

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CUSA Council 2009/2010  
Thursday, December 10, 2009 6:00 PM

Attendance:

Erik Halliwell	President
Meera Chander	Vice President Finance
Cameron McKenzie	Vice President Internal
Jessica Vasquez	Vice President Student Services
Nick Bergamini	Vice President Student Issues
Alex Sirois	Vice President Student Life
Adam Dewar	Public Affairs Rep
Karim Khamisa	Public Affairs Rep
Brittany Smyth	Public Affairs Rep
Graeme Owens	Public Affairs Rep
Hashem Hamdy	Public Affairs Rep
Natalie Pinto (Proxy Dina Skvirsky)	Public Affairs Rep
Ryan Anthony	Public Affairs Rep
Fatima Hassan (Proxy Samantha Whittle)	FASS Rep
Donnie Northrup	FASS Rep
Graham Perrin	FASS Rep
Heather Murley	FASS Rep
Allison Elwell (Proxy Gordon Lamb)	Journalism Rep
Caleigh Campbell	Science Rep
Chris Gillen	Science Rep
Mahdi Yusuf	Engineering Rep
Omas Shammas	Engineering Rep
Kyle Purdy	Business Rep
Brian Mason	Business Rep
James Craig	BPAPM Rep
Terrah Smith	Humanities Rep
Austin Miller	GSA Rep
Garima Talwar	RRRA Rep

[Chair called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM]

**1. Announcements and Correspondence**

Hashem said he has correspondence that related to a later motion, and wondered if it should be circulated now. He said it is a constituency letter.

Chair replied affirmatively

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Craig/Pinto

Erik moved an item for information, a recently recommended change to the electoral code passed at the Constitution and Policy Committee today. This adds point d. to items for information.

Seconded Smyth

Carried as amended

**3. Approval of Past Minutes**

Motion to table minutes

Mason/Pinto

Carried

**4. President's Report**

Erik said thanks for coming in the middle of exam time, and said he went to the CFS AGM in November. He said they reviewed quite a few things, and discussed the next step in the Drop Fees campaign, and reviewed services. He said that he also went to the Ontario Exec meeting, a report meeting, which happened the past weekend, and stayed back to lobby some MPPs while he was there. He said we will continue to work on the Drop Fees campaign into the New Year, and got 6,000 postcards signed. He said the city of Ottawa has removed the finance committee's recommendation for a U-Pass, and they will continue to lobby. He said he met with Sheila, the new student at the Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education, and they have an idea for an emergency fund for aboriginal students or students in general. Erik said Rod Castro had his first day as the new manager of Oliver's and comes from PUB101 where he is well respected. He added that the CEO and returning officer hires have been completed, and will be told at the motion at the end.

**5. Vice Presidents' Reports**

**a. Vice President Finance**

Meera said hi, and said the audit was done. She said the Unicentre store is still waiting for university approval to use the name they chose, and when that's done they will make a logo and some 'swag'. She said you may have noticed posters around for holiday drink at Roosters, and said they've finished interviews for Roosters staff. She said we already hired new cooks at Roosters, as well as new student supervisors. She said that she would like to welcome Rod Castro as new Oliver's GM. For December 6<sup>th</sup> events, there was a vigil held on December 3, screening Polytechnique. Meera said, in regards to orientation, she said she was really happy to tell us that it looks like we met our goal of breaking even on the CUSA and RRRA orientation, and sold many more kits than previous years.

**b. Vice President Internal Affairs**

Cameron said Clubs & Societies are moving to 513 Unicentre, and the elections office taking their old office. He said the new C&S certification date is January 15, and that FACCS funding applications are due January 28. He said the FACCS board will meet late January or early February. He said some people are still not making it to committees as councilors, which can lead to people being kicked off council. He said he hopes everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday.

**c. Vice President for Student Issues**

Nick said that there was bad news from the finance committee about the U-Pass, but that it doesn't mean it's dead as there is still a lot of supporters on city council. He said we would also fight a 7.5% fare hike recommendation. He said the White Ribbon campaign was great, and gave a shout-out to Danny Schwartz. He said he has some extra t shirts, and if anyone wants one to come grab one.

**d. Vice President of Student Services**

Jessica said hello, and said Wheelchair Challenge was a great success. She said that in 2 days there were no wheelchairs left, and said she did it herself on the Thursday. She encouraged everyone to come out and do it in January. She said the GLBTQ centre had their holiday potluck, relaxed, shared food, and watched a movie. She said that Polytechnique was screened in the Atrium, and thanked three service centres for putting it together, as well as Sigmi Pi. She added that it was a partnership with WISE, Women In Science and Engineering, who sold roses to raise money for the two shelters burned two weeks ago. She said she finally hired our last coordinator, Kate Getliff, the new BECAMPS coordinator.

**e. Vice President Student Life**

He said last Thursday was the final Thirsty Thursday, and tonight there are a few people coming to welcome the new Olivier's GM. He said daily drink specials have been started to increase business, and programming will resume in the New Year. He said congrats to Rod Castro, and said he thought he would do a lot of great things for the bar. He added that breakfast, along with new menu items will launch in the New Year. He said for winter orientation week, RRRR and CUSA will be working together, with performances. He said Oliver's promotional gear is available in the CUSA office, and that Red Zone packages are in the CUSA office for ten dollars each. He said there will be great Red Zone stuff coming up in January, and thanked the captains for doing a great job. He said, finally, he assisted the White Ribbon campaign on campus, and had approximately 300 students sign the pledge, and gave out a lot of ribbons. He said he attended the vigil on Dec 6.

**6. RRRR Report**

Garima said that not much is going on at RRRR, and that Trevor Boris was a great event. She said it was well attended and students loved it. She said, lastly,

RRRA passed a new initiative providing people on residence with notice of free computing, software or hardware help.

## **7. GSA Report**

Austin said they had an AGM in Quebec which went very well, and there were discussions from people all across Canada. He said that the exec meeting was average, but that there was a provincial lobby week afterwards, regarding postsecondary issues, and said that they were well received. He said he just came from a meeting on the U-Pass, and it's still being worked on. He said that ward consultation is going on now, and to find your representatives. He added that there would be a winter welcome week, Frost Week, and that it will be pretty fun. He said as part of sustainability initiatives, there is new accessible and renewable furniture, all recyclable and recycled. Austin finished by saying that GSA council would be tomorrow, and a holiday party.

## **8. CASG Report**

Matt Dick said that they're looking at how to get involved in the Financial Task Force, and they've set aside \$200,000 dollars for student suggestions, and that CASG will make an official submission. He said that he would be working to make sure students know about classes at Ottawa U, and said most students do not know they can take any classes they need at Ottawa U, just requiring department head signature.

## **9. Senate Report**

None

## **10. Board of Governors Report**

None

## **11. Constituency Report**

None

## **12. Committee Reports**

a. Standing Committees

### **- Constitution and Policy Committee**

Erik said it met, and are recommending the motions included in the items for information for adoption.

### **- Equity Committee**

None

### **- Financial Review Committee**

None

### **- Spirit Committee**

None

- **Student Issues Action Committee**

None

b. Ad-Hoc Committees

- **Sustainability Committee**

None

- **Elections Review Committee**

Brittany Smyth said she was elected chair of the committee, and we went through a series of motions to talk about what the next election will be like, and those recommended motions for C&P are those here in items for information.

c. Other Committees

- **Accessibility Fund Committee**

Passed outstanding balance from Frosh

- **Conference and Discretionary Committee**

Cam said they met, and around \$1000 was given

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

a. Motion to ban audio/visual campaign materials

b. Motion to Amend Electoral Code Section 15

c. Motion to update the consolidated electoral code in section 12.16 and section 12.17

d. Motion to Ratify Chief Electoral officer and Returning Officers

### **14. Question Period**

Heather asked Alex, regarding the forms to book Roosters and Oliver's, whether the forms clarify that the booking is not confirmed with submission.

Alex said he's not sure.

Michael Monks asked how our organization voted on 'Motion 6' at the CFS AGM and why.

Erik said we voted in favour, mainly because after much discussion with the delegates across the country they decided it was fair for their campuses.

Hashem asked Alex whether Oliver's has had discussion about transition to ceramic plates and metal cutlery for sustainability, adding that the GSA does that at Mike's place.

Alex said that last year ceramic plates were used for breakfast, and he said the new AGM thought it was a good idea to have plastic baskets and biodegradable takeout.

Brandon asked Erik which MPPS he spoke to.

Erik said Liz Whitnier, Phil McNeely (Orleans MPP), who Erik called a really nice guy, and briefly talked to Yasir Naqvi, and a few others.

Donnie asked CASG how the sustainability thing fits into their mandate while Drop Fees was too political.

Matt said it emerged out of the financial task force with the admin, and said that if there are new policies that affect students in any way, they want to make suggestions about students concerns. He said the admin asked CASG if they had any ideas for sustainability, and they are doing it as an advisory role, approaching it more as students than CASG reps, and said if they save money, that is great.

## **15. Other Business**

### **a. Motion to Oppose Symbols of Oppression**

Hamdy/Bergamini

Hashem said he received a letter from a constituent after the Day of Action who was deeply disturbed by the Soviet flag being present. He said as a proud Czech, Mr. Sheffel was deeply hurt, and it reminded him of an ugly stain on history and of his family's history. Hashem said it made him think about symbols of oppression and how it made people feel, and asked people with more experience to contribute. He added that one of the ways a professor explained it, for example, when a police car drives by or stops you, it can give you that feeling. He said what he wanted to do was remind that the spirit of the motion is that oppression is multifaceted, complex, and broad, and is not an anti-communist motion. He said it is not against freedom of speech, and that it's about discouraging, not banning, and is in no way binding.

Donnie asked if this was covered by our safe space policies already.

Hashem said yes, and we do strive to create that environmen.

Mahdi asked what he wants to accomplish with the motion.

Hahsem said it is to be a reminder, but also a recognition of the fact that oppression is multifaceted and extremely complex, personal, and related to one's own history and background.

Mahdi asked if Hashem knows you cannot stop people from holding a flag, and reiterated his first question.

Hashem said it is to discourage..

Alex Sirois asked if an awareness campaign would better suit what he intends to do rather than a motion.

Hashem said yes, that would work, but the motion is to get people thinking, and a reminder of the complexity of the issue.

Graham asked would it not be a better way to get people thinking to have all councilors do safe space training.

Hashem said absolutely, but considering it is not happening now, he does not see how it takes away from his motion.

Debate:

Erik said that he completely understands the spirit of the motion, but is speaking against, because it is an action motion, better suited if it was worked into a standing policy which would exist for a longer period of time. He added that currently there is a discrimination policy which can be worked on, and that we discourage all forms of racism, sexism, etc. He said he could go into it, and its article V.iii, and added that we already discourage discrimination and hate. He said it's more of a procedural thing for him.

Natalie, speaking against the motion, said she felt it is singling out a certain symbol. She said that there are a lot of things out there offensive to people, and that oppression exists on different levels, and that safe space training is a good way to deal with the issues.

Adam said perhaps it should be rewritten as an action motion to send to Constitution and Policy.

Austin said he shares the overall point of the motion, but the motivation items make it so subjective, that many First Nations people would view the Canadian flag as a symbol of oppression, and that it's so subjective that it means little in the end. He said that all sorts of flags could be cited as oppressive, and that by explaining those nuances would be more appropriate.

Donnie Northrup moved a motion to refer to the Constitution and Policy Committee  
Seconded Dewar  
Referred

**b. Motion to Ratify Chief Electoral Officer and returning officers**

Halliwell/McKenzie

Erik said they've finished hiring, and one of the candidates is here. The Two ROs are Matthew Dick and Sarah Otto, and the CEO is Sagal Osman.

Carried

**16. Motion to pull minutes**

Sirois/Hamdy

Bergamini said that Jessica Vasquez was not listed on attendance but was present and that the minutes should be corrected to reflect that.

Carried

**17. Motion to Adjourn**

Gillen/Owens

Carried

[Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM]]

As adopted by council on Thursday, January 14, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron McKenzie', written in a cursive style.

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