

UWSA Council Meeting
Thursday January 22, 2009
4:00pm
Council Chambers

Elected Members Present: Tiffany Gooch, Tosin Bello, Mohsin Khan, Stephanie Wilson, Tanuj Virani, Ryan Osterberg, Tamara Popovic, Zachary Austin, Jill Ciccone, Patrick Lalonde, Ayesha Raza, Viva Dadwal, Sushank Saha, Omar Raza, Pavarti Dadwal, Jonathan Wypych, Camesha Cox, Joshua Pfaff, Taamjeed Rahmaan, Michelle Palmer, Nadia Bynoe, Reshma Kishnani, Nneka Egejuna. Braydon Beaulieu

Proxies: Aaron Campbell for Sabrina Spidilieri.

Officials: Vanessa Voakes, Chair.

Guests: Steve Young (Captain Rugby Varsity Team, University of Windsor)
Howie Bender
Trevor Mayo
Tammy McQueen
Lane McGarragle (OUSA Campus Coordinator)

1.0 Call to order - 4:07pm

2.0 Approval of Agenda

MOVED: Dadwal

SECONDED: Virani

Gooch: I would like to add athletics budget update to the agenda as information.

Popovic: I'd like to add student senate caucus report.

Voakes: I will add that under discussion.

Palmer: I wanted to add an invite to afro-fest 2009.

Voakes: Okay we will put it after athletics.

Gooch: I would like to strike 5.0

Cox: I want to add "I got 5 on it."

Lalonde: I would like to add an IPC item under discussion.

Vote: (24/0/0)

MOTION PASSES

3.0 Approval of Minutes (January 8, 2009)

MOVED: Wilson

SECONDED: Osterberg

Changes include:

Pfaff: I was present - Joshua Pfaff.

Raza: Please state in the minutes which Raza it is.

Vote: (24/0/0)

MOTION PASSES

New Business

4.0 Athletics Budget Update

Gooch: We have the rugby team here as they are here to show support on the budget. They have asked everyone to cut 4% of the budget somewhere in each dept. this is \$60G in athletics. I have asked where student support will be maintained without affecting student services that exist. Varsity sports, facilities, and recreation services (which would include intramural sports). They are not affecting campus recreation at all and in fact they are hoping to bring more revenue into this area. In facilities they are looking at possibly cutting Sundays, considering closing the pool or reducing summer hours. As far as varsity sports goes, they are looking at cutting in two ways. The first would be to skim off the top of all the different teams that are part of varsity sports (15 teams) and ask them all to find 4% in each of their budgets or alternatively cut teams all together. That would mean curling, fast pitch, rugby and golf would be cut as existing teams. In the discussion we've had, they have a ranking system that they claim ranks the teams on a variety of different facets based on revenue it brings in, how many students it services, etc. I have begun discussion with the athletes themselves to find out what they feel about all of this. A lot of the teams see that it's important to find savings in other areas. It is important to see that it is 4% this year but it's also 4% next year. Hockey for instance costs a lot more to run so why are they cutting more teams to save the total 4%. We decided to put together a petition amongst the student athletes. They have gotten approximately 100 students over the past two days. The petition indicates that students are willing to work with their given coaches to find cost savings in each department. They are looking for student support in these initiatives. We are hoping it's not just signatures that this petition is getting but also that students are becoming aware of the current situation. The coaches have not been informed right now because it's been indicated that they don't want coaches burdened with budget elements but to focus on winning, however, we are urging the administration to talk with the stakeholders including the athletes. The rugby team is here, so if this council wanted to take any action it would be to support the petition that is being passed around with a formal motion.

Spidiliari (Campbell): What does the petition say?

Gooch: It reads: For the sake of the preservation of our athletic family; we the undersigned student athletes at the University of Windsor agree to assist our coaches in finding savings within

our athletic department (including but not limited to sacrificing our travel food allowance) in the hopes of sustaining all athletic programs through the 2008/2009 round of budget cuts.

Popovic: Can I recommend putting this issue into a policy to give athletes information about this petition?

Osterberg: Can we have that update from athletics and have athletics present to us?

Be it resolved that the UWSA Student council support the petition as presented by the University of Windsor Rugby Team.

MOVED: Osterberg

SECONDED: Wilson

Vote: (23/0/1)

MOTION PASSES

Raza: I applaud you for circulating within athletics and getting the grassroots opinion. This is a unique situation for the university and we will be faced with tough decisions in the upcoming years. Traditionally we have been reactive with what's going on. For athletics, which is very unique, let's work and focus on corporate sponsors. I realize this is generally diverted to alumni affairs but this is a unique situation. I think it's a debate in its self if we want private/public partnerships but it is an option. It might be beneficial to strike an ad hoc committee to create a framework where we can focus on corporate sponsors.

Palmer: Were you looking to strike an ad hoc committee, who would then hire someone to do that job?

Gooch: Yes and we can definitely encourage them to use corporate sponsors more. They have someone who takes care of that and they have continued to increase their sponsorship.

Steve Young: I am the captain of the University of Windsor rugby team. This same thing happened two years ago. We came to student council, they listened to us and last time they just wanted to cut rugby now four teams. With the cuts we've all talked about corporate sponsors. All we're asking if we want to play in a varsity team with the University of Windsor. Anything you can do would be helpful all we want is for our program to stay. We're willing to take cuts, we're willing to fundraise, and we just want to play. The track team coach was the only coach that did not sign the petition. We have support from the athletes. If we want to circulate this to students who are not athletes too, we are willing to do that. We wouldn't even have any idea about this; neither would the coaches if it weren't for Tiffany and Tosin. Gord Grace only notified our coach today after a period of time of trying to inquire.

Raza: I'd like to echo my comment one more time. We will see with the rugby team coming out that they want to play. We need to support them more obviously. If it's our administrative services such as photocopying, then let's do that. On top of that let's do more proactive work too. There will be 4% cuts across the board not just athletics so let's start being proactive. We

need to monitor where these cuts so we can keep the public pressure on top of the admin so they are up front to us and not doing things under the radar. If it's simply a message board on our website, then perhaps that in itself will start a momentum so ensure that the right things are not cut.

Osterberg: Public opinion is a huge factor. I'd ask tiffany if you can look at press releases and anything we can do as an organization to ensure that public awareness is important.

Cox: I think separate petition for students at large so you can see the support you have even outside of those that are athletes. Right now in this room you'd have 25+ signatures supporting you.

Popovic: Is it possible to facilitate a forum of some sort for all athletics teams, possibly in CAW so teams can show solidarity to help educate students on what the issues are?

Gooch: We have had an informal discussion for anyone who wanted to talk about it and we can reconvene the group to see what they want to do.

Osterberg: Can we get athletics in for our next council meeting.

Gooch: I will get them at their earliest convenience.

5.0 Afro-Fest

Palmer: I wanted to personally invite the council to this year's afro-fest celebration. Feb 2-Feb 7 and we're having a bunch of programming going on right here on campus. There is only one event outside of CAW which is Jackman Drama Building. Afro-fest is a committee that puts together programming for a weeklong festival for black history where you can learn about black contributions to the world, guest speakers, a two day art exhibit, etc.

6.0 Teaching Awards

Khan: Please fill out the teaching award nominations that have been distributed to you because I haven't gotten any yet. Last year the council was displeased with the result of the teaching awards and I want to ensure that doesn't happen again.

7.0 Campus Up Presentation

Gooch: I wanted to let you know about a fantastic website that has been created by a computer science student. It is a great way to sell things, buy things, interact with other students, etc. It is campusup.com. Students trust students first so that is the purpose of this creation. There is a portion of the site that can be used for upcoming events, anyone can post and the administrator monitors it. There are pictures of campus events.

Cox: I see a lot of potential for corporate sponsors to want to advertise here. Is the UWSA interested in partnering with the person that created this website? We need to be partnering to ensure we get the benefits too.

Gooch: Yes we are securing a partnership.

8.0 OUSA Home Office Presentation

Presentation made regarding OUSA, its home office, its values, the value to both OUSA and the UWSA. Presentation made by Howie Bender, Trevor Mayo, and Tammy McQueen who work for OUSA Home Office in different capacities. For full presentation, please request a copy of the power point presented from VP University Affairs, Mohsin Khan.

Cox: In regard to the fee that students are charged, who decides that amount? And who decides when it's increased or decreased?

Bender: There has been a vote brought to general assembly to approve a CPI increase which would be the time that your representative would voice any concerns. This year that will be held at McMaster where all the membership will come together.

Saha: What would be some organizations OUSA wants to distance themselves from for example?

Mohsin Khan Exists – 5:05pm

Bender: The messages we're giving to other student organizations are very similar. On the university side, you will hear the word flexibility often. It is usually used as a synonym for the ability to raise tuition. We've seen that word coming up on the university side. In the next year you might be hearing it at the campus level. We certainly are hearing it at the provincial level.

Osterberg: Are other provinces doing anything similar to an interest free period?

Bender: A repayment enhancement program is occurring instead of the extended grace period in other provinces. It's very different from province to province.

Osterberg: So you tend to work with other provincial bodies when federal issues arise?

Saha: Has the organization focused on what the ramifications of your initiatives will have on the provincial economy?

Bender: Yes we certainly do consider these consequences. OUSA focuses on the opportunity and positive benefit of investments in terms of why it is needed. For example, there are also some programs that do a lot of outreach and try to help at-risk youth access education. They have already been quite successful at their goals there. So in short, yes we are certainly making sure we're benefiting society as a whole through all of our initiatives.

Saha: Why are other organizations and campuses not involved in OUSA?

Bender: We tend not to involve in active recruiting so in order to know we'd have to do that.

Palmer: Extending the grace period and trying to eliminate interest and the period is six months, do you know how realistic achieving these goals are?

Bender: It's about what we can do in principle verses what we can actually achieve. Two years ago, the liberal government committed to this in their platform. I encourage you all to contact local liberal leaders about this platform. It's hard to say how probable it is.

Mayo: All the people we talk to have been very receptive to this initiative. Now the next challenge is getting traction. It's about how we're able to work that into the current economic crisis but we're still optimistic and hopefully we can make it through.

McQueen: If you want something on your campus to happen, go to Mohsin and we can help make it happen.

Spidilari (Campbell): As you know the UWSA belong to OUSA and CFS. They have common goals but they do not have common ways of achieving those goals. It might be a good idea to pool what you both have on some campaigns, have you ever done that? Do you plan to?

Mayo: Howie met with the chair of CFS recently. We have held events together, but what OUSA does is selected by its members. You are our members. I am a representative of the steering committee and we follow what we're told the members what.

Bender: We agree on a lot more than what we disagree on, but if our membership wants us to move in any direction, we will. For the last provincial election, we tried to bring everyone together to sign off on a platform request aimed at key issues that we all agree on but unfortunately, we were not able to bring that together.

Pavarti Dadwal and Zachary Austin Exists– 5:26pm.

Bender: There is a lot of potential for future attempts to work together. However, we can't forget that our agenda is not set by home office, or by one individual but by the membership and we will happily follow that road, wherever it takes us.

Bello: Have you considered trying to lobby to reduce the cap to a lower percentage than 4%, which it's currently set at. If the cap itself was lowered, we'd have a lot less increases to our tuition as a whole.

Bender: The current framework allows for professional increases, such as law for example can have an increase of 8% in year one, whereas arts and sciences can increase at 4% and the institutional average cannot exceed 5% total.

Gooch: I am happy to see the interest in everyone around this table. I think I will speak on behalf of Mohsin to say that we would really look forward to have any of you come to McMaster with us to help influence the decision of their direction for the upcoming year. It's great to maintain that interest so keep it up. We want to bring a real delegation and our voice to McMaster.

McQueen: March 12, 14, 15, 2009 are the actual dates of the OUSA General Assembly at McMaster. It's a policy and advocacy heavy weekend but also a chance to mingle and get to know those individuals at other schools.

9.0 OUSA Campus Coordinator

Lane McGarragle: We are running some initiatives around campus. The Blue Chair campaign is coming in March. All proceeds from that will go toward early outreach here in Windsor. These programs target students that are not typically represented in post-secondary education which starts as low as grade 6. They try to fight the mentality that post-secondary education is intimidating, etc.

Raza: Perhaps we can start an online petition to support the OUSA lobbying efforts as a united front from Windsor.

McGarragle: Yes that's a great idea.

10.0 "I Got 5 on It"

Cox: There are significant challenges facing education right now, and certainly there is a need to make education more accessible and affordable for students. That is what "I Got 5 on It" does. Specifically this is for those students of the African Diaspora. I want to talk to you about the Dunking Deans portion of the campaign. We have six deans on board. This part of the campaign is to get deans on board representing their faculties as dunking candidates. Approaching some of the deans that are not on board yet is very important and would be very helpful. I think it is your duty to send an email to your dean to encourage them to be involved. If you are part of another faculty that has a dean that is already on board then please thank them. TD bank is a sponsor for this event. The campaign event is March 2-13, 2009 and the official dunking date is March 17, 2009. We have gotten some great news from President Wildman who is also on board. I asked him to be on board as an honorary dean. He is offering students who are donating to this campaign a chance to win a chance to have dinner with the president at his house. All the volunteers in the campaign, he will also throw a wrap up party for them. I'd like you to become ambassadors of this campaign. Getting the word out about dunking deans and also participating as a dean rep to sell tickets is very important. Some of you are participating in this year's UWSA election. Our event is taking place around the same time so please see this as an opportunity for those of you who are running. Get your name out there. This is a chance for

you to talk about something besides yourselves when you are trying to get your name out there. The website is www.uwindsor.ca/igot5onit

Executive Reports

Tiffany Gooch – UWSA President

Popovic: What is the HERO project?

Gooch: It is a residence based project that sends students to help different places such as New Orleans, etc.

Mohsin Khan – UWSA Vice President University Affairs

Shae Kavanaugh – UWSA Vice President Administration

Tosin Bello – UWSA Vice President Finance and Operations

Discussion

Lalonde: Senate caucus is getting rolling again. We are experiencing some problems due to lack of enrollment. We are working on environmentalism as a focus and we are reviewing student medical assessment and withdrawal policy. That was presented to council in November. Notice has been given to the UWSA members of the by-law process beginning before I was here. Please look for a working document to be posted on our website as well as a PSA to CJAM and the Lance and additionally posters have been hung. You can contact Shae, myself or any other IPC member for input.

Motion to Adjourn