



University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union  
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## **University of Toronto Graduate Students' Board of Directors Meeting Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 22, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Directors must register by emailing [register@utgsu.ca](mailto:register@utgsu.ca) before the meeting.**

### **1. Meeting Comes to Order**

#### **Appointment of Chair**

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

Adam H (CTLSA) point of order because we have some sense of who this person is before we appoint them for this.

Sandhya S introduces herself as a PhD student at the University of Toronto and she is here today to act as chair and she is a member of the ETC.

Lwanga M (HGC) asks for a vote.

Sarah A announces the vote rules as follows: if you're in favor you will choose choice one; if you're opposed you will choose a choice two; and if you have abstained choice three will be your choice.

Lwanga M (HGC) announces the results with seven people in favor which is like 88% and one person abstained no opposition so the motion passes with majority.

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

**1a MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves Sandhya Mylabathula as the meeting Chair from November 2022 to April 2023. Moved by Neelofar; seconded by Adam.**

**MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

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

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

Gadfly will be the Equity Officer for this evening's meeting.

Matthew is legal counsel for UTGSU.

Adam H asks if that is a motion to see guests with speaking rights or not speaking rights.

Adam H says that he doesn't think we've heard from everyone who is here who is not an elected director or an appointed director or the equity officer. Can we hear from everyone?

Duyen is the secretary for this meeting and is from the Master of Information program.

**MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors seats all guests with speaking rights.**

**Moved by Avinash; seconded by Nooshin. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

*b. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion & Decision) 1b*

Avinash M says that he has a point of information which is that when can he seat his own guests?

Lwanga M asks what would the purpose be of seating your own guests?

Avinash M has two graduate students who would like to be guests in this meeting. They are interested in the board of directors and what the GSU is about and they want to learn more about it. They are from the department of life sciences.

The Chair says OK that is a potential amendment there.

Sarah A: Point of information. My question is don't you think the Assembly is more suited because the reason we have the Board of Directors is to attend to regular business. That's why we

have elected representatives as board of directors versus the assembly which is more of an open platform.

Avinash M: Yes I am aware of this.

**MOTION to amend the agenda to seat two graduate student guests, after the adoption of the agenda. Moved by Avinash and seconded by Jesse. MOTION DEFEATED due to a tie.**

Adam H would like to add an item to the agenda related to Officer conduct, regarding decisions made by Executive Officers pertaining to the Annual General Meeting.

Lwanga M says this reads similar to a motion brought to the executives which was dismissed.

Chair is not sure that it is the same, but if it were it would be ruled out of order.

Adam H asks what other motion would be contradictory with discussing Officer conduct?

Lwanga M asks can we get more motivation on this item? What type of conduct are we talking about, and will it be in-camera?

Adam H puts the wording in the chat for a potential motion.

Chair says this motion would be out of order. It is already 6:10 and we have not gotten to any agenda items, so I would like to proceed with the items as planned.

Jesse VV says the correct meeting to discuss officer conduct would be the Board of Directors.

Chair says there are other legal concerns with this item.

Adam H: Point of Order. What is the Chair's ruling on this proposed amendment?

Chair has ruled this out of order.

Adam H: Challenges the Chair's ruling.

Lwanga M: I welcome Adam to explain his reasoning for challenging the Chair.

Adam H: I cannot explain without more information from the Chair about their ruling.

Matthew: It looks like we are getting bogged down in procedure here. It is 6:24 and we have not gone on to any agenda items.

Lwanga M: I am upholding the Chair's ruling.

Gadfly: I would like to remind everyone that we have agreed to be in a space free from harassment and we are touching upon those boundaries so please be mindful.

**1b MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors adopt the November 22, 2022, meeting agenda as presented or amended. Moved by Avinash; seconded by Jesse. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

*c. Approval of Minutes from the October 25th, 2022 Meeting 1c*

**1c MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the minutes from the October 25th, 2022 meeting. Moved by Danielle and seconded by Neelofar. MOTION CARRIES with opposition.**

## **2. Reports**

### **a. Executive Committee Reports (Information & Decision)**

Adam H: Why were two of the executives' reports not included in the meeting package?

Lwanga M: My report was one of them. I had technology issues but I can give a verbal report.

I've been focusing on re-establishing a healthy relationship between our membership and administration. We have begun in person meetings with administration and I've had quite productive discussions with them to revamp discussions around student mental health inclusion and advocacy. We have been looking at revamping the GC space. After the floods we had an infestation of insects so we have been working tirelessly on that, we've also been working to do

the hirings and get some of the vacant positions filled and I'm happy to say that things have been moving.

Neelofar: My report was not ready when it was time for VP internal to send out the package, so I can explain verbally. I've been working with executives and staff to ensure the audit goes smoothly. We had a very smooth audit. Worked on conference bursary application as well.

**2a MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors accept the Executive Committee reports up until November 19th, 2022, moved by Neelofar; seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

### **3. Financial Business**

#### a) Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Lwanga M presents the draft fiscal year 2022 financial statement. The final version will be presented in the audit presentation at the December 2022 annual general meeting.

**MOTION to extend the meeting until 7:10 pm. Moved by Sarah and seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstention.**

**3a MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year; moved by Jesse; seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

#### b) Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Financial Statements

Jesse VV: I'd like to know the nature of that amount 39,000 spent on a staff settlement. Was that a single payment or several?

Lwanga M: It was a single settlement approved by Council.

Jesse VV: Exactly how many months of severance was it?

Danielle K: Council approved 4 months of severance.

**3b MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the draft Financial Statement for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; moved by Lwanga; seconded by Jesse. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

c) Updated Policy for GCDF

Lwanga and Neelofar present the GCDF policy.

Adam H: I just wanted to know what's changed since the previous GCDF policy because there's no track changes so I can't tell the difference.

Neelofar: It's just a matter of the timeline that the applications will remain open, in line with the universities timelines.

Jesse VV: How well-utilized are these grants? Did we end up using all 15,000 of the available money?

Lwanga M: These funds help students and are well-utilized and if anyone has specific questions please reach out. You're also welcome to join on the different committees that we have relating to finance.

**3c MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the GCDF Policy as presented; moved by Lwanga; seconded by Neelofar. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

d) Updated Policy for BGSEB

Jesse VV: This is a relatively new grant we established in September 2020, so I'm curious how well it is working? Did we give out all 15 bursaries?

**MOTION to extend the meeting until 7:15 pm. Moved by Lwanga and seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES.**

Lwanga M: We were able to sit with SGS and find out different outreach methods to make these awards more popular. All 15 bursaries were given out.

Adam H: I raised this when this policy was first proposed back in September 2020. I just wanted clarification as to what measures have been taken to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest in the selections of successful candidates for the Black graduate student excellence bursary.

Lwanga M: This question can be directed to the President's email.

**3d MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the BGSEB Policy as presented. Moved by Lwanga; seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

e) Updated Policy for SCB

**3e MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approve the SCB Policy as presented. moved by Lwanga; seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with oppositions and abstentions.**

#### **4. CRO Nominating Committee**

**Motion to extend the meeting to 7:20 pm. Moved by Danielle and seconded by Lwanga. MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstention.**

Jesse: Point of Order. The meeting is over.

Danielle: Point of Order. We are in the middle of a vote.

Adam: Point of Order. Do we still have quorum?

Sarah: Yes we do have quorum.

Chair: The confirmation of quorum is in the chat.

**4 MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoint (name, department) as the member(s) of the CRO Nominating Committee for the upcoming spring General Elections 2023 and by-elections 2022; moved by Lwanga; seconded by Avinash.**

Floor is open for Board members to nominate themselves to this committee. Danielle K explains that the CRO conducts the by-elections, and serving on this committee would involve reviewing applications and conducting interviews for this position.

**Motion to extend the meeting by another 5 minutes. Moved by Danielle and seconded by Lwanga. MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.**

Adam: Point of Order. Do we have quorum?

Chair rules that we are quorate.

**MOTION to extend the meeting for 5 more minutes. Moved by Lwanga and seconded by Danielle. MOTION CARRIES with opposition and abstentions.**

No nominations received for CRO Nominating Committee.

**MOTION that the UTGSU staff put forward a CRO candidate for approval. Moved by Danielle.**

## **5. Any Other Business**

### *a) Campaigns and Activism*

**5a MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the creation of the Campaign and Activism Standing Committee as approved by the executive committee.**

### *b) Motion by the Board of Director*

**5b BIRT the Board of Directors tasks the Executive Committee with accommodating Members' attendance in person during all future Board of Directors, Assembly, and General meetings.**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourns at 7:30pm.

## **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 behavior 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?

### **Campaign and Activism**

For several years UTGSU Executives and staff have felt the need for a dedicated group of people that will help support the campaign and outreach work of the UTGSU. The Executive Committee feels that through the establishment of the CAC it will be a positive move towards increasing engagement among the memberships and strengthening campus partners.

Campaign and Activism Committee (CAC): CAC is established as a standing committee of the UTGSU. Its mandate is to support the UTGSU in its campaign and outreach activities. The chair of the standing committee will be the VP External. Communication Officer of the UTGSU will be a non-voting member and will attend meetings.

BIRT the Assembly & Board of Directors approve the creation of the Campaign and Activism Standing Committee as approved by the executive committee.