

Minutes – Draft
CUSA Council Meeting
December 1, 2008

Attendance

Brittany Smyth	President
Kweku Winful	Vice President Finance
Carlos Chacon	Vice President Internal
Erik Halliwell	Vice President Student Issues
James Witherspoon	Vice President Student Life
Shewit Kalaty	Vice President Student Services
Kailey Gervais (proxy Bruce Khereh-Addo)	Public Affairs
Nicholas Osborne	Computer Science
Tim Rose	FASS
Lesley Vaage	GSA
Sean Finnigan	Public Affairs
Nick Bergamini	Journalism
Justin Mohammed	PAPM
Fatima Hassan	FASS
Joel Prentice	FASS
Sarah Leone	FASS
Heather Murley	FASS
Josh Nadeau	FASS
Natalie Pinto	FASS
Michael Wiseman	Public Affairs
Prince Afram	Public Affairs
Meera Chander	Public Affairs
Chelsea Dunn	Public Affairs
Sean Finnigan	Public Affairs
Chauncy Boulogne	ENG and Design
Lydia Downing	ENG and Design
Donnie Northrup	Science
Adam Dewer	Science
Nicholas Osborne	Comp Science
Michael Monks	Commerce
Cameron McKenzie	RRRA
Devon Sivill	Humanities
Sean Maguire	Special Student
D. Andrew Smith	Public Affairs
Brad Hanes	ENG and Design

Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and briefly reviewed CUSA's comity rules and how meetings are conducted at CUSA.

Motion to allow broadcast media in the room
Brittany/Fatima

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Carried

1. Announcements and Correspondence

Brittany thanked everyone for coming out. She apologized for the motion, stating it was never council's intention to downplay the importance of Shinearama, or Cystic Fibrosis. She apologized to anyone who was hurt by the motion.

Donnie Northrup said that while he had the floor - tuition should be free and we aren't doing enough for the environment. One week ago, council passed a motion to switch charities, the motion had factual errors and he apologized to anyone hurt by the motion. He took full responsibility for the wording and asked those in the room not to place the blame on anyone but him. He said that the message sent to the media was not that was conducted around the table.

He said that this is an educational institution, a place for learning. He said that he has enjoyed spending the last three years shining.

He tabled his resignation and left the meeting.

Sean Maguire took everyone through the events, as he remembered. There were few if any questions, there was a short debate about the preamble, and then moved on. Councilors should have amended the preamble. He said that in his 15 years of being involved, he cannot recall seeing an amendment to preamble clauses as they require no action taken by the assembly.

He strongly suggests that future chairs are allowed to vet motions in advance. He said that he should have amended the motion. Shinerama is a known brand, and a good charity. He said that he came up with a number of other charities that he believed were worthwhile and stated that he was in favour of looking into other options.

Sean Maguire tendered his resignation effective immediately and left the meeting.

Chelsea Dunn announced that she was not at the last meeting, but has received a number of items of correspondence. She said that she has received threats and believes that is unacceptable. She thanked Carlos, Brittany, Meera and Donnie for all their work over the past year.

Nick Bergamini said that a lot of people are upset and they have every right to. It has been a very difficult time for Carleton students and members on the council. We need to do what is best for Carleton. Let's have the best Shinearama ever.

Announcements

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Petitions to recall the President, Computer Science Representative, and Engineering Representative were given to the Chair.

2. Approval of the agenda

Joel/Carlos

Motion to amend the agenda.

Sean F/Cameron

Motion to remove item 15b, 15c, 15d

Sean said that when both of those motions were written he was in a different state of mind and would like to remove them.

Carried

Carlos, Meera and Kailey abstained

Emergency motion to amend electoral policy

Luke/Adam

Motion failed

Motion will be served with notice for the next meeting

Motion to remove Items 4-14

Meera/Fatima

Motion failed

Motion to remove items 4 -12

Prince/Chelsea

Motion carried

Agenda adopted as amended.

3. Approval of past minutes

Minutes were not presented from the agenda

13. Items for Information

There were none

14. Question Period

Adam asked Prince what the motivation was to deny his constituents to voice their concerns and amend the agenda.

The chair reminded people about the point of question period, it is to gather information, not to attack people's state of mind.

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Prince said that given this meeting was called to deal with specific issues, he thought it was important to get to the motions at hand

Michael Monks asked what the process would be to allow members of the gallery to ask questions.

Carlos said there is a twenty minute period to ask questions.

The chair said that members of the gallery can raise their hands and wait to be identified by the chair.

Kweku asked if councilors can stand when speaking

Chair said if they so wish.

15 a. Motion to rescind the decision to drop Shinearama.

Brittany/Meera

Brittany said that this motion was presented to make up for the mistakes made at the last council meeting. It was never her intention to hurt anyone or to speak against the importance of Shinearama.

She encouraged everyone to vote in favour of the motion.

Tim said that he was not at the last council meeting. What is important is that council listened to constituents, and we are moving forward to correct the mistake that was made

Amendment to add the following be it resolved

Adam/Michael

“Be it further resolved CUSA council offer a formal apology to anyone hurt or offended by the racist and sexist nature of the presentation summary, and for failing in our collective duty to properly examine and research the material brought before the council.”

Adam said that his constituents feel that we are not apologizing for the substance of the motion, that we are simply sorry for getting caught. He said that we should explicitly apologize for the racist language in the presentation summary.

Meera spoke against the amendment. It has been mentioned that there have been very sincere apologies. Racism is not this motion – it is in the emails and phone calls in which Kweku is getting told to choke on a chicken bone, it is Brittany getting sent hate mail. We have apologized and we mean it.

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Chelsea spoke against the motion. She said that this apology is broad, we are apologizing for the motion in its entirety, as well as the implications of the motion. I am in favour of the original motion.

Adam Brierly (gallery) spoke in favour of the motion. He thinks that council should go on the record. As a white male, he took offense to the motion. It is not implied that CUSA is apologizing for the racist language.

Adam Dewar said that the original motion doesn't include the spirit of the motion. Racism is discrimination against anyone for the colour of their skin, including white people. In a way it has been a good thing for white people to be discriminated against, now that he has faced racism. He said that he has walked a mile in other students' shoes. We are all just people. It doesn't matter what colour you are, you can face discrimination.

Christin Bradley (gallery) spoke in favour the motion. The question on students' minds is would we be here if it wasn't for these cameras. Would council have corrected their mistakes? Students are unsure.

Meera said that this motion was deemed to be racist and sexist because the motion talked about white people. She said that the cameras are here because council invited them here.

Pia Webster (gallery) spoke in favour of the amendment. She said that the threats shouldn't have happened, but it is important that we apologize for what happened.

Kweku spoke against the motion, he said that people are forgetting about the intent of the motion, let's not focus on race. I said that this was never about race, I will not apologize for being a racist.

Michael spoke in favour of the amendment. An effective apology should be for the core of the issue, not because we have offended people.

Devi Mohabir (gallery) said that she supports the original motion. I want to say I find it insulting that Adam thinks he can identify what people have been facing for centuries in just one week. In this week alone, you have not faced racism. The executive and CUSA need an apology for the threats that they have received.

Shewit spoke against the motion because I will not apologize for being a racist, don't tell me you understand what it is like to be oppressed on a daily basis.

Dave Bonhem-Carter (gallery) spoke against the amendment. I have no idea what it is like to face racism, white people are the most privileged people on earth.

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Justin Mohammed spoke in favour of the motion because it does talk about specificity. We should talk about the racist and sexist remarks. The amendment talks about the preamble.

Motion to call the question
Cameron/Tim
Carried

Vote on the amendment
Motion fails

Motion to amend
Adam/Lydia

“Be it Further resolved council recognize that diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis are debilitating conditions, and even if they did only affect a specific population that would not be reason to discontinue support for them.”

Adam said that all conditions are horrible, and touch us all. Testicular cancer only effects men.

Chelsea spoke against the amendment, she supports the spirit, but disagrees with the wording. CUSA council didn't vote to drop support for Shinearama, this amendment is null and void.

Tim spoke against the amendment, he doesn't think that anyone doesn't believe that diseases are horrible. The original motion was about finding rotating charities, no one said anything about diseases in general.

Motion to call the question
Chelsea/Devon
Motion carried

Vote on the amendment
Amendment failed

Main motion item 15a

Lesley spoke in favour of the motion, it is obvious that people around the table want to offer an apology. I want to be clear that the continued dragging out in the media is causing the embarrassment.

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James spoke in favour, I spoke with a lot of people in the gallery, I have worked on Shinearama for four years and I am happy to revisit this. We are sorry for what this has done.

Jodie Glean (gallery) voted in favour of the motion, we shouldn't tread along mob mentality. We should educate ourselves on what happened, and not associate ourselves with the false and misleading media reports. Let's look into diversify charities; I don't hear racism and sexism in that. What about educating people about other charities? Before students formulate opinions, go to the library and to the office and talk to the executive, learn the facts.

Chelsea point of personal privilege – try to control the gallery.

Alisha (Gallery) spoke in favour. Council is apologizing; there have been apologies all week long. I believe them to be sincere. I don't think we can blame one person. Think about what CUSA has done for us, they are sorry for what happened.

Tim spoke in favour of the motion, as someone who has been involved for four years, this apology is sincere, we made a mistake and we want to correct it. We want to move on as a united students association.

Sara Korajin (gallery) said that she normally take notes at the meeting. She said that she was one of the people last week that didn't speak to the motion but absorbed everything that people said. There has been spin placed on what happened the intent was to diversify the charities we support. This could have been discussed through the Carleton community, it didn't have to be international.

Motion to call the question
Meera/Cameron
Motion carries

Motion 15a carried unanimously

Item 15f.
Struck

Item 15g

“Be it resolved that CUSA council make a \$1000 donation to the Canadian Cystic Foundation”
Meera/Brittany

Meera said it is a sign of good faith to apologize. We should have a letter sent directly to the Foundation.

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Justin motion to table to the next meeting
Justin/Meera

He would like to table the meeting so that councilors can take it back to their constituents.

Motion fails

Chelsea spoke in favour in spirit of the motion. She said that most of the orientation folks would know, last year we raised \$37,000, we should make it \$40,000.

Amendment to amend the amount to read “no less than \$1000 but up to \$3,000 in order to bring the 2008-09 campus total raised to \$40,000.”

Chelsea/Brittany

Carlos spoke in favour, it is important that we raise the \$40,000, because that \$40,000 brought our total to one million dollars over the last 24 years. This new motion will ensure that we will hit one million.

Devon Monkhouse (gallery) said we should donate ten thousand dollars

Chelsea said that CUSA’s financial position is strong, but we should make informed decision not to spend the entire discretionary funds on one single donation.

Brittany spoke in favour of the amendment. it is a great idea to make sure that we can hit one million dollars. She said that she would be happy to take some of the money out of her special projects fund.

Motion to call the question

Cameron/Shewit

Carried

Amendment carried unanimously

Devon said that CUSA council has allowed him to advocate on behalf of students. My students’ union let me down last week. I do not support the whereas clauses. I believe that the apology is necessary. I applaud the idea of donating money to Shinearama.

Brittany spoke in favour of the motion, the amendment is great. The foundation has been wonderful, and we look forward to working with them in the future. She encouraged everyone to get some materials from the front of the room, we should move forward on this together.

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Kailey Gervais (proxy) spoke in favour of the motion,

Amendment to add

Be it further resolved that councilors be encouraged to do everything they can to get involved in the Shinearama campaign.
Kailey/Chelsea

Kailey (proxy) encouraged everyone to vote in favour of it, councilors should get more involved in the campaign to learn about the issues. If councilors come out more, it would be a great way to make sure councilors know what they are getting involved in.

Carlos spoke in favour of the motion, so many people in council are already involved in Orientation for Shinearama.

Amendment carried

D Andrew Smith spoke in favour of the motion. He said the apology is a great idea. We could and should do more

Motion to call the question
Tim/Carlos
Carried

Motion as amended carried unanimously

Motion 15g.

James said the motion was out of order because the petitions haven't been verified. The council date has been set for December 9th. The posting for the CEO has already been posted and the date the posting closes is December 15th.

The chair said that the motion is out of order.

16. Adjournment

Andrew Smith/Joel

Meeting adjourned 8:52pm