

University of Regina Students' Union
Annual General Meeting
RC Multipurpose Room
October 24, 2018 at 11:30 am

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER - 12:10pm

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Quorum established

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

4. APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRPERSON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Juliet Bushi be appointed Chairperson for the 2018 URSU Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Mike Clark
Second: Shawn Wiskar
Motion CARRIED.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the URSU Membership approve the agenda for the October 24, 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Shawn Wiskar
Second: Cole Fedrick

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Motion to move Executive Reports to after item 11. New Special Business

*Moved: Shawn Wiskar
Second: J acq Brasseur
Amendment CARRIED*

Motion with Amendments CARRIED.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

6.1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the URSU Membership approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Mike Clark
Second: Rylan Jensen
Motion CARRIED.

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS (moved to item 12)

- 7.1. Vice President Student Affairs
- 7.2. Vice President External Affairs
- 7.3. Vice President Finance and Operations
- 7.4. President

8. PRESENTATIONS

8.1. Audited Financial Statements period ending April 30, 2018

- Derrick Gagnon, VP Operations and Finance presented the statements

9. NORMAL BUSINESS

9.1. Approval of Audited Financial Statements

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the audited financial statements for 2017/2018 be approved.

Moved: Alison Watson
Second: Bryton Luxton
Motion CARRIED.

9.2. Appointment of the Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MNP be re-appointed as URSU's Auditor for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

Moved: Derrick Gagnon
Second: Shawn Wiskar
Motion CARRIED.

10. OLD SPECIAL BUSINESS

- none

11. NEW SPECIAL BUSINESS

11.1. Creation of New Director Position

WHEREAS Students enrolled in the Centre for Continuing Education are fee-paying members of URSU, and;

Whereas they currently have no representation on the URSU Board of Directors;

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU creates a position on the Board to ensure that these students are represented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this new constituency representative be added to Article V(2) of the Constitution as "Continuing Education Director"

Moved: Conor Woolley
Second: Libin Salad
Motion CARRIED.

11.2. Amendment to Article VI of the Constitution

WHEREAS thorough and consistent Executive accountability measures are in the best interest of URSU; and,

WHEREAS responsibilities and duties of the Executive Committee should remain static and unchanging; and,

WHEREAS such consistent measures should be incorporated into the Constitution to ensure that they remain consistent with the will of the student membership; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following text be added to the Article VI POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the URSU Constitution:

(14) The Executive Committee shall be subject to the following additional duties and responsibilities, on account of the public nature of their duties to the Board of Directors and the URSU:

(14.1) The members of the Executive Committee shall be required to meet at least 20 hours per week of office hours during the open business hours of the University of Regina Students' Union.

(14.2) The Executive Committee shall be required to publicly disclose any and all additional honorariums, payments, or gifts received from any party that works with or for the University of Regina Students' Union to the Board of Directors and the membership.

(14.3) The Executive Committee shall recognize their duties as officers and employees of the organization and not engage in secondary work (practicum, work-term, Co-op placement, internship, other employment) during the majority of open business hours of the University of Regina Students' Union.

Moved: Shawn Wiskar
Second: Austin Mcbhial

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Change (14.3) to read: Executives shall recognize their duties as officers and employees of the organization and ensure a designate or alternate attends related events or duties when any secondary works affects their ability to attend providing such delegation does not contravene any URSU or University of Regina governing policies.

*Moved: Jacq Brasseur
Second: Sara Wyseman
Amendment CARRIED*

(14.3.1) Executives who accept secondary work during the majority of open URSU business hours shall be given four weeks to adjust their schedules or a recall vote shall be called by the Board of Directors.

(14.4) Failure to comply with any duty or responsibility applicable to members of the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee, shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors, and a recall vote may be ordered by a 2/3 majority of the Board.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Add: (14.5) The members of the Executive Committee shall be required to be at work in the office at least 20 hours per week during the open business hours of the University of Regina Students' Union. URSU's "open business hours" shall be defined as the "hours in a day that the University generally schedules classes".

*Moved: Sarah Wyseman
Second: Skylar Wall
Amendment CARRIED*

Motion with Amendments CARRIED.

11.3. Addition to Article V of the Constitution (1)

WHEREAS the current constitution allows for a potential eight (8) year consecutive term limit; and,

WHEREAS turnover of executive positions is healthy to a functioning democracy; and,

WHEREAS clear and concise rules are essential for URSU as an organization to plan for executive transition on an annual basis; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following text be added to ARTICLE V - OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION TERMS of OFFICE of DIRECTORS of the URSU Constitution:

(11) No student may be elected or acclaimed to serve more than three terms total in any one or several Executive positions, as defined in ARTICLE V (3), on the Executive Committee of the Students' Union."

Moved: Shawn Wiskar
Second: Bryton Luxton
Motion CARRIED

11.4. Addition to Article V of the Constitution (2)

WHEREAS the current executive employment contracts are reported to be in contradiction with URSU policies; and,

WHEREAS newly elected boards do not have the experience or the luxury to understand why a previous board may have made changes to the employment agreements of Executives; and,

WHEREAS there is an inherent conflict of interest in allowing an executive to petition to change their own employment contract; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following text be added to ARTICLE V OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION TERMS of OFFICE of DIRECTORS of the URSU Constitution:

(12) Each Executive Committee member shall sign an executive employment contract prior to the start of their term.

(12.1) For executives elected in the General Election that date is May 1.

(12.2) For executives elected in a By-Election, or appointed to fill a vacancy, that date shall be prior to assuming the duties of their elected position.

(12.3) Each employment contract is subject to review and amendments by the Board of Directors. Such changes may be made at any time, but said changes shall not take effect until May 1 of the following year.

(12.4) 12.3 shall not apply to changes that are required by Federal or Provincial labour Regulations.

Moved: Shawn Wiskar

Second: Jacq Brasseur

Motion CARRIED.

11.5. CFS fee rebate

WHEREAS URSU has been tasked with holding a referendum on membership between the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the University of Regina Students' Union; and,

WHEREAS a year has gone by since this motion was passed and no progress has been made by URSU in holding this referendum; and,

WHEREAS the students of the University of Regina deserve an opportunity to choose if they are in favour of maintaining membership in CFS; and,

WHEREAS URSU is committed to alleviating financial hardship among students; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT any **currently enrolled** student who can prove they have not engaged in any services, activities, or promotion of CFS within the fall semester will be eligible for a full refund of their CFS fees for the **2017/2018 year**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this refund shall be made from a new budgetary line separate from the CFS levy payable by URSU's to the CFS and that this line shall remain until a referendum date is announced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that this refund shall be disbursed on a first come first served basis and shall be capped at \$10,000 of available funds.

Moved: Shawn Wiskar

Second: Benjamin Berge

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that any outstanding CFS fees be paid in full in the next 30 days so a referendum can be held.

*Moved: Sara Wyseman
Second: Shawn Wiskar
Amendment CARRIED*

Motion with Amendments CARRIED.

11.6. Executive Accountability (1)

WHEREAS executive accountability is an essential aspect to the operation of the University of Regina Students' Union; and,

WHEREAS students have the right to know that their elected officials are meeting the expectations placed on them by the membership; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an exception report be generated monthly announcing when URSU executives have failed to meet their monthly hourly obligations except in the case of (personal days, holidays or other approved time off as needed by the HR Committee), and give the Executive an option to add a note to explain why, should they feel comfortable in doing so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if a report is generated that it is posted on the URSU website for the membership to view.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these exception results take effect immediately.

Moved: Shawn Wiskar
Second: Rylan Jensen
Motion CARRIED.

11.7. Executive Accountability (2)

WHEREAS Article VIII.1 of the URSU Constitution requires that a "recall of a director shall only be successful if the number of votes to recall the director exceeds the number of votes it took to elect that director" during an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting; and,

WHEREAS the 2018 CRO's report has shown that all Executive members were elected with over 400 votes; and,

WHEREAS the average attendance of an Annual General Meeting is between 100 and 250 people and Annual General Meetings are not accessible to all members of URSU; and,

WHEREAS the University of Saskatchewan Student Union's removal from office bylaws require for a special resolution of non-confidence to be passed by the Board after a

petition requesting the removal of the member of the Executive or Director of at least 7.5% members or constituents is presented; and,

WHEREAS students should have an accessible way to hold their Directors and Executives accountable; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VIII RECALL OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS be immediately amended to read:

- 1) Any member of the Board of Directors may be recalled, that is to say removed from office, when a quorum of two-thirds of members of the Board is present at a Board meeting, and a special resolution of non-confidence is passed by majority.
- 2) A special resolution of non-confidence shall be held when a petition requesting the removal of a member of the Executive containing the signatures of at least 7.5% of members or the greater of the percentage of votes they received during the election, is presented to the Board or when a petition requesting the removal of a Director of the board containing the signature of at least 7.5% of the constituents the representative represents is presented to the Board. Notification to membership must be made with 14 days of a petition being put forth.
- 3) When a petition is put forth, an ad hoc committee of URSU Staff, Board members and URSU members shall be formed to determine the validity of the petition.

Moved: Jacq Brasseur
Second: Cat Haines
Motion CARRIED.

11.8. Spring/Summer U-Pass Program

WHEREAS URSU currently provides a U-Pass service to students during the Fall and Winter semesters only; and,

WHEREAS URSU has received many complaints about the lack of a U-Pass program during the Spring/Summer semester; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT URSU holds a referendum during the next general election on whether a Spring/Summer U-Pass program should be implemented; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the wording of the referendum question be put to the members before voting takes place. The wording of the referendum question will be approved by the URSU Board of Directors at the last Board of Directors meeting prior to the election.

Moved: Derrick Gagnon
Second: Tokini Briggs
Motion CARRIED.

11.9. Change to Part-Time Intramural Fee

WHEREAS URSU's mission statement is to provide students high-quality supports, services, opportunities, and advocacy, to ensure that all students have a fun, safe and healthy University experience; and,

WHEREAS Intramurals are an essential part of 2,200 students' healthy university experience; and,

WHEREAS all students have equal access to participate in intramurals regardless of credit hours registered; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the part-time intramural fee be raised from \$1.25 to \$2.50 to be equalized with the full-time intramural fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this fee be in addition to any fees charged by URSU.

Moved: Chelsea Jones
Second: Shawn Wiskar
Motion CARRIED.

11.10. Increase of UR Pride Centre levy

WHEREAS the UR Pride Centre levy is currently \$5.00 per full-time student; and,

WHEREAS the UR Pride Centre levy has not increased for over 5 years; and,

WHEREAS the UR Pride Centre would like to increase their wellness fund, emergency bursary, and student project funding pots; and,

WHEREAS all students can choose to opt-out of the UR Pride Centre levy on request; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UR Pride Centre student levy be increased by \$0.25 per student; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this fee be in addition to any fees charged by the URSU; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT URSU ensures that UR Pride Centre provides an annual report with clear explanations of how students have benefited from their services and programs.

Moved: Jacq Brasseur
Second: Cat Haines
Motion CARRIED.

11.11 Review of Election Process

WHEREAS in the most current By-Election and the last three elections, the winner of an election with 3 or more candidates has not received a majority (>51%) of the vote (excepting one); and,

WHEREAS in current URSU elections, only about 10% of the available student body votes; and,

WHEREAS with First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting, the winner in these elections of 10% of the student body is, more often than not, failing to achieve a majority of the vote; and,

WHEREAS FPTP can lead to vote-splitting and the "Spoiler Effect", both of which discourage candidates to run in fear of taking votes from another candidate;

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU adopts an Alternative Voting System (Ranked Ballot) in time for the 2019 Winter General Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT URSU form an ad-hoc "Election Reform Committee" with a representative from the Executive, Board, PAC and at least one past CRO, and that this Committee present a recommendation for a new voting system to the Board of Directors by January 31st, 2019, and that a new voting system be implemented by February 28th, 2019.

Moved: Cole Pedrick
Second: Alex Leach
Motion CARRIED.

11.12 Appointment of Election Officer

WHEREAS there is consistently poor voter turnout at URSU elections and by-elections; and,

WHEREAS an election officer could be employed in a short-term contract position to promote voter turnout,

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU employ an election promotions officer with consideration given to a third party candidate.

Moved: Libin Salad
Second: Rashad Haque
Motion CARRIED.

11.13 HR Committee

WHEREAS the URSU HR Committee has experienced difficulties when dealing with internal conflicts; and,

WHEREAS the lack of resolution of conflicts can lead to great discontent among employees; and,

WHEREAS this undermines the functioning of the Students' Union,

WHEREAS this situation often leads to a toxic work environment, which can threaten the mental health of those involved;

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU contracts an independent, third party human resources consultant to investigate and arbitrate all human resources matters that involve an Executive or a Director and to make recommendations for the Board to consider.

Moved: Sara Wyseman
Second: Jacq Brasseur

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU contracts an independent, third party human resources consultant to investigate all appeals of decisions made that pertain to human resources matters that involved an Executive or a Director. This consultant is to provide recommendations to the Board on its findings as is consistent with the current policy.

Moved: Jacq Brasseur
Second: Cat Haines
Amendment CARRIED.

Motion with Amendments CARRIED.

11.14 Creation of an Equity and Campaigns Director

WHEREAS URSU'S Board of Directors is comprised of positions that represent faculties, federated colleges, and student special interest constituencies including; Aboriginal Students Director, Women's Directors, International Students Director, Director for Students with Disabilities, Francophone Students' Director and LGBTQ Students' Director; and,

WHEREAS most recently, on campus students from marginalized backgrounds expressed concerns for their safety about hate literature campaigns, social media photos, and classroom discussions that include racial discrimination, cultural appropriation, gender discrimination, and lack of support for students with disabilities and accommodations; and,

WHEREAS the University of Regina Students' Union's mission is to provide opportunities of advocacy with values of responsive and proactive action towards unique and changing needs of students,

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU creates an "Equity and Campaigns" director position that would advance the interests of marginalized students by organizing campaigns aimed at making the University of Regina campus community a more inclusive and equitable space; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this new position be represented as 'Equity and Campaigns Director' and added to Article V (2) of the URSU Constitution

Moved: Heather O'Watch

Second: Jacq Brasseur
Motion CARRIED.

12. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- 12.1. Vice President Student Affairs
- 12.2. Vice President External Affairs
- 12.3. Vice President Finance and Operations
- 12.4. President

13. ADJOURNMENT - 5:32pm

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Reports (Item 12) not be presented, but that they be posted on URSU's website; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Tokini Briggs
Second: Sara Wyseman
Motion CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm

14. EXECUTIVE REPORTS (item 7 in original agenda)

- 14.1. Vice President Student Affairs
- 14.2. Vice President External Affairs
- 14.3. Vice President Finance and Operations
- 14.4. President

15. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS