

Friday, November 4, 2011 5:00PM – 10:00PM, Room SL-232  
University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Students' Union  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Chair: Guled Arale

## **Minutes**

Board of Directors Meeting #3 of the University of Toronto Students' Union  
Friday, November 4, 2011 – 5:00pm – Room SL-232

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### **A. Roll Call**

Guled Arale - Chair of SCSU Board of Directors  
Halija Mazlomyar - Vice Chair-SCSU Board of Directors  
Pagalavan Thavarajah - President & CEO  
Carl Bagot - Vice President Academics  
Abdalla Al-Baalawy - Vice President External  
Zahra Murji - Vice President Students & Equity  
Ali Lalani – Vice President Operations & CFO  
Leah Robertson – Vice President Campus Life  
Rupom Rahman - Social Sciences Director  
Jessica Renzella - Vice President Human Resources  
Adil Kanji - Social Sciences Director  
Soumia Allalou - Social Sciences Director  
Daniel Tittil - Management Director  
Madhav Shah – Management Director  
Tamar Istanbul - Humanities Director  
Brian Kerr – Part time Director  
Filippo Raso - Psychology Director  
Harindra Rajasekeran – Psychology Director  
Hally Mass Jobe – Environmental Science Director  
Shanaga Jeyakumar – Biological Science Director

This meeting is called to order at 5:12

### **B. Approval of Agenda**

### **C. Chair Welcome and Comments**

### **D. Director Reinstatement – Madhav Shah**

MS: I apologize for not having been able to attend all meetings. I certainly plan on making it up, and being a party of the Quality Control Team.

VOTE:

In Favour: 8

Abstention: 1

Opposed:

### **E. Minutes - BoD: Friday Oct 21st, Exec: Friday Oct 14th, Friday Oct 21st**

**MOTION**

Moved: FR

Seconded: RR

Approval of the BOD: Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> Minutes

**MOTION**

Moved: FR

Seconded: RR

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Approval of the Exec: Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes

**MOTION** Moved: FR Seconded: RR  
Approval of the Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> Minutes

F. CRO Fall By-Election Report

**MOTION** Moved: HM Seconded: RR

I would like to thank JR, PT, GA, for obtaining this position. I made myself available to all of the candidates, and was available for at least three hours a day.

I created and distributed packages designated for candidates. These packages contained information regarding the all-candidates meeting, nomination periods, campaign periods. The voting days were held over a span of three days, and included: October 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>. The packages requested at least 25 unique signatures that were needed for designation to the ballot. Afterwards, directions were given to the candidates regarding what the next steps were regarding the candidacy process, and formally obtaining the post. Polling Clerk Training was provided. There were three election clerks that were near the polling area at any given time. There was one candidate that had withdrawn himself from the entire process, and sent in a formal resignation letter to the CRO. Strikes were also issued, which the CRO/DRO of UTSC handled. There was a budget of \$100 per candidate that was issued. The candidates were notified that if they are to make any speeches within a class, the CRO needs to be notified as to when the time and location of the course is. From October 10<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. All boxes were to be stored in a safe location. There were no real costs incurred in terms of printing items. It is my recommendation that the nomination forms should have two columns, one for the first name and one for the last name. All forms should all specify that they need to print and write legibly. The best solution to resolve these conflicts is to have some assistance by the polling clerks to help with the ballots.

HJ: Why did a candidate step down?

Guest: Personal Reasons

FR: How did SCSU Executives help?

Guest: They helped in the polling stations, and helped in obtaining access to the ballot box.

**MOTION** Moved: RR Seconded: AA  
Be it resolved that the SCSU board of directors Chantelle Bharat, Alyssa Moses and Tisha Tan to be appointed to the board.

VOTE:

In Favour: Unanimous

Abstention:

Opposed:

**G. CFS Presentation**

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Presentation by the Canadian Federation of Students of Ontario  
Speaking Rights to Guest: RR

BK: What school has had enrollment drop because of high tuition fees (increases)?

CFS: We are seeing enrollment go up, but retention rates have went down. People are attending the institutions of higher learning; however functioning within the economy is becoming more difficult. People are not purchasing houses, getting married, and having children.

BK: Where would these funds come from?

CFS: There were findings of \$430 billion in the budget. It is up to the government to determine how these priorities are set. It is up to us as students to put this up as an issue.

FR: How do you lobby the government, when students don't care about the government? What are your techniques?

CFS: Regarding student voting, in the last provincial election, there were new election strategies implemented and used to increase voter turnout. The first meeting with the Minister is on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We have been working with all parties. It is difficult to work on policy changes when students are not voting. We are seeing a generational gap, as the older generation found it slightly easier to pay for post-secondary education. However, students of this generation have to work much harder in order to pay the fees necessary to acquire access to post-secondary education. We are working within the community, in order to work on building broader issues, in order to engage voters whom are not necessarily current or future students.

FR: Have you thought about lobbying individual schools in order to effect change within the payment systems?

CFS: There are allies that exist within university administrations, and faculty associations. The issue is finding them and working with them. There has to be a part of a greater strategy in order to align ourselves with organizations and associations that hope to effect desired change in certain policy areas.

### **MOTION**

10 Minute Recess

Moved: HM

Seconded: AM

### **VOTE:**

In Favour: Unanimous

Abstention:

Opposed:

## **H. New Business - President & CEO**

### **a. Report - President & CEO (Pagalavan Thavarajah)**

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PT: Working with administration on topics, so that executives can have the support that the need. The Dean of Undergraduate decided to meet with PT and CB. There were discussions with Student Affairs, in order to assess the affairs the areas that ZM is working on. The students have all the rights in the world to discuss the issues that they need to speak about.

Regarding Continuity, I would like to have conversation about how this program is going to progress forward. For 'Taste of Terror,' everyone that participated was highly satisfied.

PT, ZM, and AA, are a part of a new committee that discusses and reflects on a variety of topics affecting the student body. Participating students will have the opportunity to discuss issues, which are pertinent to them. The focus will be on creating an event that will launch the committee as well as the development of the Pan-Am Facility. It is difficult to obtain concrete information, just because there has been changing developments happening on the side of other departments.

Movember, has been an absolute success thus far, though it is important to note that this is a student-driven initiative. Many students have been approaching PT, regarding collaborations, not only with the SCSU but other clubs as well. This has been particularly interesting in developing and promoting campaigns that can reach a wider and larger audience.

Regarding 'Bottle Water Free,' is up to us to place pressure in order to have more water foundations.

Mini-Continuity is needed as a time to come together and continue the work necessary. In listening students, it quite understandable that they are worried about funds being spent on these kinds-of-events. However, PT thinks that it is important to have that retreat, in order to rejuvenate and come back wit more ideas that are necessary and conducive to having a better SCSU Board of Director.

ZM: Who asked about Mini-Continuity?

PT: In speaking with some students whom I've spoken to when campaigning for President of SCSU, several students brought this up to my attention. These students were worried about finances and how these funds were being spent.

ZM: It's important to be transparent with all the students; one recommendation would be to publish pictures and reports. This event is important to put plans and ideas together, in order to prepare packages that are necessary for the next team coming forward. In holding Mini-Continuity, we would be able to resolve issues.

FR: I agree with ZM, Mini-Continuity is necessary, although as huge of an advocate as I am for this retreat, I also have a difficult time justifying these expenditures. Reformatting is definitely something that is necessary.

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RR: At times several Executives and Directors come together for dinner, and we decide how to tackle and resolve serious issues. It is important to not only rely on Mini-Continuity, bonding can happen as long as the individual is up to it.

BK: We need to take attendance, because in the event that someone doesn't show-up, they need to reimburse the SCSU.

AA: I also think that Mini-Continuity is a great idea, as they can learn about policies, bylaws, and projects. The best way to learn is to be apart of these projects. I agree the BK, if someone doesn't show up; they need to reimburse the SCSU in 100%, because then they are wasting the money of the students.

AM: For me, it is important to attend this event, as I am not aware of who many of the Directors and Executives people are, and what there positions are.

HJ: I would highly encourage the restructuring of Mini-Continuity.

HR: We don't always have time to learn about all departments, and holding Mini-Continuity would be great opportunity.

TI: I am against going to Niagara Falls, as there are many distractions at this location.

RR: I am for Mini-Continuity, as I was able to learn new skills.

AL: This gives us a goo opportunity to meet our full-time staff.

GA: There seems to be three issues on the table; the first, is a mechanism to get people to meet each other; the second, is planning Mini-Continuity; and the third is saving the money of the students. We need to implement a policy that would allow us to get things done, without necessarily wasting money.

PT: I have always been an advocate of these kinds of meetings and such. The point was, if we were to have Mini-Continuity, it would not come out of your pocket.

### **I. New Business – VP Reports**

#### **a. Report- Vice President External (Abdalla Al-Baalawy)**

#### **MOTION**

Moved: AA

Seconded: RR

AA: Scarborough Action is necessary, we see how much discussions are done, and how these agenda items are listed. We spoke about community issues and local transit with the councilor, and it was extremely informative. Regarding the CFS Annual Meeting, I have asked five delegates to be appointed to committee, in order for them to help in mobilizing and networking with different individuals and organizations within the community.

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I have a line item for approximately \$3200, which only allows me to hire three people. At these meetings there are several smaller meetings and caucuses, which does not allow for spreading our voice and resources fully at these meetings. We need approximately \$1200 more, in order to hire two more people. AA will have a discussion with AL in order to find the necessary funds.

AL: We are only financially responsible for the staff and a few other key individuals; therefore we need to really consider who are the individuals that we are bringing to these events, before paying for them.

AA: It is important to hire these people, in order have these students disseminate this information to the rest of the student body. Therefore, hiring 5 people is not only necessary, but of the utmost importance.

HM: Why can't we have students volunteer?

CB: Each ticket is about \$400-\$500.

FR: I would like to see where the money is coming from before releasing these funds?

BK: The question isn't whether it's worthwhile. The question is how do we obtain financial value out of this endeavor. Where do we get the money?

AL: The money can be disbursed; it's just a manner of when is the appropriate time.

AA: I only found out about this, this morning. I cannot wait until November 18<sup>th</sup>, as it takes too long, and we need to purchase tickets beforehand.

ZM: We need to decide whether it is essential to bring two more people to the event.

AL: I recommend going into our reserves and taking the money.

GA: Is there a \$13,000 or \$30,000 surplus on the budget.

PT: These three people that have been recommended have been extremely passionate in their approaches in helping to solve and mobilize for these issues. We spend money on several things such as tutorials and other training sessions, and sending delegates would be really helpful.

FR: If I don't know where the money is coming from, I can't vote on this.

### **MOTION**

Moved: ZM

Seconded: RR

Accept the fact that we are going to hire two more people

### **VOTE:**

In Favour: 9

Abstention: 2

Opposed: 2

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Abstain: MK, CB

Opposed: FR, BK

### **b. Report- Vice President Students and Equity (Zahra Murji)**

**MOTION**

Moved: ZM

Seconded: TI

FR: What are the costs of the boards?

ZM: We would not use \$80,000, just to fund this project. This will help to reduce paper and costs. At this point in time we are creating a prototype of the board.

HR: How are we working the details of the wall makeover?

ZM: AL did a survey regarding what people would like to see on the wall. Though, after we paint the SCSU Office, we will move to paint the wall as well.

RR: I have been actively inviting students to the meetings of various committees in order to bring this decision forward.

AL: We need to establish a base, in order to get the work order in on time.

### **c. Report- Vice President Academics (Carl Bagot)**

**MOTION**

Moved: CB

Seconded: HR

CB: Are there any specific questions?

FR: What is Synder?

CB: It's about a managing a fund that has been around since the 1960s. This was a very artistic entity, however, they got halted and were inactive for a number of years. This fund has only \$8,000 and it is difficult to have more funds added to this.

HR: Regarding UTSC College Council, we are developing a proposal to bring back SCOA and work on it, as well as student representation.

AA: On November 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a town hall for UofT 2030, though not all of the items in the vision are necessarily good for the students.

CB: One of the issues became, where do we find more study-space? One of the suggestions was to have a Twitter page that would alert students to where study space was available. Regarding the IC building, any changes made to this, can have adverse effects on the Student Center, as it may not be available 24-hours a day.

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HJ: There is a website that allows students to view the capacity of computer lands. Can we set up a similar system for the library?

CB: We have to figure out, what is our capacity, and how do we keep track of occupants of this capacity?

### **d. Report - Vice President Campus Life (Leah Robertson)**

#### **MOTION**

Moved: HM

Seconded: TT

LR: Halloweek had 245 people attend the event. We had a review session about things that went well, and things that did not go well. Rex's Den has new shirts, which help to celebrate Movember. There was a fundraiser, which I helped to support for more than 4-hours. On Monday, 5PM-7PM, there is a club council meeting in Room SL-232.

FR: Can we have standing committees published online, on the e-brief, and can we have the minutes on the board package as well.

### **e. Report - Vice President Operations & CFO (Ali Lalani)**

#### **MOTION**

Moved: HR

Seconded: RR

AL: We have been working more diligently with Rex's Den, in order to hold more events there. In the upcoming weeks, we will go up to each customer, and let them know about the different events that will be happening on campus, as well as their feedback. Regarding the tax clinic, we will be copying the same model as the ISC.

#### **MOTION**

Moved: HM

Seconded: RR

5 Minute Recess

#### **VOTE:**

In Favour: Unanimous

Abstention: 2

Opposed: 2

#### **MOTION**

Moved: AA

Seconded: FR

I would like to amend Old Business to include ZM Vice President Student & Equity's from October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

### **J. New Business – Elections and Referenda Code**

FR: We want to make sure that the new codes are simpler and fairer. We want to be very specific about what we are doing. Every year, the elections policy has to be approved.

PT: It is good to specify the years in order to avoid future issues.

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CB: It's not fair to have

ZM: From an equity standpoint, slating will only serve to reinforce issues of racism on this campus. People will join together based on ethnicity, rather than ideas. We should not make this official, and having people on the same poster, because it will make problems on this campus.

PT: Having a group represent their viewpoints.

By understanding that this phenomena [slating] will occur, it will make these slates more transparent. The candidate has the option to determine whether they want to run as an individual or as group. Making a transparent process is exactly something that we should be doing. In voting as a slate, these candidates are running as a team that is good for the overall efficiency of the SCSU.

LR: As students vote, they will be voting for the individual rather than the team.

AA: Slating creates a team environment before running. In working in the SCSU, it takes approximately 4 to 6 months to become a team and share a vision.

### **MOTION**

Moved: FR

Seconded: AA

To extend the meeting until 10PM.

### **VOTE:**

In Favour: 2

Abstention:

Opposed: 6

TT: This might not be fair.

PT: If you like the aspect of one team, you can select from a group of candidates to choose from.

AM: The bigger issue is voter turnout on campus.

HR: In discussing slating, what if you have 1 person whom is not of the slate get elected.

ZM: What if you have one ethnic slate, that share one vision. This affects the hiring of the organization as well, and this fosters issues within the SCSU. This becomes dangerous, as it brings forward a lot of emotions. Team building makes more sense once a team is actually developed. The problem is the lack of team-building initiatives. Many students within this campus do not want this to occur.

HJ: Voting by race will happen. At the end of the day you are still voting for individual people.

FR: All we know is that slating happens. By legalizing slating, it is suggesting that one candidate truly believes in the objectives of another candidate.

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LR: Slating can be good or bad. This is a matter of the individual at the end of the day.

### **MOTION**

Moved: AA

Seconded: FR

Be it resolved that the 2010-2011 elections policy be repealed, be it further resolved that the new election code be sent AGM for ratification.

### **VOTE:**

In Favour: 9

Abstention: 4

Opposed: 2

Abstained: FR

Opposed: ZM

### **K. AGM**

**a. Executive Director**

**b. VP Internal**

**c. VP University Affairs**

**d. Governance Structures**

PT: In the organization, there have been major strides, and this organization has created a support-network that needs to be institutionalized. Accountability between Executives and Full-time staff changes on an annual basis. Therefore when we are discussing institutional changes, we need to think carefully and critically about how we are dealing with Executives and their demands, as well as full-time staff.

Developing Continuity, and developing training documents are extremely important as well as maintaining resources and developing executive reports. We have the idea of reports from the past, and this gives us insight into how to get involved in these issues. It gives us a perspective on maintaining and undergoing certain projects. In working with certain operational VPs, we have very set goals in mind in order to go forward.

Having a full-time staff, helps to give a huge boost in terms of what's going on with the SCSU overall. In having these discussions, there is the possibility of a domino effect on other items that are listed. It is feasible for the Directors to expand on these topics and make the effective changes necessary. PT, will be discussing with Directors on how this process can move forward, and how we can begin this process as soon as possible.

HR: Who will the Executive Director be reporting to?

PT: I have had conversations regarding creating ex-officio staff. The idea of the Executive Director position is to create roles, where directors can understand what is going on from a full-time standpoint.

GA: It is possible to ask full-time staff to come in.

HM: What is the nature of the role of the Executive Director, how long will they be around for?

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PT: Every hiring is a gamble, in hiring for any role. In an observer role, I have seen how this organization works, and I know what it needs.

HM: How do we keep this person accountable?

PT: The Executive Director will be under the Executive Team.

HJ: Can you fire people?

PT: It might be feasible.

### **Motion**

Moved: FR

Seconded:

Extend the meeting until 10:30

GA: Emergency meeting next week, to review the auditors report for AGM. Starting from Monday, proxy votes will be available.

## **L. Adjournment**

### **MOTION**

Moved: FR

Seconded: RR

Meeting ended at 9:56PM.