

Special General Meeting

Minutes for Wednesday, September 20th, 2006

Present: Matt Leisle (Chair), Caroline Cottrell (USSU General Manager), Jason Ventnor (USSU Marketing Coordinator), Angela Erickson (USSU Confidential Secretary)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order.

2. Call for Quorum

Quorum was present.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Move to amend the agenda to add a new amendment under 6.2, Article 5.02 Part 2 and renumber all following articles under Item 6.

SGM Motion01: Flavell/Lang Carried.

4. Proposed Bylaw 1 Amendments

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 10.04 Bylaw 1.

SGM Motion02: Collins/Smith Carried.

VP Flavell spoke against the motion. The VP Operations & Finance knows that he/she would take on that roll if something would happen to the President. It's not good for the organization to re-elect a new President half way through the year. If the new person has a new direction it would not be good. A first year could run for the position and could be head of the organization after being a student for a month.

President Lang spoke in favor of the motion. Students should not have a President in the office who was not elected for that position by the students. Students should elect the President.

5. Proposed Constitutional Amendments

5.1 Proposed Amendment to Article 4

Move to omnibus items 5.1 through to and including 5.6.

SGM Motion03: Lang/Flavell Carried.

5.7 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 (Part 2.B.v) (Proposed by SESS)

Ryan Allan ???

VP Collins noted that the amendment had not been moved.

Dena Burnett move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 7 (Part 2.B.v).

SGM Motion04: Dena Burnett/??? Defeated.

Dena Burnett noted that the amendment was put forth to make MSC's more accountable.

President Lang spoke against the motion. This motion "handcuffs" MSC's to doing something their President is telling them to do. This could threaten their jobs.

Dena Burnett stated point of information said constituency group and/or college society.

Jade Buchanan spoke against the motion ???

President Lang stated that college societies are democratically elected.

VP Flavell noted that this amendment says nothing about voting but reporting back to the college society.

Ryan Allan stated that it is not necessary to have this in the constitution, as it is something that is already an expectation within the college societies.

5.8 Proposed Amendment to Article 7 (Part 3)

Move to omnibus items 5.8 through to and including 5.11.

SGM Motion05: Flavell/Collins Carried.

5.12 Proposed Amendment to Article 9 (A) (Proposed by USSU & SESS)

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 9 (A).

SGM Motion06: Lang/Collins Carried.

President Lang stated that if an Executive member were to be removed there would need to be 2/3 of all Councilors present as opposed to all Councilors total.

VP Smith spoke in favour of the motion. This would not give Council that much power.

Dena Burnett stated that minimum quorum for a USC meeting is 13 Councilors and 2/3 of 13 is 9. This would allow 9 individuals make a decision that could effect 20,000 people. The motion should not pass.

Alison Forbes spoke in favour of the motion ???

Move to amend to read "...present at a meeting which represents at least 50%...".
SGM Motion07: Jade Buchanan/Forbes Carried.

VP Flavell spoke in favor of the motion. This amendment allows for accountability.

Ryan Allan asked what the minimum number would be.

Jade Buchanan noted that it would be 11.

President Lang noted that there could be as high as 13 or 14 as there are some MSC's that are not in place.

5.13 Proposed Amendment to Article 9 (B) (Proposed by USSU & SESS)

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 9 (B).

SGM Motion08: Flavell/Caitlin Cottrell Carried.

Move to amend the motion to be consistent with item 5.12 to include "...which represents at least 50%...".

SGM Motion09: Flavell/Katie McCaw Carried.

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 9 (B).

SGM Motion10: Dena Burnett/Anthony Bathgate Defeated.

Dena Burnett stated that some MSC's go on and have their own agenda and not representing the students. This is not correct in the spirit of democracy. This gives the power back to the individuals who voted.

VP Collins spoke against the motion as this compromises the integrity of USC and leaves room for corruption. It is up to USC and the USSU to realize if an MSC is not doing their job and there are mechanisms in place.

VP Smith noted that the entire college elects the MSC and this would not be democratic.

Jade Buchanan ???

President Lang spoke against the motion and does not want to see MSC's with this power and that it is not a democratic move.

Jocelyn Grismer asked what mechanisms are in place to keep MSC's accountable.

Chair Leisle stated that the only mechanism in place is a vote of 2/3's of all Councilors.

VP Collins noted that there is a bylaw amendment that will be coming forward to hold Councilors accountable. Reports can be made to the Code of Ethics & Disciplinary Committee.

Alison Forbes noted a point of information asked if MSC's could sit on USC if they are not sitting on their own students' council.

Chair Leisle stated that MSC's are in place to represent their college and there is nothing in the Constitution to say once an MSC is removed that they no longer a member of USC.

Jeremy Ring noted that each college group is elected to represent that college. Each MSC is to vote for what is best for the college.

President Lang stated that college societies are not elected by the entire college and in some colleges you need to have an access card to vote.

???

??? spoke against the motion.

Jade Buchanan noted a point of information that they are elected as a part of the student societies.

President Lang spoke against the motion because of the undemocratic tone.

Benjamin David stated that the amendment is being proposed to hold the MSC's responsible to someone. Currently the only people they are responsible to are University Students' Council.

??? stated that if the students elected them then he or she should stay.

Alison Forbes spoke against the motion because the way it is currently set up it does not mean an MSC is not responsible for the students who elected him/her in...

Move to amend to exclude the 2/3's of all Councilors.

SGM Motion11: ???/Dena Burnett Carried.

5.14 Proposed Amendment to Article 10

Move to omnibus items 5.14 through to and including 5.16.

SGM Motion12: Smith/Lang Carried.

5.17 Proposed Amendment to Article 14 (Proposed by SESS)

Move to approve the proposed amendment to Article 14.

SGM Motion13: Benjamin David/Dena Burnett Defeated.

Benjamin David stated that there is no set course to dissolution of the union. Currently all it would take is for someone to come into this meeting under Any Other Business and make a motion to dissolve the USSU. This amendment ensures that there will be a fair number of people who ??? before dissolution occurs.

Ryan Allan spoke against the motion stated that USC already has the power to hold SGM's whenever they see fit.

Dena Burnett stated that with this amendment it is putting the power back into the hands of the represented students. This could be a wake up call to say that the students are not happy. Currently the only grounds for an SGM is when USC calls it.

Ryan Allan stated that the amendment is redundant. Students are currently able to bring issues forward.

Move to call the question.

SGM Motion16: Benjamin David/Jade Buchanan Carried.

Move to amend the motion to change fifteen percent to thirty percent.

SGM Motion14: Lang/Collins Defeated.

President Lang stated that something of this magnitude should have a larger number of students. To do something so drastic 15% of students is not enough.

Jeremy Ring noted that when the annual election takes place there is no more than 15% of voter turnout; therefore, it does not sound totally unreasonable.

VP Flavell spoke against the motion stated that 30% is about 5100 students. During the USSU election there are thousands of dollars spent on advertising and campaigns running. All students have to do is log on to PAWS and click to vote and the turnout is about 2000. It would be very difficult to track down 5100 people to sign a petition. Fifteen percent is a very reasonable number and still shows a stern message to USC to hold an SGM at their discretion. It is up to USC to make the final decision no matter what the number of signatures is.

President Lang stated that 30% is not impossible. Electing the USSU Executive and dissolving the organization are very different and the dissolution is of a much larger magnitude.

Benjamin David stated that 15% is not unreasonable. It is hard enough to get 50 people to the SGM to meet quorum. Let the motion stand as is.

VP Collins stated that it is not about the election or an SGM but the dissolution of the USSU. Anything is possible and 30% is a reasonable majority.

Move to call the question.

SGM Motion15: ???/Benjamin David Carried.

6. Proposed Bylaw 1 Amendments

6.1 Article 1

Move to omnibus items 6.1 through to and including 6.14.

SGM Motion17: Lang/Katie McCaw Carried.

6.15 Article 6 (6.01.h)

Move to approve the proposed amendment.

SGM Motion18: Collins/Lang Carried.

VP Collins noted that with the amendment it would bring the BOCP under the USSU as a board.

Move to amend the members' list to remove Chair Pro Tem of University Students' Council as Vice-Chair.

SGM Motion19: Drew Dwernychuk/Jade Buchanan Carried.

President Lang spoke in favour of the motion. The BOCP Chair should be elected.

Benjamin David noted point of information that the amendment is regarding the Vice-Chair and not the Chair.

Move to amend the members' list to add all USSU Vice-President's.

SGM Motion20: Drew Dwernychuk/Katie McCaw Carried.

Move to amend the members' list so that all USSU Vice-President's are ex-officio members of BOCP.

SGM Motion21: Flavell/Benjamin David Carried.

VP Flavell stated that BOCP already has enough USSU influence. It is not necessary to have the Vice-President's as voting members.

Benjamin David spoke in favour of VP Flavell's comments.

Ryan Allan spoke in favour of the amendment to the amendment.

Move to amend under h) iii) to read "Membership in the Board of College Presidents shall be open to any other student organization approved by a majority vote of the Board of College Presidents."

SGM Motion23: Drew Dwernychuk/Jade Buchanan Carried.

Move to amend under h) iv) to read “Each member association is entitled to one vote through its respective President(s).”

SGM Motion24: Drew Dwernychuk/??? Carried.

??? spoke against the motion as a member of the Board of College Presidents. There are times when he is unable to attend meetings that take place on Sunday afternoons. He needs to be able to send a delegate.

Benjamin David spoke against the motion because it is important to still have a vote.

VP Flavell spoke in favour of the motion because USC does not allow proxies.

??? stated that the purpose of the Board of College Presidents is to network between colleges.

VP Collins stated that there is a social committee set up for networking purposes. All duties should be taken into consideration.

VP Flavell stated that with this amendment it does not take away the social networking aspect but does not allow someone else to vote. A delegate can be sent to the meeting for the networking but not able to vote.

Move to amend the amendment to read “Each member association is entitled to one vote through its respective President(s). Other officer of a member association may attend as non-voting members in the absence of the President with two days notice to the Chair.”

SGM Motion25: Jade Buchanan/Benjamin David Defeated.

6.16 Article 7 (7.01)

Move to omnibus items 6.16 through to and including 6.18.

SGM Motion26: Lang/??? Carried.

7. Proposed Bylaw 2 Amendments

7.1 Article 1 (1.01.vii) (Proposed by SESS)

Move to approve the proposed amendment.

SGM Motion27: Collins/Lang Carried.

7.2 Article 1 (1.01.ix)

Move to approve the proposed amendment.

SGM Motion28: Collins/Jade Buchanan Carried.

7.3 Article 5 (5.01.vi)

Move to approve the proposed amendment.

SGM Motion29: Collins/Lang Carried.

Benjamin David asked who would then be responsible for the interest of international students.

VP Collins noted that the position represents all students.

Chair Leisle stated that there is a body on campus representing international students.

Itemobong Umoh spoke against the motion and stated that the VP External Affairs has more influence and he understands they lobby for everyone but should lobby for them.

VP Collins stated that lobbying for students includes all students, even international students and is more inclusive.

Ryan Allan clarified motion.

Move to amend the amendment to read “Be responsible for working with the University on matters of international activities.”

SGM Motion30: Collins/Flavell Carried.

8. Proposed Bylaw 3 Amendments

8.1 Article 1 (1.01)

Move to omnibus items 8.1 through to and including 8.6.

SGM Motion31: Collins/Lang Carried.

8.7 Article 2 (2.06.i) (Proposed by SESS)

Move to omnibus items 8.7 and 8.8.

SGM Motion32: Benjamin David/Flavell Defeated.

Benjamin David noted that the amendments are language changes.

Alison Forbes spoke against the motion as it is a major change.

President Lang spoke against the motion as it erodes the power that an MSC might have and puts too much power in the college societies hands.

Ryan Allan spoke against the motion.

9. Questions and Comments for the Executive

Benjamin David asked if the USSU Executive would ensure that the SGM is at a more convenient time.

President Lang noted that he understood Engineering's objections to the SGM time but there is always going to be a conflict with some college times.

Ryan Allan ???

Benjamin David asked President Lang why he had not heard a response from his email regarding this issue.

President Lang stated that he is very busy with trying to do 2 jobs and has been hectic.

10. Any Other Business

No other business.

11. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 5:58p.m.

SGM Motion33: ???/Flavell

Carried.