

6th Meeting of CUSA Council 2009/2010
Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Attendance:

Erik Halliwell
Jessica Vasquez
Meera Chander
Cameron McKenzie
Nick Bergamini
Alex Sirois
Adam Dewar
Karim Khamisa: Proxy Alfredo Garcia
Graeme Owens
Hashem Hamdy
Natalie Pinto: Proxy Dina Skvirsky
Ryan Anthony
Fatima Hassan
Christina Anderson
James Witherspoon
Komaljit Minhas
Donnie Northrup
Graham Perrin: Proxy Nick Sutherland
Heather Murley
Allison Elwell
Caleigh Campbell
Chris Gillen
Brian Mattock
Mahdi Yusuf
Omar Shammas: Proxy Mohamed Misellati
Kyle Purdy
Brian Mason
James Craig
Terrah Smith
Nicholas Osborne
Austin Miller
Garima Talwar

President
Vice President Student Services
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
Public Affairs Rep
Public Affairs Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
FASS Rep
Journalism Rep
Science Rep
Science Rep
Engineering and Design Rep
Engineering and Design Rep
Engineering and Design Rep
Business Rep
Business Rep
BPAPM Rep
Humanities Rep
Computer Science Rep
GSA Rep
RRRA Rep

[Chair called meeting to order at 6:17]

1. Announcements and Correspondence

2. Approval of the Agenda

McKenzie/Hamdy
Carried unanimously

3. Approval of Past Minutes

Hamdy/Chander
Carried

4. President's Report

Erik said that it had come to his attention that there are concerns from different parts of the University regarding proctoring for upcoming exams. TAs who would not normally be proctoring, and administrative staff who do not, and some faculty, have been asked to proctor instead of proctors being hired, or they plan to phase out proctoring. He said a position is being changed in the university which would have pretty big effects for students heading into the exam time. Erik said they had looked into it and opposed these changes, as it is important to have well-trained proctors who know what they are doing, and are paid what they are supposed to.

Erik said there is an update on universal bus passes, saying that the city is having a change of heart about what they charged for their U-Pass, and are considering \$145. Erik said they are going into negotiation to lower the price and that it is good news for those who advocate this issue, and he said he would update council as it comes up. Erik said that there is a transit advisory meeting on Nov 6 and encouraged students to come out.

Erik said Drop Fees is going quite well, and there was a successful fax-off to the minister and MPP for our area. He added that CUSA screened V for Vendetta, which was good as a lot of students had questions after. Erik said that on Thursday there would be a zombie march, meeting in the Atrium at 10 AM, and he said that they intend to have a fun Halloween theme flyering, and going down to the human rights monument to make a statement that education should not cost an arm and a leg. Erik said, last but not least, in a couple of days there will be the Nov 5th day of action, meeting at 10:30 AM in the Atrium, and he would love to have everyone come out. Erik said that busses will be set up for students to go straight to Ottawa U to converge with other students, and he encouraged people to bring friends.

5. Vice Presidents' Reports

a. Vice President Financial

Meera said she hoped everyone had a good weekend, and said the final touches have come upon the Unicentre Store, and they have received positive feedback. She said the Post Office is now renovated and up-to-date for Canada Post standards. She said people have submitted names for the store, which will be discussed, and a logo will be chosen. Meera said Oliver's is going well, and Thursday is the busiest night. She added that they have switched to bottles from cans to save money. Meera said that there will be a book delivery service offered at Haven Books for students with disabilities in the near future. Meera said Roosters continues to be busy. Meera added that all funding allocations have been

made in the FACCS board, and that 155 clubs were certified and given \$30,000 dollars.

Meera said that if anyone knows someone involved in clubs not happy with funding allocations, they can see her. She added that cheques are now in the clubs and societies office, and she thanked everyone who sat on the FACCS board.

b. Vice President Internal Affairs

Cameron said that Clubs and Societies funding went well, and that it was a long few days. Cameron said that if people want to book projectors now, there are two, and available in the office. Cameron said Drop Fees is going well, with campaigning in the Galleria and Residence Commons. Cameron said that another campaign he is passionate about is the blood donor campaign, as gay men cannot give blood or organs, so it is the time to act and campaign. Cameron encouraged students to get involved. Cameron said he has been checking the attendance, and people must attend to stay on council. Cam said that some work study positions have been filled, but not too many. Cameron added that if someone needs to book the galleria to speak to him, and there are some issues of noise and safety.

c. Vice President for Student Issues

Nick said that Cameron gave a deadline to give reports for Friday, and he said there was exciting news about the universal pass which came out after the report. He said it's an exciting opportunity, at a full 53 dollars less than last year's offer, and Nick said it might be to do with the We Ride campaign. Nick says we really have the opportunity to do it this year and hopes people can come behind it. Nick said that a councillor will be brought in to educate students about the universal bus pass so they know what they are voting on in a referendum. Nick said that drop fees Halloween event will be fun, and that people should not take themselves too seriously.

Nick said he hopes a lot of student representation will be at Remembrance day, with Pres. Runte, veterans, and Erik laying a wreath. Nick said that it is exciting to work with Alex, James and the Red Zone people, and the junior Swedish men's team is coming. Nick said the UO legal clinic will hold a seminar he is hosting on worker's rights, free to attend, and he hopes people will come out.

d. Vice President of Student Services

Jessica said that the Aboriginal Service Centre will be hosting a screening of "13 Aboriginal Grandmothers" in the Kailash Matal theatre at 6 PM. At BECAMPS, she said, there was the Sanders farm trip, a sold out event. Jessica noted that CDAC will be holding their Wheelchair Challenge on Nov 23-27, and said if people want to register to contact the CDAC coordinators. Jessica said a sign language workshop will be held on the 30th, and to go to the centre.

Jess said that Foot Patrol will take 50 students to the Senators and Leafs game, and e-mailing members first, and will be selling tickets in the Atrium worth \$60.

She said that Mike Wiseman, the admin coordinator at the GLBTQ Centre brought forth a petition called Bill C386, and the bill is important because it does not identify in the House of Commons and does not protect people from gender identity. The petition is to move that bill to priority, as right now it is being pushed to the bottom in the House of Commons.

Jessica added that International Education Week will be happening in partnership with the ISSO and ISC. There will be cultural performances in the atrium, a fashion show, and a soccer tournament afterwards. She added that there is free yoga every Friday at the Womyn's Centre, but is done in BECAMPS. She said to please come out if you like. Jessica said she did some hiring this month, and is pleased to announce that Virginia Alexander is the new BECAMPS coordinator, Yamikani Msosa is now our REC Hall coordinator, and Dina Skvirsky is our new CDAC coordinator. She said hopefully after the last two postings she would be done hiring.

e. Vice President of Student Life

Alex said that, like Meera said, we have switched to bottles from cans to save Oliver's cost. He said we were looking into changing liquor supply to cut cost. Thurs, Oct 29 is the Halloween Super Pub, and there will be a best costume giveaway.

Alex talked about a Super-bowl party, beach party, and frosh DVD release. He said there are sweatpants in CUSA for \$15 per pair, Red Zone has been tabling in the Atrium, and that Roosters and Olivers are still available for clubs and societies to use. He said Roosters is available after regular hours. Alex said he has been working with Clubs & Societies to host events at this location, and encourages any club to contact him for information. He added that 21 days are required to book an event, and that if one submits a risk assessment form they do not necessarily get that date.

6. RRRR Report

Garima said a lot of exciting things are happening, that RRRR sex week was a huge success in residence, and students gave Sue Johanson a standing ovation. The Mystery Bus Tour is on November 13th, to party in Montreal for one night clubbing. She said the Bike Share program was going well, and is good to see that students are still biking. She said that there was a new initiative, the gaming initiative, E-Lan Games, a computer network gaming room. She said RRRR is looking forward to Drop Fees, and she is making sure that we get as many residence students out, as most will be here for the next four years.

7. GSA Report

Austin said that GSA is working on Drop Fees with everyone, and that today they were doing testimonials for the government and encouraged people to stop by and participate in that. He said they participated in a government lobby week, to lobby on the national education act. Then they will deliver the Drop Fees petition, and

participate in a provincial lobby week on the right to education .He said the GSA is working with ACORN on a living wage campaign, with public consultations on Nov 3rd . He said they are participating with some councillors opposing Landsdowne Live, with discussions at City Hall on Nov 12. He said they are participating in the Tuition Fees will Haunt You action, with a pub night Friday night, and a pumpkin carving and costume contest from 2 – 8 before the party. Austin also said that tonight is karaoke night.

8. CASG Report

Brandon Wallingford said they are working on getting access to course syllabi, and grade distributions. He added that CASG is working on a new website, as the admin website has been giving them trouble.

9. Senate Report

Cameron said the senate met a couple of weeks ago, without much to report

10. Board of Governors Report

Cameron said the Board of Governors met yesterday, and a retreat was on Saturday. He said the Master Planning Committee is working on the next 50 years of Carleton, and he will take part in some of those meetings.

11. Constituency Report

Hashem Hamdy said that he talked to Cameron and that he will discuss a charity on campus. Hashem said that Movember is a portmanteau of moustache and November, a fundraising initiative and awareness campaign for men's health issues, when men stay clean shaven until Nov 1st then grow a moustache, according to the official rules

12. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Constitution and Policy Committee

Erik said they just met and he was elected chair of the committee, and there was one motion to be tabled. He said the following C&P meeting will be a motion for discussion.

ii. Equity Committee

Jessica said it met and two students showed up.

iii. Financial Review Committee

Meera said they haven't met, but is at Nov 10th at 3 in 513 Unicentre.

iv. Student Issues Action Committee:

Nick said they talked about Remembrance Day, and the upcoming White Ribbon campaign, and Drop Fees.

v. Spirit Committee

Alex said the committee did meet, and will meet again, and he was elected chair.

b. Ad-Hoc Committees

i. Sustainability Committee

No report.

c. Other Committees

i. Accessibility Fund Committee

Jessica said they met on Oct 8, and like Meera said, there will be a delivery service for students who cannot physically get into Haven books, and will be active in January 2010.

ii. Conference and Discretionary Fund Committee

Cam said they are meeting Nov 2, 5:30 in CUSA Office.

13. Items for Information

Chair said he is in possession of a motion for next meeting:

Motion to request the CFS-O acknowledge receipt of petition

Presentation Summary:

Whereas a group of students has submitted a petition to the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario calling for a referendum

Whereas the number of signatures on that petition is greater than the required amount to hold a referendum on continued membership with the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

Whereas there is a sword affidavit from a process server stating that the petition was delivered on September 29

Whereas an electronic copy of the petition was sent to chair@cfsontario.ca and federation@cfsontario.ca, both valid e-mails used regularly by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario chairperson Shelley Melanson has repeatedly denied that the petitions were ever delivered

Information Transfer:

Be it resolved that the Carleton University Students' Association executives request that the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario acknowledge receipt of the petition

Be it further resolved that the Carleton University Students' Association executives are mandated to ensure that the petition is acknowledged and a referendum is held in accordance with the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario bylaws

MOVED BY: Nicholas Osborne

SECONDED BY: Adam Dewar

14. Question Period

James Craig had two questions: one for Alex, he asked if there's going to be a budget for the CUSA holiday party that council could see.

Alex said no money will be spent, just a bar night at Oliver's.

James' next question: He asked whoever sent faxes for drop fees, he said it was hilarious, and knows how frustrating a little bit of faxing can be. He suggested that next time to do something more electronic, because, he said, there is a limited amount of space in government e-mail accounts, and people have to continually delete e-mails.

Nicholas asked the executive what their plans were in response to CFS-O's allegation that they have not received the petition.

Erik said he would speak to the chair of CFSO to inquire.

Natalie asked the president, in the motion for the proctoring policy, about a mistake, asking how TAs are responding in CUPE 4600.

Erik said Lynne is here from CUPE 4600 to speak about the issue.

Dean Tester asked Erik whether there can be a committee on the initiative he has been working on, proposing CFS reform.. He asked if there was a way to form an ad-hoc committee to come up with reforms to agree on before the AGM in November.

Erik responded that the ad-hoc committees had already been struck for the year and an official committee would have had to have been added to the list of those committees struck in September.

Brian Mason had a question on Landsdowne Live. He wondered if there was any progress on a Carleton football team, if we will get one and if it attached to the Landsdowne Live project.

Erik said he had one phone call saying this might happen, but they never followed up, so he has no idea. Erik said he thinks it is a financial issue with a donor to the football team.

15. Other Business

a. Motion to Support Remembrance Day

Bergamini/Elwell

Nick said that we've talked about this a lot, and said there was a desire from students at the last council. He said it was symbolic, to show support for Remembrance Day, and that CUSA should get behind. He said he would like to get more normal students to come out and support veterans. Nick said that the Red Fridays campaign was controversial at Ottawa U, but this is not political and about supporting veterans and Remembrance Day.

Delroy Dyer said in support, that in 1917 Canadian troops on in Paschendale had a mission that everyone said could not be done, but Canadian troops showed the world that we could do what no one else can. He said Lester Pearson said in 1953 to put troops in and fight for world peace. He said the point is that Canadian veterans have done so much for the freedoms and everything we enjoy that Remembrance Day is very important, and we all have to show our respect whether or not we agree with war or soldiers.

Motion carried

b. Motion to Oppose Changes to the Proctoring Policy

Halliwell/McKenzie

Erik waived motivation to Lynn

Lynn said that in late August the administration started informing departments that they were planning to eliminate the proctoring budget, partially this year and completely next year. She said there is usually one proctor per row in a Fieldhouse, or per room, but are proposing offloading responsibilities to the individual departments. She said one way they want to do that is by hiring TAs, but that there are numerous problems to affect all groups on campus. She said CUASA opposed this to the administration. She said that CUPE 4600 is very concerned because one of the major proposals is to have TAs do proctoring, which has conflict of interest issues, as many TAs are undergraduate students, proctoring other undergraduate programs. She said that TAs may know the people they are proctoring, and that proctors now can only direct one to the instructor and are completely ignorant of course material. She said that if this goes ahead, what has been a very seamless process, the examination process, is going to be very hectic if they try taking something which has been organized by an overseeing body and suddenly getting every unit to do it separately.

Erik moved to strike “CUPE 4600” from whereas, met no opposition, and it was stricken.

Austin said in favour, that while it is not a breach of the 4600 agreement, it complicates things as TAs are already overworked and underpaid. Austin said the admin is talking about getting program administrators to proctor, and said it is not a good idea to have program administrators, sometimes only one existing per department, proctoring, and they should be doing their jobs. He said professors have already come out against this.

Michael Monks said, the way the motion was framed, he feels that the suggestion is that departments find proctors and might ask TAs. He asked if TAs would be forced to do this or have the opportunity to refuse, and whether they would be compensated extra.

Lynn said that departments are dealing with this individual, and the math department has already said they will not give TAs proctoring duties. Other departments, she said, are writing it in to the TAs fixed duties. She said they can assign 4 or 5 of their 130 hours to proctor, and then beyond what TAs can provide she said departments are responsible, and may have to go hire themselves to cover the deficit. She said that office administrators may be asked, and it will cause uproar.

Nicholas said, against the motion, that he does not feel that the administration is CUASA business nor students’ business. He said we have to ask how it affects students. Nick said that when he heard, he was curious, and did research, as he felt the motion did not give enough information. Nicholas said he met Duncan Watt this morning, and will convey some information. He said Carleton is the only university on Ontario which has absolute proctoring, and most use a tiered system as Carleton is proposing, and Queen’s does not have any full time proctoring. Nicholas said that Duncan Watt said that of the saved money, \$100,000 will go towards student staff at the library, and other \$125,000 will go to additional library material. He said professors have it easy as it is, and can proctor their own exams.

Natalie asked if any other departments have spoken against this.

Lynn said she is a member of the math department, and is more knowledgeable about this department. She said that the union representing all faculty has spoken out.

Adam Dewar said that he would have rather seen a motion for expressing concern over this, as it raises some valid concerns, particularly in the larger testing areas. He said he has a vision of mayhem in the Raven’s Nest, but he said he does not see it being a problem in smaller venues such as Southam Hall.

Erik said that he wanted to begin by saying that he would argue that although other institutions have their own policies, he said he is certain that many of those other institutions fund proctoring regardless of how they set it up. He said he's not sure if Queens is entirely relevant. He said a major concern is that the departmental budgets that exist now are strained, and will be further strained by such changes. Erik said that this professor told him that the budgets are quite strained, and it is a major concern. Erik said this is why it's important to support, in the very least, a change in policy mid-stream.

Austin said that, once again, he is speaking in favour, and he would respectfully disagree with his colleague and that what's happening to professors does affect students. Austin said that when the teacher's union opposes it we should pay attention. He said we should not just vote on their behalf, but if they have a problem we should wonder why. Austin said that as far as student jobs go, proctoring jobs are open to them as well. Austin said essentially this is about Duncan Watt slashing budgets, as he has done on numerous occasions, and slashing budgets to departments. He said they are really strained, and as far as other schools doing it, lots of people do lots of things which we do not agree with, and that should not affect our vote.

Lynn said the suggestion that because it's done this way at other universities is one of the primary ways that the administration is justifying the change, they surveyed other universities, and saw that since they are not hiring it at other universities we do not need to here. She said the problem is that they are doing it suddenly, and not giving the departments time to adjust. She said that the department budgets are already in, and they are only giving three months time before exams for departments to reorganize exams. She said that talking to the self-proctoring issue, it is the policy for any class under 50 students to not use proctors as it.

Call to Question
Hamdy/Northrup
Carried

Point of Information from James Craig: He asked if abstentions should have been noted.

Chair said yes, Craig, Dewar, Mattock, Vasquez abstained.

16. Adjournment

Bergamini/Vasquez

[Meeting adjourned at 7:23]

As adopted by council on Thursday, November 19, 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.