University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
Hybrid, on Zoom and in person (Grad loft, 16 Bancroft Avenue)  
Thursday, March 7th, 2024 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. EST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</th>
<th>DIVISION THREE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoya Tawhidi, VP Finance</td>
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<td>Friedemann Krannich, Interim VP Internal</td>
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<td>Jady Liang, Interim VP External</td>
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<td>Amir Moghadam, VP Academics 3&amp;4</td>
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<tr>
<th>DIVISION ONE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kanika Josephine Lawton</td>
<td>Rohankrishna Harikumar</td>
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<th>DIVISION TWO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ameer Ali</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabeen Kazmi</td>
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<td>Abdul Hamed Mohamed</td>
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<td>Lily Ziyue Zhang</td>
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<th>GUESTS</th>
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<td>Nour Alideeb, Interim Chair</td>
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<td>Corey Scott, Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fateme Eskandary, Secretary</td>
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1. MEETING COMES TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 7:10pm

a. Appointment of Meeting Chair

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints Nour Alideeb as Chair for this meeting.

Moved: F. Krannich Seconded: J. Liang Result: Carried

Noted opposition: C. Rodgers

b. Appointment of Equity Officer

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints Gadfly Stratton as Equity Officer for this meeting.

Moved: F. Krannich Seconded: J. Nickel Result: Carried

c. Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement

The Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement are read and agreed upon.

d. Adoption of Agenda

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the agenda as amended.

Moved: F. Krannich Seconded: Z. Tawhidi Result: Carried

e. Approval of Minutes

i. Board of Directors meeting February 1st, 2024

ii. Board of Directors meeting February 20th, 2024

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the minutes for the Board of Directors meetings as presented in Item 1e of the agenda.

Moved; F. Krannich Seconded by: G. Schwartz Result: Carried

f. Guests and Media

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors moves to seat all guests with speaking rights limited to 30 seconds per speech and with a two strike conduct rule to be facilitated by the meeting Chair.
Moved; F. Krannich    Seconded by: A. Mohammadzadeh    Result: Carried

Fateme Eskandary, Minute Taker
Emma Livingstone, the Varsity
Lynne Alexandrova

2. **BURSARIES**

   a. **Black Graduate Student Bursary**

   **BIRT** the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the policy for the creation of Black Graduate Student Bursary as presented.

   Moved; Z. Tawhidi    Seconded by: J. Liang    Result: Carried

   b. **Graduate Indigenous Student Bursary**

   **BIRT** the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the policy for the creation of Graduate Indigenous Student Bursary as presented.

   Moved; Z. Tawhidi    Seconded by: G. Schwartz    Result: Carried

3. **SUSPENSION OF THE PRESIDENT**

   **BIRT** the UTGSU Board of Directors moves in-camera at 7:30 pm.

   Moved; F. Krannich    Seconded by: J. Nickel    Result: Carried

   Amendment: The meeting chair, the equity officer and executive director

   **BIRT** the UTGSU Board of Directors moves ex-camera at 8:15 pm.

   Moved; F. Krannich    Seconded by: J. Nickel    Result: Carried

   **WHEREAS** the UTGSU President, Lynne Alexandrova, was suspended from office at the September 28, 2023 Board of Directors meeting; and

   **WHEREAS** an internal investigation has been conducted by the Executive Director, Interim Vice-President Internal and Interim Vice-President External; and

   **WHEREAS** a confidential report for the Board of Directors has been prepared; therefore

   **BIRT** the Internal Investigation Report be accepted; and

   **BIFRT** the Board of Directors determine the next appropriate steps following suspension.
BIFRT the board of directors tasks the interim VP Internal and Interim VP External to write a motion based on the report for disciplinary action to be taken at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved; F. Krannich Seconded by: A. Moghadam Result: Carried with friendly amendment:

4. ENDORSEMENT OF CUPE 3902 STRIKE

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors endorse the ongoing CUPE 3902 strike.

Moved; A. Moghaddam

Motion is withdrawn as the strike did not happen.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONORARIUM

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors moves in-camera at ___ pm.

Moved; A. Moghaddam

Motion withdrawn.

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors moves ex-camera at ___ pm.

Moved; A. Moghaddam

Motion to go in camera is withdrawn

Whereas the UTGSU has struggled to recruit a full Board of Directors year-after-year; and

Whereas Executive and Board Members have reported feeling that duties have exceeded their original expectations; therefore

Be it resolved that a working committee be established with the following parameters:

Mandate: The committee will conduct a sector comparison of Executive, Board of Director and Caucus Representatives hourly commitment and associated honorariums. A report will be produced from the committee which shall recommend the required hours of Executive and Board of Director Members and the associated honorariums.

Term: Now until April 30, 2024

Membership: Vice-President Finance (Chair) and four directors
Be it further resolved that J. Van Der Veen, A. Ali, A. Mohammadzadeh be appointed as committee members.

Moved; A. Moghadam Seconded by: J. Liang Result: Carried with friendly amendment

C. Rogers abstained.

6. CFS NATIONAL GRADUATE CAUCUS MEETING

Jady Liang, Interim VP External

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) national graduate caucus meeting took place from March 1st to 3rd in Halifax. Attendees included the executive members A. Moghadam, Z. Tawhidi, F. Krannich and J. Liang. The meeting aimed to address the evolving needs of graduate students across Canada and strategize effective advocacy methods.

Key initiatives discussed included:

- Strategic planning and advocacy:
  - Incorporating more graduate-specific elements into national campaigns such as consent education, mental health, and fighting for peace.
  - Implementing an NTC (National Graduate Caucus) specific grant to amplify graduate students’ voices within the larger student union framework.

- Addressing barriers to education:
  - Advocating for accessible and inclusive post-secondary education, particularly addressing challenges like high tuition fees and inadequate funding packages.

- Member development and engagement:
  - Providing updates and resources to member local student unions through newsletters and NGC listservs.
  - Welcoming new members like the Regina Graduate Student Association to the NGC caucus.

- Internal operations and planning:
  - Enhancing outreach and engagement through initiatives like the NGC Instagram page and branding efforts.
  - Gathering membership feedback through surveys and quarterly online meetings.

- Campaigns and government relations:
  - Revamping campaigns to support student parents and caregivers, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Lobbying the government on issues such as living costs, housing prices, tuition fees, and funding for graduate students.

- Research and coalition work:
  - Conducting focus groups and surveys to gather data on graduate student experiences.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amir Moghadam, Graduate Affairs Committee

- The Graduate Affairs Committee, led by the vice chair, meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 pm.
- They are currently focusing on three major issues: food insecurity, transportation, and housing.
- A survey is being conducted to understand students' concerns and gather input on addressing food security, transportation, and housing issues.
- Subcommittees are actively working on survey questions and potential services to address food security.
- Efforts are being made to connect with Ontario universities, particularly from Concordia and Humber, to collaborate on food security initiatives.
- Representatives from the UofT Food Coalition will attend the next community meeting.
- There is funding available (approximately 16k) designated for food security initiatives from previous activities.
- By the end of the process, a proposal will be presented to determine how to allocate the funding, and survey questions will be finalized to gather student input on spending priorities.

Friedemann Krannich, Governance Committee

- The Governance Committee has had three meetings so far this year.
- The first two meetings focused on preparing bylaw changes related to the discipline of officers, directors, and members, particularly addressing section 10.5.
The first meeting, held approximately two and a half weeks ago, discussed general bylaws and identified areas for review and revision before the upcoming elections. Specific tasks were distributed among committee members, including working on the equity statement, the question of moral equity, appointed positions, and Article Five and Article Six of the bylaws. Another meeting is scheduled soon to discuss proposed changes to the board and policies based on the committee's work.

Zoya Tawhidi, Finance committee

The first meeting of the committee took place on February 18. The Finance Committee has held two meetings since its formation. During these meetings, they approved five donation requests, a special grant, as well as conference and academic engagement grants. At the last meeting, two policies were approved and are expected to come into effect soon. Another meeting is planned towards the end of the month to address additional configuration requests. Efforts will be made to coordinate with the Grant Committee to address overlapping projects and divide tasks effectively.

Julian Nickel, Funding Committee

The Funding Committee held its first meeting last Friday and plans another for the upcoming Friday. During the initial meeting, goals, strategies, and tactics were discussed, focusing on increasing base funding for GSU (Graduate Student Union) through any viable means. The primary goal identified was to initiate a petition to demonstrate widespread interest and network with all campus departments to raise awareness of their work. While a template for the petition was proposed, it was decided that further refinement of the language was necessary, particularly regarding the desired funding amount. Two working groups were formed: one to conduct research and another to plan strategy. The upcoming meeting aims to finalize the petition and begin distributing it to gather data and support.

Corey Scott, Elections & Referenda Committee

Elections are underway, with nominations closing on Sunday. The following week will involve a verification period to ensure all nominations are valid, collecting candidate statements, and setting up profiles for those interested in promoting diversity.
C. Scott states that the Board of Appeals Chair and Vice-Chair have been trained and that they know how to recruit the Board of Appeals. He states that the Board of Directors have been consistently kept up to date on the term and honorarium structure as well as the hiring and appointment process. He states that the Board of Appeals is currently reviewing website updates.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Mover: Z. Tawhidi Seconded: G. Schwartz Result: Carried

Chair: Nour Alideeb

Minute Taker: Fateme Eskandary