



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 22E
Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 10:00am (EDT)
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 10:04am

Call of the Roll

Present: Arora, Burton, Chowdhry, Chui, Dawdy, German, Hassan, Lum, Mannat, Middaugh Cifuentes, Mothe, Singh, Suganthan, Wang, Wong, Zea
Absent Excused: Chen (LOA), Garfield (LOA), Tadrous
Absent: Abdallah, Anand, Pittari, Prakhar, Talawala
Late: Caputo
Others Present: V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair: Piper Plavins

Territory Recognition

- The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by Caputo that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Chui, **seconded** by German to add "Vice-President (Finance) Yearplan" to Business.

- Chui apologize for the late circulation of the document and asked that it be put on the agenda.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Amendment

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by Middaugh Cifuentes to add "Security Services Partnership" to Report Period.

- Singh stated that they would like to add this to the agenda to share the information and be transparent.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Amendment

Moved by Middaugh Cifuentes, **seconded** by German to add "Humanities Caucus Yearplan" to Business Item #2.

- Middaugh Cifuentes stated that they submitted their yearplan an hour after the deadline and would like for this to be added.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Amendment

Moved by Dawdy, **seconded** by German to add “Business Yearplan” to Business Item #2.

- Dawdy asked for this to be added.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Vote to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by Caputo that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by German, **seconded** by Singh that the Assembly adopt the minutes of SRA meeting 22C – April 24, 2022, as circulated.

- German stated that they read the minutes and hoped everyone else had a chance to as well.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Announcements from the Chair

- The Speaker welcomed everyone to meeting 22E. They stated that they were excited that their next meeting will be in person. They asked that Assembly to please send their MACids and student numbers to them, if they haven't already done so. The Speaker asked for non-SRA members to please fill out the Observer's List.

Report Period

- 1. President – Singh presented**
 - Singh summarized the report.
- 2. Vice-President (Administration) – German presented**

- German summarized the report.

3. Vice-President (Finance) – report circulated

- Chui presented the report.

4. Vice-President (Education) – Wong presented

- Wong summarized the report.

5. Executive Board – Dawdy presented

- Dawdy summarized the report.

6. Security Services Partnership – Singh presented

- Singh summarized the report.

Information Period

- Wong informed the Assembly that the AVP (University Affairs) has been hired, and will start onboarding next week. They stated that there were more jobs on the website if anyone was interested.
- German let everyone know that volunteer positions for services are now on the jobs page on the MSU website. They stated that if anyone had any questions to reach out to the PTMs in charge of those roles.

Question Period

- No questions were asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Close Nominations for MSU members to other Committees:

- **Teaching Awards Committee (min. 2 MSU seats)**
- The Speaker announced that there weren't any nominations.

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by Singh to postpone until SRA 22F.

- Wong stated that since there weren't any nominations this should be postponed. They asked the Assembly to please share this with their constituents.
- Singh stated that it was important to fill these seats.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes**

Business

1. Clubs Ratification

Moved by German, **seconded** by Wong that the Assembly ratify the new and returning clubs for the 2022/23 academic year recommended by the Clubs Advisory Council, as circulated.

- German ceded their time to Nardos Tadros, Clubs Administrator.
- Tadros introduced themselves and went over the memo with the Assembly.
- Wong agreed with Tadros.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

2. Caucus Yearplans

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly approve the following Caucus year plans, as circulated:

- Health Sciences
- Humanities
- Business

- Singh stated that it would be great to approve these yearplans.
- Chui ceded their time to the Health Sciences Caucus.
- Hassan went over the Health Sciences yearplan.
- Chui ceded their time to the Humanities Caucus.
- Middaugh Cifuentes went over the Humanities yearplan.
- Chui ceded their time to the Business Caucus.
- Dawdy went over the Business yearplan.
- Middaugh Cifuentes asked Health Sciences about their objective for updating the Pulse Fitness Centre information. They asked if it was in addition to the one from last year. They ceded their time to the Health Sciences Caucus.
- Hassan responded that it was an error on their part and they will remove it from the yearplan.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

3. Open one seat on Executive Board

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by German that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) Executive Board seat.

- Singh stated that an individual dropped their seat on Executive Board, so they now have an opening. They stated that they would love to have more people join.
- German added that this was an excellent opportunity to learn about the internal functions of the MSU, employment and services. They highly recommended that Assembly members nominate themselves.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

4. Close one seat on Executive Board

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by Arora that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) Executive Board seat.

Nominations

- Arora

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Set Parameters

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by Wong to set parameters for the Executive Board vote of confidence to be one minute for opening statements, two minutes for questions, and one minute for closing statements.

- Singh stated that it was important for the candidate to express why they're the best person to be on Executive Board.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

- The candidate spoke within the time allotted.
- The assembly voted by secret ballot.

Candidate	Confidence	No Confidence
Arora	11	2
Abstained	1	
Spoiled	0	

- Arora won the seat on Executive Board with confidence.

5. Proposed Changes to Bylaw 12 – First-Year Council

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by German that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Bylaw 12 – First-Year Council (FYC)**, as circulated.

- Singh went over the memo with the Assembly.
- German stated that they agreed with increasing the voting members but wanted to speak out against having executives added to the team. German felt that this would take away the control from the first-years, who were voted in, due to a power imbalance. They stated that when executives are upper year it won't matter how much they try to take direction from the elected representatives, as these reps will look up to the execs. German thought that there was also redundancy in terms of other services the MSU has. They stated that FYC was a governance body but when adding executives to this what would the difference be between Spark and FYC. German explained that the FYC Coordinator's job was to be helping FYC reps will planning and promotions, and that the job description would most likely need to be changed in order to be more representative of the changes. German added that all of this would call into question who would be hiring the executives, as at the end of the day it should be FYC hiring but that would mean

hiring in October. German felt that Spark Events team could help the FYC team with training. This way they won't have to create new executive positions for FYC.

- Singh stated that the hiring of the Execs wouldn't be just by the FYC Coordinator. They explained that the positions would be hired by them, the FYC Coordinator and outgoing FYC Council members. Singh explained that they felt this was the best solution for this coming year. Singh added that if these positions are helpful and allow for more success, then they could look at different positions. They explained that the current FYC Coordinator felt that roles would be incorporated with no issues. Singh stated that while the FYC Coordinator was a good support for FYC, they were the only upper year voice as the other ex-officios were not in direct contact so FYC was lacking in perspectives gained. They added that with the addition of upper years exec they would be able to help with the advocacy work early on due to the lack of knowledge. Singh stated that the past members of FYC felt that this was important and that the Assembly should respect their wishes and move forward with passing this motion.
- Wong stated that while they appreciated the intent of some of the changes, they agreed with German. They stated that if the executive positions were added it would introduce a power dynamic. They added that they can't base this off of one year. Wong explained that FYC was a great way for first-year students to have their own power and run their own government body themselves. They added that it wouldn't be fair to the incoming FYC positions by having the outgoing positions hiring these execs, and that they would be more open to having the execs be hired later in the year. Wong felt that adding the exec positions might be taking away FYC's autonomy. They added that those being elected could have their own skills and know how to plan events from High School, and while they would need support a collaboration could be built in with other services. Wong stated that they will introduce a motion to consider splitting the question.

Splitting the Question

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by Middaugh Cifuentes to split the question into 'Voting Members' and 'Executive Roles'

- Wong stated that they do agree with the increasing of voting members as it would increase the first-year voice. They stated that they don't want to create a structure similar to Spark. Wong explained that the students who are elected to these roles will look up to the new exec. Wong was worried that the upper years who have more experience will unintentionally take over.
- Middaugh Cifuentes stated that the Assembly should speak to these changes separately and the motion to split the question would allow that to happen.

Vote to Split the Question

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Singh
Motion Passes

a) Proposed Changes to Bylaw 12 re: Voting Members

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by German that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Bylaw 12 First-Year Council** regarding voting members.

- Singh stated that with the current bylaw there were only four official voting members, and now there will be more.
- German thought that this would be a great addition to FYC and was not sure why it wasn't done earlier. German felt that this would make FYC more representative of the first year body.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

b) Proposed Changes to Bylaw 12 re: Executive Roles

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by German that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Bylaw 12 First-Year Council** regarding executive roles.

- Singh stated that these changes were made in consultation with the previous FYC Chair, as well as the other Chairs, and this year's FYC Coordinator. They explained that there will be three new upper year positions, and the goal was to ensure there would be no gaps in knowledge and to allow for larger initiatives. Singh stated that they were in support of this and didn't think having an advisory capacity would prevent leadership or put forward any influence.
- German thanked the President and FYC Coordinator for putting this together. They thought that this should not be going in the direction proposed and that it would eventually take away leadership due to power dynamics. German suggested adding consultations of the Spark Events team, and dipping into Advocacy to be provided training. They didn't think a change should be made based on previous FYC member involvement, and should be involving the current dynamic. German stated that a lot of this falls on the FYC Coordinator, who would be paid for 10-12 hours per week, and it called into question of what the Coordinator would be doing in their role. They felt that energy should be expended in other places, and that Spark already collaborates with FYC and that should be a take away.
- Middaugh Cifuentes asked Singh what the gaps in knowledge were in FYC and how would adding executives aim to address this. They ceded their remaining time to Singh.
- Singh responded that there are gaps in knowledge of who to reach out to, and how to plan events, do outreach, promote, and know what items are important. They explained that these things take time to learn and adding the exec would help FYC with the connections and next steps in a timely fashion.
- German asked what would happen with hiring. They ceded the rest of their time to Singh.
- Singh responded that the execs would be hired in September or October. They stated that the job descriptions themselves would say October 1 as the start date. Singh explained that this year would be unique as there wouldn't have been anyone in the role before. They added that the positions would promote the existence of FYC.
- Chui stated that they understood how German and Wong were concerned about the power dynamic. They asked Singh if they saw it as a concern, and if not, what has been put in place to mitigate this. They ceded the rest of their time to Singh.
- Singh responded that they didn't think it would be a negative impact as these positions were only an advisory capacity. They added that it's clearly outlined in the bylaw that these positions would support the goals and not impose their own ideas.
- Wong stated that they understood where Singh was coming from. They explained that power dynamics still occur with rules in place. Wong gave an example that the full-time staff at the MSU are very knowledgeable and while the staff have never tried to sway them in a certain direction they would most likely go with the staff's opinion. They stated that this could still happen in FYC, and that they were weary of having these positions where they could take over the conversation. Wong explained that FYC should be able to do their own thing and that they didn't want FYC members feeling that they can't even have a say in these positions. Wong added that they didn't feel as though it was a fair structure.
- Singh stated that it was inappropriate to not give onus to first-years and that they couldn't come up with their own decisions. Singh explained that the job description would clearly outline that these exec positions would be there to support and not to impose on students. They thought that first-years would be strong leaders and could clearly indicate and represent their own ideas.
- German stated that there was a lot of value of doing the trial and error process in these roles and gaining leadership skills on their own without upper years. They stated that this will help FYC think through the

process of how to effectively plan events, post schedules, submitting EOHSS forms, and creating graphics. German felt that if the MSU creates these exec positions this will be taken away and then there would be a lower level in leadership skills in upper years.

- Chui stated that the MSU won't know what will happen until they make the changes.

Call to Question

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by German that the Assembly call to question

In Favour: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Vote on Motion

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by German that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Bylaw 12 First-Year Council** regarding executive roles.

In Favour: 13 Opposed: 2 Abstentions: 2
Opposed: German, Wong
Abstained: Dawdy, Middaugh Cifuentes
Motion Fails

6. Proposed Changes to Operating Policy – Education & Advocacy Department

Moved by Wong, **seconded** by German that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Operating Policy – Education & Advocacy Department**, as circulated.

- Wong went over the memo with the Assembly.
- German thought that the basic changes will reflect the reality of the roles. They added that making sure that there wasn't confusion of this role with the PCC service helped.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

7. Vice-President (Finance) Yearplan

Moved by Singh, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly approve the following Board of Director Year Plans as circulated:

- Vice-President (Finance)
- Chui went over their yearplan.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Time of Next Meeting

September 11, 2022
5:00pm

Council Chambers, GH 111

Call of the Roll

Present: Arora, Burton, Caputo, Chowdhry, Chui, Dawdy, German, Hassan, Lum, Mannat, Midaugh Cifuentes, Mothe, Singh, Suganthan, Wang, Wong, Zea
Absent Excused: Chen (LOA), Garfield (LOA), Tadrous
Absent: Abdallah, Anand, Pittari, Prakhar, Talawala
Late:
Others Present: V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair: Piper

Adjournment

Moved by German, **seconded** by Abdallah that the meeting be adjourned.

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Adjourned at 12:58pm

/vs