**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 20J**

**Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 5:00pm**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**This meeting was done remotely through Microsoft Teams, due to unusual circumstance laid out by the response to COVID-19.**

**Called to Order at 5:05pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

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| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Birch, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, Del Castillo, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Jones, Koscak, Nakua, Noble, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Tsai, Tse, Violin, Wang |
| **Absent Excused:**  | Baig |
| **Absent:** | Egbeyemi, Mesic, Singh |
| **Late:**  | De Silva, Stathoukos |
| **Others Present:**  | Hasnain Khan (AVP (Provincial & Federal Affairs)), Chen Liu (AVP (Finance)), Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (Municipal Affairs)), Mackenzy Metcalfe (UCRU Presenter), Carolyn Brendon (Ombuds), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)  |
| **Chair:** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Territory Recognition**

* The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the ‘Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty’.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Sariaslani that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly amend the agenda and move Business Item #2 to be after Delegation from the Floor, and Business Item #1 to be directly after Business Item #2.

* Da-Ré said it makes sense to have the UCRU Business Item #2 directly after the UCRU presentation. In addition, moving up the Ombuds TOR Business Item #1 before reports so that guests do not have to stay any longer than needed.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**
**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly amend the agenda to add the following motion to Business: “**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly approve the 2020/2021 Municipal Affairs Committee yearplan, as circulated.”

* Tse emailed the year plan to the Assembly a few days ago and said it would be good to approve it.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Vote to Adopt**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Sariaslani that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly adopt the SRA minutes 20G and 20I, as circulated.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Announcements from the Chair**

* The Chair announced that a November by-election is currently underway and that there are 4 open spots on Engineering and 1 on Business. They advised that campaigning period runs until November 19th, which is when polling will occur, and encouraged Assembly members to inform their constituents of this. The Chair welcomed presenters and asked those presenting to turn on their video if they are comfortable as the meeting is being live streamed. They noted they will post a link to the observer’s list in the chat and asked presenters and non-Assembly members to fill it out and include their name and affiliation.

**Delegation from the Floor**

**Set Parameters**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly set presentation parameters as follows:

* 15-minute presentation, followed by 10 minute question and answer period.
* Tse felt this was a good amount of time.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**1. UCRU - Mackenzy Metcalfe presented**

* Mackenzy Metcalfe presented to the Assembly.

**Questions**

* Tse asked Mackenzy to elaborate on the Debt Free Degree campaign. Mackenzy said the campaign is aimed at the following: trying to get a doubling of the Canada student grants from 2019 levels and implementing a two-year grace period for all new graduates on Canada student loans. The rationale behind this is that students are in a different financial position now than at the beginning of the pandemic. The idea is to collect stories from Canadians to reinforce the two asks mentioned. Mackenzy encouraged the Assembly to explore the UCRU social media channels to review the arguments being made and asked them to fill out the Debt Free Degree postcards which will be then sent to Justin Trudeau.
* Noble asked why UCRU is advocating for leniency and the addition of grants rather than free tuition university. Mackenzy said it’s a conversation that’s been had and given the previous advocacy of UCRU and the fact that grants/loans are a limited number, they thought it would be better to target lower- and middle-income students who needed financial assistant the most. They noted their board thought this was feasible and since it was included in the Liberal party platform, they wanted to keep them accountable.

**Business**

**1. Committee of the Whole – UCRU**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré, that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the UCRU presentation.

* Tse said a memo was circulated earlier in the week and thought it would be helpful to have a Committee of the Whole so that the presentation can be discussed.
* Da-Ré said it would be helpful to have so that anything from the presentation or general conversation on UCRU/federal advocacy strategies could be discussed.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and to Rise and Report.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

 **Rise and Report**

* Da-Ré reported that Mackenzy explained the Debt Free Degree campaign along with the current priorities of UCRU. Da-Ré added that Mackenzy spoke to the rationale on the system of sending postcards to Justin Trudeau along with the upcoming federal lobby week and key priorities being worked on.

**2. Ombuds Terms of Reference**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Tse, that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to the Ombuds Terms of Reference, as circulated.

* Da-Ré informed that Ombuds falls under the President’s portfolio and the Ombudsperson is supervised by the MSU and University Presidents. They noted that a lot of the work within Ombuds crosses over MSU Presidents and that Josh Marando had started this last year. Da-Ré informed that changes were made through collaboration with Carolyn (Ombudsperson) and Andrea (University Secretary) with the main changes being: narrowing the scope of the office so it’s geared more towards student cases, removing gendered pronouns and adding a section for the advisory committee (which Da-Ré wrote through consult with multiple Ombuds offices across Canada). Da-Ré said these changes were recently approved at Senate and will be going to the Board of Governors in December pending today’s SRA approval. Da-Ré ceded their time to Carolyn.
* Carolyn explained that the Ombuds office at McMaster is one of the oldest in Canada and though it was jointly funded by the University, it was originally an MSU initiative. They noted that a lot of other universities based their offices on the McMaster model. Carolyn thanked Da-Ré for all their work on this and for taking the lead on the advisory committee as it now has much more representation from various MSU and university reps. Carolyn expressed that having a strong advisory committee will be helpful to fulfill the mandate.
* Tse noted that Da-Ré and Carolyn have been working very hard on this.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Report Period**

**1. Health Sciences Caucus – Samson presented**

* Samson summarized the report.

**2. Humanities Caucus – Chui presented**

* Chui summarized the report.

**3.  Kinesiology Caucus – report circulated**

* Chopra summarized the report.

**4.  Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee Report – Hasnain Khan presented**

* Hasnain informed they are working with University Affairs on an action plan to combat the tuition issue and are working on creating a letter writing campaign and action plan for second semester. They are also working with UCRU & OUSA on various issues and plan to do something on interest-free loans. In addition, they are currently in last week of anti-racism month which has gone very well as viewership and engagement has been great. Lastly, along with the Research Assistants, they had a think tank for the policy paper.

**5.** **Finance Committee Report – Chen Liu presented**

* Chen summarized the report.

**6. Executive Board – Da-Ré presented on behalf of Nakua**

* Da-Ré stated that Nakua will be circulating a full report early next week. They noted that several services reported during the last two EB meetings: Spark, WGEN, Diversity Services, Maroons, SHEC and PCC. They had a change in the job description of the Welcome Week Faculty Societies Coordinator and have started hiring for this position. They had two Sponsorship and Donations approvals. They noted that EFRT will not responding to calls until end of the year (continued from the original decision to suspend calls until mid-November). They noted that SWHAT will not be responding to calls in second term. Lastly, the MSU will be closed from December 22nd at 5pm and re-opening on January 4th at 9am.

**7. President – Da-Ré presented**

* Da-Ré summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Tse asked Da-Ré to speak to the climate survey. Da-Ré said himself and Tse are working with EIO to build a climate survey that will be launched in January to determine students’ experiences with various services across McMaster and seeing if there’s a difference in responses based on demographics of those students. He stated this information will be helpful to gauge how students feel about the various services on campus and will be an opportunity for students to provide feedback to the University.

**8. OUSA General Assembly – Tse presented**

* Tse summarized the report.

**Information Period**

* Anderson informed the Assembly that there is a TwelvEighty survey currently live until the 26th and asked the Assembly to share the survey on social platforms.
* Tse reminded the Assembly to review and promote both the OUSA survey, as well as the Debt Free Degree campaign. Tse provided an update on online learning and said they are discussing various issues affecting students and although they haven’t heard much from the Assembly, they thanked those who have reached out. Tse noted the importance of student feedback on the challenges of online learning and encouraged the Assembly to reach out to their constituents. They also informed the Assembly of possible large scale structural changes and the potential of having a later start to second semester.
* Da-Ré informed the Assembly that they and Tse are participating in Provincial Lobby Week this week and noted the four main priorities that will be discussed are: racial equity, student mental health, quality of education and student financial aid. They will give updates at the next SRA meeting. Da-Ré will be sharing a graphic on the Student Interfaith Council as they are looking to get more involvement for future meetings.

**Question Period**

* Violin noticed the new web site was launched and asked the Vice-President (Finance) how it will be promoted. Anderson noted there have been a few hiccups and explained that although the new web site is launched, it is more of a soft launch and they are still working through it to ensure there are no issues. They explained it will be advertised in the coming weeks as to ensure any major edits and updates are completed.

**Business**

**3.  Open one (1) SRA seat on the EFRT Advisory Committee**

**Moved** by Anderson, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on the EFRT Advisory Committee.

* Anderson noted that Noble left the call due to a power outage and asked to move the motion. They noted they lost a member on this committee and would love to fill this position today.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Nominations**

* Violin nominated themself.

**4. Close one (1) SRA seat on the EFRT Advisory Committee**

**Moved** by Anderson, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the EFRT Advisory Committee.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**

**Abstained: Violin**

* The Speaker announced that Violin won the SRA seat on the EFRT Advisory Committee by acclamation.

**5. Approval of Municipal Affairs Committee Year Plan 2020/2021**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly approve the 2020/2021 Municipal Affairs Committee Yearplan, as circulated.

* Tse said they circulated the year plan on Friday and invited Maanvi (AVP Municipal Affairs) to join this call. They would be happy to answer any questions.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Time of Next Meeting**

**Sunday November 29, 2020**

**5:00pm**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Birch, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Jones, Koscak, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Tsai, Tse, Violin, Wang |
| **Absent Excused:**  | Baig, Noble, Stathoukos |
| **Absent:** | Aminaei, Egbeyemi, Mesic, Nakua, Singh |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Chen Liu (AVP (Finance)), Hasnain Khan (AVP (Provincial & Federal Affairs)), Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (Municipal Affairs)), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly adjourn.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 6:57pm**

/ds