

## **4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CUSA Council 2009/2010**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

### **Attendance**

Erik Halliwell	President
Meera Chander	VP Finance
Cameron McKenzie	VP Internal
Nick Bergamini	VP Student Issues
Jessica Vasquez	VP Student Services
Alex Sirois	VP Student Life
Austin Miller (proxy Kandace Price)	Public Affairs
Brittany Smyth	Public Affairs
Hashem Hamdy	Public Affairs
Natalie Pinto	Public Affairs
Anthony Ryan	Public Affairs
Fatima Hassan (Proxy Mohamad G.)	FASS
Christina Anderson	FASS
James Witherspoon	FASS
Donnie Northrop	FASS
Graham Perrin	FASS
Heather Murley	FASS
Allison Ewell (Proxy Yasmine Bennett- Abu-Ayyash)	FASS
Chris Gillen	Science
Brian Mattock (Proxy Brandon Wallingford)	Engineering
Kyle Purdy (Proxy Dave BC)	Business
James Craig	BPAPM
Terrah Smith	Humanities
Nicholas Osbourne	Computer Science
Andrea Balon	GSA

[Chair called the meeting to order at 6:27 PM]

#### **1. Announcements and Correspondence**

Chair explains that his job is to facilitate participation and involvement in the meeting, and invites questions and comments.

#### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Perrin/Halliwell  
Carried

#### **3. Approval of Past Minutes**

Sirois/Miller  
Carried

#### **4. Electoral Report**

No electoral report

## **5. President's Report**

Erik Halliwell explains that the Students Against the Age Cap group is now the We Ride coalition of students from Ottawa U, Carleton and Algonquin, and will petition, write letters, and lobby against the age cap for student bus passes. Erik said that he met with representatives of the Business Office with representatives of the GSA to discuss late fee payment, which is a flat fee charged to students which he described as quite high. Erik attended the CFS Ontario AGM. Erik is excited to announce that this year's orientation week will be bottled water-free, something he is proud of. Erik said that CUSA and the GSA oppose the language used by Carleton University regarding the sexual assault survivor.

## **6. Vice Presidents' Reports**

### **a. VP Finance**

Meera is looking into ways to increase sales in the Unicentre store such as microwaveable items. Additionally, they are looking into getting debt machines linked to the internet to increase the speed of transaction. The Canada Post location in the Unicentre store is being changed, and the layout will be changed for accessibility. Meera said that the booths in Roosters are also being repaired. Meera explained that negotiations are under way between two companies which is intended to save CUSA approximately 5% on tender fees. Meera said has been attending Co-Curricular Transcript meetings, and has been working on the various categories needed for student involvement to be recognized.

### **b. VP Internal Affairs**

Cameron said he had worked with Carlos and Denis on new club initiatives. Cameron congratulates the successful candidate for the position of Council Clerk, and mentions the posting of some new jobs with CUSA on the website. Cameron announces that the administration is cutting back on work study positions, down to 20. Cameron said that near the end of November there is planned a sustainability week where students can show off some of their work. Cameron announced that he became disability commissioner for Ontario at the CFS Ontario AGM.

### **c. VP Student Issues**

Nick sent a letter to every Member of Parliament to explain CUSA's position on Bill C-10. Nick said he voted for funding for new door openers in Herzberg Laboratory, and between Loeb and the Virtual Simulation Building. Nick invites those who have additional funding ideas to approach him. Nick announces an online CUSA newsletter

highlighting Service Centres and other CUSA events weekly, called The Raven, and a CUSA radio program on CKCU.

d. VP Student Services

Jessica said that the service centre coordinators have been busy with a mural painting. Jessica invites students to attend the Walk the Bridge in My Shoes tomorrow at the National Arts Centre, where a video will be shown about Alain Brousseau, a victim of homophobic murder. Jessica announced two new hires to Service Centres, and said that Donnie Northrop should be contacted if anyone has concerns about unsafe areas on campus.

e. VP Student Life

Alex said that Bacardi rejected CUSA's request to fund a mural, but that Molson has now stepped up to fund the project. Alex said that Bud Lite Lime will be brought in to replace Stella Artois at Oliver's. Alex announces some upcoming campus events, and confirms K-OS, Midway State and Tympanic for Pandamonium. Alex announced that two performers from Trailer Park Boys will be appearing on campus in the near future as well.

**7. RRRR Report**

There is no RRRR Report

**8. GSA Report**

Andrea, VP Finance, said that some GSA initiatives were touched upon in Erik's report, including Drop Fees, We Ride, and the flat fee charged for late tuition payment, which the GSA feels is a problem. Andrea said the GSA is seeking a dedicated sexual assault centre, as both undergraduates and graduates have voted for that. Andrea announces that the GSA is going to support, with RRRR and CUSA, the bike-share program, which they are excited about. Additionally, Andrea said that the GSA passed a motion to condemn Carleton for their stance on the sexual assault centre, and will write an open letter to the president. She also announced that the GSA-run Mike's place will be moving to ceramic plates to reduce their environmental footprint, and will feature new items and drinks on the menu.

**9. CASG Report**

Brian Mattock said that the CASG elections are going as scheduled, and a new website will be up and running for September. At the Senate, Brian said the CASG brought up the poor treatment of mature students, and the complications around degree specializations. Brian said that CASG is involved in the Co-Curricular Transfer initiative, and is working on a course syllabi website where all syllabi will be available for view before students

register for the classes. CASG is working on a project observing students' marks, and their budget will be approved at their next meeting.

#### **10. Senate Report**

None

#### **11. Constituency Reports**

None

#### **12. Committee Reports**

##### a. Standing Committees

##### **Constitutional and Policy Committee**

The Committee met and went over proposed changes in the agenda today, and both were recommended for adoption.

##### **Equity Committee**

Did not meet

##### **Financial Review Committee**

Did not meet

##### **Spirit Committee**

Did not meet

##### **Student Issues Action Committee**

Nick said the committee met, had a great turnout, and talked about three campaigns, including the Drop Fees campaign, We Ride program, and a White Ribbon Campaign of Men to End Violence against Women.

##### b. Ad Hoc Committees

##### **Sustainability**

Did not meet

##### **Accessibility**

Did not meet

##### c. Other Committees

##### **Conference and Discretionary Committee**

Did not meet

#### **13. Items for Information**

There were no items for information

## 14. Question Period

Heather Murley asked Erik about the late tuition issues. She asked if he is willing to consider the OSAP assignment charges as an issue as well. Heather says that all OSAP users are charged a \$50 fee for the application.

Austin asked the VP Finance if students volunteering for Co-Curricular Transfer in September can count that for the Winter Semester.

Meera replied affirmatively

Andrea asked what CUSA is doing to address the sexual assault centre.

Nick replied that the item had been brought up behind closed doors, and that CUSA supports the campaign for a sexual assault centre. Nick said that it has been made clear to the President that CUSA supports that initiative.

Supplemental: Andrea asked that, since the services on campus are insufficient, whether that message will be driven home in service education.

Nick replied that not many people know about some of the existing services, and that we have to work with what we have and be positive, while working towards a sexual assault centre.

James Craig congratulated Erik and Alex for making Frosh Week bottled-water free, and looks forward to not having to collect them. James asked what the alternatives are to ensure people remain hydrated for the week.

Alex replied that water bottles are included in every Frosh Kit, and that water refilling stations will be available.

Hashem asked Erik if CUSA has considered doing anything for Remembrance Day.

Erik replied that they should talk about it.

Dean asked the CUSA VPF and VPSI, with regards to a sexual assault centre, whether some of the CUSA Contingency Fund money could go towards contributing to our own sexual assault centre.

Nick Bergamini replied that the referendum question was for a university funded sexual assault centre, and that the university should follow that.

Graham followed up James' Question, and asked whether water bottles would be provided for Facilitators during Frosh Week.

Alex replied affirmatively.

Michael Monks had a question related to financial statements, which he hoped Meera can answer. He wondered if Haven Books' liability was paid for a specific year.

Meera replied that she was not VPF for that year, and is therefore not sure of the answer.

## **15. Other Business**

### **a. Motion to amend the CUSA Awards Policy Smyth/Halliwell**

Brittany Smyth said that last year there was a lot of talk about changing the awards policy, which she described as "wonky" and confusing. She said this change consolidates all the other award committees into the CUSA Awards Committee. Smyth recommended a name change to the J. Pratt Award from the CUSA Award. She says the name change came from a recommendation from the Senate, who found it confusing to give out a CUSA Award at convocation. Smyth said that whether or not one likes James Pratt, he did a lot for the association and the university, explaining her motivation for changing the name of the CUSA Award. Smyth described Pratt's long career working with the association, spanning ten years, as an example of why this award should be named the J. Pratt Award. Brittany said that the award does not represent the individual, but what they contributed, and the amount of time they contributed.

Michael Monks wondered if James Pratt will have an award named after him in addition to a burger at Oliver's.

Smyth explained that the burger was named for him after being arrested fighting for student space.

James Craig wanted to confirm that the policy for awards will continue to reflect the original intentions of the award givers.

Brittany replied that those scholarships remain the same, and that CUSA simply helps to facilitate the awarding of those.

Nicholas wondered if the J Pratt Award would be for one year only, or indefinitely.

Brittany replied that it is indefinite.

### Debate

Nick Bergamini – speaking in favour of the motion - said he will be chairing the Committee, and that it is a good policy which was not before.

Meera spoke in in favour, saying the changes are good, and that James Pratt had contributed a lot to the community.

Michael Monks- speaking in favour of the motion- called James Pratt an interesting man, and recalled conspiring to sue the association for not labeling their coffee as hot. Michael Monks also said that James Pratt is a great person, who has done a lot for the association.

Carried

#### b. Motion to Amend Bylaw 1 – “Council”

Halliwell/Sirois

Erik explained that there were a few issues in the previous year around the clarity of the process of recall of council members, and that these changes clarify this process and conform to other student unions in the country. Erik said that councilors now must attend half of all meeting between September 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, totaling at least four to remain as a councilor. Erik found it important that Dalhousie, Guelph, and a several unions in the province have policies such as those suggested. Erik said that last year, an individual at council had a recall motion brought against him with ten signatures, which caused a lot of confusion. Now, Erik said, a petition for recall must be brought to the chair’s attention fourteen days before signatures have been collected. If signatures are collected before notice of the petition has been given within 14 days, it is invalidated. Erik said that this gives a chance for councilors to defend themselves better. Erik explained the motivation for not allowing multiple petitions of recall for one councilor, citing the steep financial cost to CUSA of holding a referendum for recall.

Question Period

Dean Tester asked Erik about the final section, wondering if it refers to a successful petition, or any petition, that can only be applied to a councilor once.

Erik replied that only one petition can be taken out against a councilor period.

Heather wondered about section D, seeking clarification over whether attendance includes sending a proxy.

Erik clarified that during the summer, a proxy can be used and counts for attendance.

Chris asks about section h-b. He asked, if one was acclaimed, and no one voted for him or her, whether one signature on a petition give ability to recall.

Erik replied that for those acclaimed, the change would be under section h-c, requiring 99 votes or 20% of the constituency.

Dean Tester asked about the wording of a 'bonafide petition', and sought clarity defining that term.

Erik replied that the term is a generally accepted term and clarified.

### Debate

Cameron- speaking in favour of the motion- found the motion consistent with other student associations. Cameron says he finds it important for an elected councilor to attend at least one committee meeting.

Brian said he has a number of issues with the motion, not only section h-g which says that a member of council can only be petitioned for recall once.

Motion to amend moved by Brian to change section E, after the "(4)", inserting "of the scheduled monthly" before "meetings"

- c. Motion to amend Bylaw 1 – "Council" section e.  
Brian/Gillen

Heather asked for a point of information, wondering if there is amendment to the language.

Chair clarified that the motion adds "of the scheduled monthly" before "meetings" following "In the case of a Constituency Representative, if the incumbent sends a proxy to four (4)" in section e.

Brian said that the purpose of the amendment is to say that if there are more meeting in addition to the scheduled monthly meetings, a student

would not be recalled from council for not attending meetings in addition to the regular meetings.

#### Debate on amendment

Smyth- speaking against the amendment- cited the small number of emergency meetings, saying that the section in question is a way of getting people to attend more meetings. Brittany said that if people are unable to commit the required amount of time, they should not be councilors. Brittany said she is against cutting back the commitments of councilors, saying that they are there for a reason, to represent people, and should show up to meetings.

Donnie –speaking against the amendment- cited that when emergency meetings are held, it is usually for an emergency and councilors should not be excluded.

Brian Mattock found that Smyth and Donnie made great points and withdrew the amendment ‘in spirit’ since it cannot be formally withdrawn.

Motion to amend is defeated

Andrea- speaking in favour of the motion- called it transparent. Additionally, she said it is laid out in a fashion which makes it easier to recall individuals. Andrea said she feels that recall caps are a positive thing as she witnessed excessive recalling during her previous years at council meetings.

Hashem –speaking against the motion- cites section h-c. Hashem said that the actions of council can have repercussions beyond their constituency, and that the student body at large should have say over recall.

Brittany- speaking in favour of the motion- said that while she understands the concern of limiting recall, it is only a limit to referenda. Brittany said that councilors need to take more responsibility for their role of representing constituents. Brittany said that referenda are costly and time consuming and shouldn't be taken lightly. Brittany said that recall and impeachment should be used for big problems such as theft and corruption. Brittany also said that people should be given notice that they are being petitioned for recall before the fact, to be able to defend themselves. Brittany added that the motion and its changes are great, and reflect policies that are working elsewhere.

d. Motion to amend Bylaw 1 – “Council” section h-g

Motion to amend “No member may be petitioned for recall more than once during their term in office” to read “no member may be subject to a referendum of recall by petition more than once during their term in office.”  
Tester/Craig

Dean explained that the reason for this amendment is to keep costs down by preventing more than one referendum being called, while allowing people to be petitioned more than once.

James Craig- speaking in favour- found it to address the issues mentioned by Brittany. He also found it to make section h-g more clear in the spirit of the motion overall.

Brittany- speaking against the amendment- found it to be identical to the previous wording.

Chair attempted to clarify, saying that the change reflects that one can campaign for their petition as much as desired as long as the petition has not been confirmed.

Brian Mattock- speaking in favour of the amendment- found the amendment to be a compromise which can prevent abuses from taking place.

James Craig says he supports the motion not out of fear of abuses, but because he wants to make sure everyone has a chance, if they desire, to petition.

Heather- speaking against the amendment- found that Hashem’s worry about people recalling themselves is unfounded, since anyone is free to resign any time. If multiple petitions can be filed against the same person, Heather said that this will increase the workload and waste time of those who have to accept the petitions.

Erik spoke against the amendment.

Brian Mattock said that the Administration is normally the body which validates petitions. As for abuse, Brian said that if the motion passes as is, he will file motions of recall against everyone he wants to stay on council. According to Brian, if he can unsuccessfully petition against all those he is in favour of, he will make them immune to later petitioning. Brian found h-g to be a bad article, and threatened to collect petition signatures should this motion be passed without amendment.

Michael Monks- speaking in favour of the amendment- agreed with Brian. Michael said that the provision has rarely been used, and that students

know the difference between serious and frivolous issues to petition for recall.

Brittany- speaking against the amendment- cited the differences between a petition for recall and a motion for recall. Smyth said that this amendment is not substantively different from the original language.

Chair attempted to clarify the issue.

Brittany said that “petitioned for recall” is to mean the actual submission of the petition.

Movement to recess for five minutes  
Brian/Craig  
Defeated

Dean Tester said he wanted to clarify the initial clause, and the confusion lead him to support his change to section h-g. Dean said that there a loophole in the section which needs to be closed, and hopes no one would use that to his or her advantage.

Call the Question  
Perrin/Sirois  
Carried

Amendment fails

Brian Mattock asked about section h-d.

Chair replied that the 14 calendar day notice is prior to the campaign or collection of signatures. In receipt of a petition for recall, the Chair gives notice of a 14 day period during which the person in question can defend themselves before signatures are collected.

Brian wondered if section h-g limits h-d section. He asks how many times one could collect signatures to recall someone.

Chair explained that if he wished to recall Erik for drinking milk in the office, he was free to do so. Assuming people agree and sign on, he serves the petition, and Erik has 14 days during which he can return from the Bahamas to make his defense.

Brian asked whether, when he begins collecting signatures on the 15<sup>th</sup> day, he is limited from ever petitioning against someone again.

James said that until the petition is validated by the chair, it is not a petition, simply a list of names. He said the petition limit comes into effect only after the petition is submitted.

Call the Question  
Erik/Anthony  
Called  
Carried

Original motion as presented carries

- e. Motion to oppose Carleton University's Stance on Sexual Assault Case of 2007  
Meera/Erik

Meera said she is disappointed to hear what the legal team of Carleton University released as a statement, saying that the victim failed to take appropriate action for her safety. She said this motion tells the President of the Association to write an open letter to Carleton University asking them to retract their statement and offer an apology, and urged councilors to issue letters in opposition to those statements.

Question Period

Nicholas Osbourne said he is unclear of the use of the language of "legal team" Meera used, whether they are Carleton employees or hired lawyers.

Nick clarified that it was a spokesperson for the University who was quoted in the media saying quote in question.

Meera replied that the statement was "issued by Carleton University."

Michael Monks asked what was meant by "the statement."

Meera replied that it is the quote "she [the victim] failed to take appropriate or any action for her own safety" that is referred to as "the statement," and that the quote was issued by Carleton University.

Dean Tester sought clarification, saying that he understands that, as part of the settlement with the plaintiff, the university is unable to speak on the issue.

Meera replied that it is not known for a fact whether Carleton is actually prevented from speaking, and it cannot be assumed.

Joel from The Charlatan asked Meera if she has any comment on the legal team of Jane Doe claiming that they did not think that the Carleton Statement was the institutional view of Carleton.

Meera replied that she feels the statement was wrong to begin with and has no further comment.

Tara wondered whether the language should refer to sexual assault 'victims' as opposed to 'survivors'.

Erik said that his understanding is that the term 'victim' is not preferred.

Tara wondered if this excludes those who did not survive a sexual assault.

Erik replied that not surviving a sexual assault would imply murder, and they would therefore be a victim of murder, and that using the term 'survivors' is a way to reclaim it, and more positive.

Andrea said she would like to add that the comments from Carleton University are directed to a survivor, hence the language.

### Debate

Brittany- speaking in favour- called it a great motion.

Proceed to vote

Motion carried unanimously

Adjournment:  
Bergamini/Miller

Carries

[Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM]  
As adopted by council on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bergamini', written in a cursive style.

Cameron McKenzie, V.P. Internal  
Carleton University Students' Association.