

## **MINUTES**

Board of Directors Meeting #4 of the University of Toronto Students' Union  
Tuesday, August 23 2011 • 6 pm • 119 Woodsworth College

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### **Attendance:**

Stephanie Abrahams (St. Michael's College)  
Albi Aziz (Vice-President Campus Life)  
Lena Elamin (Vice-President Equity)  
Jesse Esufali (Faculty of Nursing)  
Rebecca Harvey (Woodsworth College)  
Clara Ho (Vice-President University Affairs)  
Prescilla Jong (St. Michael's College)  
Saba Khan (UTM)  
Dimpho Radebe (Faculty of Engineering)  
Munib Sajjad (UTMSU representative)  
Danielle Sandhu (President)  
Corey Scott (Vice-President Internal & Services Affairs)  
Michael Scott (Trinity College)  
Shaun Shepherd (Vice-President External)  
Keshav Uppal (UTM)  
Leonicka Valcius (New College)  
Jonathan Valelly (Innis College)  
Dan Shilensky (Professional Faculty At-Large) (in at 6:09)  
Carly Degenstein (Victoria College) (in at 6:11 left at 8:14)  
Sana Rokhsefat (Arts & Science At-Large) (in at 6:27)  
Min Kyu-Kim (Victoria College) (in at 6:33)  
Lisette Ferrari (St. Michael's College) (in at 6:35)

### **Proxy:**

Anne Xu to Keshav Uppal, Seconded to Munib Sajjad  
Kishan Chouhan to Corey Scott, Seconded to Danielle Sandhu  
Shreena Dhawan to Leonicka Reyes, seconded to Thuwanika Kandasamy  
Susan Hwang to Corey Scott, seconded to Jon Foster  
Ramya Janandharan to Sana Rokhsefat, seconded to Corey Scott  
Jarrar Ahmed to Abigail Gyaben Cudjoe seconded to Shaun Shepherd  
Jon Foster to Corey Scott  
Abigail Gyaben Cudjoe to Sana Rokhsefat  
Gina Husain to Saba Khan, Seconded to Munib Sajjad  
Thuwanika Kandasamy to Shreena Dhawan, seconded to Shaun Shepherd  
Sana Rokhsefat to Jonathan Valelly

### **Ex Officio:**

Kevin Sousa (President, Physical and Health Education Undergraduate Association)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

### **MOTION**

Moved: C. Scott

Seconded: Sandhu

Be it resolved that the agenda for the August 23, 2011 U.T.S.U. Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.

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### **MOTION**

Moved: Scott, C.

Seconded: Aziz

Be it resolved that the agenda for the August 23, 2011 U.T.S.U Board of Directors Meeting be amended to move item 6:FYI-Orientation report to item 3.

### **DISCUSSION**

Scott, M. speaks against the motion. He states that the campus-wide Orientation meeting is happening at the moment and they would like to attend and speak to Orientation items.

Sandhu states that Coombe, the UTSU Orientation coordinator would also like to attend the OC meeting and as such we should move the item up on the agenda.

### **VOTE**

Opposed: Scott, M.

### **CARRIED**

### **MAIN MOTION**

### **VOTE**

Opposed: Scott, M.

### **CARRIED**

Agenda approved as amended.

## **3. FYI-ORIENTATION REPORT**

Coombe states he is one of the Orientation Coordinators for the second year and that planning has been fantastic and ahead of schedule. He further states that the theme is UniTe! which speaks to uniting students across the three U of T campuses. He further states that the t-shirts and laundry bags have been supplied through the Canadian Federation of Students Bulk Purchasing Program and are all ethically and sustainably produced. He further states that the Orientation website is up and the summer mailer went out to about 35, 000 students. He further states that the programming timeline has been changed slightly and will take place over two days. He further states that the Clubs Fair will take place on Wednesday with the concert, parade and after party on Friday. He further states the logistical change will accommodate both staff and student volunteers and create shorter days for them instead of a twenty four hour workday. He further states that the concert will begin at 3 pm and Sam Roberts Band is the headlining act, the largest concert UTSU has seen to date. He further states there will be continuous shuttling from campus to the after party venue with the last shuttle leaving at 3 am.

Sandhu states that she would like to thank and congratulate those responsible for planning the various Orientations. She further states that the amount of work that goes into Orientation planning is quite impressive and our programming will introduce the first years to a fun and

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inclusive environment. She further states that the team working on Orientation has done a very good job of tweaking finances and looking at the smaller logistical details.

Scott, M. asks why some kits don't have Clubs directories or handbooks in them.

Coombe states that the Clubs Directories and handbooks are available for pick up in the office

Sandhu states that there will be many opportunities throughout orientation week to ensure that all of our members have access to these materials at the various events.

Scott, M. states that having something available to pick up is not the most effective way to distribute to members. He further states that every single student gets a frosh kit and not having information in the kit is a mistake. He further states that he is curious what other steps are being taken to do outreach.

Coombe states that Union materials are being given out at a tent we have set up outside of the UTSU office. He further states that executives and volunteers will be spread out throughout the campus doing outreach and distributing materials.

Shepherd states that as Board of Directors, it is all of our responsibilities to ensure that our members know what the UTSU does for them and that they know how access our services.

### **MOTION**

Moved: Sandhu

Seconded: Scott, M.

Be it Resolved that Melinda Jacobs from Trinity College Meeting be granted speaking rights.

### **VOTE**

### **CARRIED**

Jacobs states asks if members can pick up more than one handbook

Coombe states that they can but the goal is to let members know where the office is and inform them of the many other services we offer.

Sousa asks if there will be water trucks.

Coombe states there will be several parked at Hart House Circle.

Valcius states that frosh kits are not the best way to outreach to members. She further states that not all members attend Orientation events and as such doing campus-wide outreach in the weeks leading up to and after Frosh is the best way to ensure that the largest possible numbers of our members have access to the Handbook.

Sajjad states that UTMSU has been very happy with the UTSU Orientation kits as they are high quality and contain materials the members really enjoy.

Sandhu states that the best way to distribute kits and materials is outreach. She further states that it is true that not every student attends frosh and as a board we should make sure we do what we can to reach the utmost members.

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Degenstein states that if we are concerned about certain colleges not getting handbooks we should look to Colleges that decided to forego the kits and discuss with them how important it is to purchase our kits. She further states that the Union cannot subsidise all the College kits as that will cut into our other Orientation projects financially. She further states that the burden should fall on the colleges to collaborate with UTSU who has been willing to make its kits available and accommodate the Colleges.

Coombe states the kits are a high value item and include many materials and information for our members. He further states that it would be excellent if the Colleges purchased our kits.

Scott, C. states that the Union would be more than happy to come out to divisional Frosh registration and events in order to distribute Clubs Directories and Handbooks.

Jacobs states that the colleges chose not to purchase UTSU kits because of their political nature and their criticism of the University.

Scott, M. suggests that it is clear student fees pay for the handbooks. He further states the handbooks are great and are great way to target students. He asks why we are making life more difficult for students.

Sandhu states that it is great we are concerned about doing outreach to members. She further states that we should be brainstorming and working together in playing a role in order to provide easier access to our services. She further states that if anyone has any suggestions regarding orientation they should contact the orientation team.

### **3. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

#### **MOTION**

Moved: C. Scott

Seconded: Sandhu

Be it resolved that the U.T.S.U. Board of Directors approve the Executive Reports as presented at the August 23, 2011 Board meeting.

Sandhu states that she is excited about Orientation this year as it will be an amazing Frosh Week for students and she commends the team that worked on it. She further states that Alternative Orientations planning is almost complete and the programming looks great. She further states that the orientation team will be working hard to think about the different communities on campus and engaging them in the work of the students' unions. She further states that she is excited to take part in the Take it Over campaign and that it has been very inspiring to see Board members play a role in the campaign. She further states that the Union continues to work closely with UTMSU to ensure the Mississauga Academy of Medicine (MAM) students have access to Union services. She further states that we are working with our sister students' unions to defend the rights of students and ensure that we are represented on all levels of Governance.

Valelly asks what the relationship is with the Scarborough Campus Students' Union.

Sandhu states that although the Scarborough Campus Students' Union is an independent union, we still work closely with them to ensure that U of T students are represented across the University as student issues are shared across the three campuses.

Scott, M. asks for an update on the Student Commons.

Sandhu states that the time line of the move to the Student Commons has not yet been finalized as the negotiations continue.

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Ferrari asks where the Student Commons building will be located.

Sandhu states that the Student Commons will be at 230 College Street.

Aziz states that as Orientation nears we should be promoting it heavily. He further states that Board members should be speaking to constituents about Orientation programming. He further states that the UTSU held a Caribana Food Fair last month in which we collaborated with various campus groups. He further states that Commuter Student Orientation will take place on Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>. He further states the Commuter Student Orientation will feature a BBQ, scavenger hunt and a Yuk Yuk's outing. He further states that kit stuffing is ahead of schedule. He further states that many UTSU Clubs applied for summer funding as there is a large number of events happening on campus.

Scott, M. asks if U of T groups are charged to place their information in kits. He asks if the Varsity gave more ad space in return for kit inserts.

Aziz states that orientation planning is quite costly and we do acquire a lot of sponsorship to cover our costs. He further states that the Union does its best to ensure members are given good quality kits.

Elamin states that the International Student Orientation planning is going well. She further states that the Orientation will help in getting international students more involved and familiar with the campus. She further states that the Centre for International Experience is interested in collaborating on events throughout the year. She further states that the WUSC student has arrived and is settling in well. She further states that the Religious Conference committee has been struck and several faith-based groups have already signed up to participate. She further states that a date has yet to be finalized but the Conference will be taking place in March. She further states that the Social Justice and Equity Fair will take place in mid-October in Sidney Smith and will allow campus groups committed to social justice work to showcase their work. She further states that the Union will be holding a Somali famine fundraiser.

Ferrai asks what organization the fundraising will be for.

Elamin states we are compiling a list of organisations that are compatible with the UTSU's mandate.

Valcius states it is important we are mindful of where the money is going to and that the funds are actually helping people on the ground instead of going towards administrative fees.

Scott, M., asks what the cost of the Equity for All Garden is.

Elamin states that the financial documents for the Garden are in the office and she will be happy to provide him a copy.

Shepherd states that he has been focusing on the Take it Over campaign. He further states that the Union has been hosting regular coalition meetings to shape the campaign in terms of the specific needs of U of T students. He further states that Chalk it up was very successful and both students and the general public participated and the Union received several media hits.

Jacobs asks if Take it Over addresses issues around funding for graduate students.

Shepherd states that although the UTSU specifically does not represent graduate students, the campaign does address graduate issues as well. He further states that Placing Students First, the

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document produced by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario called "Placing Students First" does recommend an expansion of the Ontario Graduate Scholarships. He further states that one of the recommendations is to require institutions to establish whistleblower protection and safe disclosure policies as part of multi-year accountability agreements.

Ho states that she thinks it was great that media outlets pick up our press release for Chalk it Up. She further states that she did an interview with a Chinese radio show and that she thinks it is great that we are reaching diaspora communities with student issues as well.

Abrahams states that it was a successful event with many people stopping by to chalk their message. She further states that it was great to see Board members participating in the action.

Sandhu states that tourists visiting Toronto also stopped by and added their messages of solidarity. She further states that it was very interesting to speak with people who were surprised that education was not free in Canada.

Valcius asks if the Union is promoting DisOrientation.

Shepherd states that the UTSU shares the planning and promotion with OPIRG. He further states that there is a website being created and that UTSU volunteers and executives let people know about DisOrientation when doing outreach.

Valelly asks when DisOrientation meetings are held.

Shepherd states that DisOrientation meetings take place every Monday at 4 pm.

Ho states that the Academic and Student Rights Commission discussed creating a scholarship guide as well as a Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide. She further states that we have received the last few applications for the Teaching Awards. She further states that the Union will be holding a Yoga/Zumbathon in November. She further states that the Union has been working on developing an academic advocacy office. She further states that the Professional Faculties committee meeting went well and there was brainstorming on ways which the UTSU can outreach to members of those faculties. She further states that there are concerns around the building of the Goldring centre. She further states that there is concern that the operating costs will be downloaded to students. She further states that the student representatives sitting on the project planning committee Operational policies should state exactly what kind of services students will have access to.

Scott, C. states that the Union now has a new facebook page as the old group settings do not work for a group the size of the UTSU group. He further states that the new group format will allow the union to use more applications and features to promote its services and campaigns. He further states that the Book Exchange Program is going online and is much more efficient and accessible to members. He further states that Board members should be encouraging their constituents to use the service as the service is full-year. He further states that the Good Food Box is also going online. He further states the Union is hiring a part-time graphic designer. He further states that the Union has hired a new Executive Director. He further states that the hiring committee shortlisted candidates for interviews and is pleased to announce Amir Bashir was selected to be the new Executive Director.

Valcius asks what the turnaround time will be for cheque mail-outs for the Book Exchange.

Scott, C states that we are not entirely certain as we will have to figure out what the busiest times are.

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Scott, M. asks when the Executive Director vacancy was posted

Sandhu states that the posting was circulated online mid-July.

Scott, M. asks why there is resistance to a referendum to a COLA increase to groups and why the executives are avoiding a referendum

Sandhu states that it is not up to the executive to decide who seeks referendums. She further states that there is a simple process groups need to follow to be able to trigger a referendum.

Scott, M. stats that bike chain would like to seek a referendum. He asks why there is resistance to expansion.

Scott, C. states he has discussed a COLA increase referendum with the coordinator of Bike Chain and explained the procedure of referendums. He further states that the Coordinator thought that Fall would be too early to have a vote. He further states they agreed to work together to figure out a plan that works best for the group.

### **VOTE**

### **CARRIED**

### **MOTION TO RECESS**

Moved: Jong

Seconded: Valcius

### **CARRIED**

The meeting is recessed at 7:30 pm.

The meeting resumes at 7:45 pm.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **MOTION**

Moved: C. Scott

Seconded: Sandhu

Be it resolved that the August 23, 2011 minutes package including the following documents be approved by the U.T.S.U. Board of Directors:

- a. Board of Directors (2011-2012), July 19
- b. Executive Committee, July 22, 29 August 8, 12
- c. Academic and Student Rights Commission, July 25
- d. Social Justice and Equity Commission, July14, 28
- e. Sustainability Commission, August 10
- f. Professional Faculties Committee, August11
- g. Organisational and Services Development Committee, August 10
- h. Clubs Committee, Jul 27, August 12
- i. Budget Committee, August 2

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*Externalisations*

### **July 28<sup>th</sup> Social Justice and Equity Commission meeting**

#### **Motion 02**

Be it resolved that the Equity and Social Justice Commission requests the VP Equity begin an analysis, in consultation with stake-holders, of the most effective ways to prevent and combat anti-Semitism on campus which would include consulting with Jewish students and major Jewish student organizations on campus.

Scott, M. reads out a letter sent to the chair of the Social Justice and Equity Commission.

Sajjad calls point of order. He states that he feels targeted as a Muslim student.

Chair states that the motivation is not a discussion that contrasts anti-semitism to other religions but should stand on its own.

Scott, M. States that it is well within mandate of the Social Justice and Equity Commission to investigate anti-semitism. He continues to read the letter.

Elamin states that the Union does recognize there is an issue of anti-semitism on campuses. She further states that members were concerned that singling out anti-semitism prioritises one form of oppression over the other. She further states that the union undertakes work to ensure that we it is combating all forms of oppression. She further states that the UTSU has carried out campaigns in the past which includes addressing anti-Semitism on campus. She further states that she looks forward to creating a forum where we can discuss these issues and address the needs of all Union members. She further states that the commission and the members have decided that the definition which was proposed was not an appropriate one.

Sajjad states that as a Union we cannot weigh how much discrimination one group faces over another. He further states the union should not be creating a hierarchy of oppression but rather working in solidarity with all oppressed and marginalized groups.

Sandhu states that whether its individual cases of racism or anti-semitism, the union should be uniting against them all. She further states that there are intersectionalities to oppression as well and as such the Union should be bringing communities together instead of dividing. She further states that the UTSU has a history of engaging in anti-oppression work and working in solidarity with different communities. She further states that the UTSU should allow the communities to self-identify and direct the work of the students' union instead of the other way around.

Shepherd states that he was part of an equity seeking campus group in the past. He further states that he does not want to fall into the trap of prioritizing. He further states that students should not pit campaigns and equity work against one another. He further states that he would like to see a campaign of unification and outreach to communities by providing them with the platform and support necessary to carry out their work.

Scott, M. reads the motion out again. He states that he simply wants to bring the issue of anti-semitism to the attention of the Vice-President Equity. He further states that the anti-oppression work the Union does is great but he would like to see more work done to continue fighting discrimination.

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Valcius states that the motion does not prioritise oppressions. She further states that maybe we should hold an event centered around anti-semitism. She further states that she thinks it will be a good addition to XAO. She agrees groups should self-direct but we should help students grapple with the issue.

### **MOTION**

Moved: Khan

Seconded: Ferrari

Be it resolved speakers be limited to one minute.

### **VOTE**

Opposed: Scott, M.

### **CARRIED**

Sajjad calls the question

### **VOTE**

In favour: Scott, M.

### **MOTION FAILS**

## **5. APPROVAL OF BUDGET PRIORITIES**

### **MOTION**

Moved: C. Scott

Seconded: Sandhu

Be it resolved that the budget priorities (2011-2012) for the Social Justice and Equity Commission be approved as presented by the U.T.S.U Board of Directors.

### **DISCUSSION**

Scott, C. states that because the commission met after the deadline to submit materials for the Board of Directors package for the last meeting, the budget priorities for the Social Justice and Equity Commission are included in this month's package

### **VOTE**

### **CARRIED**

## **6. FYI- NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

Scott, C. states that the Union must set Board of Directors meeting dates for each semester. He further states that the dates are September 27, October 24, November 14 and December 8. He further states that December 8 is not a firm date as he needs to check in with professional faculties for exam timelines. He further states the meetings will take place between 6 pm and 8 pm.

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### **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Scott, C. asks that members of the Board of Directors confirm their attendance so that we can ensure that we meet quorum and are ordering enough food for meetings.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved: Valcius

Seconded: Abrahams

#### **VOTE**

#### **CARRIED**

The meeting is adjourned at 8:24 pm.