

SSC Meeting

February 24th, 2020– 6:30PM

Location: UCC 41



1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order by Kennedy at 6:34pm

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Artika/Angheliki

4. Ratification of Minutes (Appendix I)

5. Western Song

6. Land Recognition

7. Governance Announcements

- a. Demerit points: will be updated next meeting.
- b. Council was advised to submit their transition reports as soon as possible.

8. Member's Announcements

- a. Research and Policy Committee Presentation- Vaishnavi
 - i. Integrate student advocacy as a foundational pillar.
 - ii. Aim to provide some guiding principles
 - 1. Publish one policy and/or report per academic year.
 - 2. Release general SSC survey bi-annually.
 - 3. Increase consultation.
 - iii. The Research and Policy Committee recommends developing a research library.
 - iv. It is also recommended that the SSC should release an annual advocacy report.
 - v. VP advocacy position was proposed along with the creation of an advocacy steering committee.
 - vi. Potential topics of exploration
 - 1. International students.
 - 2. Work and internship.
 - 3. Indigenous student support.
 - 4. Sexual and Gender violence.

9. Council Business

- a. Motion I: Motion to Create an Advocacy Steering Committee
 - i. This motion hopes to provide structure to the advocacy portfolio.
 - ii. The steering committee will have a greater discretion in controlling the roles of various positions.
 - iii. Friendly amendment to Motion I: Include the newly introduced Vice President Student Support on the Advocacy Steering Committee.
 - 1. VP Jeremiah recommended the advocacy commissioner serve as the co-chair rather than the VP Academic

- a Commissioner Teodora clarified that the roles of co-char and chair are merely symbolic, and the VP academic has more connections with the faculty.
 - iv Motion passed unanimously
 - b. Motion II: Motion to Mandate in the Constitution a General Science Student Survey to be Released Bi-Annually
 - i Nagee/Goldrick
 - ii The survey questions will vary based on relevant issues of the academic year.
 - iii Consistency of questions and unintentional response bias should be considered in the survey response.
 - iv Council expressed concern over the delay in releasing the survey.
 - 1 The research and policy committee responded that the delay over the past few years has been due to time taken in construction of the survey and time taken in getting approval by faculty deans.
 - v Commissioner Marginean recommended a collaboration with the communication committee to ensure the data collected is then also disseminated properly.
 - vi Friendly amendment to Motion II: include “sharing analysis of the survey with the advocacy steering committee” under the roles of the Research and policy committee
 - vii Debate
 - 1 Commissioner Marginean spoke against the motion advising that it be revised in light of the knowledge gained from releasing an initial survey.
 - viii Motion failed.
 - c. Motion III: Motion to Mandate in the Constitution that One Policy Paper or Report Must be Released Annually
 - i Nagee/Hussain
 - ii This motion promotes accountability for the research and policy committee.
 - iii By putting a hard deadline, the committee will be mandated to consistently produce reports.
 - iv The motion hopes to increase transparency of goals within the science student body and increase student involvement.
 - v Commissioner Marginean supported the motion with the suggestion to include specific goals and objectives in the future.
 - vi Motion passed.

10. Executive Reports

- a. VP Events and Charity
 - i VP Huggins debriefed council on events held over the last couple of weeks.
 - 1 Crush for a Cause
 - 2 R Workshop
 - 3 Marble Slab for Charity
 - 4 Game Arcade

- b. VP Academic
 - i Conversations with the BMSUE have led to proposed restructuring of first year physics.
 - 1 The new required physics courses for medical sciences will include a calculus aspect.
 - 2 The algebra-based physics will be restricted to health science and biology students.
 - ii Current influx of medical science students to the algebra-based physics have led to an increased difficulty of the course and challenges for health sciences students.
 - iii Council had the option to express concerns and opinions about the proposed changes.
 - 1 Council is concerned about the need to mandate physics for medical sciences in the first place.
- c. VP Communications
 - i VP Jeremiah reminded council about mandatory open office hours.
- d. Internal Affairs Officer
 - i Transition reports are due on March 2nd, 2020.

11. Senate Reports

- a. No updates

12. Commissioner Reports

- a. Advocacy Commissioner
 - i MOU meetings with departmental clubs will be held this weekend.
- b. Internet Commissioner
 - i Website has been updated with committee photos.

13. USC Report

- a. USC budget has been finalized
- b. VP Internal and External campaigns have started

14. For Discussion

- a. No new discussion

15. New Business

- a. No new business

16. Adjournment

- a. Marginean/Rodrigues

Motions

Motion I: Motion to Create an Advocacy Steering Committee

Whereas, the President, Vice-President Academic, Advocacy Commissioner and Research and Policy Commissioner are involved in and contribute to advocacy efforts;

Whereas, greater collaboration on advocacy initiatives from different portfolios and commissioners helps to improve synergy among council and increases effectiveness;

Be it resolved that, the President, Vice-President Academic, Advocacy Commissioner and Research and Policy Commissioner comprise the Advocacy Steering Committee. The committee is open to councillors.

Be it resolved that, the Advocacy Steering Committee meet once a month.

Be it resolved that, the Advocacy Steering Committee is chaired by the President, and co-chaired by the Vice-President Academic.

Be it further resolved that, the following changes be made to the Science Students Council constitution.

Constitutional Write-Up:

4. Committees of Council

c. There are **five (5)** standing committees of Council open to members of council, consisting of the:

- i. Science Student Donation Allocation Committee;
- ii. Executive Honoraria Committee;
- iii. Council Honoraria Committee;
- iv. Governance Review Committee;

V. The Advocacy Steering Committee

19. The President

a. The President shall:

vii. Be a Member of:

- 1. The Executive, as chair;
- 2. The Science Student Donation Allocation Committee, as chair;
- 3. The Advocacy Steering Committee, as chair**

20. The Vice-President Academic

a. The Vice-President Academic shall:

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iix. Be a Member of:

1. The Student Support Committee, as co-chair;
2. The Advocacy Steering Committee, as co-chair

33. Research and Policy Commissioner

a. The Research & Policy Commissioner shall:

- i. Be appointed by the Executive in accordance with Appendix I: Elections Policy
- ii. Be responsible for coordinating with the Advocacy Commissioner to identify issues in the faculty;
- iii. Attend the monthly Department Representative Roundtables to take note of and contribute to 'Hot Topic' discussions OR meet with the Advocacy Commissioner following Department Representative Roundtables to be briefed on ideas raised during the roundtable and brainstorm potential solutions to any issues described during the roundtable;
- iv. Attend monthly Advocacy Steering Committee Meetings
- v. Be responsible for policy research, gathering information to develop official stances for the SSC to take on various student issues through the Research & Policy Committee;
- vi. Be a member of the Research & Policy Committee, as chair;

32. The Advocacy Commissioner

a. The Advocacy Commissioner shall:

- i. Be appointed by the Executive in accordance with Appendix I: Elections Policy;
- ii. Be responsible for facilitating monthly department representative roundtables;
- iii. Be responsible for overseeing each department representative to assess and guide their progress on a constituent specific initiative;
- iv. Be under the direction of the Vice-President Academic, to communicate the outcomes of the monthly department representative roundtables;
- v. Sit on the Research & Policy Committee as a resource member;

Vi. Sit on the Advocacy Steering Committee

Appendix IV: Standing Committees of Council

60. Advocacy Steering Committee

a. The advocacy steering committee shall be:

i. Composed of:

1. The President, as chair
2. The Vice-President Academic, as co-chair
3. The Advocacy Commissioner
4. The Research and Policy Commissioner
5. Members of council

ii. Meet once a month

iii. Work together and in collaboration with the University Students' Council, other faculties, and third-parties to organize and implement advocacy initiatives

iv. Be responsible for overseeing advocacy initiatives at the Science Students' Council

Motion II: Motion to Mandate in the Constitution a General Science Student Survey to be Released Bi-Annually

Whereas, secondary research serves as the primary source for the bulk of advocacy conducted by the Science Students Council;

Whereas, results of this research has yielded some effective policy;

Be it resolved that, the Science Students Council must release an annual general science student survey on topics including course selection, academic counselling, orientation, and affordability;

Be it further resolved that, the results of this survey must be used for short-term and long-term advocacy priorities.

Be it further resolved that, the results of this survey must be made public to the entire student body.

Be it further resolved that, the following changes be made to the Science Student Council constitution.

Motion III: Motion to Mandate in the Constitution that One Policy Paper or Report Must be Released Annually

Whereas, though policy papers have been published by the Science Student Council, they are not published regularly.

Whereas, the Science Students' Council has not published policy papers on many important and relevant subjects related to the science student experience.

Whereas, the Science Students' Council is lacking standing policy on important and relevant subjects related to the science student experience;

Be it resolved that, the Science Student Council must release one policy paper every academic year on topics relevant to the science student experience (i.e. self-reported absences, ancillary fees, international students).

Be it further resolved that, the policy papers be made public and easily accessible to students on the Science Student Council website.

Be it further resolved that, the policy papers will be used to inform advocacy efforts in accordance with the short- and long-term goals as determined by the Research and Policy Committee's strategic plan.

Be it further resolved that, the policy papers will assist in the creation of a research library comprised of policy papers and briefs. The research library will be published on the Science Students' Council website.

Be it further resolved that, the following changes be made to the Science Student Council Constitution.

55. Research & Policy Committee

a. The Research & Policy Committee shall:

i. Be composed of:

1. The Research & Policy Commissioner, as chair;
2. The President, as vice-chair;
3. The advocacy commissioner, as a resource member;
4. As necessary, other members of the Science Student Body.

ii. Be responsible for the dissemination and analysis of the bi-annual General Science Student Survey

iii. Be responsible for the release and/or publication of one policy paper or report per academic year

Appendix I

SSC Meeting

February 10th, 2020– 6:30PM

Location: UCC 41



1. **Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting called to order by Kennedy at 6:42pm
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. Done through iClicker
3. **Adoption of the Agenda**
 - a. Jeremiah/Lauren
4. **Ratification of Minutes (Appendix I)**
 - a. Femi/Alisha
5. **Western Song**
6. **Land Recognition**
7. **Governance Announcements**
 - a. Governance review standing committee looking at constitution and will update council on any changes
8. **Member's Announcements**
 - a. Presentation- Marginean, Teo (10 min) followed by Q&A period (5 min)
 - i. Council members and senators have been elected
 - ii. Proposing a move of research and policy commissioner into VPA portfolio.
 - iii. Proposing a move of Student support commissioner out of the VPA portfolio.
 - iv. New potential initiatives
 1. SSC Textbook library
 2. Mentorship Program
 - v. Internship opportunities need to be improved
 - vi. Proposing a name change in VP Events to VP Programming
 - vii. Proposing a new VP – Student support
 1. Responsibilities include equity, diversity and wellness
 2. Lack of equity, diversity and inclusion asks for this position
 3. Role will act as liaison with resources we have not collaborated with before.
 - viii. Proposing an International Outreach Commissioner
 1. International students 10% of Western population
 - a. Need roles to represent and accommodate these individuals
 - ix. STEM Out Commissioner
 1. Big demographic of LGBTQ+ students on campus
 2. These students face variety of academic, workforce and discrimination issues.

- 3 Highlighted the need to have a position that targets these issues and can focus on boosting LGBTQ+ support.

9. Council Business

a. Motion I: Motion to Reallocate the Research & Policy Commissioner

- i Restructuring will allow efficient communication.
- ii Moving the role is more conducive to department representative making policy changes in department.
- iii Council expressed concern about the increased workload for VPA.
- iv **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Motion II: Motion to Rename the Vice-President Student Events Portfolio

- i Allows a specific focus.
- ii **Motion passed unanimously.**

c. Motion III: Motion to Create a Vice-President Student Support Portfolio and moving Wellness Commissioner under this portfolio

- i Student support should be one of the Science Students' Council main priorities and thus reflected in its team structure.
- ii The current Vice-President Academic portfolio is not entirely representative of the role's responsibilities and priorities.
- iii There is a sizeable population of international students in the Faculty of Science that would benefit from science-specific programming and advocacy, as well as more inclusion in leadership opportunities on the Science Students' Council that is meant to represent them;

1 Amendment made by representative Jiang as highlighted in the appendix

a **Amendment passed unanimously.**

- iv Council recommended striking out the STEM-OUT commissioner role and for the time being introduce the VP role with only two commissioners under the role.

- 1 Amendment made by commissioner Marginean to strike out role of STEM-OUT commissioner.

a **Amendment passed unanimously**

- 2 Vote on splitting motion

a Refer to appendix

i **Unanimous**

- v Motion to table Motion III to February 24, 2020

- 1 Motion failed

vi **Motion passed.**

d. Motion IV: Motion to create an International Outreach Commissioner

- i Will solidify goal set for VP Student Support portfolio
- ii **Motion passed**

10. Executive Reports

a. VP Events and Charity

- i VP Sean updated council on past and future events.

- b. VP Communications
 - i. Emphasized the graphics promo deadline
- c. VP Academics
 - i. Western Perspective Project has wrapped up
 - 1. Four themes
 - 2. Received great feedback
 - ii. Healthcare summit
 - iii. ITR Fair
 - iv. BMSUE Committee Meeting
 - 1. Discussing ways to improve statistics skills.
- d. VP Finance
 - i. Asked council to submit outstanding reimbursement forms.
- e. President
 - i. Informed council of meeting schedules and upcoming events
 - ii. Constitutional Review is underway
 - iii. Transition reports are due February 28th

11. Senate Reports

- a. No updates

12. Commissioner Reports

- a. Current Editor-in-chief
 - i. Will be putting out an article containing interviews of council members

13. USC Report

- a. Next USC meeting is a budget meeting
- b. VP debate will be held on February 24, 2020
 - i. VP External
 - ii. VP Student Affairs

14. For Discussion

15. New Business

16. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:21pm
 - i. Asil/Lauren