



University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
16 Bancroft Avenue
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**University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Hybrid, on Zoom and in person (Grad loft 16 Bancroft Avenue)
Thursday, November 30th, 2023 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.**

5.00 PM - Meeting comes to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order
 - a. Appointment of Meeting Chair (Discussion and Decision)
 - b. Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement (Commitment, *Page 9*)
 - c. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion and Decision)
 - d. Guests and Media (Discussion and Decision)
 - e. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
 - i. September 28, 2023 Special Board of Directors meeting
 - ii. September 28, 2023 Board of Directors meeting
2. Unfinished business from October 31, 2023 Board of Directors meeting (*Page 3*)
 - a. OISE GSA course union restoration
 - b. OISE GSA Funding Increase
 - c. Summer gym membership
 - d. UTGSU fees opt out
 - e. Listserv access
 - f. UTGSU lease & operations
3. Motions proposed by Assembly meeting on November 28, 2023
4. By-elections at the AGM (Discussion and Decision, *Page 5*)
5. Financial Business (Discussion and Decision)
 - a. Audit FY 2023
 - b. Surplus Report FY 2023
 - c. Budget FY 2024
6. Executive Committee Reports (Discussion)
7. Appointment of CRO (Discussion and Decision)
8. Executive Director hiring (Information)
9. OISE GSA Reinstatement (Information and Discussion)
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment



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Draft motions

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints Justin Patrick as Chair for this meeting.

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the meeting agenda for November 30, 2023 as presented or amended.

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

BIRT The UTGSU Board of Directors approves the meeting minutes from the special and the regular Board of Directors meeting on September 28, 2023.



Unfinished business from October 31, 2023 Board of Directors meeting

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.

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)

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.

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



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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 UofT). 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.

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

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.



Draft motions for Bylaw amendments send without a two weeks notice

Appointment of Interim Executive Officers

WHEREAS section G2.16.6 of the UTGSU's Policy Handbook states that: "Notwithstanding the above, vacancies on the Officers of the Union shall be filled at the discretion of the Board of Directors, under Bylaw 7.3."

WHEREAS the UTGSU By-laws address Executive Officer vacancies at section 7.3;

WHEREAS a by-election may prove impractical in certain circumstances;

WHEREAS section 142 of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* permits the appointment of officers by the board of Directors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Directors amend section 7.3 of the UTGSU Bylaws by adding the following provisions:

7.3.4 If a by-election for a vacant Executive Officer position has not been held before the calling of the annual meeting of the Members, the Board of Directors may appoint a Director to fill a vacant Executive Officer position.

7.3.5 Any interim appointment under 7.3.4 shall be approved by the membership at an annual meeting of the Members.

Appointment of Interim Directors

WHEREAS section G2.16 of the UTGSU's Policy Handbook addresses by-elections for directors;

WHEREAS the UTGSU By-laws address Director vacancies at section 4.4;

WHEREAS a by-election may prove impractical in certain circumstances;

WHEREAS Part 9 of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* permits the election of directors at an annual meeting of the members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Directors amend section 4.4 of the UTGSU Bylaws by adding the following provisions:

4.4.8 If a by-election for a vacant Director position has not been held before the calling of the annual meeting of the members, the UTGSU members may elect directors at the annual meeting of the Members to fill any vacancy on the board of directors.



4.4.9 The Board of Directors may implement any necessary action or procedure, not otherwise written in the Policy Handbook or the Bylaws, to ensure the election process at 4.4.8 takes effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Directors amend section 4.4 of the UTGSU Bylaws by amending the following provisions:

4.4.6 the remaining Directors shall hold a by-election ~~amongst the individuals referred to in Paragraph 4.4.3 herein~~ in accordance with the UTGSU's Policy Handbook or, if a by-election for a vacant Director position has not been held before the calling of the annual meeting of the members, section 4.4.8 f these Bylaws;

4.4.7 if a vacancy is filled under sections 4.4.6 or 4.4.8 of these Bylaws, the individual ~~appointed~~ electd to fill such vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term.

Members in Bad Standing

WHEREAS Article 10 of the UTGSU Bylaws address issues of discipline for Directors and Officers;

The Directors amend Article 10 of the UTGSU Bylaws by adding the following provisions:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

10.5 Discipline of a Member by the Board of Directors

10.5.1 The Board of Directors shall have right to discipline any Member on the following grounds:

10.5.1.2 violating any provision of the Articles, Bylaws or written policies of the UTGSU;

10.5.1.3 carrying out any conduct which may be detrimental to the UTGSU as determined by the Board in its sole discretion; or

10.5.1.4 for any other reason that the Board of Directors in its sole and absolute discretion considers to be reasonable, having regard to the purpose of the UTGSU.

10.6 Procedure for Discipline

10.6.1 Upon 15 days' notice to a Member, the Board of Directors may pass a motion authorizing disciplinary action for any of the reasons set out in section 10.5.1.

10.6.2 The notice shall set out the reasons for the proposed disciplinary action. The member receiving the notice shall be entitled to give the Board a written submission



opposing the disciplinary action or termination 5 days before the end of the 15-day period. The Board of Directors shall consider the written submission of the member before making a final decision regarding disciplinary action.

10.6.3 If written submissions are received, the Board of Directors will consider such submissions in arriving at a final decision and shall notify the Member concerning such final decision within a further 10 days from the end of the 15-day period.

10.6.4 The Board of Director's decision shall be final and binding on the member, without any further right of appeal.

10.7 Sanctions

10.7.1 The Board of Directors may impose any of the following sanctions on a Member:

10.7.1.1 provide a written reprimand; and

10.7.1.1 place the Member in Bad Standing with the UTGSU.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Directors amend sections 4.2 and 7.2 of the UTGSU Bylaws by adding the following provision:

4.2.6 not be a Member in Bad Standing with the UTGSU.

7.2.5 a Member in Bad Standing with the UTGSU shall not qualify to be an Officer.

By-election at the AGM

WHEREAS the Board of Directors currently only has 3 Directors and 25 vacant seats,
BIRT a by-election be held at the upcoming UTGSU AGM on December 7, 2023 in accordance with UTGSU Bylaw 4.4.8,

BIFRT following Bylaw 4.4.9,

1. ... be appointed as CRO for this by election following UTGSU Bylaw 4.4.9,
2. Simply Voting shall be used to facilitate the voting process,
3. the nomination period shall be between December 1, 2023 1.00 pm and December 6, 2023, 11.59 pm,
4. the election shall be held during the AGM and there shall be no campaigning period,
5. the nomination form for the annual elections shall be used and candidates shall be required to collect signatures of 15 Members supporting their nomination,
6. Policies G2.2.3, G2.2.5, G2.3 shall take effect,
7. no campaigning shall be allowed, however the candidates shall get the possibility to submit a statement together with the nomination form,



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8. candidates shall not be able to claim reimbursement of any election related expenses,
9. candidates shall get a 30 second time period to introduce themselves to the AGM.
10. Members attending the AGM shall have the opportunity to ask questions to the candidates.



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Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement

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

We acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to operate on this land.

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

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

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

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