

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Special General Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, January 26th, 2005

Present: Everisto Mupanguri (Chair), Sharla Daviduik (USSU Research & Policy Coordinator), Angela Erickson (USSU Confidential Secretary), Ian Potter (USSU Communications Coordinator), Amy Yeager (USSU Resource Services Manager)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order.

2. Call for Quorum

Quorum was present.

3. Adoption of an Agenda

Chair Mupanguri noted that there is an error on the Agenda in that several proposed amendments are being made by Brett Knox not Brent.

Move to amend the agenda so that 4.3, 4.5, 4.9 and 4.11 are at the front of the agenda.

SGM MOTION01: Ashley Forbes/Beverly Wudel Carried.

4. Proposed Constitutional Amendments

4.3 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 – (Proposed Amendment #3, by USSU Executive)

Move to amend the Constitution so that under Article 7, Part 1 – Composition there be an addition of a fifth Executive member... “The Vice-President (External Affairs), responsible for all government issues (federal, provincial, and municipal) pertinent to the Members.”

SGM MOTION02: Gardiner/Stranden Carried.

President Gardiner noted that the proposed amendment is big as it is the creation of another Executive position. The reason for this the proposed amendment is because the USSU is a lobbying organization and it should be one of the main focuses of the organization. The position would be committed to solely to lobbying both provincially and federally. This will ensure that students' voices are heard.

Jack Mason asked what the financial implication of the position is and how it would affect next year's budget.

VP MacDonald noted that it is well within the USSU budget and saves money in other ways.

Evan Cole noted that it was in 1999 the VP (External Affairs) position was abolished at the Annual General Meeting.

President Gardiner noted that other than the past 4 years this has been an Executive position since the mid-70's. This position is present at almost every other campus our size across the country. There is not enough time for the President, who assumes the majority of the duties, to do the lobbying. He believes that it is a priority of the organization to have this position. It is important and the internal or external lobbying has been neglected.

Tyler Beatty suggested to have someone permanent brought in to fill the position.

President Gardiner noted that it has been thought of but the problem with having a staff person is accountability. The cost for an employee is more than hiring a student. The only extra cost is the additional salary, which is approximately \$20,000. Most other components of lobbying are currently in the budget.

4.5 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 – (Proposed Amendment #5, by USSU Executive)

Move to amend the Constitution so that under Article 7, Part 1 – Composition, B there be the addition of another Member of Students' Council... "One councilor representing an organization which represents the International Students at the University of Saskatchewan campus."

SGM MOTION03: Gardiner/Stranden

Carried.

President Gardiner noted that the International students on campus do not have representation in the student body. They pay almost three times the tuition as a Canadian resident does and they are unable to work off campus. There are just over 1000 International students on campus.

Jason Villeneuve noted that it is important to have International students represented on University Students' Council. They do not have an organized body. He asked how they would vote to have someone represent them at USC.

President Gardiner noted that this was also a concern of the lawyer's. There is currently a group being formed and it shouldn't be a problem.

Binendra Shakya stated that the International Students' Association is in the process of being created.

Jack Mason asked what would happen if the student body has not been formed and is not ready to go would that MSC position remain vacant.

President Gardiner noted that he would assume that it would be vacant. He noted that there is currently an MSC position for Students in Unclassified Studies which has never been filled.

4.9 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 – (Proposed Amendment #9, by USSU Executive)

Move to amend the Constitution so that under Article 7, Part 3 – Meetings it be removed “...September to April inclusive.”

SGM MOTION04: MacDonald/Gersher

Carried.

VP MacDonald noted that with this amendment extends the meeting period of USC to be year round. It would be more effective to get hands on with the organization and does not burden students too much. Will allow for a larger impact.

Valerie Quintin asked how it is intended to work for students who are not in the city during the summer.

VP MacDonald noted that a large number of students are not in the city during the summer and it is a concern. The USSU functions year round. The meetings during the summer would only be once a month.

President Gardiner stated that commitment is needed year round. The meetings would only be once a month and could take place on a weekend. There is the possibility of having a different Councilor for the summer months than during the school year. This would not be encouraged but would be an option. Part of the reason this is being proposed is because the university is changing their financial collections system. Students will be able to register for September classes in March, which also means that the USSU has to have many of the decisions made that go to referendum have to be made by December or early January.

Jason Villeneuve stated for a student to be available during the summer does not make them a better MSC. He asked how Council’s would meet during the summer to get the student consensus.

President Gardiner noted that the Executive is responsible during the time that USC is not in session. There is room for Council’s input.

Evan Cole noted that MSC’s represent the colleges.

Nicholas Ansaldo stated that MSCs are volunteer positions and some do work during the summer.

Valerie Quintin spoke against the motion. It would cost MSC’s losing money from their summer jobs and also the travel expense.

President Gardiner stated that there seems to be a difference between the concerns and what is being proposed.

Matthew Leisle spoke in favor of the motion. He stated that there are currently roadblocks in place with having USC on Thursday nights. Quorum is only needed and the Executive needs direction from Council. This will allow more time to get the information to MSC's and won't end up losing 4 months of productivity.

Ian Farthing asked what would happen if quorum was not present.

President Gardiner noted that no one would be expected to travel to USC from far away distances.

VP MacDonald noted that if the MSC is unable to attend then someone from that college should be able to attend in their absence.

Heather Jensen suggested that for those who are unable to attend to hold a conference call to address the travel concerns.

VP MacDonald stated that there are a number of technological ways that could allow for the meetings to take place, which would be at the discretion of the Chair. The meetings during the summer would allow for more of an influence from the entire Council.

Michael Kowalsky stated that it is a good idea to hold the meetings during the summer but does not think that anyone out of province should attend.

VP Stranden stated that it would be 4 meetings during the summer. With having Council meet over the summer it allows the visions to be heard of MSC's. It would allow Council to have input and be kept up to date with the Executive.

Ian Farthing ???

President Gardiner stated that last year the Federal Election campaign was held at the end of June. Executive members had to decide what to lobby for and it would have been much appreciated to have Council's input.

Ian Farthing asked what would happen if the MSC cannot attend the meeting.

President Gardiner noted that a representative could be sworn in for the summer months and then the college society would sear in another MSC for the regular year.

Jack Mason ???

Move to call the question.

SGM MOTION05: Matthew Galbraith/Jessa Alston-O'Connor

Carried.

4.11 Proposed Amendment to Article 11 – (Proposed Amendment #11, by Ashley Forbes)

Move to amend the Constitution to strike in Article 11 “Such a referendum shall pass by simple majority.” and replace with “Such a referendum shall pass by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.”

SGM MOTION06: Ashley Forbes/Ian Farthing Defeated.

Ashley Forbes stated that the amendment is a reasonable request. Everything else needs 2/3 vote. This would allow for a clear statement from the student body.

VP MacDonald noted that it would be harder to get things to pass and would make it harder to get to democratic channels.

Evan Cole stated that simple majority is 51% and asked why student should have to go through that. It is ridiculous that 51% could take 49%.

VP MacDonald stated that it could cause an extra financial burden.

Patrick Thomson spoke against the amendment.

Ian Farthing stated that the voting results should be an overwhelming result.

Ashley Forbes noted that it may seem that the amendment is being proposed because of the upcoming CFS referendum. To have it passed by 51% is not a strong student movement.

VP Stranden stated that with 2/3 the decision of students is more valid.

VP MacDonald ???

Matthew Leisle spoke against the amendment. Important decisions are done by plurality. There are already roadblocks for a referendum to ensure that student voices are heard. Everyone’s votes count equally.

Nicholas Ansaldo spoke against the amendment. The amendment is anti-democratic, destructive and puts up further barriers.

Tracey Mitchell spoke against the amendment. The amendment dis-privileges the status quo. She stated that it is important to keep in mind that that it would apply to all referendums and not just CFS.

Michael Butler stated that 2/3’s hinders the purpose. He noted that if CFS is the reason for the amendment then it is wrong. The goal of USSU and USC should be able to pass proactive amendments.

Evan Cole stated that the amendment is to change 51% to 2/3 but in order to do that there needs to be 2/3's vote. Since a 51% vote is fair then there should be a majority vote on the amendment.

Move to suspend the rules and move to adopt the 51% vote.

SGM MOTION07: Evan Cole/Ian Farthing

Out of Order.

President Gardiner noted that this is a Constitution of a \$4 million organization representing 17,000 students. The rules need to be followed and are in place for a purpose.

VP MacDonald noted that there is a huge difference between maintaining the status quo when it comes to a referendum or maintaining status quo in a meeting.

Chair Mupanguri noted that for all Constitutional amendments 2/3 majority is needed.

Dwight Bird asked what the position of BOCP is on this amendment.

Ashley Forbes noted that the amendment is a Constitutional amendment.

Nicholas Ansaldo ???

Ashley Forbes stated that the amendment is not to hinder anything but to empower students more so that they come out with a stronger voice.

Patrick Thomson asked how this amendment empowers students.

Ashley Forbes stated that by having 2/3 majority on something it encourages the students to get more students to vote.

President Gardiner spoke against the amendment. He noted that he finds it very difficult that that it is not an attack on the CFS referendum. Process and politics are being mixed up and this should not be done with the Constitution of the organization.

VP MacDonald asked how the amendment empowers students. It makes it harder to make a difference.

VP Stranden stated that there should not be any discussion whether this amendment is intended towards the CFS referendum as this was not the intention when the amendment was presented.

Nicholas Ansaldo stated that the attacks on a specific referendum should be put aside.

Dwight Bird noted that he missed the last BOCP meeting and was wondering what their stance was on the amendment.

Jack Mason stated that the amendment was not discussed at the BOCP meeting and therefore there was no stance.

Move to make a friendly amendment from 2/3 to 60%.

SGM MOTION08: Ashley Forbes/???

Rescinded.

VP MacDonald stated that with the friendly amendment all it is saying is that the organization is being arbitrary and not going by democracy.

Ashely Forbes noted that the theory of democracy is equal person equal votes. She noted that something more is needed than 51%.

Patrick Thomson noted that one member one vote is not the theory of democracy.

Move to call the question on the friendly amendment.

SGM MOTION09: Patrick Thomson/VP MacDonald

Move to call the question on the amendment.

SGM MOTION10: Patrick Thomson/VP MacDonald

Carried.

Move to adjourn.

SGM MOTION11: VP MacDonald/Brennan Richardson

Defeated.

VP MacDonald noted the reason for his motion is that the other amendments that are being proposed are damaging to the organization.

Move to omnibus proposed amendments 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10.

SGM MOTION12: Brett Knox/Ashley Forbes

Carried.

Move to strike the entire omnibus in that it violates Robert's Rules of Order and the Constitution.

SGM MOTION13: VP MacDonald/

Ashley Forbes noted that if the proposed amendments were not legal then how did they pass the lawyer.

4.4 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 – (Proposed Amendment #4, by Brett Knox)

Move to strike the entire composition of the Executive and replace with:

“Ye Executive Committee shall be composed of the following

i) Ye Executive

El Presidente, responsible for overseeing all affairs between student members and faculty members of the U of S

Ye VP Student Stuff is responsible for all sexual innuendoes at the U of S

Ye VP High Times is responsible for all other sex related issues at the U of S

- Ye VP Good Times is responsible for all free bxxr events
- ii) Ye GM of the USSU is responsible for all trades between Executive and members of the USSU.

SGM MOTION14: Brett Knox/Evan Cole

Defeated.

Brett Knox stated that it is funny.

President Gardiner spoke against the amendment. He is not offended by the amendment but at the same time it does make a joke of the organization and this does go in the minutes and is part of the official documents.

Nicholas Ansaldo ???

4.6 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 – (Proposed Amendment #6, Michael Kalyn)

Motion dies as member left.

Move to adjourn.

SGM MOTION15: Patrick Thomson/Matthew Galbraith

Carried.