

## SCSU 2023 AGM Minutes

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

5:133PM

### 2. EQUITY STATEMENT & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Given by Nmashie.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR

MOTION

Moved: David

Seconded: Miles

BE IT RESOLVED that Alice Wu be approved as the Chair for the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Wu shared that they have been the Chair for SCSU for the past couple of years, and for Robert's Rules of Order it is important to have a Chair who is impartial and separate from the organization.

**Motion Carries**

### 4. WELCOMING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

Wu explained Robert's Rules of Order.

A member present asked how to address the Chair.

The Chair shared that students can address them by name or as "Chair."

David welcomed students and thanked them for giving their time to attend the AGM. David also acknowledges issues happening around the world and the importance of showing up for each other and being a community.

### 5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Moved: David

Seconded: Chanouha

BE IT RESOLVED that the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Annual General Meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Motion to Amend

**Moved: David**

**Seconded: Jaleel**

**Be it resolved that motions 7 and 8 on the agenda be tabled to the Winter General Meeting.**

David motivated that the Audit is not yet ready so the membership will have the opportunity to review at the Winter General Meeting.

A member present noted a personal point of privilege for the microphone to be turned up.

**Motion Carries**

Back to main motion.

**Main Motion Carries**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION Moved: David Seconded: Africa

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 Winter General Meeting minutes approved as presented.

Please see motion 5.

**7. RECEIPT OF THE 2022-2023 SCSU AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MOTION Moved: David Seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements be approved as received.

Please see motion 5.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR**

MOTION Moved: David Seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that Yale and Partners be appointed as the external auditors for the Scarborough Campus Students' Union for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024.

The audited financial statements were not available at this time.

Motion tabled to the 2024 Winter General Meeting.

**9. REVIEW OF MOTIONS SUBMITTED WITH DUE NOTICE**

**a. Amendment to Charter of Referenda**

MOTION Moved: Patel Seconded: Gori

BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter of Referenda be amended as follows:

- Remove: "For referenda under Schedules B and C to be considered, question(s) must be submitted to the Elections and Referenda Committee in the Summer semester before August's board meeting." and replace it with "For referenda under Schedules B to be considered, question(s) must be submitted to the Elections and Referenda Committee and approved by the SCSU Board in the semester before the referendum is to be held." [Page 3]
- Remove: "Quorum required for a referendum of the Union shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the membership affected by the referendum question. Quorum shall be established no later than 10 days before the voting period." and replace it with "a. Quorum required for a referendum of the Union shall be 3% of the membership affected by the referendum question."

[Page 6]

- Add: "As per both Robert's Rules of Order and Standard Canadian Parliamentary Procedure, while abstentions and spoiled ballots contribute to achieving the quorum of 3% of the affected membership, they are not considered as part of the total votes cast. This means they do not influence the count of "yes" or "no" votes in determining if the referendum passes, which requires a majority of 50%+1 from those who have cast a vote."
- Amend 6.1 c. from "\$250" to "\$1000." [Page 8]
- Remove from Schedule A "Referenda can be held during the Fall By-elections." and replace with "Referenda can be held during the Fall By-elections, Winter elections, or at the time determined best suited by SCSU."
- Remove from Schedule B "Referenda for Schedule B can only occur in conjunction with Fall by-elections." and replace with "Referenda can be held during the Fall By-elections, Winter elections, or at the time determined best suited by SCSU."

Xu, an executive from Regenesis Scarborough came to speak on the motion. Regenesis has a free store on campus and they promote sustainability. Regenesis is a non-profit organization and is currently collaborating with UTSC Residence Life to collect donations from students to give away to students at their free store. The student further motivated that the current Referendum process is difficult to submit by the deadline.

### **Motion to Amend**

**Be it resolved that the second and third bullet point seeking to reduce quorum be struck.**

**Moved: Roble                      Seconded: Williams**

Roble motivated that for student fees, don't want to encourage voter apathy. Want as many students as possible to have a say in decision-making processes. Reducing from 10% to 3% alongside not counting spoiled ballots in total ballots cast would impact student engagement. The SCSU is consistently looking at methods to increase voter turnout and we want to continue to focus on how we can better engage and motivate the student body to participate in decision-making processes both on- and off- campus.

Williams spoke in favour of the amendment. They noted students on campus don't know enough about what goes on behind the scenes. Not clear about what policies refer to and important that students know where money is going towards.

Xu spoke against the amendment. Quorum required for a referendum would be known 10 days before a referendum. Is difficult to have students come to an AGM and sad to see students are not participating in Union's AGM. With the 10%, it is hard to have students pass referendums.

Since before COVID, Regenesis has been trying to find space on campus. Want to reduce quorum, are encouraging and discouraging students to participate. 10% is too high to achieve.

Nguyen spoke in favour of the amendment. Echoed Roble's need to have student voices heard and represented. Coming out of COVID, it is difficult to have student engagement but need to have confidence in the student body to be able to learn and understand what is happening behind the scenes and uphold values. From 10% to 3% is quite significant, if a smaller gap would be more understandable.

Rahaman spoke against the amendment. For the last few years, SCSU hasn't been able to reach 5% of the student body, unrealistic for 10% to be achieved and difficult to achieve. Students are apathetic to voting, many students could care less. Changing to 3% would allow students who do care to make the decision.

Chanouha asked to clarify what the motion is discussing.

The Chair explained that the amendment is seeking to remove the second and third point in the main motion. If members in the room vote in favour, the clauses will be removed from the motion. If vote against the motion, the room will go back to the main motion and remove all the bullet points.

Miles asked if quorum numbers apply only to SCSU or for all clubs.

Chair clarified that for the entire membership. Clubs don't necessarily have a vote, they would be clubs to the organization but members are who will apply to.

Miles further asked if can amend the threshold or if can alter the quorum value.

The Chair noted would have to defeat the amendment if wanted to discuss amending quorum.

Member in the room spoke in favour of the motion and echoed Roble and noted that if 3%, only people who are really involved would get a say and everyone else wouldn't have a say.

Member in the room spoke against the amendment. Noted quite near impossible to have 10% of the voting population vote. UTMSU is 5% quorum, TMU has no quorum.

Sait asked for SCSU opinion on the motion.

The Chair explained that further speakers would need to motion to extend the speaker's list. The Chair noted that Roble previously spoke in favour of the amendment.

### **Motion to Extend Speaker's List**

**Moved: Sait                      Seconded: Roble**

**Be it resolved that the speaker's list be extended by 4 in favour and 4 against.**

### **Motion Carries.**

Palaparthi spoke in favour of the amendment. Recognized that student fees are critical. Noted SCSU used to get voter turnout of over 10% pre-COVID, and noted last week UTMSU got 9.6% voter turnout at the referendum.

Vyshnavi spoke in favour of the amendment. Rather than note students are apathetic, one way would be to have AGM more accessible or efficient for participation. 10% is the bare minimum for student engagement and not representative for entirety of student body.

Africa spoke in favour of the amendment. Recognized concern for reaching 10% quorum, and a lot of students come to class and go back home. There can be discussion about reducing from 10%, but the goal should not be to move the finish line but to have more students to care about what is happening on their campus. Big decisions being made, and for students who stated they don't care, could be that they don't know and focus should be on getting more students to care.

Williams spoke in favour of the amendment. Things could be done differently. Language not always properly explained to students. As a First Year student, coming with a new perspective and understanding, a lot of the student body for future years will probably care more than years in the past. Understanding the importance of voting, this is not politics but for students to decide where money goes.

Rahaman spoke against the amendment. Noted SCSU has a lot of funding and on them and other student organizations to get students to care. Voter turnout has been low the last few years. Agree should be an effort to get students to care but not sure how it will get done in the future.

Motion to Extend Speakers List

Moved: Vyshnavi                      Seconded: Chanouha

Be it resolved that the speaker's list be extended 2 for and 2 against.

### **Motion Fails.**

### **Amendment Carries.**

Back to Main Motion.

### **Motion to Amend**

**Be it resolved that the bullet point seeking to change 6.1c. be amended from "\$1000" to "\$500"**

Moved: Miah                              Seconded: Musa

Miah motivated this would be \$500 allocated per referendum team - which would be a total budget of \$1,000 for each referendum question (because there can only be one “Yes” team and one “No” team. In the event that there are more than one referendum questions in a year, this makes it more feasible for SCSU to budget for.

Jaleel asked about when a Referendum would take place.

The Chair explained the Yes side and the No side will get funding.

David further explained that for Referendums, students can engage with the question and encourage students to vote yes or no. If a referendum is successful, would be added as a levy group for years to come. David noted current levy groups are listed on invoice.

Williams asked what this amendment would do.

The Chair explained the funding for campaigning would be increased from the current amount of \$250 to \$500, instead of the original increase to \$1,000.

Chanouha asked if referendums are for students to become levy groups.

David explained it’s for students to become Levy groups.

**Amendment Carries.**

Back to main motion.

**Motion Carries as amended.**

#### **b. Executive Remuneration Policy**

MOTION Moved: Palaparthi

Seconded: Gori

**WHEREAS** the SCSU Executives are elected to represent and advocate on behalf of the 17,000 undergraduate students at UTSC; and

**WHEREAS** the Executives hold extremely diverse and complex roles that often require them to work beyond the minimum 35 office hours per week; and

**WHEREAS** the Executives are also students and often unable to take on additional work outside of the SCSU; and

**WHEREAS** the SCSU Bylaws prohibit Executives from working at another job for more than 30 hours per week; and

**WHEREAS** the Executives have not received an honorarium adjustment beyond the consumer price index since 2021; and

**WHEREAS** the Executive honorarium has not adjusted with government increases to minimum wage; and

**WHEREAS** in October 2023, the SCSU part-time wages increased to \$17.55 per hour for general part-time and \$19 per hour for coordinators; and

**WHEREAS** the SCSU Executives currently make \$20.14 per hour; and

**WHEREAS** the SCSU advocates for a basic living income; and

**WHEREAS** the [cost of living in Toronto for the year 2023 is \\$23.15 per hour](#);

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive Committee honoraria be increased from \$19.00 to \$23.50 per hour, effective immediately; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the existing *Executive Remuneration Policy* be amended to as follows:

#### Preamble

The purpose of this policy is to outline remuneration of the Officers for the Scarborough Campus Students' Union. The By-laws stipulate the roles and responsibilities of the Executive members. The Bylaws do not, however, provide guidelines for the reporting and administration of this remuneration. To ensure accountability and transparency, the following policy has been adopted as the Executive Remuneration Policy. Every Executive member is required to work on behalf of the membership and for the University of Toronto Scarborough students for a minimum number of hours each week, as outlined in their signed start-of-term contracts and this policy.

There shall be a set amount of remuneration established for the Executive members with the understanding that part of the role is to volunteer for the improvement and betterment of students' lives and a socially just society.

#### Honourarium

- The President and Vice-Presidents shall receive an honorarium of ~~\$19~~ **\$23.50 per hour in 2021-2023 dollars**, up to a maximum of 40 hours worked per week.
- The honorarium of Officers shall be increased each year by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as set by the University of Toronto.
- SCSU recognizes that the amount of honorarium is not reflective of the total amount of work hours conducted to service students, but rather that it is a nominal recognition of the service conducted as an elected representative.

#### Office Hours

- Executives are required to hold a minimum of thirty-five (35) office hours per week, for twelve (12) consecutive months, from May 1 to April 30.
- Attending meetings, seminars, conferences (i.e. CFS) off campus will be recognized as office hours.
- Where the minimum number of hours is worked, honorarium will be provided bi-weekly in recognition of the work to represent and advocate for the membership.

- In recognition of changes in required work and meetings; an Executive may balance out their minimum required hours of work in any given pay period (two week period).
- In any pay period where hours have not been balanced, and are less than the minimum required, Executive members will be paid a pro-rated honorarium.
- During weeks where weekend or other extenuating work is required, office hours may be adjusted.
- During the Reading Week and Winter Holiday shutdowns, all Executive members are required to respond to emails and correspondences but are not required to maintain the minimum amount of hours; honorarium for this time period will be automatically issued in recognition that the University is closed but the work of the Executive continues.

#### Benefits

- In addition to the honorarium awarded, each Executive shall be offered the option to be part of the SCSU health and dental plan for one year during their term of office.
- In accordance with the Mobile Phone Allowance Policy, a \$50.00 cell phone reimbursement is awarded on a monthly basis.
- Executive members are eligible for up to two weeks of paid vacation; not including the Winter Holiday and Reading week shutdowns, to be taken at times to be determined with the President and the Executive Director's approval.

#### Sick Days

- Executives are granted ten (10) paid sick days each year during their term.
- There is no carryover of sick days from year to year.
- It is understood that upon resignation or termination of position, the executive will not be issued a pay in lieu of any accumulated sick day credits.
- Executives will notify the Executive Director of their impending absence prior to the start of the work day.

#### Reporting

- To ensure that honorarium is issued on a bi-weekly schedule, each Executive member must submit a timesheet to the Executive Director every second Monday by 3:00pm.
- Timesheets must be submitted within four (4) weeks of the time worked, otherwise it will be considered as volunteer time and no payment of honorarium will be issued.
- All timesheets will be kept and logged by the Executive Director.

#### Contract

- All officers, in order to hold a position, shall enter into a contract with the SCSU pursuant to its By-Laws and Policies.
- The contract shall also be signed by the Vice-President Operations and a witness.
  - If the contract is for the employment of the Vice-President Operations, then the contract shall also be signed by the President and a witness.
- The officer shall accept the duties and responsibilities which may be outlined in the position's description and/or By-Laws and Policies of the SCSU.
- A copy of the job description shall be given to the position holder and the contract shall be held on file by the Vice-President Operations.



- The Vice-President Operations shall make the position holder fully aware of all provisions of the position description before the contract is signed.

Palaparthi motivated SCSU advocates for a fair living wage, the SCSU is a complex role with a lot of duties and responsibilities outside of the standard work hours. The Executives are only compensated for up to 40 hours per week and through the bylaws are not allowed to work another job for more than 30 hours per week. During high intensity periods such as frosh and into the week of welcome, our timesheets reflected 120 hours per week. Recently, we increased part-time wages to be above minimum wage and are seeking support from the membership to fairly compensate for the work that SCSU Executives do. The Executives are seeking support from the Membership to fairly compensate the work that SCSU does.

David spoke in favour of the motion. Noted have seen growth in the union and on campus through victories, we'll be sharing a lot of that work with you folks in the Executive Report. We don't want financial compensation to be a barrier for students in holding SCSU Executive positions. When we compare across organizations, we are requesting an increase that is on par with other Toronto Student Union spaces. For example, UTSU Executives make \$25 per hour, TMSU Executives make \$24 per hour, and the part-time students' union at TMU makes \$24 per hour. Also, we want to note that this increase would not impact student fees.

Sait spoke in favour of the motion. Students understand how hard it is living as a student in Canada. For work study positions, want to see SCSU advocate for similar pay increases for increases to student wages across campus. Many work study positions pay minimum wage. Wants SCSU Executives to be paid on par with other student Unions, and SCSU requesting \$23.50 per hour is fair compensation.

Miles spoke in favour of the motion. Working with the SCSU, knows SCSU Executives work beyond scope of role and beyond regular office hours to support students. When balancing studies, it is especially difficult. This increase is the minimum for Toronto and on par with what other Student Unions are paying.

Malik wanted to speak in favour of the motion but the Chair noted that the speakers list is currently exhausted.

Peri asked about the amount students are paying will stay the same. Noted some part of the budget. Noted part of the budget

Akash noted wages and employment lines. Outside of this, also have other budget lines. This additional compensation would come out of reserve allocation so would not impact spending for student needs throughout the year.

Williams asked to confirm that wages for part-time staff would not be impacted with this change in Executive wages.

Chair noted that this adjustment would only be for Executives.

David noted with minimum wage increase in October 2023, SCSU already increased wages of part-time staff to be above minimum wage. David noted that current Executives only make \$1 above coordinators

despite hours of unpaid work for the organization. David further explained SCSU sets the standards across campus for student compensation.

**Motion Carries.**

## 10. EXECUTIVE REPORT

MOTION

Moved: David

Seconded: **Belar**

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 Annual General Meeting Executive Report be accepted as presented.

The Executives presented the Executive Report.

Joshua asked about Transit Grant and UPASS logistics and what will be included.

Roble explained Transit Grant is for students to access financial support. Further explained UPASS is aiming to be inclusive of all metrolinx systems and working alongside CAO and Metrolinx to implement this.

Student asked about UPASS that was previously excluded from tuition by UTSU and asked why SCSU thinks student body would vote in favour this time vs. lobbying for shuttle bus like UTM has.

David responded UTM has it, so UTSC deserves it. Also working in the CAO's office to try to implement shuttle bus. Many students have an appetite for shuttle bus, and having conversations with the CAO's office and Hart House. For UPASS at UTSC, have to think about multiple transit systems.

Palaparthi added advocating for shuttle bus to St. George and/or Kennedy Station to skip the rush hour traffic.

**Motion Carries.**

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Moved: David

Seconded: **Le**

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carries.**

Meeting ended at 6:56PM.