University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union
Special Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Virtual, on Zoom
Thursday, September 28th, 2023 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

7:00 PM - Meeting will come to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order
   a. Appointment of Meeting Chair (Discussion and Decision)
   b. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion and Decision)
   c. Adoption of Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Decision)
   d. Guests and Media (Discussion and Decision)

2. Exec Committee Housekeeping (Discussion)
   a. CLR Role Distributions
   b. Governance Committee Meeting
   c. Finance Committee Meeting
   d. Office Space Renovation and Development Budget Breakdown

3. Board of Directors Agenda Items (Discussion and Decision)
   a. UTGSU Assembly and BoD Meeting Format
   b. Discipline of VP Finance
   c. Severance Package of ED
   d. GSA Reinstation
   e. SGS Summer Gym Bursary
   f. Budget Update to Website
   g. BDS Repeal and Removal
   h. Increasing Course Union Funding
   i. Caucus and Committee Updates to BoD and Executives
   j. Weekly Reports of Execs to BoD in Oct Business

4. Reports
   a. Summary of Exec and Staff meetings
   b. External Meetings

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment
Motions

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints Charles Wilson as Chair for this meeting.

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the meeting agenda for September 28, 2023 as presented or amended.

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors moves to seat all guests with speaking rights.

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoint two (2) more Divisional reps to the Governance Committee
SGS Division 1 Humanities: name and department
SGS Division 3 Physical Sciences: name and department

BIFRT additional non-voting members are given participation on the various committee projects and in decision-making discussions, other than casting a vote, until a voting position becomes available.

BIFRT the Committee
1) prepare ASAP a description of its mandate for inclusion in Policy G4
2) revisit the restriction of voting membership to non-Exec Vice-Chair and four (4) Divisional reps (Fall 2019) and subsequently to an Executive member as Vice-Chair and to BoD members as Divisional reps (Winter 2022)
3) revisit restrictions along the lines of #2) above introduced for other Committees as of Winter 2022

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors appoint one (1) more Divisional rep to the Finance Committee
SGS Division 1 Humanities: name and department

BIFRT additional non-voting members be given participation on the various committee projects and in decision-making discussions, other than casting a vote, until a voting position becomes available.
Draft Motion: BIRT (Be It Resolved That) the Board of Directors confirm/appoint the following Grad Affairs Committee roles:

Two (2) Exec Co-Chairs: names and positions
Four (4) Divisional voting members: names and departments
Div 1: Humanities:
Div 2: Social Sciences:
Div 3: Physical Sciences
Div 4: Life Sciences

BIFRT (Be It Further Resolved That) additional non-voting members be given participation on the various committee projects and in decision-making discussions, other than casting a vote, until a voting position becomes available.

Draft Motion: BIRT (Be It Resolved That) the Board of Directors confirm/appoint the following Grad Minds Committee roles:

Two (2) General Member Co-Chairs: names and department
Two (2) and more General Member voting members: names and departments
One (1) UTGSU Executive liaison (non-voting): name and Exec position

BIFRT (Be It Further Resolved That) additional members acquire voting rights at the second meeting the attend.

Draft Motion: BIRT (Be It Resolved That) the Board of Directors confirm/appoint the following Equity and Advocacy Committee roles:

One (1) Executive Chair (non-voting): name and department
?? One (1) General Member Vice-Chair (voting): name and department
Two (2) and more voting members: names and departments

BIFRT (Be It Further Resolved That) additional members acquire voting rights at the second meeting the attend.

BIFRT (Be It Further Resolved That) as a first order of business, the EAC collaborate with the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee to restore the EAC full terms of reference in the Policy Handbook.
DRAFT MOTION: BIRT the all UTGSU assembly and board of directors meetings begin commencing in a hybrid format (in-person and Zoom/online attendance both being available options) as of October 2023. Be it further resolved that a UTGSU board of directors meeting can be called at any time with a minimum of 25% of directors requesting said meeting.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas a $25,000 allocation was voted for in the previous BOD meeting for executive office furniture and renovations/”deep cleaning” without a detailed prepared budget (the only information provided was ~$15,000 for furniture and ~$10,000 for cleaning).

Whereas the VP Finance is required as per 7.11.8 to ensure that the UTGSU’s financial documents are made available to the members in the UTGSU’s offices, and that the UTGSU’s audit report and budget are made available on the UTGSU’s website.

Whereas the budget for the 2023-2024 year and the individual detailed budget for the office furniture and cleaning/renovations has not been provided (website ends at 2019-2020) prior to voting to allocate the funds.

Whereas the VP Finance has failed to perform their duties as per 10.2.1.6 (failure to perform duties as specified in the UTGSU Bylaws).

BIRT as per 10.2.1 – discipline of an executive to be commenced by board of directors, the VP Finance, Zoya Tawhidi, be suspended without pay as per 10.3.2.2 until a Members’ meeting can be held in accordance with the UTGSU By-laws.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas a previous Executive Director of the UTGSU was provided a large severance package (approximately $40,000/4months of pay) by the UTGSU beyond what was contractually stipulated when they resigned in May 2022 of their own volition after approximately one year in the role.

BIRT the most recent outgoing ED, Levi Clarkson, who resigned at the end of August 2023 only receive payment as per the legally contractually required amount and no additional severance pay beyond this amount.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas the OISE GSA was disbanded from the list of UTGSU recognized and funded course unions in 2019.
BIRT the OISE GSA return to the UTGSU as a recognized course union as per 5.1.2 “A Course Union shall be recognized by the Board of Directors when a motion proposing such recognition has been approved by a simple majority of Board of Directors members then present.” The OISE GSA shall receive funding according to policy O 1.12.1

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas the current SGS summer gym bursary only provides approximately 50% of the summer gym membership cost reimbursement for the UofT Athletic Centre and Goldring Centre.

BIRT the UTGSU create an additional bursary to cover the difference in summer gym membership cost for the Athletic Centre and Goldring Centre not covered by the existing SGS summer gym bursary.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas the UTGSU website has many out of date portions, and the past council agenda and BOD meeting minutes from 2022-2023 are missing from the google drive archive.

Whereas the most recent budget currently available on the UTGSU website is from 2019-2020.

BIRT the assembly, Board of Directors, and Executive meeting agendas and meeting minutes are added in full to the google drive archive.

BIFRT all subsequent budgets (including both the entire proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget as well as the individual detailed budgets for large sums proposed to be allocated over $5,000), fees, headgrant amounts and financial audits be uploaded to the UTGSU website and/or google drive archive and be made publicly available.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas 17.1.1 allows directors to amend or repeal any bylaw not contrary to law or the articles of continuance of the UTGSU.

Whereas the UTGSU is currently funding permanent caucuses with partisan political stances.

BIRT 6.2.6, which establishes a permanent and funded Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions caucus, be repealed and the caucus removed from 6.2- Caucuses of the UTGSU.
DRAFT MOTION: Whereas UTGSU Policy G1.3 stipulates that “any proposed policy or amendments to the policy may nevertheless be moved at any meeting, while discussion and voting will occur at the following meeting, for which no notice of intention need be given.”

BIRT a discussion occur at the current board of directors meeting on increasing course union funding (as stipulated in O1.12) to a higher percentage of course union fees. Be it further resolved that a specific funding increase motion be prepared to be voted on in the next UTGSU Board of Directors meeting.

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT all caucuses and committees prepare an update for the Board of Directors and Executives to confirm if they are still active and to ensure that all their responsibilities as outlined in 6.6 are being met appropriately.

DRAFT MOTION: Whereas UTGSU Policy O1.11.1.3 stipulates that “Each Executive member shall provide a weekly work report to the Executive Committee and a written monthly report to the Board of Directors.”

BIRT all Executive members provide such report until the October 2023 meeting of the BoD.

DRAFT MOTION: BIRT Should there be legal expenses around/as a result of departures from UTGSU legislation and best practice, that these be covered Out Of Pocket by individual Executives responsible
  ● Moving Motions
  ● Circulating to BoD Counterproductive Material
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?