

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the 2009/2010 University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario held on February 10, 2010 in Council Chambers, Room 315, University Community Centre

Note: This meeting can be viewed in full or in part via streaming video at <http://tvwestern.ca/>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Speaker called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. O CANADA

Searle led Council in the singing of O Canada.

3. WESTERN SCHOOL SONG

Searle led Council in the singing of the Western School Song.

4. ATTENDANCE

Present

Arcaro, Justin	Green, Matthew	Quadry, Barshan
Arnone, Teresa	Gregory, Jessica	Rowe, Emily
Barbazza, Erica	Hall, Stacey	Saddington, Ken
Beach, Andrew	Joo, Judy	Scott, Douglas
Bortolin, Will	Karamanis, Samuel	Searle, Patrick
Buccella, Jonathan	Kim, Jennifer	Serwotka, Dana
Caldwell, Nathan	Kumar, Sacha	Shumka, Matthew
Carrick, Siobhan	Machado, Melissa	Smith, David
Chartash, David	Macleod, Kyle	So, Arthur
Chisholm, Jackie	Mammoletti, Christina	Somogyi, Adam
Cifani, Patricia	McClelland, Melissa	Sousa, Brandon
Cifani, Vince	Morrone, Loren	Tamse, Jennifer
Citron, Russell	Moulton, Dan	Thomas, Toby
Collins-Swartz, Jesse	Nabeel, Nivin	Tithecott, Mike
Coupal, Tyler	Nurmohamed, Sabrina	Weibe, Brittany
Dayal, Lokesh	O'Brien, Laura	Wong, Richard
Dean, Becky	Palmer, Carissa	Woodruff, Jayde
Forgione, Andrew	Park, Ray	Wu, Boaz
Gautier, Jennifer	Piche, Allison	
Goodman, Chris	Poon, Shirley	

Absent With Regrets

Cormier, Andrew
Grossi, Melissa
Latosinsky, Michelle

Lo, Rosalind
Murgelas, Stefan
Rygier, Ely

Tonnos, Yasmeen

Absent Without Regrets

Brown, Justin
Cassellis, Sarah
Cernak, Carolyn
Duffield, Andrew
Duncan, Patrick

Ferris, Daniel
Gupta, Arjun
Lingat, Liane
McLean, Alex
Milde, Clara

van Gaalen, Matthijs
Vertes, Jaclyn
Wright, Melanie

Non-Voting Members and Observers

Andrew Pel, Huron University College
Cathy Clarke, USC General Manager
Paul Tomlinson, USC Building Services Manager

Deputy Speaker: Diego Noronha

Recording Secretary: Sandi Stefan

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda.
Kim/Wong/Carried

6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS

Be it resolved that the minutes of the following meetings of the 2009/2010 University Students' Council be ratified.
Meeting #11 held on January 13, 2010
Meeting #12 held on January 27, 2010
Hall/Joo/Carried. C.13.1

7. SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noronha announced that Salari was absent and he would be chairing the meeting.

8. MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members announced various upcoming charity and social events.

9. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE WESTERN COMMUNITY

There were no comments or questions from the Western community.

10. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

11. COUNCIL BUSINESS

12. POSTED MOTIONS

There were no posted motions

13. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

<http://www.usc.uwo.ca/government/board/reports/index.asp>

President

Rowe congratulated all of the candidates running in the election and encouraged all Council members to join her at the Big Purple Council Election Results Show in the UCC Atrium.

Rowe made the following announcement:

“As you are aware, this is a challenging budget year. To ensure we protect the services that students value most, we have been evaluating the ongoing sustainability and return on investment for all full-time salaried positions. As you will see when you receive the budget, we will be realizing ongoing cost-savings through the identification of surplus staff positions, and through targeted seasonal layoffs.

Kendell Wilde is no longer employed by the University Students’ Council, and we have decided not to hire a new General Counsel.

We have secured outside legal counsel from local legal firm Mackenzie Lake Lawyers LLP. This firm acted as our legal counsel for many years before we hired a General Counsel. Mackenzie-Lake will make a presentation to Council at our next meeting outlining their services, and to answer any questions you might have.

We made the decision to secure outside counsel rather than hire a new General Counsel because we judge it to be a more cost-efficient means of receiving legal services, and more in line with an organization of our size, scope, and mission. Note that we were the only Students’ Council in Canada to employ a full-time, in-house lawyer.

Cathy Clarke, USC General Manager, has assured me that all of the General Counsel's duties will be satisfied by our outside counsel, or by other members of our management team. Our newly formed Government Services Department – a department being created to serve you better, which you'll hear more about it during the budget presentation – will be taking on all non-legal duties of the General Counsel.

For matters of confidentiality, I cannot go into more detail regarding the General Counsel's departure.”

Rowe advised that she and the General Manager would be available to answer any questions regarding this announcement during question period.

Finance

Kumar presented his report to Council and noted that there was a misconception regarding a deficit in the USC budget. He explained that this misconception resulted from the comparison, given during the Q2 Review between this year's budget and the 08/09 budget, was intended only as an illustration of the changes between the two budgets. He reviewed the timeline of the budget approval process and the schedule of budget briefing sessions prior to AGM II.

University Affairs

Moulton presented his report to Council and announced that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. would be speaking at Western in March. He thanked the Science, Social Science, Huron and King's Councils for supporting this event. He also advised that the Governance Review Panel would be presenting their recommendations to the Governance Review Implementation Committee on February 22nd and to Council on February 24th.

Campus Issues

Bortolin presented his report to Council and provided updates on the Real People, Real Issues campaign; the Campus Safety Date Rape Prevention campaign; and the updating of the USC's IT policies. He advised that the Ethnocultural Support Service would be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval at the next meeting.

Student Events

Arcaro presented his report to Council and advised that all soph applications were now due. He noted that the deadline for these applications had been extended due to technical difficulties with the website. Arcaro announced that the “Have a Heart for Haiti” campaign which was presented through the combined efforts of over twenty clubs and seven constituency Councils, raised over \$30,000 in donations from twenty-five thousand students.

Communications

Hawthorn presented her report to Council and announced that the applications for the position of 2010/2011 Communications Officer were now open. She reviewed the

timeline for the Vice-Presidential elections and the hiring of the Communications Officer. Hawthorn encouraged Council members to attend the Presidential Election Results Show in The Atrium after the meeting.

14. BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SENATE REPORTS

There were no reports from the Board of Governors or Senate.

15. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM REPORTS

Can students still donate to the “Have a Heart for Haiti” campaign?

Arcaro advised that donations would still be accepted on February 11th and 12th.

Will the Council meeting scheduled for the same night as the Robert F. Kennedy event be re-scheduled?

Moulton advised that they were looking at re-scheduling the Council meeting to allow Council members to attend this speaker event.

Will AGM II be re-scheduled as it falls on the same day as Spring Preview Day?

Hawthorn responded that these two events have often fallen on the same day in previous years; however, AGM II would not be re-scheduled because of the timing of the Vice-Presidential elections.

How will the USC respond to comments from students that they feel they are being ripped off in relation to the bus pass refund resulting from the London Transit Commission strike?

Rowe advised that almost the entire amount refunded to the USC by the LTC was being returned to students as only \$0.72 was being deducted from each refund to cover the USC costs for printing the refund cheques and distributing them to students.

How much money was raised by the OUSA Blue Chair campaign?

Moulton responded that there were no final numbers available as yet for this campaign.

In regards to the costs to OUSA and to the USC for the Blue Chair Campaign, has OUSA considered increasing its membership costs to reflect the actual cost of membership?

Moulton advised that each OUSA member-school has the option to not participate in the Blue Chair Campaign. He noted that OUSA has a very small budget and it is the responsibility of the member schools to absorb the cost of the campaign if they choose to go beyond the materials provided by OUSA. He added that there was a small amount of

money in the budget of the Vice-President University Affairs for campaigns. There were some costs associated with participating in the Blue Chair Campaign and making it successful and he had chosen to allocate the money in his budget to this campaign.

What will happen to any bus pass refunds that are not picked up by students?

Rowe advised that students will be able to pick up their refund cheques for an extended period of time from Infosource and money from any cheques not picked up would be budgeted accordingly.

How has OUSA addressed concerns raised in the USC review of OUSA?

Moulton noted that he had been the Commissioner-at-Large University Affairs for the last review of OUSA and there had been a concern raised due to the small size of the OUSA budget. The majority of the OUSA budget is dedicated to government campaigns and lobby efforts. He added that there would be a small increase of \$0.50 in OUSA membership fees for the upcoming year and, should OUSA continue to grow, they would need additional funds. He noted that OUSA would be conducting a second campaign this year “Food for Thought” which would highlight the small amount of money that students living on OSAP receive for food.

In regards to the recent Statistics Canada report on student debt, no solutions recommended by CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations) could be found. What are CASA’s initiatives to address student debt?

Moulton responded that CASA certainly has policy in place to address student debt and he would be happy to forward this policy to anyone who requests it. He added that CASA had been participating in round table discussions in Ottawa this week to discuss this issue.

Should an increase in the OUSA fee to students not be brought to Council for approval?

Moulton advised that an increase of this small size does not require Council approval.

Would it not have been reasonable to bring this increase to Council for discussion?

Moulton responded that he had announced the increase twice in his Board Reports to Council and would be happy to discuss any concerns with Council at any time.

Would there be a town hall meeting held for the OUSA review?

Moulton advised that scheduling of any town hall meetings would be left to the discretion of Vince Mazza, Provincial Affairs Commissioner, who was overseeing the review.

16. MATTERS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES

There were no matters arising from Board minutes.

17. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

18. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for discussion.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Park/Arcaro/Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

President

Recording Secretary

Approved on: _____

Sign In/Sign Out

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time In</u>	<u>Time Out</u>
Forgione, Andrew	7:30	