

1st meeting of CUSA Council 2010/2011
Tuesday May 4, 2010

Attendance

Alex Sirois	President
Meera Chander	Vice President Finance
Khaldoon Bushnaq	Vice President Internal
Dina Skvirsky	Vice President Student Issues
Sam Heaton	Vice President Student Services
Chris Infantry	Vice President Student Life
Karim Khamisa	Public Affairs Rep
Erik Halliwell	Public Affairs Rep
Hashem Hamdy	Public Affairs Rep
Cameron McKenzie (proxy Emily Keyes)	Public Affairs Rep
Ryan Anythony	Public Affairs Rep
Caleigh Campbell	Science Rep
Darnell Franco (proxy Mike Wiseman)	Engineering and Design Rep
Tashadud Naved (proxy Cheyenne Fleet)	Engineering and Design Rep
Andrew Post (proxy Donnie Northrup)	Engineering and Design Rep
Ahmed Rashid (proxy Fatima Hassan)	Engineering and Design Rep
Cameron Lowe	Business Rep
Ariel Norman	Business Rep
Alex Hunsberger	PAPM Rep
Justin Campbell	Computer Science Rep
Gillian Kengis	Special Student
Austin Miller	GSA Rep
George Parry	RRRA Rep

[CUSA Council Meeting called to order at 6:12pm]

1. Announcements and correspondence

None

2. Approval of the Agenda

Amendment: emergency motion to support freedom of speech and association on campus

Heaton/Skvirsky

Carried, motion added to the agenda, item 17g

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended

Chander/Skvirsky

Carried

3. Motion to Strike and Fill the Constitutional Board

Council Members (2)

Nominated:

Ariel Norman

Erik Halliwell

Ariel and Erik are appointed

Council Member (1 alternate)

Nominated:

Cameron Lowe

Cameron is appointed

Non-council members (2)

Nominated:

Ammar Abbas

Kate Ayalogu

Ammar and Kate are appointed

Non-council members (1 alternate)

Nominated:

MacAndrew Clark

MacAndrew is appointed

Executive Member (1)

Nominated:

Alex Sirois

Alex is appointed

Executive Member (1 alternate)

Nominated:

Meera Chander

Meera is appointed

Motion to accept the above appointments

Heaton/Skvirsky

Carried

4. Electoral Report

Item for information presented by Sagal Osman Chief Electoral Officer for the 2010 CUSA General Elections:

“ INTRODUCTION

I, Sagal Osman, the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2010 CUSA elections was officially hired and ratified by CUSA Council in December 2010 along with the Returning Officers were Matt Dick and Sarah Otto. We began preparations for the 2010 elections immediately. We were assisted by Danielle Sampson, the Executive Coordinator at CUSA. I attended the December Elections Review Committee to take in some of the recommendations and concerns that students had from previous years. Our first week back from the winter break, our team began to outline our specific responsibilities, office schedule, and all the preparations necessary for the election.

The document from which all of our decisions were based upon is the Consolidated Electoral Code, found in the CUSA policies.

Section 2.0 subsection 2.1 of the code states,

2.1 The CEO shall be a neutral member of the association. The CEO shall be ratified by a majority vote of all members of CUSA council, and shall be accountable to CUSA.

I took a leave of absence from my position as Front Desk Assistant to ensure that the election were to run as smooth as possible. I show no interest in who was to be elected and I worked hard and believe that I was successful in remaining neutral and unbiased when considering all decisions throughout the whole process. My priority was to ensure that the Elections were run in a smooth and fair manner.

The Electoral Board consisted of Heather Murley (Chair), James Witherspoon, and Alexandria Dibellonia. The Electoral Board decided that the CEO would make decisions regarding Electoral Offenses, and that appeals would go through the Electoral Board.

The Elections Office was open from 10:00am until 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

Also, during this time, notices were posted on the CUSA website as well as the CUSA office advertising for the position of Poll Clerk. Poll Clerk training was held on February 6th, 2010.

THE CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL ELECTIONS 2010

A notice was put up on the CUSA website advertising the call for referendum questions. The deadline to submit questions was January 8th, 2010 4:30pm. The final decision regarding which questions would be presented at the council meeting was decided by the Constitutional and Policy committee. These three questions were presented and approved at the council meeting:

1. Are you in favour of a mandatory universal bus pass for full-time undergraduate students at a cost not to exceed \$145 per semester for each the Fall and Winter term, beginning in September 2010?

2. Do you support an increase to the Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG) levy to \$1.75, pro-rated for part time students?

For Business students only:

3. Do you support an increase from the current \$15 per academic year to \$45 per academic year, pro-rated for part-time students, for the Sprott Business Students' Society levy beginning in September 2010?

The twenty-six Constituency positions must be divided between the various constituencies according to their population. The population of students in the Engineering and Design Constituency has increased significantly therefore changing the allotted seats for the Constituencies. Since there are a set number of positions, Public Affairs lost a seat and Engineering and Design gained one. For 2010-2011, there are four positions for Engineering and Design and six positions for Public Affairs.

On January 14th, the CUSA Council met and the Writ of Election was passed.

NOMINATION PERIOD

Nominations began on January 25th, 2010 and ended on January 29th, 2010 4:30pm. By that time, all nomination forms were to be submitted.

Up to eight nomination forms were allowed to be signed out by those collecting signatures for executive positions and referendum questions. For all else, up to four forms were allowed to be signed out. Each person was notified that by signing out a nomination form, they were responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to the Candidate's Handbook and the Electoral Code.

On January 22nd, I received a complaint regarding a Carleton University Facebook group against the U-Pass. There were a number of existing Facebook groups for and against the U-Pass because it was a major issue for students and for the City Council, but since this Facebook group explicitly encouraged students to vote "No" in the CUSA referendum, it was considered pre-campaigning, in which Taryn Lloyd, Eric Turcotte, Ryan Seangio, Christopher Seguin, and Chris Gillen were served with a warning and were asked to remove references to the CUSA referendum and voting from the group. The students complied and when campaigning period began, created another group in accordance with the Electoral Code.

On January 28, 2010 before the campaign period had begun, a message was sent by Shawn Menard from a group that he was an administrator of, clearly soliciting support for the 'YES' side of the U-Pass referendum question. The "yes" committee, represented by Erik Halliwell, was served with a warning.

On January 25th, I received a complaint from a student regarding a number of nominees for council positions taking pictures in a photo shoot by a professional photographer in the atrium. This occurred approximately between 12:30pm and 1:30 pm which is one of the busiest times in the atrium. I proceeded to the atrium and found Stephen Conrad, Brandon Wallingford, and Devon Wensink sitting at a table beside a set of professional photography equipment which was set up as a “photo shoot” setting. When asked about the event, Brandon Wallingford and Conrad explained that a “number of councillors” had split the cost of a professional, non-student photographer for a photo shoot for their elections posters. When questioned further, Conrad refused to say which other councillors were involved in the photo shoot. I believed that the photo shoot served as pre-campaigning as it was intentionally set up in the Atrium to attract the attention of voters. Therefore, Stephen Conrad was served with a warning.

On February 1st, 2010 I was alerted to a website ‘cusaonline.ca’ which links to a CBC Article dated November 25, 2009 entitled “Students drop Shinerama fundraiser for illness targeting Caucasians” in Nick Bergamini was named and quoted. The article was obviously posted in an effort to reach students that mistakenly type in cusaonline.ca instead of going to the cusaonline.com website. I believed that the article was supportive of his campaign and as such it is a form of campaigning. Nick appealed the ruling to the Electoral Board, and the ruling was overturned, the Board found that “the article posted on this website, although suspicious, cannot be defined as campaign material.”

The nominations were validated on February 1st and 2nd, 2010. The candidates listed were posted outside the door of the Elections Office on February 3rd, 2010.

For the faculty representatives, the successful nominees for each were:

Arts and Social Sciences: 7
Business: 7
Computer Science: 1
Engineering and Design: 10
Humanities: 1
Journalism: 1
Public Affairs: 26
Public Affairs and Policy Management: 6
Science: 3
Special Student: 3

For the Executive, the successful nominees were:

President: 2
VP Finance: 2
VP Internal: 3
VP Student Issues: 3
VP Student Life: 2
VP Student Services: 2

The Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Computer Science, Humanities, and Journalism were deemed to be acclaimed. All other nominees were unsuccessful on the following grounds:

- 1) Failure to acquire sufficient signatures for the required position
- 2) Failure to acquire relevant signatures i.e. in the councillors faculty
- 3) Councillors identifying themselves in the wrong faculty
- 4) Failure to attend the All Candidate's Meeting
- 5)

Referendum Question 2 failed to achieve the amount of signatures needed for nomination and was not added to the ballot.

There were two defined slates during the nomination period: 'A Better Deal' and 'United Carleton'. A number of independent candidates for executive positions were also successful in the nomination period.

The All Candidate's meeting was held on February 2nd, 2010. This meeting was mandatory for all candidates to attend. A proxy must be sent if a candidate is unable to attend, and the candidate is responsible for understanding all information disclosed at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify all updates in the Handbook and any questions they had. It was also stressed that all candidates are responsible for any new information posted on the CUSA website. I informed all Candidates that they may not be represented by any other individual, if they have any concerns they must speak with me directly. I also informed everyone that all candidates are responsible for all materials furthering their campaign.

At the meeting, the candidates were informed that there would be a new method for determining where the executive candidates would place their posters at each poster location. Each slate and independent running for an executive position would draw to determine where their posters would go. Yulian Ihnatyuk and Adey Almohsen did not stay for the draw so a representative from 'A Better Deal' and 'United Carleton' remained to draw for first choice.

At the meeting, I also confirmed a ruling that I had made the same day concerning twitter:

"The Chief Electoral Officer rules that the website Twitter will not be allowed as a campaigning tool due to the difficulty of monitoring and the widespread use of nick names, which makes it close to impossible to attribute a post to an individual candidate or campaigner. All campaigning materials must be approved by the CEO which is stated in the Electoral Code as follows,

"12.7 All campaign material shall be submitted first for approval of the CEO. Approval of the CEO shall be denoted by a stamp of the Office of the CEO, which shall appear on all material. The CEO shall refuse any item if, in the opinion of the CEO, the material contravenes the

CUSA Constitution, is libellous, or if the material does not clearly identify its originator(s).”

There is no constructive method of monitoring the postings to ensure that all materials abide by the rules. Therefore, the use of Twitter during the Elections process will be banned. This ruling will be strictly enforced. (Chief Electoral Officer Ruling, February 2, 2010)”

As explained in the ruling above, the use of Twitter as a campaigning tool has been prohibited. It is simply too difficult to manage as well as approve.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

The campaigning period began on February 2nd, 2010 at midnight and ended on February 9th, 2010. Before midnight on the 2nd, the poster locations were taped off by Poll Clerks. At midnight, candidates put their posters up and it occurred very smoothly. The recommendation of having a draw worked very well and should be done as such from now on.

The “yes” and “no” committee meeting dates occurred on January 8th. There were rooms booked for each committee.

On February 4th Adey Almohsen came to the Elections Office as I was leaving after 5:00pm so that he may stamp his campaign materials. I told him that I was unable to do so since it is unfair to allow him access to the stamps outside office hours. That same evening, he distributed unapproved campaign handbills.

On February 5th, 2010 I was notified and received evidence of Adey Almohsen distributing numerous unapproved and unstamped copies of his campaign hand bills throughout campus. I received many complaints by various witnesses, who had given me copies of the unapproved materials. As such Adey Almohsen received an offense for distributing campaign materials unapproved by the CEO.

Adey would often try to contact me regarding elections outside the Elections Office hours through my personal Facebook account and even my cell phone. Sometimes he would even contact my friend’s cell phone whom he was acquainted with and ask for them to pass the phone to me. While I attempted to discourage this behaviour, I answered all his questions.

On Sunday February 7th, 2010 I received a Facebook message from Adey, in which he stated that he was interested in pulling out of his candidacy and asked if he would still get compensated for his costs. The next morning I was told that he was no longer interested in running as a candidate any longer. Adey did not attend the debate that same day so his name was then removed from the ballot. He disagreed with my decision saying that he was misunderstood and appealed the decision to the Electoral Board.

The Electoral Board upheld my decision to remove Adey from the ballot, as he had

There were two debates, the first on February 5th, 2010 and the second on February 8th, 2010. All candidates were required to e-mail the Elections Office at least 24 hours before the debates to confirm attendance. All executive candidates were scheduled for the debate as well as representatives for the “yes” and “no” committees for Referendum Question 1. As CEO, I mediated the debate and disallowed any personal questions, or questions directed at a specific individual. I also disallowed each person from asking more than two questions which allowed more genuine questions to come through. I would strongly recommend that future CEO’s limit the number of questions that a student can ask, there were a number of students that attempted to ask very leading questions to each and every candidate and prevented new questions from coming forward.

Throughout the campaign period, the Elections Office had issues with Sodexo removing campaign posters. On February 2nd, 2010 while the Poll Clerks were taping off the locations they were told by a Sodexo employee that all the posters would get torn down in the morning. I was unaware that arrangements were to be made with Sodexo but they were then called, arrangements were made, and Danielle drew up a contract the next morning with Sodexo allowing for the poster locations to remain. Since then the Posters were ripped down by Sodexo twice. The first time, we e-mailed all candidates letting them know that their posters would need to be replaced, and that they would not have to include it in their budget. Danielle spoke with Ryan Flannagan notifying him of the issue. The second time it occurred, the candidates were e-mailed again and Ryan Flannagan offered to reimburse the candidates for the costs of their posters.

On February 9th, 2010 the candidates Nick Bergamini, Katie Pagnello, Emile Scheffel, Aliza Varani, Obed Okeyere, and Stephanie Brooks for ‘A Better Deal’ emailed out unapproved emails for each candidate. These emails, and their recipients, were not approved by the elections office in advance. Each candidate received an Electoral Offense. Also, candidates and/or supporters for the team ‘United Carleton’ have sent out unapproved Facebook messages and emails. These messages, and their recipients, were not approved by the elections office in advance. The candidates Alex Sirois, Khaldoon Bushnaq, Meera Chander, Chris Infantry, Sam Heaton, and Dina Skvirsky each received an Electoral Offense.

Yulian Ihnatyuk and Caleigh Campbell received offenses for having their Facebook groups still active after the end of the campaign period.

It isn’t the position of the Elections Office to scour Facebook to ensure all is well. Internet violations were dealt with through complaints and screenshot evidence.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Candidates were disqualified based for either failing to submit a budget or for the submission of an inaccurate or incomplete budget.

On February 8th, and 9th 2010, incomplete budgets were submitted to the elections office. About half of the following candidates,

Stephen Conrad	Delroy Dyer	Sheliza Esmail
Adam Fulsom	Chris Gillen	Ariella Kimmel
Daniel Kamau	John Reid	Mark Klibanov
Brian Mason	Guy Massie	Andrew Mossad
Rob Nettleton	Emmanuel Oletho	Paroma Ray
Chris Seguin	Kaitlyn Stockermans	Kaisha Thompson
Ngigi Waiganjo	Haider Abbas	Dustin Hutton
Mauricio Buschinelli	Nick Cambridge	

, submitted incomplete budgets missing a proper receipt for their photography expenses. Instead they had attached an e-mail from the same photographer which had a chart of the costs. I must add that all of the budgets submitted were exactly the same apart from the name of the candidate that it had pertained to. These candidates were e-mailed by the Elections Office on February 10th, 2010 to meet with me in the conference room 513 in which I explained why their budgets were incomplete. They were given another chance to resubmit their budgets with a proper receipt by 4:30pm that day.

It was suspected that these budgets were all completed by Brandon Wallingford and printed in the CASG office. I dropped by the office that same day and saw Wallinford typing on a laptop with a stack of the same pink receipts as the budgets in question that had already been submitted. A Poll Clerk was stationed outside the CASG office and reported to seeing many of the candidates mentioned above walking outside of the CASG office with their budgets to submit to the nearby Elections Office.

After 4:30pm on the 10th, the candidates mentioned above submitted inaccurate budgets along with a Westboro Flooring and Decor receipt stating that they had photography done by Laurence Facun, a professional photographer. I called Westboro Flooring and Decor that same day and spoke with an employee named Cindy who had told me that she has no record of such receipts and that there was no such employee named Laurence Facun. She had told me that those receipts were not legitimate. During Reading Week I called Steven Kimmel, who is the President of Westboro Flooring and Decor, he had told me that he had the candidates pay him, he then paid Laurence Facun, and had receipts drawn up.

Due to the inaccuracy of their budgets, the candidates listed above were disqualified for violating the following:

*“14.3 Immediate disqualification shall result should the candidate or his/her workers:
c. Present a fraudulent or inaccurate final report of expenditures to the CEO.”*

Alexandra Begal, Raymond Ervin, Samantha Grant, Spencer Porter, and Garima Talwar were disqualified for failing to submit a budget.

*“14.3 Immediate disqualification shall result should the candidate or his/her workers:
a. Fail to present a final report of expenditures to the CEO.”*

TABULATION

Tabulation began on February 12th, 2010 at 9:00am. All candidates including those who were disqualified e-mailed their chosen scrutineers beforehand. There were many Poll Clerks counting and the day ended around 8:00pm.

David Valentin, running for the position of Public Affairs Councillor, asked for a recount in which the results were still the same.

*“21.0 Recounts
21.1 If the difference between a candidate declared elected and a candidate declared unelected is less than 10 percent of the total number of votes cast, or is less than the number of spoiled ballots, then a recount may be held at the request of the latter candidate within two (2) business days.”*

RESULTS

For the faculty representatives, the successful candidates for each are:

Business: Ariel Norman, Cameron Lowe

Engineering and Design: Ahmed Rashid, Darnell Franco, Tashadud Naved, Andrew Post

Public Affairs: Ryan Anthony, Erik Halliwell, Hashem Hamdy, Karim Khamisa, Hillary Lutes, Cameron Mckenzie

Public Affairs and Policy Management: Alex Hunsberger

Science: Caleigh Campbell

Special Student: Gillian Kengis

The seats for the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Humanities, Journalism, and Computer Science remain open.

For the Executive, the successful candidates are:

President: Alex Sirois

VP Finance: Meera Chander
VP Internal: Khaldoon Bushnaq
VP Student Issues: Dina Skvirsky
VP Student Life: Chris Infantry
VP Student Services: Sam Heaton

VOTER TURNOUT

The 2010 CUSA Elections proved to have the highest voter turnout yet. A total of 5,038 votes were cast.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sagal Osman
Chief Electoral Officer
Carleton University Students' Association, Elections 2010"

5. Approval of Past Minutes

Amendment— note that Donnie Northrup was present
Motion to approve minutes as amended
Chander/ Sirois
Carried

6. President's Report

Alex reported that he took office yesterday morning, the new executive have accomplished/worked out a deal with administration so that orientation week will proceed with a strong partnership with the administration. They will be meeting in the morning to get everything finalized. Ryan Anthony and Heather Murley will continue coordinating Fall 2010 Orientation Week.

7. Vice Presidents' Reports

a. Vice President Finance

Meera said that she looks forward to working with everyone for another year.

b. Vice President Internal Affairs

Khaldoon said that he looks forward to working with everyone here, needs to strike standing committees further on; let's have a great year.

c. Vice President Student Issues

Dina said that she moved in yesterday, exciting surprises. If you have anything to contribute feel free to stop by the office, she looks forward to working with everyone.

d. Vice President Student Services

Sam said that he hopes for a great year.

e. Vice President Student Life

Chris said that he is happy about the success with frosh week and looks forward to working with the OCs and the administration to plan a great week.

8. RRRR Report

George Parry, Vice President Programming, introduced himself to council and said they have moved in to office on Saturday and it hasn't been cleaned very thoroughly. He looks forward to working with CUSA.

9. GSA Report

Austin Miller represented the GSA and said they are transitioning new exec, recently submitted a petition regarding OHIP, and are organizing their welcome week.

10. CASG

No report

11. Senate Report

No report

12. BOG Report

Erik Halliwell presented that there was an approval of the operating budget for the next fiscal year; the next BOG meeting is approval of all of the ancillary fees. There was an increase in tuition fees of 5%: the Federal Government has extended the "Reaching Higher" framework for the next 2 years, making it possible to raise fees this year.

13. Constituency Report

Chair explains --Reports from respective faculties and associations brought to council; some use the report to plug about certain events.
No reports

14. Committee reports

No reports

15. Items for Information

No items for information

16. Question Period

No questions

17. Other Business

a. Motion to adopt the comity rules

Carried

b. Motion to strike summer standing committees

Carried

c. Motion to strike summer Ad-Hoc committees

Question Period:

Justin Campbell—What is sustainability committee.

Bushnaq— We have a lot of sustainability issues on campus and it addresses these.

Justin Campbell—What is an Ad-Hoc committee?

Chair responds it is only here when needed, standing committees are here always.

Motion Carried

d. Motion to strike and fill AFCOM

Appropriate Vice President

Nominated:

Sam Heaton

Sam is appointed

Student with a disability (4)

Nominated:

Erik Halliwell

Ray Ervin

Erik and Ray are appointed. The two remaining seats will remain vacant.

Constituency Representatives (2)

Nominated:

Gillian Kengis

Ryan Anthony

Gillian and Ryan are appointed

Students-at-large (2)

Nominated:

George Parry

George is appointed. The other seat will remain vacant.

Motion to approve filling the committee with these members

Halliwell/Chander

Carried

e. Motion to strike and fill the Conference & Discretionary Fund Committee

Constituency Representatives (3)

Nominated:

Karim Khamisa

Ariel Norman

Gillian Kengis

Karim, Ariel and Gillian are appointed

Students-at-large (3)

Sagal Osman

Ammar Abbas

Ray Ervin

Sagal, Ammar and Ray are appointed

Motion to approve the above appointments and the Vice President Internal and Vice President Finance to the committee

Carried

f. Motion to strike and fill the Executive Compensation Committee

Sirois motivates: this committee meets every 2 years to discuss the executive compensation; it does not last past September.

Constituency Representatives (3)

Nominated:

Erik Halliwell

Ryan Anthony

Caleigh Campbell

Erik, Ryan and Caleigh are appointed

Students-at-large (3)

Nominated:

Donnie Northrup

Cheyenne Fleet

Mike Wiseman

Donnie, Cheyenne and Mike are appointed

Member of the Association (1)

Nominated:

Fatima Hassan

Fatima is appointed

Motion to approve the above appointments to fill the Executive Compensation Review Committee
Carried

g. Emergency Motion to Support Freedom of Speech and Association on Campus

Heaton/Skvirsky

Motivation by Heaton: The issue came to our attention over the last couple of weeks. According to the workers, many of whom are attempting to join a union, they are experiencing various measures of intimidation including letters from employees that threaten their employment. Also, spreading malicious information ex. claiming that international students will be deported if they join a union. This is not a motion saying that they should be joining a union, it is to support the freedom of the Aramark employees to choose to join a union or not.

Question Period:

Hamdy thinks the motion sounds like it is supporting them joining a union.

Heaton says that it is actually a freedom of speech issue because workers cannot engage in discourse with their employees to talk about forming a union.

Miller says all persons are allowed the right of freedom of association, people should be free to talk to whoever they want after hours and away from the workplace; therefore, Aramark is infringing on freedom of speech.

Hamdy says that the substance of the motion is not freedom of association but is about freedom of unionization, in his eyes that is the real spirit of the motion; therefore, it could have been more obtuse about the true spirit of the motion. It is an issue with wording not with spirit. It can be clearer in that respect.

Carried

18. Adjournment

Franco/Anthony

Carried

[Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm]