**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 20N**

**Sunday February 7, 2021 at 5:00pm**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**This meeting was done remotely through Microsoft Teams, due to the 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, Baig, Birch, Chelverajah, Da-Ré, De Silva, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Fraser, Jones, Naik, Noble, Sariaslani, Seymour, Singh, Stathoukos, Tsai, Tse, Violin, Wang |
| **Absent Excused:** |  |
| **Absent:** | Del Castillo, Mesic, Samson |
| **Late:**  | Chopra, Chui, Egbeyemi |
| **Others Present:**  | Hargun Grewal (CRO, Elections Department), Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (MA)), Michelle Brown (AVP (IG)), 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 Fraser, **seconded** by Noble that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

* Noble stated there had been emails circulated regarding amendments and expected them to come forward.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Stathoukos, **seconded** by Singh that the agenda be amended to include the following motion under Business: “**Moved** by Stathoukos, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the Assembly move into the Committee of the Whole to discuss MSU Bylaw 7/A - Electoral Procedure”.

* Stathoukos said there were many constituents reaching out to SRA members regarding their concerns with acclamations and felt it would be responsible for the Assembly to discuss to ensure they are listening to the student body.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Egbeyemi that the Assembly amend the SRA 20N agenda to include a Delegation from the Floor, allowing the Associate Vice-President (Internal Governance) to present on behalf of the Internal Governance Standing Committee of the SRA on the topic of elections.

* Noble said there have been long discussions at the Internal Governance Committee meetings due to the high demand to further investigate the elections processes, therefore this is to share additional information before going into Committee of the Whole.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

 **Moved** by Fraser, **seconded** by Noble that the Assembly adopt the agenda, amended.

**Vote to Adopt**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Announcements from the Chair**

* The Chair announced that SRA Generals were open and asked members to promote, as it is their responsibility as elected officials to ensure they have people succeeding them in their positions. They noted the Elections Department is working very hard to put together a promotional campaign and reminded the Assembly to submit the requested information to the Elections Department.

**Delegation from the Floor**

**Set Parameters**

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

* 5-minute presentation followed by a 10-minute question and answer period.

* Noble said this would give enough time for the presentation and that further discussion and questions would be had during Committee of the Whole later on in the meeting.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**1. Elections – Michelle Brown, AVP (Internal Governance) presented (presentation attached)**

* Brown went over the presentation with the Assembly.

**Moved** by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Au-Yeung that the Delegation from the Floor be extended by 5 minutes.

* Della-Vedova noted that the presenter was near done and would like to hear it out.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Questions**

* Noble asked if they were to have a vote of confidence option available, what would be the different implications between voting no-confidence and abstaining. Michelle explained that abstaining means one does not want to have a vote or are purposely not picking any of the options. They said that if one chooses no confidence, it is a vote against one of the other options. They explained that if the majority voted to abstain and one person voted for a candidate, that candidate would get the position versus if the majority voted non-confidence and one person voted for the candidate, that meant the candidate would not get the position.
* Stathoukos asked if the option to not acclaim SRA members was taken, would that affect acclamations or the voting process for SRA members on standing committees. Brown said from their understanding it wouldn’t affect it as this only falls under the elections covered in Bylaw 7A, whereas the other voting process is more of an in-person SRA vote, which does not fall under that Bylaw 7A.
* Singh asked if this was implemented, if they envisioned a further reduction in interest from the student body, making it harder to fill seats in the long term and the implications that would have on the MSU. Brown said they could not speak to what the future would hold if a vote of confidence for SRA elections was added. They predicted there may be a few less people willing to run, however since there is no guarantee of getting acclaimed to the position, one would not know unless they got to the end of the nomination period and there were less candidates than the number of seats. Their guess would be that there would still be enough people to do some sort of campaign and do an election if there is a vote of confidence.
* Noble asked about the implementation timeline and stated that one of the cons in having the vote of confidence for SRA being implemented after the elections take place for those who are elected in by-elections down the line, was that it would create a different standard for how people would get into their roles. They asked if this was not the same process that is expected for different caucuses, where some have elections and some are acclaimed. Brown said that it was a very similar case in that one group wouldn’t have to run an election to be acclaimed and the other group would have to. They said in terms of specific details, it is the amount of people and seats available in each of those elections.
* Jones asked if there would be threshold that would trigger a no confidence vote. Brown said the way the elections process currently worked was that one ranked the options given and the lowest voted option is cut until they had the highest one. They felt further information could be obtained from the Elections Department.
* Au-Yeung asked if this option was added for SRA elections, would it be possible to implement this process for the main election only and not the by-elections. Brown said it would add extra complications on the policy side but would not be impossible to do.

**Report Period**

**1. First Year Council – Aiman Dhillon presented**

* Aiman Dhillon summarized the report.

**2. Nursing Caucus – Bagtasos presented**

* Bagtasos summarized the report.

**3. Science Caucus – report circulated**

* Singh summarized the report

**4. Social Sciences Caucus – report circulated**

* Jones summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Tse said their report sounded great and advised they would be happy to help with surveys or research if needed.

**5. Municipal Affairs Committee – Maanvi Dhillon presented**

* Maanvi Dhillon summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Bagtasos asked if the Your City survey was open until February 10th or February 17th. Maanvi clarified it is open until February 10th.

**6. University Affairs Committee – report circulated**

* Brittany Williams summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Tse provided additional insight on the mental health resiliency course and would really appreciate feedback from the Assembly to ensure that if something is developed, that it would actually help students.
* Egbeyemi asked if the University Affairs Committee wanted Arts & Science members for the task force. Brittany said that they would appreciate new members.

**7. Executive Board – report circulated**

* Da-Ré summarized the report.

**8. President Report – Da-Ré presented**

* Da-Ré summarized the report.

**9. 2021/2022 SRA Seat Allocation Report – Hargun Grewal presented**

* Hargun Grewal summarized the report.

**Information Period**

* Tse informed the Assembly that the deadline for nominating someone else for the MSU Awards was on February 10th and said it was great way to recognize others. They also said that valedictorian nominations were open until February 19th. They informed the Assembly that OUSA GA Delegate applications were open and would close next week and they touched on the three reports coming forward. Tse notified the Assembly they had an open chat last week for all SRA members and will continue to do so. Tse informed the Assembly that the University was trying to figure out several different scenarios for what the fall term could look like but noted there were many considerations being discussed. Tse informed the Assembly that the MSU recently launched a feedback form on the MSU web site that has an anonymous option, but if one provides their email, they will receive a response back. Tse informed the Assembly that they are considering putting forth a proposal to look at re-allocating the SLEF money towards mental health initiatives. Tse informed the Assembly that a mental health task force had been formed through the Okanagan committee, which had students and staff looking at how mental health can be improved. They provided a feedback form for the Assembly to fill out which would go directly to the committee.
* Noble informed the Assembly that they are planning to go ahead with Student Recognition Night in a different format. They informed the Assembly of the upcoming SRA Elections. They informed the Assembly that the MSU was currently hiring for Part-Time Manager positions. Noble advised the Assembly that the MSU is in chats with EIO and the University regarding the Sexual Violence Response Policy protocol regarding moving further away from developing an internal policy and more towards a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to make it less confusing for students to access.
* Da-Ré informed the Assembly that they recently spoke at the Hamilton-Niagara Town Hall for the Ontario 2021 Budget Consultations and the main themes brought up were related to: enhancing OSAP, decreasing tuition, improving co-ops and work placements for students, and mental health supports for students.
* Tse informed the Assembly that there had been concerns about Respondus and security. They informed the Assembly that they had noticed the concerns and asked those with additional concerns to reach out.

**Question Period**

* No questions were asked.

**Business**

**1. Proposed changes to Bylaw 3 – Student Representative Assembly**

**Moved** by Egbeyemi, **seconded** by Noble that the Assembly approve the changes to **Bylaw** **3 – Student** **Representative** **Assembly**, as circulated.

* Egbeyemi ceded their time to Michelle Brown, AVP (Internal Governance). Brown advised the Assembly that there had been several proposed changes: including a clear mandate on what the SRA is and what they do, the addition of advocacy policies as they are relevant to the SRA and keeping those up-to-date, consistent wording with all other bylaws, for year plans to be sent to the President instead of the Vice-President (Administration), and for year plan deadlines to be the first meeting in August.
* Noble advised that part of the rationale was to give more leeway for SRA members to get to know their positions before submitting their year plans. They said they had reviewed all of these changes and gave their suggestions.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

 **2. Committee of the Whole - General Assembly Delivery Platform**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Noble, that Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the platform of delivery for the MSU Annual General Assembly.

* Da-Ré advised the Assembly that a General Assembly must take place as it is a constitutionally mandated annual meeting. They noted that using Teams was the initial plan as Teams planned to increase their participant limit to 1,000 but this had not happened, and the maximum number of participants was still 300. They were advised that quorum for GA will be 804 and if planning to hit quorum, Teams cannot be used. They noted a platform needed to be decided on so that different departments could begin planning and to also let students know. They said the only other platform discussed was Zoom as it allows for far more participants however, they recognized that this Assembly had taken a stance against Zoom and thought it would be appropriate for the SRA to have the chance to discuss.
* Noble wanted to hear others’ thoughts before going ahead with a decision due to the previous stance taken on Zoom.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

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

* Da-Ré said it seemed like everyone who wanted to speak had spoken.
* Stathoukos felt that a great conversation was had, and summarizing would be beneficial for everyone.

 **Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Rise and Report**

* Da-Ré reported that there were a number of platforms suggested for the GA planning committee to consider: Click Meeting, Sisco WebX, Hoppin and Blue Jeans. There was a question regarding timelines and when a decision would need to be made and Da-Ré suggested the sooner the better, but by February 22nd at the latest. Da-Ré added that Noble wondered if there were similar concerns with the platforms suggested that were had with Zoom. They noted that some caucus members suggested they should prioritize hitting quorum and if they needed to use Zoom it could be okay, but they should try to find out ways for anonymous contributions from students while ensuring they could still confirm their MSU membership. Da-Ré reported they would be happy to speak on behalf of students if they were not comfortable speaking to a motion at GA. Da-Ré advised they usually do not hit quorum, but they have had the most participants in years when a motion is typically viewed as contentious. Da-Ré felt they should aim to hit quorum regardless of what the agenda looks like to allow students the opportunity to speak to motions at the highest governing body.

**Moved** by Egbeyemi, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

* Egbeyemi noted it had been 2 hours and 30 minutes and that there were other agenda items to discuss.
* Tse agreed and that it would be nice to give staff a break.

**Recessed at 7:38pm**

**Called to Order at 7:49pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Baig, Birch, Chelverajah, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, De Silva, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Fraser, Jones, Naik, Noble, Sariaslani, Seymour, Singh, Stathoukos, Tsai, Tse, Violin, Wang |
| **Absent Excused:** |  |
| **Absent:** | Del Castillo, Mesic, Samson |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Hargun Grewal (CRO, Elections Department), Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (MA)), Michelle Brown (AVP (IG)), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Rhea Jangra  |

**3. Open one (1) seat on Executive Board**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly open one (1) seat on Executive Board.

* Noble said they would love to have the seat filled.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Nominations**

* Chui nominated themself.

**4. Close one (1) seat on Executive Board**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** Noble that the Assembly close one (1) seat on Executive Board.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Candidate** | **Confidence** | **No Confidence** |
| Chui | 19 | 1 |
| Spoiled | 0 |  |
| Abstained | 0 |  |

* Chui was elected to the Executive Board with confidence.

**5. Open one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee**

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

* Da-Ré said there were a lot of election items coming up and it would be an exciting position.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Nominations**

* Jones nominated themself.

**6. Close one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee**

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

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

* The Speaker announced that Jones won the SRA seat on the Elections Committee by acclamation.

**7. Committee of the Whole – MSU Bylaw 7/A – Electoral Procedure**

**Moved** by Stathoukos, **seconded** by Noble that the Assembly move into the Committee of the Whole to discuss MSU Bylaw 7/A - Electoral Procedure.

* Stathoukos said that as representatives of the student body, they felt it would be very important to discuss this issue and to look at the options presented by Michelle in further detail.
* Noble noted there were important items that needed to be discussed in order to provide direction to the Internal Governance committee.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

 **Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Da-Ré 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**

* Noble reported that the Assembly discussed Michelle’s presentation and then took a straw poll where they said there should be a vote of confidence for the President when there is one candidate. They noted this decision wouldn’t result in any changes for the past election. The majority of the Assembly were waiting for a formal proposal from the Internal Governance committee. It was brought forward that information could be collected from student polls and after looking further into the process of special elections, the Elections Department would have a better idea of whether or not they could facilitate a vote on the future of elections through Simply Voting rather than just through caucuses delivering their own polls. Noble reported it would not be feasible to do feedback collection in time for a change in this SRA election cycle, which most members were in favour of. The IG Committee requested that the SRA decide on the scope of who should get a vote of confidence before moving forward, which might result in seats being left open for a longer time, though the number of by-elections would remain the same. After a request for direction and for the SRA to collect student feedback, there was still a split vote on the short-term direction for the policies. Noble reported that caucuses voted to reach out to constituents by next meeting to re-assess the future of Bylaw 7/A, while the Elections Department would investigate the feasibility of a special election through Simply Voting.

**Time of Next Meeting**

**Sunday February 21, 2021**

**5:00pm EST**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

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| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Baig, Birch, Chelverajah, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, De Silva, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Fraser, Jones, Naik, Noble, Sariaslani, Seymour, Singh, Stathoukos, Tsai, Tse, Wang |
| **Absent Excused:** |  |
| **Absent:** | Del Castillo, Mesic, Samson, Violin |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Hargun Grewal (CRO, Elections Department), Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (MA)), Michelle Brown (AVP (IG)), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Bagtasos, **seconded** by Chelvarajah that the Assembly adjourn.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 9:38pm**

/ds