



**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, December 6th, 2022**

**1. Meeting Comes to Order<sup>1</sup>**

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**2. Reports**

- a. Executive Committee Report (Information)
- b. Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses (Information)
- c. CUPE 3902 (Information)
- d. Motion to Receive Reports (Decision)<sup>2</sup>

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- a. Audited Financial Statement FY 2021-2022<sup>3</sup> (Discussion & Decision)
- b. Appointment of Auditors for FY 2022-2023<sup>4</sup> (Discussion & Decision)

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**6. Any Other Business**

**7. Adjournment**

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Motion: BIRT that the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting appoint Sandhya Mylabathula as Chair of the 2022 UTGSU AGM.

<sup>2</sup>

Draft Motion: BIRT that the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting receive all reports under Item 2.

<sup>3a.</sup>

Executive Motion: BIRT the Members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union receive the Audited

Financial Statement for the UTGSU as prepared by MNP LLP for the fiscal year 2021 - 2022.

<sup>3b.</sup>

Executive Motion: BIRT the Members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union appoint MNP LLP as the auditors for the 2022 - 2023 fiscal year and pay them remuneration.

4b. Executive Motion: BIRT the members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union approve the proposed bylaw amendments.

## **Policy G.9 Anti-Oppression Policy**

### 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:

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/or 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?

## Understanding Bourinot's Rules of Order

The UTGSU uses Bourinot's rules of order at our meetings to ensure that our meetings stay organised and orderly. Under these rules, there are a few important things you need to know in order to be able to participate. Please contact [internal@utgsu.ca](mailto:internal@utgsu.ca) for more information.

**Please note that all members of the UTGSU have speaking rights at the AGM.**

### Speaking Rights

All members of the Board of Directors (Course Union Representatives) hold speaking rights. Anyone who is not a member is a guest and must ask for speaking rights when prompted by the chair in order to be able to participate in discussion that General Council Meetings.

### Point of Order

A point of order can be called at any time to point out when something is procedurally incorrect.

### Point of Privilege

A point of privilege can be called at any point should someone present at the meeting feel that their or another member's participation in the meeting is threatened or subdued for any reason, including accessibility needs and safety concerns.

### Point of Information

A point of information CANNOT BE USED TO INTERRUPT SOMEONE. Points of information can be used at any time, but must follow the chair's speakers list and do not have priority over any debate or other points. Points of information must be questions or queries for the clarification of information. Points of clarification are not used by the UTGSU, and can be called as points of information.

### Motions

Motions can only be made by members of the Board of Directors (Course Union Representatives). Guests are not able to make motions. Most motions should begin with the phrasing 'Be it Resolved That' (BIRT) followed by the action or resolution an individual would like to proposed for debate and vote.

<b>Calling the Question</b>
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For this action, the UTGSU uses Roberts Rules of Order. A member of the board (not guests) may call the question at any time during debate in order to incite a vote on whether or not to end debate and move immediately to vote on the motion at hand, this motion <b>MUST</b> pass with a 2/3 majority
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<b>Challenging the Chair</b>
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If the Chair of the Meeting makes a decision or ruling that members of the Board of Directors believe to be procedurally incorrect, members are able to challenge the chair's ruling. At this point, the Vice-Chair will take over chairing duties and the challenge will be seconded and voted upon by the Board.
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**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 7th, 2021**

**1. Meeting Comes to Order 1**

Sarah A (IC) announces that the previous Chair had to resign and we have another Chair from this meeting which will be Hamish Russell.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order: will there be a discussion?

Sarah A (IC) we will have a discussion after the voting is completed.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order.

Sarah A (IC) we are currently in the vote.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order: we cannot skip discussion on the item

Sarah A (IC) states that there will be discussion after the vote.

The Chair explains that they were the previous Chair of the UTGSU.

The Chair shares the agenda for this evening's meeting and explains what is within the agenda.

**MOTION 21-12-01: BIRT the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting appoint Hamish Russell as the Chair of the 2021 UTGSU AGM. Moved by Lwanga M (HGC), seconded by An-Noura C (CEC). MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

a. Equity Statement (Commitment) *(Page 3)*

The Chair requests for people to read out the Equity Statement.

Pascale D will be the Equity Officer for this evening's meeting. Pascale explains that there is a 3-strike rule that will be enforced and The Chair explains how the 3-strike system will work.

b. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion & Decision)

The Chair goes through the agenda outline for this evening's meeting.

Adam H (CTLSA) wants to give notice of a motion for January - 9.3.2 bylaw. It is a motion for a general council meeting.

The Chair states that the notice of a motion needs to be given at a council meeting.

Adam H (CTLSA) states that this is the highest governing body. The Chair clarifies that this is a different governing body.

Lwagna M (UGC) point of order: we have important things to discuss. If THE Chair has ruled then we ask to respect The Chair

Adam H (CTLSA) challenges The Chair. The Chair now steps back.

Dhanella (AFC 1&2) asks Adam H (CTLSA) to explain why they are challenging The Chair.

Adam H (CTLSA) states that this is the highest governing body and that motion notices should be given at this meeting.

The Chair explains that they are different bodies and that council is a smaller and closed group. Council deals with their own business and notice of motions are at council meetings, not general council meetings.

Dhanella (AFC 1&2) will be moving on to a vote. Dhanella (AFC 1&2) explains that there was a challenge to The Chair and that there will be a vote on whether The Chair's ruling is to be sustained.

We are moving to the votes.

Majority voted yes, which means that The Chair's reasoning is supported. Noted Abstentions: Lamia A (GSAS), Ssali Ssekitokelo.

**MOTION: BIRT the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting adopt the AGM 2021 meeting agenda as presented or amended. Moved by Amy C (Medieval Studies), seconded by Allie D (Economics, Medieval Studies). MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

c. Introductions and Rules of Order (Information) - *Page 3*

The Chair explains the rules of order and asks if there are any questions.

Felix Lau (Dalla Lana School of Public Health) asks how to get on the speakers list?

The Chair says that one can raise their hand.

The Chair states that the chat should not be used.

d. Approval of Minutes from the 2020 AGM (Discussion & Decision) - *Page 4*

The Chair states that in the interest of time, we are not going to take time to read the minutes together. The Chair asks if there is any discussion about the minutes?

Lynne A (SJE) states that the roll call should be included in the minutes and they are not included in this document. The required quorum is 100 and the people recorded by name do not add up to 100. Lynne A (SLE, A4W) would like to know why the roll call is not included.

The Chair states that he is being told that they are going to look for the roll call list from last year's AGM.

**MOTION: BIRT the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting approve the minutes from the 2020 AGM meeting. Moved by June L (Finance)**

**Seconded by Sarah A (IC). MOTION CARRIES with an opposition and abstentions.**

**Noted Abstentions: Lynne A (SJE)**

## **2. Reports**

### **a. Executive Committee Report (Information)**

The Chair opens up the floor to the executives.

Dhanella (AFC 1&2) consulted research for the COVID-19 waiver. The consultation was with SGS. They are working on a lobbying document for external student organizations and the free education for all campaign and have supported individual grad students via email and phone call. Additionally, they have collaborated with the GRC along with the funding commissioner of divisions 3&4 to develop a strategy for a campus wide audit for funding packages and regular communication with the UofT administration. Dhanella (AFC 1&2) has been the chair and liaison for the womens and trans caucus and student life library advocacy committee.

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) has been working on student advocacy for divisions 3&4 which is mostly STEM students. They have been mainly focusing on food security and are working on a robust system that will offer food to financially insecure students. Danielle K (AFC 3&4) has been inquiring about the tuition deferral waiver.

An-Noûra C (CEC) has been working on improving provincial election engagement, increasing awareness of these candidates on campus and increasing the voting from students. They have also been focusing on environmental justice and housing rights for students with lower-income backgrounds. An-Noûra C (CEC) has sat on the student initiative fund, is the liaison of the Hart House board of stewards, and has sat on the board of appeal.

Justin P (EC) has been trying to expand the UTGSU partnerships especially internationally. They have been a part of the Civics Coalition, UNSPG, Canadian coalition for peace and security. There will be a presentation with more details on this.

Sarah A (IC) has been working on the bylaw amendment and the restructuring of the UTGSU which will be presented today. They have been organizing council meetings and the AGM. Sarah (IC) has also been advocating for student/family housing concerns and advocating for their rights and concerns. More details are in their report.



Lwanga M (UGC) states that aside from organizing meetings with admin and participating in ongoing initiatives, they have continued to attend governing council and deal with issues relevant to graduate students.

June L (Finance) states that aside from financial activities, June L is working on the basic funding initiative and working with the faculty of music as they will be their first pilot study.

The Chair asks if anyone has questions for the executives at this time?

Lynne A (SJE) has misused the chat and has one strike.

Lynne A (SJE) is asking for an update for the council of student services as it is important to preserve? They are also asking about the town hall?

The Chair is going to move through the speaker's list.

Lamia A (GSAS UTSC) is asking if any of the executives are advocating for increased funding for mental health insurance?

The Chair states that there is a motion related to this on the agenda.

b. Standing Committees, Ad-hoc Committees, and Caucuses (Information)

Justin P (EC) states that the equity and advocacy committee has been working on a document and is exploring other ways to help with activism.

c. MEDIEVAL STUDIES (Information)

Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) states what MEDIEVAL STUDIES is and elaborates that it is important to become a political member of MEDIEVAL STUDIES. Fully participate in the union when you are a political member. If there is a network within the members' department, Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) encourages members to pass the word on regarding this.

d. Motion to Receive Reports (Decision) 2

Lynne A (SJE) would like to post in the chat that meetings of the standing committees need to happen once a month, ideally twice a month, and would like to invite executives to reach out to the membership to populate committees and would like to invite each commissioner chairing a committee to update us on meetings that has happened this semester.

The Chair states that it is not necessary to post in the chat.

**MOTION 21-12-02: BIRT The Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting receive all reports under Item 2. Moved by Kyle S-M (Anthropology), seconded by Angela S (Psychology). MOTION CARRIES with an abstention.**

**Noted abstentions: Lynne A (SJE)**

### **3. Financial Business**

#### a. Audited Financial Statement FY 2020-2021 3 (Discussion & Decision) - *Page 15*

June L (Finance) is discussing the most recent audit report. The audit passed and gives a breakdown of the details within the audit. June L (Finance) asks if anyone has any questions?

Henry S (OISE) is asking about the settlement in Schedule 3 on page 9?

June L (Finance) clarifies that the settlement is with a former ED but was not during June L (Finance)'s time on the committee so they do not know the specific details surrounding it. This could be severance due to termination of employment. All of the documents surrounding this issue have been thoroughly vetted by the auditor. June L (Finance) states that they can email them with any further questions.

Lwanga M (UGC) supports what June L (Finance) said, as they were on the committee that year and explains that documents were properly vetted.

Adam H (CTLSA) is asking if the financial statements received due notice?

June L (Finance) says yes.

Adam H (CTLSA) is asking for confirmation from the Internal Commissioner.

The Chair states that it has already been confirmed by an executive.

June L (Finance) says it was circulated on November 23rd.

**EXECUTIVE MOTION: 21-12-03: BIRT the Members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union receive the Audited Financial Statement for the UTGSU, as prepared by MNP LLP for the fiscal year 2020-2021. MOTION CARRIES with an opposition and abstentions.**

**Noted Opposition: Adam H (CTLSA)**

**Noted Abstention: Lynne A (SJE)**

b. Appointment of Auditors for FY 2021-2022 4

Adam H (CTLSA) is asking if the motion to appoint the auditors was distributed 2 weeks in advance of this meeting?

Lwanga M (UGC) says yes.

**EXECUTIVE MOTION 21-12-04: BIRT the Members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union Appoint MNP LLP as the auditors for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and pay them remuneration. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

**Noted oppositions: Adam H (CTLSA)**

c. Bursaries and Awards (Information)

June L (Finance) Black Graduate Excellence Bursary is up and running and there are 15 awards. They are looking for people to sit on the committee. The graduate community development fund is up and running this year and is designed to recognize grad students who make a significant contribution to their graduate community. The deadline has been extended for this award to January 16th, 2022. They are looking for people to sit on the awards committee. Student conference bursary only has 2 cycles instead of 3, and applications will open January 15th. They also have the academic engagement grants. If you are affiliated with a council and would like to run an event that will help students please apply for that award. All of the application information for these awards are available on the UTGSU funding tab. You can email June L (Finance) with any questions.

Lwanga M (UGC) states that members should keep an eye out for the members' survey as they will be entered into a raffle.

We are taking a 10 minute break at 6:23pm.

#### 4. Bylaw Amendments 5

The meeting resumes at 6:33pm.

The Chair states that this is a motion put forward by the Executive Committee. The Chair reads the motion.

The Chair hands it over to Matthew Joseph (Lawyer). Matthew J (Lawyer) explains that they were having some issues with their audio.

Matthew J (Lawyer) explains that Brie (ED) will also be talking more about this subject matter.

Matthew J (Lawyer) introduces himself and states that they have been working with the UTGSU for several years. The proposal is tied to a project that has been going on for several months.

The Chair states that there is a point of order in the chat from Lynne A (SJE) - there needs to be a motion to seat Matthew Joseph with speaking rights.

**MOTION: BIRT the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting seat Matthew Joseph with speaking rights. Moved by Sarah A (IC), seconded by Neelofar A (LHAE).**

**MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.**

**Noted Abstention: Adam H (CTLSA)**

Brie (ED) states that restructuring has been on the agenda since 2013 and has been something that Executives should have been working on but has not been tasked until this time. One of the large motivations is that there has been a pandemic which calls for them to look at how structures are functioning. They have looked into creating a set of bylaws that would better service this organization by expanding it to a BOD, which will be voted in by the members. They looked into creating this in continuance with the informal resolution process so that there are more ways for students to lodge complaints or seek support. There will now be a formal and informal route.

The Chair clarifies that there are 3 parts to this motion? The Chair is asking for Matthew J (Lawyer) to explain each item.

Matthew J (Lawyer) shares slides that expand on the continuance. There have been consultations that have been

starting between different members of the UTGSU. There was a consultation with general council previously and they have decided to move in to the CNCA because the federal government has a great online platform that works well with not-for-profits and their filing is more appropriate. When looking at the compliance pieces of the ONCA, the changes in the bylaw amendments would be the same between the ONCA and the CNCA and it purely comes down to the CNCA being more functional. Matthew J (Lawyer) discusses the proposed changes. There are bylaw amendments and track changes between the old bylaws and new ones. The director structure is changing as our organization does not operate in a traditional not-for-profit model. UTGSU does not follow any standard principles of the common law and how it impacts directors, meaning that we do not have an electoral system that lets members elect their directors. The reality is that what we have is a member's meeting every month that is attended by representatives of different pockets of the membership. The bylaws may say things about different course unions etc., but under the law it does not have the impact of the legislation or common-law that it wants you to have. What we are trying to do at this point is to get UTGSU to have a board of directors which is in the proposal to the already existing structure. We are adding an entity that is the board of directors who will be elected from the membership and divided into division-based seats. This is discussed in section 4. It is divided so that there are 7 directors per division and appointed directors which is allowed both under the ONCA and the CNCA. There are 40 seats for the board of directors. Anything can be changed further on by passing them properly at the board meeting. There has been a shrinking of the role of the executive team. It is being changed which is in section 6 of the changes. This change will help with the compliance piece, and shrinking down the portfolios will offer some leniency at the front of house so that things can be more efficient for the day to day activities. If more executives need to be added this is do-able. The course unions will still be operating. Funding and financial assistance will not be changing. The spirit of the course unions remain the same - they will have meetings between them and can offer proposals to the board of directors going forward.

Matthew J (Lawyer) discusses the amendment on the reduction of directors - they are looking to get 50 directors as the maximum for the UTGSU given that the model that is being proposed will not go over 50. They want to keep this range in writing. The articles for continuance will be amended to read that it is 50.

Avinash M (IMS) is asking if each of the executives are being proposed to be paid \$16,000 dollars a year?

The Chair states that there is \$1,400 in the motion. Avinash M (IMS) clarifies that this is monthly.

The Chair says yes.

Jesse V-V (Toronto) is asking about article 14.2 - governing council approval - effectively a constitution within the bylaw stating that specific bylaws cannot be changed. Article 2 clause 8.3, article 8.134, clause 3.1 and 3.3, articles 12.2 and 12.6. Their question is - is this a legal change required by the CNCA? Some of the articles that are listed are being changed, are all the things that are listed going to be submitted to governing council? Or is the argument being made that we never had to go to governing council to be approved?

Matthew J (Lawyer) says that they do not understand the question. The changes that are written down have been housekeeping (capitalization of words, name changing). Is that part of your question? At the end of the day, we

have a set of new bylaws.

Jesse V-V (Toronto) is asking about the problem of 14.2 Is this CNCA related?

Matthew J (lawyer) states that as an organization we have layers of entities that don't hold any meeting under any legislation whatsoever and that we need to get things back to basics.

Jessie V-V (Toronto) is stating that this is the governing council.

Matthew J (Lawyer) states that he hasn't heard of people discussing the governing council. They are trying to remove a lot of the clutter and have a board of directors.

Jessie V-V (Toronto) explains that the governing council is not the same as the general council. Their question is if they have power to change that in their bylaws?

Mayadevi M (Religion) is asking how students would be able to get involved with the board?

Brie (ED) states that they have been in talks with the university and they are aware of these changes. There are 2 options that they could potentially take. Division-based elections will be held.

Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) is introducing themselves as the president of MEDIEVAL STUDIES and is also a PhD candidate. They are reminding everyone that the process of developing and crafting the changes that are now before us has taken a lot of time and has been open and transparent and that they have attended town halls to ask questions about these changes. UTGSU has asked other bodies on campus to make these changes. Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) represents many people, a number of them are grad students and are members of the UTGSU. Due to the structural issues with the UTGSU, they haven't been able to be a strong ally to CUPE and advocate for grad students as they deserve. The GSU could be working on this organizationally with CUPE for a long time. Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) is asking for all to vote in favour of this restructuring.

Rebecca Charow (Unknown) wants clarification - as a representative from my own student government, do they fall under the student union or the course union? There has been confusion on what division they fall under but it's not clearly defined within the bylaws. Will this change come? For article 5.4.11, this is about failure to have a course union member in attendance. They are wondering if this change will be made and if we will be able to see these details?

Matthew J (Lawyer) says that the SGS is who defines the division. In terms of the confusion between student union and general council, this is what they are attempting to clarify with these changes. Going forward, if we

adopt all of this, you will be a representative of a course union. The folks who are elected as directors will be elected every spring (dates pending) and will be elected from the membership themselves.

Brie (ED) explains that nothing is changing about the general council model as much as it is being moved to split out. Council has been moved into an assembly where you'll still be able to receive your head grant funding. There are 8 meetings you need to attend and you can only miss 1 meeting per semester. This is generally the policy for general council.

Rebecca Charow (Unknown) is asking how many meetings can be missed before their funding is pulled?

Brie (ED) states that they are looking to discuss with course unions in the winter to see what else would need to be clarified. Brie (ED) has written this down as a note (the percentage piece being unclear)

Lwanga M (UGC) is speaking in favour of the motions presented - they state that council has witnessed preposterous things happen because there is room for these things to happen and has been a toxic environment, which prevents others from wanting to participate. It has been difficult for students to get involved as the UTGSU has been hostile to members who are new. What is the point of a student union if only students who are already knowledgeable can engage? We need better engagement and urge everyone to vote in favour of this.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of information and speaking in favour: Clarification in regards to 2.3.3, the resignation of a member (page 15). Is this the student choice initiative?

Matthew J (Lawyer) the resignation would automatically come if you deregistered yourself as a student.

Adam H (CTLSA) is asking if he can resign as a member given the way that it is worded?

Matthew J (Lawyer) No. it is a repetition of language. We can take it out if you think it is more clear. There is nothing here that we can do to change the student choice initiative.

Henry S (OISE) states that this is a good initiative and is asking how the structuring of the divisions has been thought out? Are we going to have two election cycles to include new members? Would we be having first year students in September contesting? Will we be having spring elections and fall elections?

Matthew J (Lawyer) explains that some questions were more internal, however, in terms of how the directors are elected, we have a set number of seats (7) per division. In terms of how we are going to further develop that policy (around elections), there will be further work needed. Think of these bylaw amendments as structural changes that provide a framework that can be later on used as a launchpad for further policies that clearly

provide good working governance to your members. We are adding another 40 people participating within the UTGSU in an elected capacity. It brings more participation.

Henry S (OISE) is asking about this specifically because some of the graduate departments have less students. How did you come up with this?

Brie (ED) states that it was a direct change that was made 2 weeks ago. Originally we were looking at 5 directors per division. OISE is a very large faculty with 6 different departments, so we moved to increase it to 7. As we are going through the changes we can also put in language such as “two people from the same department would not be able to sit in an elected position.” The appointment process is to start in the fall to integrate first year masters/doctoral students who are interested in participating in the union, and then hopefully they will want to run as an executive or running for the board. Due to the fact that we removed the EAL position which is intended for new students, we have switched it to the board.

**Kyle S-M (Anthropology) is calling the question, seconded by Grace Cameron (Women and Gender Studies). Calling of the question carries.**

## **Bylaw Amendments**

### **5. Executive Motion:**

WHEREAS an organizational restructure has been a repeated priority for the UTGSU Executive Committee since 2013

WHEREAS the UTGSU General Council instructed the UTGSU Executive Committee to file for continuance under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (“the CNCA”) in February 2021

WHEREAS the continuance from the Ontario Corporations Act to the CNCA restructured the UTGSU, through revisions to its Bylaws and ensured compliance with the CNCA (the “Restructuring Framework”)

WHEREAS the Restructuring Framework, and its resulting amendments to the UTGSU Bylaws, is attached as Schedule “A” to this motion;

WHEREAS the UTGSU Executive Committee has shared information on the Restructuring Framework by facilitating discussions with the UTGSU Board of Directors/General Council and the UTGSU Membership since July 2021

**BIFRT that the Restructuring Framework shall come into effect on May 1, 2022;**

**BIFRT that in order to effect the Restructuring Framework for the 2022-2023 academic year, the 2022 UTGSU Spring elections shall be carried out in the manner described in the Restructuring Framework;**

**BIFRT that in order to effect the Restructuring Framework the Articles of Continuance of the UTGSU**



**shall be amended to read that the minimum number of directors of the UTGSU shall be 3 and the maximum number of directors shall 50;**

**BIRT the UTGSU adopts the Restructuring Framework, the Articles of Continuance and the Articles of Amendment;**

**BIFRT the UTGSU Board of Directors will be paid an honorarium of \$500 for the 2022/2023 academic year; and**

**BIFRT that the UTGSU Executive Committee will be paid a monthly honorarium of \$1400 for the 2022/2023 academic year.**

**EXECUTIVE MOTION 21-12-05: BIRT the Members of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union move to approve the bylaw amendments. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

**Noted Oppositions: Adam H (CTLSA)**

**Noted Abstentions: Lynne A (SJE)**

## **5. Motions by Members - Page 30**

The Chair reads out the motion 2021-12-07-01.

Curtis D'H (Nutritional Sciences) put forward this motion. This motion seeks to shift the UTGSU coverage in favour of providing students with longstanding mental health services. They state that the health and dental plan only covers \$500.

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order: states that people have been abusing the chat and he has two strikes. The Chair states that the strike is for being snarky. Adam H (CTLSA) states that this is yelling across the room. The Chair chooses to continue the meeting.

Katie R (Psychology) wanted to share 3 anonymous quotes from UTGSU members (shares in the meeting). With these quotes and with what Curtis D'H (Nutritional Sciences) already mentioned, it is clear.

Liam F (Geography & Planning) speaks in favour of this motion and states that the \$500 is outdated as costs for therapists are increasing.

Lwanga M (UGC) expresses support for this motion and these are the kinds of motions that we need to see as graduate students.

Amy C (MEDIEVAL STUDIES) urges people to vote for this motion.

**MOTION 2021-12-07- 01**

Whereas Grad Minds and U of T departments have surveyed students recently to investigate graduate mental health at U of T

Whereas \$500 per year to cover mental health services is inadequate to cover consistent, long term care given the cost of mental health services in the Greater Toronto Area

Whereas student mental health has been an ongoing concern for U of T students over the last several years

Whereas Graduate Students as a population, disproportionately experience poor mental health, including depression, anxiety and other mental health related issues that are distinct from undergraduate student needs and experiences

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has had further aggravated existing conditions that contribute to the poor mental health of students and has contributed to access barriers to existing counselling services

Whereas students deserve the autonomy to find their own mental health service providers and develop a long-term therapeutic relationship to ensure sustainable wellness

**BIRT that the UTGSU investigates options to increase Mental Health services coverage under the GSU Health and Dental Insurance Plan**

**BIFRT that these options do not cause undue financial burden on the UTGSU Membership**

**BIFRT the UTGSU Executive Committee present these options to the UTGSU General Council/Boards of Directors by the March Council meeting at the latest.**

**Moved by Curtis D'H (Nutritional Sciences), seconded by: Katie R (Psychology) MOTION CARRIES unanimously.**

The Chair reads the motion 2021-12-07-02.

Riley Y (Political Science) clarifies that when they put the 15,00-20,000, it is around 3,000-5,000 for each of those. Riley Y (Political Science) would like to highlight how many substantial barriers are faced by Indigenous students. There is a need to have more funding opportunities to pursue their studies without financial assistance, and it is an ethical obligation to support Indigenous students. Riley Y (Political Science) would love to see this motion pass today.

Lwanga M (UGC) would like to speak strongly in favour of this motion. If we are to take a look into what is going on the TRC has many recommendations for higher education. If we have an equity statement that acknowledges colonization and the land we live on we should be supporting this motion.

Lynne A (SJE) supports this motion strongly.

Lamia A (GSAS UTSC) strongly is in favour of this but is wondering if the finance committee would be the people who are working on the bursary and if it would be a good idea to involve Indigenous students within the process itself and have Indigenous folks involved in the bursary implementation?

June L (Finance) explains that the way that bursaries are created is that the finance committee looks at the administrative/logistical aspect and there will be a sub-committee that will include Indigenous members. The finance committee ensures that the bursaries are administered within the bylaws. The actual decision-making and creating of the content is flexible.

Willis O (SJE) states that we should be helping students ensure that they are staying in their programs. They are strongly in favour of the motion.

## **MOTION 2021-12-07-02**

Whereas,

Indigenous people consistently complete a university education at rates far below the non-Indigenous population; Indigenous people, especially youth under 25, report the lowest economic outcomes of any demographic in Canada; and Indigenous people have been some of the most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It must be acknowledged that it remains an incredible feat that Indigenous people attain graduate-level education given the substantial systemic barriers that limit their access to these spaces.

It is the obligation of all institutions in Canada, including student unions, to help bridge these gaps and support those Indigenous students who are able to pursue a graduate education by any means available.

**BIRT the UTSGU Finance Committee creates a new bursary for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, graduate students at the University of Toronto.**

**BIFRT that at least 4 bursaries, valued between 15,000 and 20,000 total, be made available each year.**

**BIFRT the new bursary is implemented by the start of the 2022/2023 academic year**

**Moved by Riley Y (Political Science), seconded by Grace C (Women and Gender Studies). MOTION**

**CARRIES unanimously.**

The Chair notes that we have 10 minutes left of the meeting.

The Chair reads the motion 2021-12-07-03.

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) is asking if they can move to extend the meeting.

**MOTION: BIRT the Members of the UTGSU Annual General Meeting move to extend the meeting to 8:15pm. Moved by Danielle K (AFC 3&4), seconded by Pablo del CN (Unknown). MOTION CARRIES with abstentions.**

Danielle K (AFC 3&4) discusses food security for students. The emergency food bank filled the niche of supplying nutritious and free options to students and aims to continue. They have supplied over 3,600 boxes of food, supporting 2000 people in 7000 households. They are looking to expand the services in a physical space which is what this funding would do. There is no maximum cap on how much you can use their services every week.

Sarah A (IC) would like to speak in favour of this motion as we must support struggling students in these difficult times.

Lwanga M (UGC) is speaking in favour of this motion as cost of living has been increasing which impacts student finances. With this in mind, students should have access to healthy food and urges the membership to support this motion.

**MOTION 2021-12-07-03**

Whereas U of T Emergency Food Bank emerged in March 2020 to provide emergency food boxes upon the closure of U of T's sole food bank on campus

Whereas the U of T Emergency Food Bank has provided free food boxes to over 1200 students across 700 student households since its inception, a quarter of which are graduate students

Whereas the demand for food relief continues to increase

Whereas the U of T Emergency Food Bank relies entirely on donations and temporarily closed in September 2021 due to lack of funds

Whereas the 2021/2022 UTGSU Executive Committee has committed to fighting food insecurity

**BIRT the UTGSU provide a donation of \$25000 to the UofT Emergency Food Bank for the purposes of providing emergency food relief programming for students and developing advocacy campaigns that aim to address food insecurity, poverty, and the causes thereof at the University of Toronto.**

**Moved by Danielle K (AFC 3&4), seconded by Avinash M (IMS). MOTION CARRIES with an abstention.**

The Chair reads the motion 2021-12-07-04.

Zach R (Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology) states that money as a grad student is tight, especially living in Toronto, and the funding packages are not sufficient. In the onset of the pandemic, it has amplified these challenges. The pandemic has caused a plethora of unseen challenges. Currently, there is a lack of a robust safety net for students who are in precarious situations. We do not know how long lasting the impacts of the pandemic will be.

Sarah A (IC) would like to support this motion.

June L (Finance) would like to speak in favour of this motion. As a finance commissioner it is difficult to set up these funds. This would give us a chance to help students reach out to us and to provide them with some kind of safety.

Amy C (Medieval Studies) had a COVID grant via donation and had so many applications that they couldn't give everyone as much money as they would have wanted. Amy C (Medieval Studies) urges all to vote in favour.

Lynne A (SJE) states that last year they were able to move \$5,000 from the restricted surplus. Looking at the amounts we are voting on, maybe it's worth keeping an open end of the amount in case we are able to increase.

The Chair says the motion we are moving is for this precise amount.

#### **MOTION 2021-12-07-04**

Whereas the COVID-19 Pandemic has created unprecedented economic instability and disruption to the everyday lives of graduate students

Whereas graduate students are facing delays related to funding, program completion and accessing additional financial resources,

Whereas the City of Toronto is one of the most expensive cities in the world, Whereas the University of Toronto has the highest tuition fees in the province,

Whereas access to emergency funding is needed to support students who experience financial crisis, with or without a pandemic

**BIRT that the UTGSU Finance Committee create a permanent GSU Emergency Grant for graduate students experiencing financial hardship.**

**BIFRT that the UTGSU Finance Committee allocate up to \$250,000 from the GSU Budget to establish this grant**

**BIFRT that the UTGSU Executive Committee ensure the Emergency Grant is maintained for future graduate students**

**BIFRT that this Emergency Grant be implemented before the 2022/2023 academic year**

**Moved by Zach R (Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology), seconded by Pablo del CN (Unknown).  
MOTION CARRIES unanimously.**

The Chair reads the motion 2021-12-07-05.

Lynne A (SJE) says the last three motions are under the same umbrella.

The Chair states that we will come back to that.

Lynne A (SJE) is requesting to omnibus the remaining motions. The designated speaker is not present.

The Chair states that although they are coming from the same committee, they are different motions and are asking for different actions submitted separately.

Lynne A (SJE) speaks on the motion to accommodate students in need.

Kyle S-M (Anthropology) appreciates the sentiment of this motion, however, the UTGSU already asks for

accommodations and has no trouble thus far meeting those accommodations. This motion does not fit to impose a university system onto our union which is technically an autonomous body. Kyle S-M (Anthropology) is speaking against the motion.

Allie D (Economic) point of order: has this motion been moved?

The Chair states yes.

Allie D (Economics) speaks against this motion and that while there is some burden requesting accommodations that one needs, it is less than the burden of trying to accommodate endless and conflicting needs from students.

Amy C (Medieval Studies) agrees with Kyle and Allie and while they recognize the sentiment, it is already being done within the union and that the union is autonomous from the university. They are against this motion.

Lynne A (SJE) is asking to defer the remaining motions and to be referred to the general council.

The Chair says that this is a motion that can be moved, but Lynne A (SJE) is not able to do so as they moved the current motion.

#### **Motion 2021-12-07-05**

Whereas the Union's Equity Statement sets the tone of meetings of General Council and of the General Membership alike;

Whereas a natural extension of the above would be formulating and implementing concrete actions;

RESOLUTION to recognize UofT AS Accommodations

**BIRT official academic accommodations via the University of Toronto Accessibility Services Office (UofT AS) be recognized and optimally implemented during meetings, events, and other activities of the various bodies of the Union, e.g., General Council, the Executive, other standing committees and the caucuses.**

**Moved by: Lynne A (SJE), seconded by Jennifer Goldberg (SBHS). MOTION IS DEFEATED.**

The Chair reads out the motion 2021-12-7-06.

Amy C (Medieval Studies) wants to check on quorum.

The Chair states there are 100.

Lynne A (SJE) would like to defer to council.

**Motion 2021-12-07-06**

RESOLUTION for Council Listserv back-up for traditional public access to Council meeting materials

**BIRT until the practice is duly restored of publishing (with notice) Council materials on the dedicated UTGSU website page, interested Members of Council Committees and Caucuses can subscribe to and receive Council via the Council mailing list**

**Motion 2021-12-07 07**

RESOLUTION to institute a UTGSU-internal Mediation and Conflict Prevention Committee

**BIRT UTGSU Members authorize the General Council / Board of Directors to institute a Mediation and Conflict Prevention Committee (to complement & collaborate with the Board of Appeal) and for the purpose to include its terms of reference under section G4.10 of Policy G4 Standing Committees of the UTGSU Policy Handbook.**

**BIFRT a Budget line [TBD: from the Union's Unrestricted Surplus] be added to support professional assistance in training its members and in preparing mediation protocols to guide UTGSU facilitators and clients.**

**6. Any Other Business**

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 8:15pm.



**Draft Audit Report (Attached as a separate document)**

**4. Bylaw Amendments**

Board of Directors Honorarium

4.6 Honorarium

4.6.1 The Directors shall be compensated with an honorarium, the amount of which shall be determined by annually by the Members at the annual general Member's Meeting. At this agenda item of the meeting, the Vice President Finance shall provide a recommendation for setting the amount of the honorarium.

4.6.2 Any honorarium provided by the UTGSU will be paid only if the Director performs the duties required of such Director.

4.6.3 If the resignation or termination of the Director occurs before the first installment of the honorarium (timing of the installment to be determined according to the budgetary provisions) then the Director forfeits the entire amount of the honorarium.

4.6.4 If a Director misses more than three Board of Directors meetings, the Director shall have forfeited their honorarium.

4.6.5 The honorarium in this Section 4.6 shall not apply to the members of the Executive Committee.

**Proposed Amendment: (The changes are reflected in the following Clauses )**

4.6.4 If a Director misses two Board of Directors meetings, the Director shall have forfeited their honorarium.

4.6.6 The Director's honorarium will be paid as a lump sum amount after the completion of their term, based on their participation in Board of Directors meetings and fulfillment of clause 4.6.4.

**ARTICLE 9 ELECTIONS**

9.1 Appointment of the Chief Returning Officer

9.1.1 At the October Board of Directors' meeting, the Directors shall appoint a nominating committee that will be tasked with soliciting a candidate for the position of Chief Returning Officer for Executive Officer elections and referenda within the current academic year.

9.1.2 This committee shall consist of one (1) former member of the Elections Committee, the Executive Director (non-voting), and one (1) other representative from the Board of Directors .

9.1.3 In the event that no member of the former Elections Committee is available, the Board of Directors shall appoint substitutes to serve on the nominating committee.

9.1.4 The nominating committee will present a candidate for the position of Chief Returning Officer at a Fall Board of Directors' meeting.

9.1.5 Should there be no suitable candidate, the Elections Committee may choose a UTGSU Member to fill the role.

9.1.6 No Member shall serve, in a single election cycle, in more than one of the following capacities: as the CRO, as a Deputy CRO, as a CRO Hiring Committee member, or as an Elections Committee member. Further, any Member serving in one of the previous capacities shall be ineligible to run for election to the Executive Committee in an election in which they are serving in said capacity.

9.1.7 Section 9.1.5 must be included in the advertising of these positions, and any person applying for these positions must be informed of this limitation of eligibility prior to their acceptance to serve in said roles.

**Proposed Amendment (The changes are reflected in the following Clauses )**

9.1.3 In the event that no member of the former Elections Committee and/or Board of Directors is available, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee shall appoint substitutes to serve on the CRO nominating committee.

9.1.6 No Member shall serve, in a single election cycle, in more than one of the following capacities: as the CRO, as a Deputy CRO, as a CRO Hiring Committee member, or as an Elections Committee member. Further, any Member serving in one of the previous capacities shall be ineligible to run for election to the Board of Directors and to the Executive committee in an election in which they are serving in said capacity.

## **5. Motions by Members:**

**Received: 11-13-2022**

WHEREAS Adam Hill has prevented the UTGSU from functioning as intended,  
BIRT that his membership in the UTGSU be terminated.

WHEREAS Board of Directors meetings have consistently had poor attendance, and it has become an issue about reaching quorum for decision-making purposes,

BIRT that the Executive commit to adequate notice for future meetings and reaching out to specific directors to attend meetings, so that the union can function as intended.

WHEREAS the Executive had decided to postpone the administering of honoraria for all Board of Directors members, without consultation or approval from the BoD,

BIRT all executives also do not receive payment until the end of the academic year with specific line-item tasks submitted to the UTGSU.

WHEREAS many BoD seats are left open due to lack of electoral participation by the student body,

BIRT that the Executive make a focused, renewed and active effort to run a by-election at the earliest possible date so that there can exist a functioning and full BoD.

**Received: 11-13-2022**

BIRT the Membership directs the UTGSU Board of Directors to implement a mechanism allowing any Member to resign their membership in the UTGSU by providing written notice to the Board of Directors.

**Received: 11-13-2022**

Post-script

As a Member, I reserve my right to escalate under sections 163(8) & (9) of the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, included for convenience:

**"Notice of refusal**

**(8)** If a corporation refuses to include a proposal in a notice of meeting, it shall, within the prescribed period after the day on which it receives the proposal, notify in writing the member submitting the proposal of its intention to omit it from the notice of meeting and of the reasons for the refusal.

**Member may apply to court**

**(9)** On the application of a member submitting a proposal who is aggrieved by the refusal, a court may restrain the holding of the meeting at which the proposal is sought to be presented and make any further order that it thinks fit."

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Adam Hill, 6th year PhD candidate, OISE's Curriculum and Pedagogy Department  
UTGSU SGS Division 2 Representative

Corporate Continuance Motion

Whereas the UTGSU's Board of Directors tasked its Executive Committee with filing for continuance under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act at the February 2021 Board of Directors meeting,

Whereas the UTGSU Executive Director signed a Certificate of Continuance on behalf of the UTGSU's Membership on June 21st, 2021,

Whereas the minutes of the February 2021 UTGSU Board of Directors meeting denote that the Board of Directors tasked the Executive Committee with preparing to file for continuance—not with initiating the constitution of a new corporation under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act exclusive of Membership oversight and consent,

Whereas the UTGSU Board of Directors merely received the Executive

Committee’s proposed bylaw amendments for compliance with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act at the July 2021 Board of Directors meeting,

Whereas the UTGSU Board of Directors entertained a motion to alter the future total number of Directors of the UTGSU’s Board of Directors at the November 23rd, 2021, Board of Directors meeting,

Whereas the Ontario Corporations Act and Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act require that adjustments to the total number of Directors of a corporation’s Board of Directors must be resolved by the corporation’s Membership,

Whereas any decision to alter the status of the UTGSU as a corporation remains the exclusive jurisdiction of the Membership—not that of the Board of Directors,

Whereas the UTGSU Board of Directors never sought a mandate from the Membership to file for continuance with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act,

Whereas Corporations Canada has already been informed of these violations of both the Ontario Corporations Act and the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act,

#### Corporate Continuance Motion

Whereas, given the size of the Board of Directors at the time of these violations, the UTGSU could be fined for hundreds of thousands of dollars under the Ontario Corporations Act and the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act for defrauding both the Ontario provincial and Canadian federal governments,

Whereas the UTGSU is a representative democracy accountable to its Membership—its highest decision-making body,

Whereas a previous Executive Director and the UTGSU’s current legal counsel oversaw the filing for continuance with Corporations Canada without the consent or consultation of the UTGSU’s Membership,

Whereas the status of the UTGSU’s application for Continuance was not communicated transparently at the Town Hall in October 2021,

Whereas the following resolutions were deliberately and illegally excluded from the 2021 Annual General Meeting's draft agenda,

#### Corporate Continuance Motion

Be it resolved that the UTGSU Membership censures the UTGSU Board of Directors for filing for Continuance and for attempting to alter the total number of Directors within the UTGSU Board of Directors without the UTGSU Membership's informed consent and consultation;

Be it resolved that the UTGSU Membership affirms the Governance Committee's role in oversight of any future actions and decision-making to file for continuance with Canada's provincial and federal governments;

Be it resolved that the UTGSU Membership directs the UTGSU Board of Directors to launch an independent investigation of and to report on all correspondence, documentation, and decision-making germane to corporate continuance.

#### Corporate Continuance Motion

#### Post-script

Respecting the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act sections 163(8) & (9), Members have the right to escalate:

“Notice of refusal

(8) If a corporation refuses to include a proposal in a notice of meeting, it shall, within the prescribed period after the day on which it receives the proposal, notify in writing the member submitting the proposal of its intention to omit it from the notice of meeting and of the reasons for the refusal.

Member may apply to court

(9) On the application of a member submitting a proposal who is aggrieved by the refusal, a court may restrain the holding of the meeting at which the proposal is sought to be presented and make any further order that it thinks fit.”