends to seek legal action against UTGSU.

19-04- 6a. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors ratifies the election results for the 2022-2023 academic year. Moved by Jordan B (Anthropology), Seconded by Lawson G (GESA) . This motion carries with majority and abstentions.

b. Finance Authority Transfer ^{6b}

Chair - This is to transfer authority to new officers of the corporation.

19-04-6b. MOTION: BIRT that the Signing Authority be transferred to the new Officers of the Corporation from May 1st, 2022 to April 30th, 2023. Moved by Mynt M (Cinema Studies) ,Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries unanimously.

Sarah A (IC) - would like to introduce the new VP-Finance, Neelofar Ahmad; she is currently the LHAE rep and she will be a new Executive this year.

c. SimplyVoting Invoice 6c

Chair - This is the platform that the CRO has used in elections. This is for the simply voting invoice

ED - in previous years typically we spend around \$5000, the reason for the increase is because we have a more expansive election to include the 6 executives and 28 members of the board.

19-04-6c. MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors remit \$6716.23 from the Elections Budget Line for SimplyVoting Invoice 19604. Moved by Lawson G,Seconded by Patricia R. Motion carries unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

ED - I just wanted to take a second to introduce the new executive director Saira Chhibber.

Saira C (Incoming ED) - It has been great to attend this meeting and I look forward to working with you all. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Lynne A (Guest) - We should thank the CRO and committee. It should be noted that this board has received both documents by the CRO. The ratifying of results could potentially be leading to the overturning of the result, so according to pass counsel in my time as the UTGSU internal commissioner we should receive, not ratify results.

Chair - Thank you to the CRO and I welcome a motion to "correct" this. I would also inquire about putting the CRO's Report in the chat.

MOTION: 26-04-7 BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors receives the CRO's Report. Moved by Lawson G (GESA) and seconded by Nicolas S (Biochemistry) . This motion carries with abstentions.

Lwanga (UGC) - I would like to move a motion to propose a four months severance pay for Brie. Moved by Lwanga (UGC), seconded by Patricia R (Sociology).

The Chair advises to move in camera.

BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors move in camera at 8:02PM. Moved by Lwanga (UGC), Seconded by Lawson G (GESA). Motion carries with majority.

BIRT the UTGSU General Council/Board of Directors pay the outgoing Executive Director 4

months of severance pay from the Unrestricted Surplus. Moved by Lwanga M (UGC) and seconded by Sarah A (IC). This motion carries with majority (25-8) with abstentions.

8. Adjournment

Hamish Russell, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Russell', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sierra Codeluppi, Minute Taker

G.9.2 Equity Statement

G.9.2.1 The following statement expresses the Union's commitments to equity and informs the way in which we conduct business of the Union. The statement will be read aloud during the opening address of meetings of the membership, the Board of Directors, and at UTGSU events:

We acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. 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 operate on this land.

As many of our members are settlers on Turtle Island, the Union directly benefits from the colonization and genocide of the indigenous peoples of this land. It is imperative that the Union acknowledge that it is on occupied land and that to engage in acts of decolonization is an important aspect of equity work in Canada.

Student Union solidarity is based on the principle that all members deserve to be equal, respected and should be understood. As members of the Union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We do not condone or tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity of any individual. Expressions of hate such as intimidation, harassment, offensiveness or hostility will not be tolerated.

We will struggle against all forms of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to: Islamophobic, anti-semitic, xenophobic, sexist, racist, classist, ableist, homophobic, transphobic, ageist sentiments and remarks. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate, is established. We support growth and understanding and believe in providing opportunities for individuals to acknowledge the impact of their remarks, with the understanding that the experiences of those impacted by discriminatory sentiments or remarks will be privileged.

If you are not here in an understanding of good faith or you have violated this understanding, you will be asked to leave. Do you agree?

UTGSU Council April 26, 2022 Attendance		
Department	First Name	Last Name
Anthropology	Jordan	Bryson
APHD	Diana	Burchell
Astronomy and Astrophysics	James	Lane
Biochemistry	Nicholas	Silver
Biomedical Engineering	Janice	Pang
Cell & Systems Biology	Tristan	Philip
Chemistry	Grace	Shimokura
Cinema Studies	Mynt	Marsellus
Classics	Adam	Barker
Comparative Lit.	Colby	Chubbs
Drama	Funmilola	Cole
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Rowan	French
Economics	Devin	Bissky Dziadyk
English	Lindsey	Palmer
Environmental Studies	Lawson	Gillespie
Exercise Sciences	Christopher	Pilieci
Financial Economics	Anna	Qu
Forestry	Lauren	Janke
Germanic Languages & Lit	Maria	Harutyunyun
HAPSAT	Adriana	Ciocchi
History - PROXY	Eriks	Bredovskis
HPME	Victoria	Davis
Immunology	Robbie	Jin
Italian	Tatiana	Fimognari
Lab Medicine and Pathobiology	Sasha	Blay
Mathematics	David	Miyamoto
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering	Mohammad	Roostaie
Medical Biophysics	Ian	Cheong
Medical Biophysics	Ji	Zhang
Medical Research	Jo	Nguyen
Medical Science	Daniel	Diatlov
Medical Science	Danny	Bojic
Medical Science	Shengjie	Ying
Medieval Studies	Olena	Karbach
MMPA	Katherine	Ge
Molecular Genetics	Cameron	Isaacs-Trepanier
Molecular Genetics	Jake	McNairn

Molecular Genetics	Kiki (Jie Qi)	Huang
Museum Studies	Megan	Sutton
Music	Kolby	Zinger-Harris
Music	Hannah	Davis-Abraham
Nursing	Claire	Smith
Nutritional Sciences	Hailey Yahan	Yang
Occupational Science & Therapy	Isabella	Alonso
Occupational Science & Therapy	Jade	Langille
Occupational Science & Therapy	Japneet	Brar
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Chris	Rodgers
Pharmacology	Nidhi	Kulkarni
Physical Therapy	Danielle	Tsirulnikov
Physical Therapy	Maggie	Wilberforce
Physical Therapy	Tyler	Muirhead
Physics	Michael	Morris
Political Science	Jenna	Quelch
Political Science	Joseph	Dattilo
Psychology	Debanjan	Borthakur
Psychology	Elia	Lam
Psychology	Nayani	Ramakrishnan
Scarborough GSAS	Lamia	Akbar
Scarborough GSAS	Lisa	Labine
Slavic Lang & Lit	Kirsten	Tarves
SLP	Samantha	Gyls
Sociology	Maria	Finnsdottir
Sociology	Patricia	Roach
Stats	Emma	Kroell
Executive Committee		
Academics 1 & 2 Commissioner	Dhanela	Sivparan
Academics 3 & 4 Commissioner	Danielle	Karakas
Civics and Environment Commissioner	AnNoura	Compare
Executive at Large	Sierra	Codeluppi
External Commissioner	Justin	Patrick
Internal Commissioner	Sarah	Alam
University Governance Commissioner	Lwanga	Musisi
GUESTS		

Department	First Name	Last Name
Aerospace	Garima	Sharma
Incoming staff	Saira	Chhibber
SJE	Lynne	Alexandrova
LHAE	Neelofar	Ahmed