

SSC Meeting Minutes: October 29th, 2018
NCB Room 114 – 6:30 p.m.



Absent: Peter Denezis, Bahar Entezari, Victoria Forcina, Evie Kapur, Naressa Karmali, Karnig Kazazian, Hans Lin, Alex Ly, Teodora Marginean, Elliot Polster, Monica Rupik, Tristan Tsvetanov, Marco Herrera

1. Governance Announcements

- Karnig:
 - o Feedback about the office booking process – it is messy, we should formalize it
 - Doing it through OWL
 - OWL Calendar
 - Book it for the day
 - Check the OWL page
 - Post of FB if you want so people can stay clear of it
 - Can still book on weekends
 - Meeting regrets
 - Google Forms
 - Submit regrets there and put your proxy and proxies email just in case
 - 48 hours before (Saturdays at 6 p.m.)
 - Facilities
 - Arranged with them to clean the floors
 - Proper cleaning supplies

2. Member Announcements

- a) Daniel
 - **Sunday midterms are coming to senate in the motions**
 - **Students were not consulted about it**
 - Majority of the faculties are against it, some are neutral, some are for it
 - Feedback and discussion sessions about what you have heard from student
 - Rationale:
 - o Enrollment is increasing
 - o Fall reading week makes it difficult to book rooms and get rooms for makeup
 - Students are having midterms shifted to finals
 - o Argument: Motion was rushed and not enough student feedback
 - o Secondary suggestions:
 - Looking at having it only for first semester
 - Only end up affect 3 or 4 summers between reading week and drop deadline
 - Can't have it during fall preview day, HOCO, and weekend following fall reading week
 - Weekends before reading week (Saturdays) having midterms then
 - o Beth: If this were to be improved, would it be implemented next semester
 - Daniel: January
 - o Max: Study spaces????????????????????????????
 - o Victoria: If the motion gets passed on Friday, will it affect second semester midterms this year?

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- Daniel: Affecting first semester midterms next term, but could put it this year.
- Peter: Worried about reaching the compromise because in a year, they are going to come back and be like let's make it all Sunday --- do not pass it
 - Victoria: In the event that you have two midterms back to back, you would have class for 5 days, use Friday and then Saturday and Sunday for studying and then another 5 days. 14-day of constant school, mental health affects.
 - Daniel: Fall preview day exacerbated the underlying issue
 - Victoria: Orientation week being strictly O-WEEK, instead of extension into the Winter Break, use the two days from O-WEEK
- Frank: Does the faculty support this or the student senators (FIMS)?
 - Daniel: Does not know
 - SCAFA 90% in favour of bringing this to senate
- Mark: Sunday is a religious day for a lot of people
 - Midterms would not be in the morning but the late afternoon
 - Students have to choose between religious service and exam in the morning, but want to study more so not commit to religious activities in the morning
- Rishika: Saturday after reading?
 - Daniel: Weekend before thanksgiving and the following week
 - Weren't sure if they were actually being scheduled
 - Underlying issue is play around with the schedule
 - Pushing the drop deadline later
- Current strategy is to table it
 - 5 years ago western did have Sunday midterms
- Riley: As of now, are they suggesting midterms can happen at any point?
 - Daniel: Anytime, busses restricts it to 10 am instead of 9am
 - Victoria: Fall reading week took 4 years to pass, but did we see this on the agenda previously
 - Daniel: Sudden
 - Montana: Academic concerns committee, spoke about this motion. Danny was very surprised how sudden it was – were not discussing it but discussing about challenging it
 - Compounded with the faculty you are in
 - Shifting and compounding with religious can only make it worse
 - Engineering VP brought up then, it is terrible – huge issue because it is not reasonable, science is in a similar boat
- Daniel: Does USC have an official stance?
 - Montana: Danny did not communicate anything.
- Peter: Fall reading week is up for review next year and why not roll this into that?
 - Daniel: Can be suggested, tabling 2019 and 2020 because there is a conflict with O-Week for 2020

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- Reach out for Faculty of Science Senators and make your concerns heard
- 5 Schulich Senators and 5 Science Senators more

3) Presentations to Council

- Presentation from Ally Western

4) Western Song

5) Land Recognition

6) Council Business

7) Executive Reports

a. Vice-President Academic

- Montana: Updates:
 - Wellness Wed – Nutrition Edition
 - Successful
 - Dep-Rep Events
 - Halloween Games Night – 25 people came!
 - In progress:
 - Fall Preview Week
 - Different volunteer roles
 - Rough schedule is posted
 - Graduate Studies Fair
 - Helpful event
 - What to do with a science degree
 - Originally in orientation week but was fixed
 - Livestreamed event
 - Dep-Rep Emailing
 - Email profs in your department about the two events

b. Vice-President Communications

- Aileen:
 - Week-at-a-glance on Facebook
 - Communications-at-large had their first meeting
 - Pay for stickers

c. Vice-President Student Events

- Bahar:
 - Updates:
 - Discovery Week coming up soon
 - Monday: Cronyn Observatory
 - Tuesday: Graduate Studies Fair
 - Wednesday: Exodus Escape Room
 - Thursday: Science Experiments
 - Friday: Ceeps
 - Lecture series on the come-up
 - Charity:
 - Ron Mcdon and Boys and Girls Club (10 spots per visit)
 - Marble Slab Charity Scoop is in the works

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d. Vice-President Finance

- Ayma:
 - o Lowest opt-out rate this year (\$407 000+)
 - o Committee for finance is meeting this week

e. President

- Frank:
 - o Tri-Sci Purple Frost meeting was last Wednesday
 - Science council will be buying tickets from the USC and selling them
 - o OUSA is happening this weekend, Victoria and Frank will be heading there
 - Survey on Facebook will help understand student needs and what to speak about at the meeting
 - o Faculty strike
 - Last stage of negotiations
 - Professors and administrators do not want to strike
 - Earliest on November 1st
 - o Check-ins with Frank during November

12. Senate Reports

a. Science Senator

- Nothing to report

b. Schulich Senator

- Nothing to report

13. Commissioner Reports

a. Advocacy

b. Charity

- Photobooth on Wednesday (10:00 – 1:30)

c. Communications-at-Large

d. The Current

e. Internet

f. Research and Policy

- Just added on a portfolio
 - o Constitutional review committee
 - o R&P will propose amendments to make council more representative and process how council members are elected or appointed
 - o International Student Experience sub-committee
 - How they are adjusting and how we can help them
 - o Working draft of a survey for data collection for students in science, what student needs are to have evidence-based advocacy

g. Orientation

- Process of selecting the new head soph

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- h. Videography
- i. Photography
- j. Student Events-at-Large
- k. Student Services
- l. Student Support

- Wellness day on October 17th, collaboration with WMA and Jack.Org
 - Campus-wide support for mental health
 - Tentative dates set for the rest of the year and event directors have been selected for each event
 - Nov 7, 21, 28 – nutrition edition on Nov 7
 - Reached out to Loblaws, Sobeys
- Wellness Wednesday website
 - Photos have been taken to be posted
 - Sweater names and sizes have been taken down
- Taylor Meet and Greet Series
 - Looking at the logistics

14. USC Report

- Advocacy committee is reviewing a policy paper
 - Danny worked on this paper for increasing availability of information for course feedback
 - Increase the use of open educational resources, versions of online textbooks
 - Get professors to adopt online textbook equivalents so students would not have to buy textbooks
 - Working group is created to eliminate textbook resources for purchase
 - Expand the role of peer-tutoring resources
 - Consider teaching quality in hiring and promotion
- Student experience is looking at the peer-support coordinators who drafted and compiled the accessibility checklist
 - Victoria drafted a motion to hopefully implement giving this checklist to all student clubs and phasing it into things that we do at Western
- All USC Councillors had to go to Sexual Violence Training
 - Safecity London – report anytime you are feeling uncomfortable and it will show up on the website

16. New Business

17. Adjournment

- Moved by Frank, seconded by Montana
- Meeting adjourned 8:36 p.m.