University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Hybrid, on Zoom and in person (Grad loft, 16 Bancroft Avenue)
Thursday, June 13th, 2024 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. EST

7.00 p.m. - Meeting comes to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order
   a. Appointment of Board of Directors Chair (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   b. Appointment of Equity Officer (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   c. Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement (Commitment, Page 11)
   d. Adoption of Agenda (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   e. Approval of Minutes (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   f. Guests and Media (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)

2. Re-organization of the campaigns structure of the UTGSU (Discussion and Decision, Page 3)

3. Board of Directors honorarium committee (Discussion and Decision, Page 4)

4. Interim Board of Directors members appointments (Discussion and Decision, Page 5)

5. Directors information on UTGSU website (Information, Page 6)

6. UTGSU Financial status and investments (Discussion and Decision, Page 7)

7. Student participation in a food security conference (Discussion and Decision, Page 8)

8. Position on encampment (Discussion and Decision, Page 9)

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment
Motions for consideration - Item 1

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints Nour Alideeb as Chair of the UTGSU Board of Directors for the Governance year 2024-2025 as recommended by the Nomination Committee in accordance with Bylaw 4.9.2.2.

Moved; F. Krannich

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors ratifies the appointment of Rae Henry as Equity Officer of the UTGSU until June 30, 2025 as recommended by the Executive Committee in accordance with Policy O16.3.3 and O16.3.4.

Moved; F. Krannich

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the agenda.

Moved; F. Krannich

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting on May 13, 2024.

Moved; F. Krannich

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

Moved; F. Krannich
Motion for consideration - Item 2

BIRT the Board of Directors approves the formation of the following committees of the Campaign and Activism committee of the UTGSU in accordance with Bylaw 6.5 and with the structure specified in the document “Refined structure for the Campaigns and Activism committee 2024-2025”:

- Food Security Committee
  - Mandate: To develop and implement a campaigns and programming strategy related to food security, nutrition and cost of living at the University of Toronto.
  - Term: June 13, 2024 to April 30, 2025
  - Chair [Executive Officer]: Amir Moghadam
  - Vice-Chair [Executive Officer/Board of Directors]: Ameer Ali
  - Directors Division I, II, III, IV (no limit):

- Housing Committee
  - Mandate: To develop and implement a campaigns and programming strategy related to housing, tenants rights and cost of living at the University of Toronto.
  - Term: June 13, 2024 to April 30, 2025
  - Chair [Executive Officer]: Amir Moghadam
  - Vice-Chair [Executive Officer/Board of Directors]: Ameer Ali
  - Directors Division I, II, III, IV (no limit):

- Mental Health Committee
  - Mandate: To develop and implement a campaigns and programming strategy related to mental health and wellbeing at the University of Toronto.
  - Term: June 13, 2024 to April 30, 2025
  - Chair [Executive Officer]: Jady Liang
  - Vice-Chair [Executive Officer/Board of Directors]: Farshad Mutada
  - Directors Division I, II, III, IV (no limit):

BIFRT the Board of Directors confirms the appointments of the respective Officers and Directors as Chairs/ Vice-Chairs/ members of the above mentioned ad hoc committees; and

BIFRT the Board of Directors approves the integration of the Base Funding Committee into the above mentioned structure of Committees under the Campaigns and Activism Committee.

Moved; J. Liang
Motion for consideration - Item 3

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

BIRT a working committee be established with the following parameters:

- **Mandate:** The committee will conduct a sector comparison of Executive, Board of Directors and Caucus representatives hourly commitment and associated honorariums.
- **A report shall be produced from the committee which shall recommend the required hours of Executive and Board of Director Members and the associated honorariums.**
- **Term:** Until September 1st, 2024
- **Membership:** Vice-President Finance (Chair) and four directors

BIFRT ___, ___, ___ and ___ be appointed as committee members.

Moved; A. Moghadam
Motion for consideration - Item 4

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has decided to appoint Interim members of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS the Interim members of the Board of Directors Nominating Committee has reviewed applications from Members; therefore

BIRT the Members

- Asha Mudie, Susanne Nyaga (Division 2)
- Nicholas Silver, Michelle Gontcharova (Division 4)
- Anisa Mazraeh (UTSC)

be appointed as Interim members of the Board of Directors with the duties and rights outlined in the motion passed in the Board of Directors meeting on May 13, 2024.

Moved; F. Krannich
Information - Item 5

We have added the list of elected Directors to the UTGSU website ([https://utgsu.ca/the-utgsu-team/](https://utgsu.ca/the-utgsu-team)). Currently the website only has names, pronouns and UTGSU email addresses on it, but we want to add pictures of all Executives and Directors there. Please email internal@utgsu.ca if you don’t want your picture on the website. We are planning to use Director’s campaign pictures from the elections, however, if you prefer another picture you can send it to internal@utgsu.ca. Alternatively, pictures can also be taken at the Board of Directors retreat.
Motion for consideration - Item 6

WHEREAS it is the fiduciary duty of the board and the executive committee to ensure student funds are used effectively to benefit the organization and its Members; and

WHEREAS transparency and accountability in financial management are essential for maintaining the trust and confidence of UTGSU Members; and

WHEREAS exploring socially and environmentally responsible investment options aligns with the values and principles of the UTGSU; therefore

BIRT the Finance Committee is tasked with reporting the following to the Board of Directors until September 1, 2024:

1. A comprehensive report on UTGSU’s current investments and financial resources, including detailed information on bank accounts and other assets.

2. Research and recommendations on alternative investment avenues that are arms-free, socially responsible, and environmentally friendly (e.g., appropriate index funds) to optimize the use of student funds.

Moved; A. Moghadam
Motion for consideration - Item 7

WHEREAS the UofT Food Coalition has expressed interest in collaborating with UTGSU on initiatives related to food security; and

WHEREAS the Graduate Affairs Committee’s initial assessment of the UofT Food Coalition last year was positive; and

WHEREAS one of the principal campaigns of UTGSU is to address food security among students, recognizing the significant need for such initiatives; and

WHEREAS members of the UofT Food Coalition have agreed to participate as members of the UTGSU Food Security Committee; and

WHEREAS enabling student activists to acquire knowledge and training to enhance their effectiveness in advocacy aligns with the UTGSU’s strategic goals; therefore

BIRT UTGSU allocates $2,000 CAD from the leftover Harvest Moon Cafe levy to support the UofT Food Coalition’s attendance at the CAFS Student Symposium and DevOur Conference; and

BIFRT the Food Security Campaign requires a written report detailing the outcomes of the conferences, and proof of attendance prior to reimbursement of the funds.

Moved; A. Moghadam
Motion for consideration - Item 8

WHEREAS a group of University of Toronto students known as OccupyUofT began an encampment on King’s College Circle on May 2nd, 2024 demanding disclosure, divestment, and cutting ties with institutions complicit in the Israeli occupation of Palestine; and

WHEREAS Encampments are a longstanding tool of political protest in the University context, including against South African apartheid and the Vietnam War, and are enshrined in Canadian law; and

WHEREAS Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaigns are a longstanding tactic of political action in the University context, including at UofT for action on South African apartheid and Climate Change; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU has adopted a motion endorsing Palestinian civil society’s call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions by calling on UofT to refrain from investing in companies that are complicit in violations of international law at the 2012 AGM; and

WHEREAS UofT, despite being a publicly funded institution, has weaponized private property laws to attempt to disrupt student’s rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, in particular by threatening to sweep the encampment with police and by threatening students with expulsion and workers with termination for their participation in protest; and

WHEREAS pro-palestinian encampment sweeps so far have often involved unnecessary force, including those at University of Alberta and University of Calgary; and

WHEREAS some UTGSU Members feel pressured to keep their opinions on the encampment to themselves for fear of other reprisals as students and employees of the university; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU has an obligation to advocate for and protect its Members; therefore

BIRT the UTGSU adopts the following position (as defined in UTGSU Policy G1.2.2.1):

“The UTGSU condemns any attempt by the university to curtail the freedom of speech or the freedom of assembly of UTGSU Members involved in the People’s Circle for Palestine (henceforth: the encampment). This includes attempts to involve the police or other security forces to violently remove the encampment, and threats of expulsion and termination, either as students or employees of the university, of UTGSU Members.
The UTGSU recognizes that many Members feel that they may face reprisals that are not contained in the above, from the university administration or their department, for expressing their opinion on the encampment. The UTGSU commits to advocating for its Members’ freedom of expression and freedom of conscience, with the understanding that freedom of expression does not include hate speech or threats of violence.

In particular the UTGSU will:

1. Categorically oppose, in all relevant communications with the university, the expulsion or termination of any UTGSU Member for their peaceful participation in the encampment.
2. Categorically oppose, in all relevant communications with the university, the use of unnecessary force through the police and other security forces.
3. Monitor and report any instances of reprisal or suppression of free speech against UTGSU Members related to the encampment.
4. Advocate for UTGSU Members facing academic reprisals related to the encampment, proactively and in all relevant communications with the university.
5. Take political action in the event that the encampment is violently removed.”

BIFRT the UTGSU will communicate this position to the University and UTGSU Members, including communicating how UTGSU Members can report and receive advocacy for reprisal relating to the encampment; and

BIFRT the UTGSU Executive Committee be authorized to allocate up to $15,000.00 from the unrestricted surplus fund, to be used towards advocacy and support of UTGSU Members affected by reprisals, including legal support, if necessary.

Moved; J. Nickel
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:

Land Acknowledgement:

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.

Equity Statement:

Students' 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: anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, racism, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, sexism, classism, casteism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and ageism expressed in the form of sentiments and remarks. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate, is established. We stand against the harassment, doxxing, surveillance, and policing of students on/off campus. 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?