

9th meeting of CUSA Council 2009/2010 Thursday January 14, 2009 6:00 PM

Attendance:

Erik Halliwell Meera Chander Cameron McKenzie Nick Bergamini Alex Sirois Karim Khamisa (proxy Alykhan Gillani) Graeme Owens Hashem Hamdy Natalie Pinto Fatima Hassan (proxy Tim Rose) James Witherspoon Donnie Northrup Graham Perrin Heather Murley Allison Elwell Caleigh Campbell Chris Gillen Brian Mattock Mahdi Yusuf Omar Shammaas Kyle Purdy Brian Mason Nicholas Osborne Austin Miller Garima Talwar

[Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 PM]

President Vice President Finance Vice President Internal Vice President Student Issues Vice President Student Life Public Affairs Rep Public Affairs Rep Public Affairs Rep Public Affairs Rep FASS Rep FASS Rep FASS Rep FASS Rep FASS Rep Journalism Rep Science Rep Science Rep Engineering Rep Engineering Rep Engineering Rep Business Rep Business Rep Computer Science Rep GSA Rep RRRA Rep

1. Announcements and Correspondence Donnie Northrup said there is a GLBTQ and Foot Patrol event, with a knitting instructor coming into Ollie's, with all proceeds to the Ten Oaks Project for queer youth.

Allison Elwell said that UNICEF Carleton will be collecting donations and running a campaign for Carleton's relief efforts for Haiti.

Graham Perrin said that the wheelchair challenge is next week in the CIDAC office from 9 – 6.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Hamdy/Halliwell

Carried

3. Motion to Adopt the Writ of Election and Writ of Referendum

Northrup/Chander

Sagal Osman, CEO for this year said that the elections will take place Feb 10 and 11, 2010, and the campaign period will start Wednesday, Feb 3, 2010, with the last day on Feb 9 2010. She said that the executive positions are the same, the number of engineering seats has gone from 3 to 4, and public affairs from 7 to 6. She added that number of positions available in other faculties remains the same.

She said the campaign budget expense limits have not changed, and remain no more than \$200 each for President and Vice President candidates, and for all other positions no more than \$100. Sagal said that all funds provided, barring fines or other offences, will be reimbursed in accordance with the Electoral Code. For council positions, she added, all students must be undergrads in their proper constituency.

She said that the referenda are regarding a universal bus pass at \$145 per semester, beginning in September 2010. Also, she said there is one regarding a levy for CASG. She said there is also a proposed increase in the levy for the Sprott Business Students Levy, nominations will

commence on the 25th, and end on January 29, all must be submitted during that time. Sagal said that nomination forms will be available at 10 AM on January 25. Signatures may not be obtained in residence, and expenses remain the same; \$100 per committee, and all funds are refundable.

Carried

4. Motion to Fill the Electoral Board Chair explained procedure for filling the electoral board. Chair asked for nominations for the electoral board

Erik said that someone must nominate a councilor or student-at-large for the positions on the electoral board. He said that the person may accept or not, and say a few words, then the vote is

held.

Kyle Purdy nominated Heather Murley

Murley accepted

Heather Murley nominated Graeme Owens

Graeme Owens accepted

Motion to ratify Heather Murley as the councillor representative to the Electoral Board

Halliwell/Perrin Carried

Chair entertained nominations for student-at-large positions.

Donnie Northrup nominated Ali DiBellonia Ali accepted

Graham Perrin nominated Tim Rose Tim Rose accepted

Motion to ratify Ali DiBellonia as the member at large representative to the Electoral Board.

Perrin/Purdy Carried

Chair entertained nominations for association members

Murley nominated Graeme Owens

Erik Halliwell nominated James Witherspoon

Motion to ratify James Witherspoon as the association member representative to the Electoral

Board. Pinto/Talwar Carried

5. Approval of Past Minutes Hamdy motioned to table the minutes until the end of the meeting Seconded Northrup Carried

6. President's Report Erik said that it's the first council of the New Year, and welcome back. He said we've been doing a lot of ground work on the U-Pass, receiving well over 50 emails to councils and executives to let us know that it's got support. He said there's a lot of support for this initiative, and urged everyone to e-mail their city councilor, as at this point we are doing the best we can to change minds. He said since it's an election year, we have a chance. Erik said university will be changing their posting policies, and he will keep council up to date. He said the final details have not been given yet. He said the BoG reps met with Jacques Shore and the President regarding last year's BoG elections, when many complaints were received about individuals' conduct and

the way it was run in general. There's a committee with Flanagan and Susan Blanchard to work towards new rules.

Erik said that the issue of Haiti right now is on the minds of a lot of students, and he said that tonight's Thirsty Thursday, half of the door money will go to the Emergency Relief fund for Haiti. He said we've been out today and will be continuing to solicit donations for the

Emergency Relief Fund. He added they would work the admin on a garage sale on Jan 22nd and 23rd with the admin to raise funds for Haiti. He urged people to volunteer, and said that people would be needed for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He added there would be several locations on campus where things can be dropped off to be sold to support the aid organizations.

7. Vice Presidents' Reports

a. Vice President Finance Meera said Haven Books delivery service for students with disabilities has been going well, with many taking advantage of it.. She added that co-curricular transcript has been launched, and said tanks to Natalie Pinto for her great work on the issue. She encouraged people to visit the table in the Atrium. She said there would be awesome improvements to the Oliver's menu in the near future. She added that Oliver's breakfast is in the works. She said they're continuing to look at ways to improve Roosters service and items, and added there are new soups and chili for students, vegetarian and vegan options included.

b. Vice President Internal Affairs Cameron said unfortunately four councilors are no longer with us, one resigned and three were removed for not meeting obligations on council. He said nomination forms to fill these seats can be found in the CUSA office. Cameron said that last year's BoG election was disorganized, as there were essentially no rules. He said if you're starting a club, certification has ended, and FACCS applications are due on the 21st.

c. Vice President Student Issues Nick said that the final push for the U-Pass is coming, and they're working close with the other student associations. He said it's going well, and they're keeping track of how councilors are voting. Nick said he is volunteer chair for Carleton relay for life, which he called a great event. He added that volunteers should talk to him. He said similar to the workplace rights seminar he held, he will put on a seminar on tenants rights with the Ottawa Legal Clinic.

d. Vice President Student Services Erik said that Jessica was not able to make it tonight, but he will give an overview of what she would have said. He said it's Aboriginal Awareness Week this week, which was quite good, Wheelchair Challenge is coming, the Haven delivery service is coming along, the ISC will be hosting their culture show on the 21st at

Roosters. He said black history month with Angela Davis on Feb 1st is something people should come out for.

e. Vice President Student Life Alex said, to start, there are daily drink specials at Oliver's. The Oliver's Super-Party, not the Super-bowl party, is February 7. Go to Oliver's every Thursday to win a pass. Alex said a 46 inch TV will be given away, and sweatpants are still available in the CUSA office for \$15. He said they are revamping the Oliver's menu.. He said that people have been doing well with Oliver's and Rooster's booking, and he has asked for a full explanation to be put on the website. He said Red Zone packages will be sold for \$10 a piece in the Atrium, and that people will be bussing to Montreal to follow the men's Hockey team. Alex said Capital Hoops Is January 27, with tickets available in the Atrium. He said that black history month programming is underway, and Angela Davis tickets are available in the CUSA office. As Erik said, said Alex, CUSA is taking donations for Haiti relief in the office.

8. RRRR Report Garima said she hoped everyone had a great break, and said that it will be a busy semester for RRRR. She said Rez Idol is every Sunday at 8 PM, a huge event for RRRR, bringing out a lot of students from now to Feb 7. She said this year they are expanding RRRR scholarships and bursaries, increased by 50%. She said they also renamed some scholarships and bursaries, and said it is not just based on academics, but extra-curricular work as well. She added that Charity Ball and Angela Davis tickets are at the RRRR office.

9. GSA Report Austin said they're working on new awards as well. He said they're participating in the Haiti relief garage sale, and working on the U-Pass. He said GSA is speaking at City Hall with other students on January 26, and people are welcome to come speak or show support. He said ward consultations are ongoing, and to check the dates and give support. Austin said that when we raise the issues at consultations, people are supportive. He added that people should send an e-mail and get their friends to send to city council. He added that GSA Frost Week is ongoing, and next week they will go to the Ontario GM of the CFS, and the Ontario Graduate Caucus next month.

10. CASG Report James Splinter said that the next CASG general meeting is Jan 28 at 6:30 PM, in the Senate room. He said to check out the website for all the updates, and the next the meeting times are up. He said the library has a new policy to keep things quiet, you can e-mail if there is too much noise and someone will arrive to shush whoever is around. He added that CASG will be undergoing elections and structural reviews, which he called a pretty big deal. He said their VP Internal has resigned, and someone is filling in on an interim basis. He said the

position is available to council members at the Jan 28 meeting

11. Senate Report

Cameron McKenzie said Senate hasn't met, will be later this month.

James Splinter said he sits on the Senate committee for Admissions and Studies Policy, which deals with interesting things. He said there is an age requirement on mature students, age 21. He said some people, former CASG members, said this is prejudiced, and the administration agrees. He said this would be removed in the next few months. He said they're investigating grading practices. He said not all degrees are graded the same way, and is trying to make public how one's program is being graded.

12. Board of Governors Report Cam said the Board meets on the 27th. He said that one concern is how students sit on the board of governors, and they're looking to impose a higher credit count for students sitting.

13. Constituency Report

No report

14. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees Constitution and Policy Committee Erik said it met Tuesday, when the referendum questions were amended. **Equity Committee** Did not meet **Financial Review Committee** Did not meet **Spirit Committee** Did not meet **Student Issues Action Committee** Did not meet

b. Ad-Hoc Committees Sustainability Committee Did not meet **Elections Review Committee** Did not meet

c. Other Committees Accessibility Fund Committee Did not meet **Conference and Discretionary Committee** Cameron McKenzie said it met Monday and gave out money for students.

15. Items for Information

16. Question Period

Chris Gillen asked Erik if it is the 25th or 26th for city council debating the U-Pass.

Austin said there's one day for presentation then the voting day the next.

Brandon Wallingford asked if there is another certification meeting for clubs

Cameron said there are two different types of workshop, and one was today which was required

Allison asked if it was possible to put the Haiti Relief effort info online

Erik said yes

17. Other business

a. Motion to Ban Audio/Video Campaign Material

Tim Rose said the motion was brought forward to committee some time ago and hashed out, and said he is in support. He said he thinks it's impossible to, as it says, assess fair market value and it gives people unfair advantage. He said that everyone should have access to the same methods to reach the electorate and this is a good way to ensure that.

Allison said, as a journalism student, she is very torn by this motion. She said she's a big fan of viral media, but agrees it is impossible to judge the fair market value, especially because students such as herself have greater access to high quality technology which would cost hundreds and thousands of dollars, and if she was not a student in this program she would not have access and training. Should she be running against someone who had access and she didn't, there would be a disadvantage. She said while she loves free speech, she also loves fairness.

Chris Gillen said he understands the motion, but is speaking against it, because he said it's a

really good way to get the message out there, on Youtube, Facebook, radio, etc. He said it's an excellent easy way to get your message out to those not usually interested.

Austin Miller said he agrees with Chris that it would broaden appeal, but until the concerns around market value and control are dealt with we are not ready for it. He said in future years it could be looked at again, but now he's in favour of the motion.

Nick Bergamini said that maybe 20 years ago it was difficult to get your hands on audiovisual equipment, but now you can make a nice video on webcam. He said that Industrial Design students have industrial design training, so should we ban posters?

Nick Osborne said it's against democracy, and free speech, and violates the UN charter of free elections. He said that not all students have the language proficiency to understand a class talk, and audio video material helps students make an informed decision about the election process. He said, with regards to fair market value, that it's simply difficult. We went to the moon, he said, even though it was difficult.

Donnie Northrup said, first of all. Photoshop is on DC++. He said that it's not to say that the CEO and the office cannot promote the elections with video, it's that you cannot promote a specific candidate. He said that it's possible to publicize the elections in general, but when people get specific access to things, it disadvantages people. He said that there's a clear disparity, which is fair, and it's not the same as saying a communications students have a better chance in class talks, and he supports it.

Erik said it's not as if we don't use the internet. He said Facebook is accessible, and we utilize it for our campaigns. He said it's not a violation of the UN charter, as we are a private organization, and the accusation is false. He said he's speaking in favour.

Hashem Hamdy said, like Allison, he was concerned about the motion. But like Erik said, we're a private organization and it's not a huge infringement. He said that the argument that we're not able to reach people because they're illiterate or ESL is not a good argument, and on top of that Carleton makes sure we speak English to take courses, as an English-language university. He said he prefers to sit down and talk, and is in favour of the motion.

Carried

b. Motion to Amend Electoral Code Section 15

Halliwell/Hussein

Erik said that this is something he noticed in the electoral code, that if you ran a referendum on the no side there were zero consequences besides losing reimbursement. He said you could basically do whatever you wanted, and you didn't care about your reimbursement, there are no electoral consequences for such actions. He said this is not a good way too have people act properly, as they will do it without consequences.

Brian asked which points are being added in the information transfer.

Erik said that previously you would simply lose your reimbursement

Murley said that a, b, and f were all that existed previously.

James Witherspoon asked what happens if a no side is disqualified, whether that meant the yes side would win.

Murley said all "no" votes would be thrown out.

Hashem asked what's in place to prevent abuse, assuming that a committee is put forward saying YES, and that he gets a friend to run a NO campaign and getting it disqualified.

Erik said the electoral board, CEO, and RO can deal with such matters and determine them.

Carried

c. Motion to update the Consolidated Electoral code in Section 12.16 and section 12.17

Wallingford/

Does not have seconder, does not meet requirements

d. Motion to Make All Important CUSA Announcements Put on CUSAonline.com

Mason/Osborne

Brian Mason said that the problem this was regarding was fixed but said it's archaic for things not to be put online. He said it's unreasonable for students to come to the office to see referendum dates. He said there's a lack of information for students, who want to know what CUSA is doing. If we don't give it to them easily, they won't know what's going on, he said. Hashem asked what qualifies, in Brian's mind, as an important announcement. He asked whether Erik's ingrown toenail counts.

Brian replied and said stuff that matters to students on a whole.

Debate:

Donnie Northrup said he agrees with the spirit, but called it a poorly written policy as it does not define what is important. He added that as an actionable motion, it would expire at the end of the year. He said as is, he cannot support it.

Erik said he is speaking against the motion, not because mistakes do not happen, but because he feels they have been diligent putting things on the website. He said that in December Cameron made an announcement that referendum questions would be dealt with at the next meeting, and that councilors have a responsibility to inform students to. He said he understands frustration, but there is already a policy on the matter.

Murley spoke against, saying that CUSA does a good job trying to get everything on the website. She said there is no full-time web designer, and that she does a really good job of getting things online, but sometimes things don't happen as quickly as they could.

Allison moved a motion to refer to C&P Seconded Hamdy

Allison said she understands the constraints CUSA has, but that we don't utilize the internet enough to be able to use it as a form of communication with students. She said she'd like to see a deeper discussion on how to keep students informed, and that we owe to ourselves and the student body which is unfamiliar with walking into the CUSA office so they can go to this website and get hooked in.

Carried, motion is referred to Constitution and Policy Committee

18. Emergency Motion:

a. Motion to Support the People of Haiti

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Whereas; due to a 7.0 earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince, the Capital of Haiti, Tuesday January 12, 2010

Whereas; the people of Haiti are suffering from the worst earthquake in over a century;

Whereas; this earthquake has led to some of the worst devastation Haiti has seen in generations;

Whereas; international aid groups estimate that three million Haitians will be affected by this earthquake, with the death toll expected in the tens of thousands of people;

INFORMATION TRANSFER

Be it resolved that the Carleton University Students' Association raise funds for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund;

Be it further resolved that the Carleton University Students' Association work with Carleton University to support further fundraising to go to Haiti;

MOVED: Erik Halliwell **SECONDED:** Meera Chander

Requires 2/3rds Carried, added to agenda

Motivation: Erik said that the motion speaks for itself, and that obviously we're involved in raising funds. He said many of our members are from Haiti, and it's severely affecting

Canadians. He said he hopes folks support it and come out to Thirsty Thursdays and support. He said people are suffering, and he would appreciate support.

Donnie asked when the government deadline for donations to be matched expires

Erik said he thinks it's just for private individuals, not institutions, but asked if anyone knew Allie asked what exactly we're doing

Erik said we're getting funds for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, which goes directly to Haiti, but also working with the university on a garage sale and talent show to raise money with two organizations. He said one is a doctor's association which trains Haitians to become doctors, and are really involved in the country's develop, are well known, and the money goes directly to locals. He said the Humanitarian Coalition is a consortium of aid organizations, including OXFAM and Save the Children on the ground in Haiti right now.

Debate:

None

Carried unanimously

19. Motion to Approve Past Minutes as presented

Sirois/Murley

Approved

20. Adjournment

Osborne/Talwar

Carried

[Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 PM]

As adopted by council on Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

Cameron McKenzie, V.P. Internal.