University of Toronto Graduate Students’ Union
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Hybrid, on Zoom and in person (Grad loft, 16 Bancroft Avenue)
Monday, July 15th, 2024 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. EST

5.00 p.m. - Meeting comes to order

1. Meeting Comes to Order
   a. Land Acknowledgement and Equity Statement (Commitment, Page 9)
   b. Adoption of agenda (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   c. Approval of minutes (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
   d. Appointment of interim Directors to Committees (Information, Page 2)
   e. Guests and media (Discussion and Decision, Page 2)
2. OISE GSA affiliation (Discussion and Decision, Page 3)
3. Bylaw amendments (Discussion and Decision, Page 5)
   a. Bylaw 3 Annual and Special General Meetings
   b. Bylaw 17 Amendments
4. Building update and budget request (Discussion and Decision, Page 6)
5. Website update and budget request (Discussion and Decision, Page 7)
6. Orientation update and budget request (Discussion and Decision, Page 8)
7. Honorarium committee recommendations (Discussion and Decision, Page 9)
8. Caucus restart (Information and Discussion)
9. President’s report (Report and Discussion)
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment
Motions for consideration - Item 1

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 June 13, 2024.

Moved; F. Krannich

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors appoints

- Nicholas Silver (Division 4) to the Governance Committee; and
- Susanne Nyaga (Division 2) to the Finance Committee; and
- Anisa Mazraeh (Division 4) to the Finance Committee.

Moved; F. Krannich  Seconded; A. Moghadam  Result: Carries

Motion voted through email between July 2, 2024, 5.14 pm and July 5, 2024, 5.00 pm.

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

Moved; F. Krannich
Motion for consideration - Item 2

WHEREAS the OISE GSA was audited by the UTGSU in 2019; and

WHEREAS in response to the audit report the UTGSU Council decided to disaffiliate the OISE GSA from the UTGSU in 2019; and

WHEREAS the OISE GSA has requested to be affiliated with the UTGSU again; and

WHEREAS the OISE GSA specifically has requested to be an affiliated organization of the UTSGU; and

WHEREAS the OISE GSA could present their request to the UTGSU Executive Committee and the UTGSU Board of Directors; therefore

BIRT the process for affiliation follows the framework as described in this motion; and

BIFRT affiliation would happen in accordance with Bylaw 5, making the OISE GSA a Course Union of the UTGSU and not an affiliated organization; and

BIFRT the UTGSU Board of Directors recognizes that the amount of Assembly representatives of the 4 OISE DSAs combined currently totals 13 and that the number of representatives on the Assembly of the OISE GSA after affiliation would, following UTGSU Bylaw 5.4.1, currently total 4; and

BIFRT

1. the UTGSU Board of Directors recognizes that OISE students have the right to determine the way they govern themselves; and
2. the UTGSU Executive Committee ensures that the request for disaffiliation of the OISE DSAs and affiliation of the OISE GSA was decided through an open and democratic discussion, where the Members of the OISE DSAs had the chance to articulate their opinions about the request; and
3. the OISE GSA shall enact appropriate measures, especially in their constitution and financial policies, that ensure the responsible use of Members’ fees; and
4. the OISE GSA would receive ___ of its Member’s fees in head grants; and
5. the UTGSU Board of Directors recommends to the OISE GSA to hold a referendum amongst its members with the purpose of getting additional fees for financing OISE specific expenses; and
BIFRT the OISE DSAs shall be informed of the framework for affiliation set out in this motion before proceeding with the request for disaffiliation; and

BIFRT the UTGSU Board of Directors shall discuss an increase in head grants for Course Unions when deciding on the budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Moved; F. Krannich
Motions for consideration - Item 3

BIRT that the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the amendment of Bylaw 3 Annual and Special General Meetings as presented.

Moved: F. Krannich

BIRT that the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the amendment of Bylaw 17 Amendments as presented.

Moved: F. Krannich

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors approves the renumbering of sections and paragraphs in Bylaw 3 and Bylaw 17 as necessary.

Moved: F. Krannich
Motion for consideration - Item 4

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors allocates up to $15,000 from the building planning and accessibility budget line for the renovation and furnishing of UTGSU’s common office space.

Moved; A. Moghadam
Motion for consideration - Item 5

WHEREAS the UTGSU website is outdated and requires a redesign; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU is in the process of finalizing a quote from Mouth Media; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU website out to be completed for relaunch in late August; therefore

BIRT the Promotional Materials line item will be increased to $25,000 for the addition of website redevelopment.

Moved; A. Moghadam
Motion for consideration - Item 6

WHEREAS the UTGSU is set to host a number of events for Orientation in September 2024; and

WHEREAS Gradfest has been set for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 4pm-7pm on Bancroft Avenue; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU is planning to host smaller scale orientation events on the UTM, UTSC and Aerospace campuses; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU is planning on implementing over one thousand first year welcome kits; and

WHEREAS the UTGSU has previously planned a significantly smaller GradFest in 2023; therefore

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors allocates $21,000 additionally to the Orientation budget line; and

BIFRT the UTGSU Board of Directors allocates $12,000 additionally to the Promotional materials budget line.

Moved; A. Ali
Motion for consideration - Item 7

WHEREAS the existing honoraria and benefits structures for Executive Officers, Board of Directors members, and Caucus Chairs lack clarity and require updates to better reflect their roles and commitments within the union; and

WHEREAS the significant time commitments of these roles, encompassing office work, outreach, attending meetings, and participating in union events, demand a robust and structured honoraria system to ensure efficacy and dedication; and

WHEREAS a renewed focus on accountability is essential to enhance transparency and ensure that the union’s leadership is directly aligned with the goals and expectations of the membership; therefore

BIRT the UTGSU Board of Directors adopts the revised Accountability and Honoraria System for Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and Caucus Chairs, as detailed in the attached document, to establish a clear, fair, and accountable framework.

BIFRT the UTGSU Board of Directors is mandated to thoroughly review and possibly revise this document during their March and April meetings each year, ensuring its adaptability and relevance in meeting the evolving needs of the union and its Members.

Moved; A. Moghadam
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?