University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Hybrid, on Zoom & In-Person
Tuesday, October 31st, 2023 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

5:00 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. Regular Business
   a. Voting and Appointing first year masters, first year PhD, Mississauga Campus, and Scarborough Campus board of directors representatives
   B. Executive Committee Report and Housekeeping

3. Board of Directors Agenda Items (Discussion and Decision)
   a. Censure of member
   b. Censure of member
   c. OISE GSA Findings
   d. Head Grant adjustment for Course Unions
   e. Members in bad standing
   f. Removal of Policies
   g. Board approval for contracts
   h. Board of Directors contact sheet on website
   i. OISE GSA course union restoration
   j. OISE GSA Funding Increase
   k. Summer gym membership
   l. UTGSU fees opt out
   m. Listserv access
   n. UTGSU condemnation of Hamas
   o. UTGSU lease & operations

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

6. Adjournment

Regular Business Motions

A) BIRT _____ is appointed as 1st year Master students representative board of directors member.
A). BIRT _____ is appointed as 1st year PhD students representative board of directors member.

Special Business Motions

A) Whereas, the special BOD meeting held on September 28, 2023, did not meet the Notice Requirements, as per:

4.10.1 The Directors are entitled to receive seven (7) days’ notice of a regular or special Board of Directors meeting.

4.10.2 Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted shall contain sufficient information to permit the Director to form a reasoned judgment on the decision to be made

Whereas, in the special BOD meeting held on September 28, 2023, there was no Equity Officer to discipline participants

Whereas, in the special BOD meeting held on September 28, 2023, there was no secretary

Whereas, Avinash Mukkala, a guest in the special BOD, twice wrote sarcastic comments in the Zoom chat, which falls under not respecting the decorum of the meeting, as well cyber bullying

Be it resolved that Avinash Mukkala should be censured from attending the UTGSU future meetings

B) Whereas, the special BOD meeting held on September 28, 2023, did not meet the Notice requirements
Whereas, in lieu of the VP-Internal, a motion was brought forward to nominate the President as the chair overlooking the legislation that gives permission to the President to chair the meeting

Whereas, a motion was brought forward by Christopher Rodger, seconded by Friedemann Krannich to appoint Jesse Velay-Vitow as the Chair for the special BOD

Whereas Jesse Velay-Vitow's candidate statement for the UTGSU election 2023-2024 does not align with the purpose and existence of the UTGSU:

“The UTGSU has been poorly run over the last few years, with a revolving door of staff and the same people in elected positions for many years in a row. Low turnout and participation has led to a sclerotic union that most students barely know exists outside of their healthcare. If elected, I will try to get an answer to the following questions: What purpose, if any, does the Union serve for the average student? Would a much smaller union that costs less and does less be preferrable? Do students even want a Union? I would then try to reform the Union in that direction. A few major points I'd want to adress are our Bylaws, they are a mess and not completely aligned with the Canadian Not-ForProfit Corporations Act. I'd want to add term limits for Students in Governance, and establish a more arms length relationship with the University. Right now the University is witholding a portion of student fees because our Policies were found to be in violation of the Ontario Human Rights code. If elected I will fix this.

Whereas, throughout the meeting, Jesse Velay-Vitow's did not act in accordance with the Robert’s Rule’s of Order. He did not allow “Point of Privilege” and “Point of Information” twice, for the motions brought forwarded and seconded by those who voted him to become the chair of the meeting

Whereas, Jesse Velay-Vitow's did not allow other directors to speak on the motion to reinstate the OISE-GSA

Whereas, not giving rights to Point of Order constitutes discrimination against a particular director to speak for which a motion was later voted upon

Be it resolved that Jesse Velay-Vitow should be censured from attending the UTGSU future meetings

Be it further resolved that the BOD investigates the procedural irregularities that have caused irrevocable damage to the work environment and reputation of the UTGSU
C) **Whereas**, a motion was brought forward to reinstate the OISE by Christopher Rodgers, for which facts were misrepresented

**Whereas**, Christopher Rodgers iterated that the OISE GSA got itself disassociated from the UTGSU,

**Whereas**, the VP-External was not given a chance to explain the findings that led UTGSU to remove the OISE GSA

**Be it resolved** that the Board of Directors allow the executive team to make the findings public that led the OISE GSA to disaffiliate from the UTGSU

D) **Whereas** by policy O1.12.1 currently the head grant for the course unions is 24% of the fees payed to the UTGSU and whereas the course unions play an important role in providing services for graduate students,

**BIRT** that paragraph O1.12.1 of the UTGSU policies be replaced by 
“(O1.12.1) Course Union Head Grants are calculated according to the funding formulas below and distributed annually to each UTGSU recognized Course Union.

\[ y = 0.5ab, \; x > 75 \]

\[ y' = (0.02x + 30)ab, \; x \leq 75 \]

‘x’ is the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) graduate students enrolled in a graduate department, faculty, institute, school, or centre corresponding to a UTGSU-recognized course union or affiliated organization.

‘a’ is the Corporation’s annual Membership Fee ($)

‘b’ is the percentage of graduate students (x) who have paid the Corporation’s annual Membership Fee”

E) **BIRT** UTGSU Bylaw 4.2 be amended by “4.2.6 not have been suspended or removed twice or more by the Board of Directors or a Member’s meeting in accordance with 10.3.2.2 or 10.3.2.3”

F) **BIRT** the issues policies i1 to i13 of the UTGSU policies be removed.

G) **Whereas** Bylaw 4.3.1 states that the Board of Directors is vested with the governance and management of the UTGSU and whereas hiring new employees is an integral part of managing the affairs of the Union,

**BIRT** UTGSU policy O1.15 Employee Contracts be amended by “O1.15.2 The Executive Committee shall get the approval of the Board of Directors before signing any new employee
contracts.”

H) Whereas currently only the members of the Executive Committee are published on the website of the Union,

BIRT the names and e-mail addresses of all Board of Director members be published on the website of the UTGSU.

I.) Whereas the OISE GSA was disbanded from the list of UTGSU recognized and funded course unions in 2019.

Whereas there is considerable interest in restoring the OISE GSA as a funded course union of the UTGSU.

Whereas the OISE GSA previously received $57,527.65 (first UTGSU head grant) plus $43,324.01 (second UTGSU head grant) = $100,851.66 according to their approved 2018-2019 budget, which is consistent with the amount from previous years.

Whereas constituent graduate course unions within OISE currently receive a portion of the OISE GSA’s previous funds

Be it resolved that 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, an amount equal to the difference between their previous annual funding (approximately $100k) minus the amounts now provided to the constituent graduate course unions within OISE.

Be it further resolved that the BOD look into ensuring other faculty/department course union funding keeps up with the increase to be provided for OISE with OISA GSA reinstatement.

J.) Be it resolved UTGSU course union funding be increased to 65% of fees paid by the course union into the UTGSU (*Note- the precise increase amount is certainly open to negotiation)

K.) 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.

Be it resolved that the UTGSU BOD task finance committee (and VP Finance in particular) with investigating the creation of 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. Finance committee + VP Finance will determine if the task is sufficiently
viable with existing funds.

L.) Whereas the UTGSU does not currently provide an “opt-out” for students who do not voluntarily wish to be members. Whereas it is unreasonable to force graduate students to be members of the UTGSU against their will.

Be it resolved that the UTGSU amend bylaw “2.3 Termination of Membership - A person’s Membership in the UTGSU is automatically terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following events:” to add 2.3.2 - Upon the formal notice provided by the member to the UTGSU Board of Directors that they wish to resign their membership, not dependent upon their enrollment status in SGS (e.g., the member may leave the union while still being a registered and enrolled graduate student at UoT). Students who resign their membership in the UTGSU will receive their health, dental and all other previously mandatory and non-mandatory UTGSU fees they pay in the UTGSU refunded to them until such time as the UofT Governing Council officially certifies their resignation of UTGSU membership, and as such cancels all their UTGSU fees.

M.) Be it resolved that the listserv of UTGSU members be provided to all members of the UTGSU Board of Directors.

N.) Whereas a horrific terrorist attack occurred in Israel on Saturday October 7th 2023 involving the mass murder of civilians at a music festival and in their homes, and the taking of upwards hundreds of hostages.

Whereas evidence has since emerged of more terror victims that even include shot and burned babies.

Be it resolved that the UTGSU formally condemns and denounces the terrorist organization, Hamas, and the murder of all civilians - anywhere by any organization, nation, or other entity.

O.) Whereas the UTGSU long ago (~30 years ago) leased the UTGSU pub space at 24 Bancroft to the current manager/operator of the pub premises.

Whereas it would be prudent to review the situation, lease status, and other arrangements regarding the UTGSU pub.

Be it resolved that the UTGSU BOD task the executives, and particularly VP Finance as well as Finance Committee (and other relevant Directors) with reviewing the status of the UTGSU pub - its lease, arrangements, and relationship with current manager/operator.
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?