**Absent**: Caleb A, Victoria B, Jacob F, Madhusoodan G, Peter G, Haesoo K, Nareesa K, Alex L, Cynthia M, Suvarna M, Stephanie P, Jake W, Mary Y

*Motion to call to order firsted by Montana, seconded by Kwesi*

*Motion to adopt the agenda firsted by Firmino, seconded by Ziad*

1. **Speaker’s announcements**

*Brandon L. – go to OWL and your added to a site called Science Student Council portal*

* New site visible to members on SSC where council documents can be found or added
* **Under Resources**- find meeting agendas, past meeting minutes,
* **Dropbox** – drop off your files for a meeting, and they are only visible to governance
* **Meeting Regrets** – submit your regrets and name your proxy. If you can’t make a meeting, indicate that you are ‘going’ on the site which lets governance know that you cannot attend a meeting. Only governance can see this
* **Council Messages** – Find your demerit points
* **Council Office Bookings** – check here to see when the office is booked

*Delaram S.*

* **Demerit Points**: First set of demerit point should be out during reading week
* **Google Drive**: Same link will be used for each meeting. Files from previous meetings will be deleted before each new meeting

1. **Member’s Announcements**

**(**none**)**

1. **Presentations to Council:**

(None)

***Western Song***

**Environmental Science Rep elections -** *Vote of Confidence*

Candidate: Jonathon Abbruzzese

Elected Member: Jonathon Abbruzzese

1. **Council Business**

(None)

1. **Executive Reports**
2. Vice President Academic *(Matt Y.)*

* **First Dep Rep Event: Med Sci Survival Guide Panel** – very successful!
* Great turnout (At least 60), many second year students asked great questions and said how helpful the event was
* **First Dep Rep Roundtable**
* Discussed what topics the department reps want to focus on for the year, and academic counselling
* Dep reps will be put in touch with their department’s academic councillor
* Dep reps will also be collaborating with the various department clubs
* **Wellness Wednesday Launch – Fruits of Meditation (Oct 4th, 2017)**
* Giving out free fruits and cards that explain how to practise mindful meditation
  + Take a note, leave a note – Sticky notes with words of encouragement will be posted. Students can take fruits and a note, and write a note of their own to post
  + Thank you to Gladys and Alex for all the promo for the event
    - ***Danny***: What times does it start?
      * ***Matt***: 12:30 – 2:30pm in the Nat Sci atrium
* **Caribbean Med School Presentation**
* Department Head of Anatomy and Cell Biology is reaching out to plan this event. More details will be ahead.
* **Next dep Rep Round Table on the Oct 24th or 31st**

1. Vice President Communications *(Gladys N.)*

* Working on the promotions for the various events (Medsci survival guide panel, Wellness Wednesday, etc.)
* **Google Form for promo requests**: The google form has been updated and can be found in the SSC Facebook group description

1. Vice President Student Events *(Alina P.)*

* **Sciquest Update:** The event was a success with 12/15 teams, and profits made! Thank you to everyone who participated or volunteered for the event.

1. Vice President Finance *(Andriy K.)*

* Working with the USC managing director to receive our allotment of money for Oct 15th
* **Budget**: Andriy and Ayma are creating the budget, and it will be presented to council for approval at the next SSC meeting
* Finance Committee applications are going well

1. President *(Danny C.)*

* **Orientation Program – Restructuring**
* Communities of Practise - different working groups, comprised of individuals who are experts on different topics to discuss the different aspects of orientation
* Danny is part of the Academic community of practise which also includes associate deans, Western Libraries, individuals from residences and they discuss faculty day.
* Recommendations are put into the operations committee, and decide if these recommendations are feasible and if so how to implement them
* **Tri Sci initiative with the USC**- details soon to come
* **Conference about Free Online Textbooks**
* November 17th, 100 faculty members and stakeholders from across the province, will be learning about free online textbooks from eCampus Ontario and speakers from BC who have implemented this system
* **Research and Policy Committee**
* Committee focuses on how to support SSC with research
* Breaking down committee into3 Groups:
  + Institutional memory Group: To make sure council members understand how things were done in past years with SSC
  + Survey Group: create surveys and ask what students would like/expect from their council
  + Department Rep Support Group: To help department reps gather information which require research (ex. Give evidence to deans about something you would like changed in your department, find out how other universities do things, etc.)

1. **Senate Reports**
   1. Schulich Senator (*Courtney H.)*

* **First Event: Coffee with WSS** - was a success!
* **USC Meeting Updates**
* Motion was passed in which USC will give Western Student Senators $1500 in their annual budget
* **Survey for Pass/Fail Courses**
* Currently have a survey out regarding students’ opinion on pass/fail courses. It will be closing soon, and if you would like you give us a response it’s on our Facebook page

1. **Commissioner’s Reports**
   1. Charity *(Marc L & Suvarna M.)*

* Interviews for charity committees are almost complete
* Filled up for the entire term for Ronald McDonald Saturdays. Thanks to everyone who shared the post on Facebook!
  1. Orientation (*Alex L/ Proxy: Allie King*)
* **Bio 1000 Mock Midterm** – was a success and the first years really appreciated it
* **Survey for Orientation Week**
* Making it with Jacob F. for faculty day feedback from the frosh
  + ***Gladys***: Can we add questions to the feedback form?
    - ***Allie:*** Contact Alex L. and she can add something
  1. Photography *(Ryan W.)*
* **SSC Photo Day** – Waiting for the sweaters to come in to do the photoshoots
  1. Student Services *(Ayma A)*
* **Restructuring the Reimbursement System** 
  + Send Ayma and Andriy your idea of an event and its costs. They will approve it and allocate money from the budget for your event
  + We will have a place in the office where you can drop off receipts as we need physical copies
* **Grant – Online System:** it will be a google form
* **Locker Rentals**
* Thank you to Gladys and Alex for putting the rental form to the website
* Made around $1000
* Finance Committee has been selected

1. USC Report *(Rakshith)*

USC Meeting Updates (Sept 27th)

* **OUSA Presentation** – Governance body comprised of student associations across Ontario which strives to advocate in the interest of students through student driven policies
* *OUSA General Assembly*
* Two conferences held in a year; this year hosted at Laurier
* Highest governing body of the alliance, conducts passage of policies, and directs the focus of the alliance
* At the USC meetings, candidates were re-elected to represent Western at the general assembly. Out the 9, 2 include Danny Chang and Frank Ye
* **Presentation from the Sports and Rec Services Director**
* Presented a comprehensive review of the sports and rec services
* Found that there are outdated facilities, and an unsustainable cost budget model
* Current actions they are taking include: New Thames Hall in to the rec center, and increase funding for coaches and professors to maintain Western as a competitive sports and rec services center
* Lacking the funds for this expansion. Recommendations include:

1. Efficient use of Work Study programs
2. Internal Excellence Funds: To recruit high level excellence in sports
3. Generate alternative sources of revenue

* most likely why students now have to pay for in-person lessons that used to be free
* The Director explained how universities have higher student costs, sponsorships and other sources of revenue, thus we must raise our student costs in order to compete with them.
* Proposed Solution: Raise student ancillary fees
  + **Kwesi**: Did they say how much they will be increasing ancillary fees?
    - **Rakshith:** No they did not tell us. Essentially we were just told about the current financial issues (i.e. don’t have as much sponsorship money as the other universities), and plans for the future.
* **Discussed the Motion: Hold a referendum for students to vote on paying $10 million needed to build an integrated Wellness center in Thames Hall**
* New Center to include all health services provided on campus, (psychological, student health) in one place
* Better for students because:

1. Current space is 19,000 square feet, new renovations would be 22, 000 square feet
2. Centralizing the services would improve student care

* Psychiatrists associated with student health services are able to exchange info and transfer patients to psychological services all in the same space
* All part of a major project to renovate Thames Hall which is $35 million, $20 million going towards the new wellness center
* University’s Financial proposal: include $10 million funded by students, and remaining $10 million paid by the university
  + **Why**: University does not have capita money and government will not provide for these costs
* **If approved**, over the next 10 years students will be charged: $36 the first year, and rises with inflation.
  + In year 10, it will be $43 on top of the ancillary fees students pay
* **The Motion failed**: **USC Councilors and Society of Graduate Students unanimously opposed**
* USC Councilors agreed with the spirit of the motion, but increasing physical space doesn’t mean better services.
  + Came down to telling students to pay for the renovation of an old building in the name of wellness
* Western students pay some of the highest ancillary fees across the province: $1400
* No concrete statement that students will have a say in the management, revenue, governance or planning of this building
* **Danny:** These renovations includes a $40 for the wellness center, another $48 for recreation services, which is an additional $88 on top of the billing and endowment fee. Average in Ontario is about $85, but Western students would be paying close to $220 per student and tuition is rising by 3% every year. Last year government funded 50% for the new Engineering building, and Interdisciplinary research building which is $45 million from the government up front
* Due to failed motion, University is planning to talk to other stakeholders about this; not sure if the wellness center will be included, but the Thames renovation will be included
* **Danny:** Essentially we were opposed to this because it includes a $40 for the wellness center, another $48 for recreation services, additional 88 is on top of the billing and endowment fee. Average in Ontario is about $85, but we would be at around $220 per student. Additionally, our tuition is rising by 3% every year. Last year government funded 50% for the new engineering building, ad Interdisciplinary research building which is $45millin from the government up front
* **All Gender Washrooms: Renovations of washrooms on first floor UCC across from the Starbucks**
* Male washroom will be redesigned so that its more of an all gendered washroom with new signs on it
* Passed a motion to establish a new committee under student experience. Has individuals from various queer affiliated groups come in and talk to councilors and give recommendations
* **New Terms of Reference for Club Support Committees**
* Restructured the committee and made it for committee members to support clubs
* Will report to club’s governance and provide feedback
* Members will work during club’s week and will be compensated for this
* Enhance communication with USC and the clubs
* **Moving Forward with the various committees**
* Advocacy Committee: 3 priority student policy papers include: Affordability, Student Employability, Equity and Diversity
* Frank, Graeden and Rakshith will be a part of in writing these policies and advocating for them for the rest of the year and in the future
* Student Experience Committee: looking into the feasibility of establishing nap rooms, and maintain the transgender student support committee

1. New Business

(None)

*Motion to adjourn meeting firsted by Kwesi, seconded by Julia*