**Absent**: Kwesi Asantey, Olivia Ghosh, Stella Liu, Stephanie Philpott

*Motion to call to order firsted by Firmino seconded by Victoria*

*Motion to adopt the agenda firsted Elliot by seconded by Ziad*

*Motion to ratify the minutes firsted Ziad by seconded by Firmino*

1. **Speaker’s announcements**

*Delaram S.*

* Starting a Council Drive – a place where upper year students on council can post their past notes, labs, exams, etc. exclusive to other members on council

1. **Member’s Announcements**

(None)

1. **Presentations to Council:**

(None)

***Western Song***

1. **Council Business**

(None)

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

* Updates on O-week
  + SSC Meet & Greet – very successful event!
* Moving the room to Physics and astronomy made the event a lot less crammed compared to previous years
* Students were able to see other ways to get involved with SSC other than being a first year rep
* Many students showed interest in the various committees, and many signed up for further updates
* Faculty Day – Prof meet and greet
* Profs were able to speak to speak to students in a formal way which made it easier for them to give students tips and tricks on how to do well in their courses
* First Dep Rep Event: Medsci Tips and Tricks panel session
* Montana and the 2nd year reps are working on a panel session, where upper year students give their advice on how to handle the second year medsci course load
* Panel composed of students who have already taken these courses in the past: Montana, Jacob and Julia
* September 26th 3:30 – 6:30 HSB 236; Runs 4:30 – 6:00pm for students attending
* 1st hour: Q&A session; Last 30min: ‘mingle session’ to go up to and talk to the upper year students about the courses they took and how they handled them, eat pizza, etc.
* Launching Wellness Wednesday in 2 weeks
* Potentially 2 events: The office supply giveaway- however department usually say that their supplies are running low, so if that doesn’t happen another event will be planned.
* Dep Rep Roundtable
* Will happen next week (week of Sept 25th). Details will be finalized on the dep rep Facebook group – please indicate your availability on the poll in the group
* Monthly roundtables – on the last Tuesday when there is no SSC meeting

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

* First year guide
* They have been printed out and sent to students in their O-packs
* SSC Website redesign
* New FAQ section
* Committee applications are also on the website – currently open and they close on Sept 23rd at 11:59 pm
* New Locker rentals page
* Merchandise
* We have broken even!
* Promote to others to buy the science shirts and the laptop stickers
* Sciquest
* Thank you to Alex Ly for designing the promo and tickets for the event
* An event page for Sciquest will be out soon
* Let me know if there’s any trouble with your SSC emails
* SSC Sweaters – fill out the form on the Facebook group indicating your size and what you would like written on the sleeve of the sweater; want to order them by the end of the month
* Council photos
* Happening this Friday (22nd) and Saturday (23rd) Sign up on the doodle poll to indicate when you can have your picture taken
* **Delaney**: Where will the photos be taken and will sweaters be provided if we don’t have one? Photos where are they and what If we don’t have it
  + - **Gladys**: Photos will take place in Physics and Astronomy, and we are asking council members from 2 years ago to bring in their sweaters so those who don’t have it can wear it in the picture.
* Promo for future events
* In the Facebook group description, there’s a link to the Official logos and the drop form
* If you have an event and need promo, fill out the drop form to submit a promo request

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

* Restructured Events Committee
* Assign one events committee member to each dep rep to ensure that your events are getting done
* Sponsorship Packages
* For future events, potential sponsors will have the option to be a Bronze, Silver or Gold sponsor
* Each level means that they give us a certain amount of money and based on their level, we give them certain amount of ‘perks’ (i.e. varying amounts of promotion)
* First Ever Sciquest
* September 24th, at 2:00pm Tickets are $10 each
* However, we have not sold any tickets so far. It’s very important that we promote this event and that members on council participate as a team or volunteer to help run the event as it encourages other students to come to our events.
* **Ziad:** How about we tell people that even if they can’t find 5 other friends then they can be put on a team with council members.
* **Max:** Have the methods to pick up tickets been clear to the students?
  + - **Alina:** Yes, it’s been posted on the all the Facebook promo as well as the video
* **Andriy:** Sophs should try to make a team with their frosh; it’ll also be a good bonding experience.
* **Danny:** This year the deans are really looking at what we’re doing in terms of social events and how students respond to them. We are in talks about ‘Tri- Sci’ events but we can’t follow through unless our social events are successful
* **Alina –** We also need a couple more volunteers for this event. Message Bahar or Nareesa if interested.
* Science goes to Ceeps
* Tentative event in the future (October, or November or second semester)
* But to run an event like this we need to make sure our other events are also successful!
* Brandon will be making an exam schedule to make sure it’s a weekend that works for everyone

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

* Lockers
* Ayma and I were able to optimize the locker system. With the help from Gladys we were able to put the locker rental form on the website as a google form
* For those in office hours: If someone comes in asking about locker rentals don’t turn them away saying that they have to fill out the online form first, but offer to do it with/for them while they are in the office
* Budget
* Currently making sure there are allotments for everything that we need for the year
* Focus on prioritize funding and spending, and to grow council for future council execs.
* If you have an event, please make sure that you let me know in advance so I can make sure we have enough money to run your event
* SSC Group grants
* SSC provides grants to student groups on campus (ex. Department clubs)
* Hopefully to expand – usually have about $4000, but have been able to talk to the deans and potentially get more money
* SSDAC
* Money that goes into the teaching funds (i.e. Materials for lab equipment) and endowment funds
* Soon we will be electing council members to sit on the SSDAC committee and they help with reading applications and deciding where the money should be going.
* Reimbursement system
* Trying to figuring out how to centralize the money system, so that no one is confused as to when they will be getting their money back.

1. President *(Danny C.)*

* First Ever I <3 Sci day
* Brought all the 16 clubs faculty club together and have been meeting them monthly
* It was a very successful event!
* Good way for students to learn how to get involved within their faculty
* I <3 Sci Networking event
* Also very successful event!
* Good way to connect with the other department clubs
* Committee timelines
* On faculty day we got 1100 different email sign-ups for committees this year!
* All commissioners have set up their google forms
* Committees will be formed after reading week
* Open textbook: Free online textbooks –
* Partnered with eCampus Ontario, which is operated by the government
* Currently working with the USC, teaching support center, and Western Libraries to talk to faculties about adopting the open textbooks
* Government is pushing this initiative
* **Ziad:** Are there any Professors at Western involved with open textbooks?
  + - **Danny:** There is one professor, but they are not in science. British Columbia is way ahead of Ontario on this initiative, as they took 40 of their largest courses at UBC and gave students free online textbooks which was very successful. We are working with the government of Ontario to get speakers from BC and talk about this initiative. Our goal would be to target the large first year courses. Our workshop in November for Western professors will have these speakers and clear up any issues and misconceptions they have regarding open textbooks
* TA wellness resource
* Conducting interviews with TAs in the faculty and being aware of the lack of support TAs get to help with mental health issues in students. They are often the first ones to see a student’s deteriorating mental health.
* Want to make sure the TAs know how to give students the proper resources when battling with mental health issues
* Dep rep roundtable
* Connecting the dep reps with the different department clubs through Mary or Matt to get accurate information as to what the different clubs plan on doing for the year
* Training mechanisms with Jacob for the new Research and Policy Committee
* Making resources for the committee so the students on it can really support it

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

* Senate is involved with academic policies at western. We try to advocate by doing our own research, and asking students what their academic concerns are in order to make our own policies, and advocate on the behalf of students.
* Currently advocating for pass fail courses
* Action plan set up so that in mid-October, associate deans will be meeting up to decide if they will move forward with pass/fail courses
* We are currently creating a brief to meet up with the associate deans to advocate for pass/fail courses
  1. Science Senators *(Jake W. & Kelvin Z.)*
* Jake: Kelvin and I have been on the working group which has been focusing on updating Western’s policy to release exam schedules earlier than in the past
* **Victoria:** When do you predict that exam schedule release dates will change? Or if it doesn’t when do you think the exam schedule will be released?
  + - **Jake:** We want to update policy so that it must be released earlier. We are also making the logistical changes in the registrar’s office with the board of directors so that an early exam release schedule is sustainable for future years. But other than that, we are not sure when they will be released.
* Another working group has been working on the course syllabus database. The affiliate colleges have a similar program.
* Course selection process – Student caucus of the senate put out a survey about it, and got a couple 100 responses. Therefore, a working group has been developed to tackle issues that come about throughout the year like the course selection process.
  + **Delaney**: Why does it take so long to release the exam schedule after the add/drop date when the class sizes have been finalized?
    - **Courtney**: After the add drop date, the computer goes through its programming process, and after that the exam schedule is released
  + **Max**: Is it possible to set up a first year friendly version of course registration?
    - **Courtney**: We are still looking through all the comments and be checking if that’s an issue. Feel free to talk to Western Student senators if you have an issues you would like to bring up
* Kelvin – Student caucus went through a rebranding process, and with that came a new website (westernstudentsenators.com)
* Next Thursday Sept 28th from 10:30 – 3:30 at UCC western student senators will be at a booth talking about senate and giving out free coffee so come stop by with your friends/sophs/frosh

1. **Commissioner’s Reports**
   1. Advocacy *(Mary Y.)*

* We will be posting a poll for the best time for dep rep meetings. I will be messaging the dep reps individually just to touch base and plan out what you guys want to do in terms of events.
* First Round Table meeting
* If you have any relevant issues within your department, message me and we can talk about it
  1. Charity (none)
  2. Communications-at-Large *(Alex Ly.)*
* Make sure to get let people know about committee applications to friends or frosh; right now we only have about 8 applications
  1. The Current (none)
  2. Internet (none)
  3. Research and policy *(Jacob F.)*
* SSDAC
  + Revise and refine how we use funds that come from the science student donation fee
  + We have managed to pass the policy paper regarding SSDAC which was brought to the last council meeting in the summer
  + We have identified 3 main ways to improve the use of the funds
    1. Improve the application we send out to the departments. The applications now ask departments how the funds they ask for will go towards innovative uses. Can help those on the SSDAC committee decide if the funds are going to valuable purposes, how much they should give, etc.
    2. Creating a guidance document. Myself Danny and Andriy are working on a document which will help students on the SSDAC committee consider what factors are required to accept or deny an application, as well as timeline and transparency requirements.
    3. How to expand the fund. Currently the fund is largely used towards ways to improve the teaching experience, but we want to donate a bit more of that fund to extracurricular aspects. This is the most complicated of the three, but it’s not as time sensitive, but we will be working on it in the future.
* At the last meeting we said we would continue looking at the policy paper to make it better. Please feel free to give us any tips on how to make it better and how to move forward with it
  1. Orientation *(Alex L.)*
* Huge thanks to Matt and Danny for such a successful faculty day!
* Planning the Mock Bio midterm with Haffie, and that will most probably happen next Wednesday
  1. Photography (none)
  2. Student Events-at-Large *(Bahar E. & Nareesa K.)*
* Nareesa: Please sign up to volunteer for Sciquest on the SSC Facebook page. Meeting for Sciquest volunteers will be this Friday at UCC room 59 at 5pm to go over itinerary and the various roles and stations
  1. Student Services (None)
  2. Student Support *(Haesoo K.)*
* Currently have 11 applications for Student Support committee
* Trying to launch first wellness Wednesday on October 4th
* Fruits of mediation- giving out free fruits and having a meditation instructor
* School supply giveaways and make your own stress ball events – will be happening later in the year
  1. SciWiki *(Pablo P.)*
* Currently have about only 3 applications, so make sure to get the word out about committee applications

1. **USC Report *(Frank Y.)***

* The follow motion which essentially asked for support for trans and non- binary students

was passed in the first USC meeting. I worked on it with the social science USC councilor.

* Four key action clauses include:
  + 1. USC will look into installing new all gender washrooms on campus
    2. Student experience committee will look into mental health and life saving support for transgender and non-binary students on campus
    3. Executives will look at how to combat misconceptions, bigotry, and prejudices against transgender and non-binary students on campus
    4. On November 20th a transgender flag will be raised on the day of transgender remembrance. Western will be one of the first schools to be raising that flag on campus
* All Gender Washrooms
* Myself and VP Landon Tulk have been working closely to create posters which support transgender and non-binary students using whichever bathroom they feel most comfortable in. In a few weeks they will be put up on all 200 washrooms across campus.
* The washrooms which on the first floor UCC across the Starbucks is scheduled to be renovated over the Christmas break into an all gender washroom. Currently the only building on campus that also has an all gender bathroom is in the FIMS building.
* VP Landon Tulk sent in a report to the Advocacy committee asking for Faculty support for the all gender washroom initiative. This makes sure that all gender washrooms will be supported in the long run, and that it will be a policy that they are required to have in future buildings. For SSC, this means that Danny will be talking to the deans asking what SSC can do in regards to this.
* **Andriy:** Is there anything you could suggest to the USC executives to hold a town hall to create a discussion on this issue, and to explain the importance to have the all gender bathrooms on campus?
  + **Frank:** Right now I’m not too sure what the executive plan is on how to combat the backlash we may receive from these changes, but it will probably be brought up by the next meeting. However, they are currently researching the general rhetoric behind this issue, and researching evidence on why it’s an important thing to have.
* **Andriy**: Where is the other all gender washroom on campus and has it been a positive experience?
  + **Frank**: It is in the FIMS nursing building. The faculty decided to do it, but there is no policy requiring it. But the goal in the future is to ensure that there will be a policy made in regards to it
* Mental Health
* The Student experience committee has been discussing with the queer ally groups at Western about their personal experiences and what USC can do to help with their mental health. Grace has been working alongside with that as the chair of that committee.
* Matt has been working on how to combat the stigma and prejudice against trans and non-binary students on campus.
* FOCO and HOCO
* USC has been tasked to set up tents and hand out water to students during HOCO and FOCO.
* Reaffirming the USC’s stance that it was irresponsible for the administration to move the date of HOCO to the middle of midterm exams.

1. **New Business (none)**

*Motion to adjourn meeting firsted by Ziad, seconded by Montana*