

Federation of Students' Student's Council Minutes

SLC MPR, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: COUNCILLOR O'SULLIVAN *Secretary:* COUNCILLOR POTTER

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

- Altaf, Subhan
- Brieva, Antonio
- Eyre, Alexander
- Easton, Benjamin
- George, Rebecca
- Jowhari, Nickta
- Knight, Jill
- Mohan, Andrew
- O'Sullivan, Elizabeth
- Potter, Tristan
- Schwan, Brian
- Shibli, Aisha
- Simpson, Abigail
- Small, Jason
- Terzian, Hagop
- Velling, Seneca*
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie

* remote

The following members were absent:

- Clarke, Antonio
- Clubine, Andrew*
- Goomer, Kanishk
- Mills, Cameron*
- Mistry, Harsh
- Tran, Tomson*
- Xu, Wenyu

* excused

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Be it resolved that Student's Council approves the agenda for the September 17, 2017 meeting as presented.

Vice President Schwan and Vice President Knight.

Motion carries unanimously.

CONSENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Be it resolved that Council approve the minutes from July 16, 2017.

Councillor Potter and Councillor O'Sullivan.

Councillor Velling noted that he was recorded as absent, but was present.

Motion carries unanimously.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No reports were given.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Action plans are still being developed, and will be presented at the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President reported on the completion of a successful Orientation Week; they spoke at several events, and were requested to be present at many faculty events.

The Mental Health Committee has posted the panelists who will be consulted for the 5 main panels. The President attended a launch event that introduced everyone; the panels will begin investigating mental health on campus in the near future. A Q&A panel will be available to take student questions after the General Meeting.

Working with Andrew and the other U15 student associations to develop briefs on the student loan program, and aid for indigenous students. They also will be advocating for increased access to undergraduate research funding and for undergraduate work placements

to count towards international student residency. These priorities will be advocated between November 6th to the 10th in Ottawa. The Vice President, Education is also working on a brief to better define the coalition and explain why the coalition is unique to decision makers.

The Policy and Procedure Committee has been meeting bi-weekly. Overall looking at expired and soon-to-be expired policies and determining how to consolidate and reduce the number of policies.

A councillor asked if the Fall General Meeting had been scheduled. The meeting will be held on October 25, 2017 at noon, first notice will be sent to students on September 25th, 2017.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL

The Vice President, Internal organized three major events.

- They spoke at events during Orientation Week, working with various stakeholders and Orientation leaders to ensure the success of the week.
- Shortly after, Welcome Week greeted students back to campus. It was very successful, with high attendance.
- Finally, preparations are underway to ensure Wrap-up Week is as successful as the beginning-of-term events.

In their work towards increasing campus wellness, the Vice President, Internal is working actively with Campus Wellness and uWaterloo Athletics to create a coalition and unified front surrounding the wellness initiatives on campus. Wrap up week will likely change to be focussed as a wellness week, and Feds and the other campus partners are aiming to be more preventative in their approaches to campus wellness.

The societies commissioner is still being hired, but the Vice President, Internal will be scheduling the first Committee of President's meeting soon. Will be discussing the events and issues that each society is focussed on and how they can collaboratively run events and support students.

Volunteer appreciation is also being redone, and the Vice President, Internal is beginning by investigating how other unions appreciate volunteers and how we can do better, there will be a presentation to the Campus Life Advisory Committee with some preliminary ideas.

The Gender and Sexual Diversity Workgroup has been meeting, beginning with education; later there will be 16 days of activism against gender violence, and more efforts to increase the visibility of this initiative and the issues faced on this campus.

The Clubs Assistant that was hired at the beginning of the fall is now actively supporting clubs and working diligently.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

The Vice President, Operations and Finance submitted a detailed report, and encourages those interested to read it and reach out with any questions. Some highlights include:

- A new Bomber menu has launched, with more food options and more options for restrictive diets;
- An update to International News' express menu is set to launch in the winter, to allow students to get in and out quickly;
- Fazing our straws at Bomber to eliminate plastic use;
- More grab and go items (including possibly fried chicken and potatoe wedges) will be available at International News, as the existing options are very successful;
- Feds Used Books is very busy, there is a strong push for affordable textbooks on campus;
- Revisting efficiencies on entry and exit to the Student Life Centre to address the traffic around campus bubble from construction;
- Executive action plans have been posted online;
- The new website will launch soon, it will be much better organized and accessible on multiple devices;
- The budget was emailed to councillors and all concerns were resolved prior to Board approval, it will be posted when the new website is released;
- The opt-out period for the health and dental plans, is September 5, 2017 till October 7, 2017; and,
- A legal insurance survey will be launched in October to re-visit whether students want legal coverage.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance also shared some updates on Pharam-Plus:

- PharmaPlus has released a list of prescription drugs that will be covered and is set to launch in January;
- the Vice President, Education and Vice President, Operations and Finance went to an OHIP meeting to determine more informaiton on the PharmaPlus initiative;
- Feds is creating documentation to inform students on the changes;
- The are monitoring the current health and dental plan and investigating potential changes for the future, however there will be no changes in the short term since PharmaPlus will launch in the middle of a term year.

A councillor inquired why Council was not asked to approve the budget, and was informed of the motion at the last meeting when Council delegated approval to the Budget Committee, provided that the budget was emailed to Council for comments.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance is also re-working how the budget is constructed and presented to make it more accessible to students and make the budget process more streamlined.

A councillor also asked about executive salaries, and why they were so high compared to other student unions. Salaries are set by board, so the executive are not privy to those discussions due to conflict of interest. Councillors are encouraged to reach out to the chair of the Board of Directors to find out more on this process.

A councillor asked what prompted the menu changes in commercial services, the Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that they are always looking to improve. A major concern was that students couldn't get the food they wanted in the Bombershelter Pub, and Feds wants to serve a variety of students. It is important to ensure that people have food to eat, so making sure that there are adequate vegetarian and vegan options is important to Feds. The changes were also meant to address continual changes in the restaurant industry, and optimizing the menu based on which items were unpopular.

The councillor was concerned due to the food selection at the Cambridge campus. The Vice President, Operations and Finance will touch base with the Cambridge councillor and University administrators to find out more about how this problem can be resolved.

A councillor inquired about what happens if Council doesn't approve the budget, and if it would be similar to a government shut-down. An unapproved Council budget would result in no funding for clubs and services, but salaries and commercial departments would still have funding since those are corporate areas with legal requirements.

A councillor asked about halal options at Feds commercial services. The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that Grab-and-Go chicken was halal, and they were adding more halal options to the Bomber menu.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION

The Vice President, Education was not present.

GENERAL ORDERS

HOURS OF TEACHING BUILDINGS

Be it resolved that Council renews Policy 2. Hours of Teaching Buildings.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Velling.

Councillor Pottergave a brief overview of the policy.

Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SERVICE COORDINATORS

Be it resolved that Council approves the service coordinators for Fall 2017 as presented.

Vice President Schwan and Councillor Easton.

These are for one term.

Motion carries unanimously.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The Library gave a brief update on the ongoing renovations, see the attached slide-show. There were no comments.

FALL READING BREAK

Councillor Velling gave a brief feedback on the independent survey he held.

Science constituents, the Science Society, Environment, Engineering, and Arts also participated.

When asked what uWaterloo should do to compensate for adding days to the Fall reading break,

- 43% said class and orientation should start early,
- 38% said that exams should be allowed on sundays,
- some student did not want to extend reading week, and some wanted to get rid of it, and
- the least popular option was to shorten the time between the end of classes and the start of exams, with weekend classes also being very unpopular.

In terms of what students thought they should be expected to do,

- most students wanted to study and prepare for midterms,
- many students wanted reading week to be for mental health or relaxation,
- a limited amount of students said that they should be able to do interviews during reading week,
- a little under half responded that students should check email daily,
- very few students thought that exams or quizzes should happen during a reading break,

The vast majority of students supported the Fall reading break in its current form, or as an extended break. Many international students wanted a full week to go home, but an important consideration for these students is that sacrificing days at the start of the term results in no gain for them.

Almost 550 student made comments, which will be sent to the council mailing list.

A councillor voiced support for the data and work, and the policy that was created (see attached).

A councillor agreed with the plight of international students, and added that it was impossible to move orientation sooner, as students arrive to Waterloo and immediately move into orientation week as is. The councillor also inquired if demographic data was recorded in the survey.

Councillor Velling responded that there was no demographic data gathered with the survey. This was intended as an preliminary poll to get some data on the issue, and the amount of data gathered ended up being slightly overwhelming as-is.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance reassured councillors that the executive had discussed some of the points of the working group and had come to the same conclusions as the data that was presented. The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed gratitude for the data that was collected, as it will be useful, and encouraged councillors to reach out to the Vice President, Education with any questions.

An environment councillor expressed that they had also collected data, and would like to add it to the data pool.

A councillor asked about the timeline for this policy and how much time there was to gather data and propose policies; since University calendars are set pretty far in advance there is not much time.

A councillor expressed that Feds should make another poll to gather more official data. Another councillor countered that this was a representative body that could make decisions in the best interest of students with student input. Another councillor asked that councillors talk to their student societies and gather feedback from them, and potentially send out emails about it.

RESOLUTION ON THE EXTENSION OF FALL READING BREAK

Be it resolved that Council perform a first reading of the presented Resolution on the Extension of the Fall Reading Week, and

Be it further resolved that Councillors will communicate with constituents and societies to gather more feedback on the proposed resolution, and

Be it further resolved that the Vice President, Education will draft a survey to distribute to constituents, and

Be it further resolved that the Policy and Procedures Committee will work with stakeholders to create a more formal standing policy on mid term breaks.

Councillor Velling and Councillor George.

Motion carries unanimously.

RENEWAL OF POLICIES

Be it resolved that Council renews policies 1, 3, 16, and 31 as presented by the Policy and Procedures Committee.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Councillor Velling gave a brief overview of the policies in question. They are fairly unmodified, with the exception of the policy on student study space where it is recommended that the percent of space allocated as study space be increased to the standard determined by post-secondary research into study space on university campuses.

Motion carries unanimously

PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE POLICY

Based on a policy that was made at a recent Engineering Society Council meeting, a councillor would like to create a more general policy at the Feds level on how commercial services distribute bottled water, in the effort to make Feds and the uWaterloo campus more environmentally sustainable.

A councillor voiced opposition to the policy due to the lack of water fountains in older buildings, a consideration for students ingesting excessive amount of alcohol, and a view

that the Federation shouldn't dictate the drinking choices of students. The councillor instead would ask that Feds advertise reusable options to students, but not stop the sale of bottled water.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed support for the removal of plastic water bottles from campus, citing the successes had on McMaster's campus with this initiative. However, the Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed concern that there were very few reusable bottle filling stations on campus, and that maybe Feds should take a leading stance on this but it was a concern that it would be difficult for students to refill the bottles. The Vice President, Operations and Finance would like to investigate this further as a campus wide stance on bottled water. The Vice President, Operations and Finance also brought forward a potential middle ground of boxed water, which is much more efficient. Finally, he expressed that there should be a phase out period, as otherwise bottles will still end up in landfills.

A councillor brought up that other liquids in bottles would likely see increased sales, and so proposes that perhaps we should take a stance on all bottled liquids.

Councillor Small expressed interest in meeting with the Vice President, Operations and Finance about this policy, as well adding additional clauses to the policy regarding water-filling stations on campus. He also expressed disagreement that Feds removing water bottles does not infringe on student choice rights.

The President added that this policy is very internal focussed, so may not pass the Council procedure definition of policy, so this should be kept in mind throughout policy development.

A councillor suggested keeping bottled water sales in buildings that did not have water-filling stations. Another suggestion was that Feds re-usable water bottles present a great branding opportunity.

The councillor that was earlier opposed suggested that this was the wrong solution to the right problem, re-iterating that students would likely be upset at Feds for discontinuing the sale of water bottles and re-iterating that advertising is a more individualized solution.

A councillor inquired about precedent for this kind of policy. The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that some items had been banned by the provincial government, but that it was rare for Council to bring forward explicit bans against certain items. They also mentioned the existing policy on environmental sustainability that Councillors should read for context.

A councillor brought up that it may be better to modify the environmental sustainability policy, and that the Policy and Procedures Committee could work to create a more comprehensive policy proposal.

Another councillor expressed that a large number of students would be happy with this policy, however expressed that they were representing environment students. They also mentioned there was likely only a small number of students that would be unhappy with Feds for discontinuing bottled water.

A councillor added that if we are modifying the environmental sustainability policy we should add clauses for recycling, as there are many buildings that have no recycling facilities.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance will move water bottles out of the fore-

front and will bring in boxed water instead. He will also investigate bringing in cheap but quality reusable water bottles.

Councillor Small and Vice President Schwan will connect to discuss this, and bring a more formal policy to the Policy and Procedures Committee.

REVOKE POWERS OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Be it resolved that revokes the authority of the Policy and Procedure Committee to ratify policy or procedures without the approval of Council.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Councillor Potter proposed an ammendment to make this motion specific to the policies that were previously delegated to the committee, as the committee never had approval authority over all policy and procedure. This was done to clarify the exact effect of the motion.

This was friendly with the mover and seconder. The policy now reads:

Be it resolved that Council revokes the authority of the Policy and Procedures Committee to ratify ammendments to the

- Ancillary Fees,
- Preventing Discrimination, and
- Strong Representation

policies without the approval of Council.

Motion carries unanimously.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

Be it resolved that Feds adopt the distributed policy on Freedom of Speech as presented.

Councillor Ayre and Vice President Schwan.

The mover expressed that this policy is meant to treat all clubs the same regardless of their political belief, to allow campus police to intervene if protests happen, and to prevent protests from happening that would shut down events.

Councillors expressed that polls show students are interested in seeing this policy be explicit on what speech is allowed, and there was concern optics of passing the policy in its current form. There was general support for a policy around free speech, and an interest in seeing a revised policy.

The President expressed that the Policy and Procedures Committee was currently working on a policy on free speech based on one that had just expired, and invited Councillor Ayre to come to a future meeting to discuss his thoughts further.

There was further concern for protections to the rights for campus community members to be on campus, particularly those who belong to marginalized communities.

The mover made the argument that freedom of speech allows our community to address and confront those who believe hateful things about other people. He is also open to working with the Policy and Procedures Committee in the future.

The President expressed support for the idea of this, but that the policy should be rolled into our current policy on freedom of expression.

Another councillor expressed support for this policy to exist, but that what constitutes as free speech does needs to be defined.

The mover responded asking who decides what constitutes as hate speech, and that students should stand up and address when they are uncomfortable.

A councillor expressed that there were enforced reasonable limits on freedom of expression, and that the law had precedent to any policies developed by Council.

A councillor would like to see an investigation into the safeguards that will be put into place for marginalized groups on campus.

Councillor Potter proposed an ammendment to make this a first reading of the motion. The ammendment is seen as friendly, and the motion now reads:

Be it resolved that Council conduct a first reading of the Freedom of Speech policy as presented, and will recieve a revised version at the next meeting.

Councillor Velling proposed referring the motion to the Policy and Procedures Committee for further development.

Be it resolved that Council refer this to the Policy and Procedures Committee to develop in concert with the current Freedom of Expression policy and the mover.

Councillor Velling and Vice President Schwan.

Motion carries unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Be it resolved that Council set the dates for the Fall Council meetings

President Brieva and Vice President Schwan.

Motion carries unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT COUNCILLOR REPORT

The councillors representing the faculty of environment submitted a report during the meeting. See attached.

There is concern that students making expenses for student societies are not being repayed on time, and the possibility of societies having other bank accounts.

It was noted that some societies do have external bank accounts, but most expenses are still processed through the societies accountant.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance expressed that the societies accountant now had a credit card to make society purchases easier.

A councillor also inquired if there was any investigations into online reimbursement forms.

The Vice President, Operations and Finance responded that it was a project going on at the moment, and that he could bring an update at the next meeting.

Councillors also expressed a desire to see more outreach from the Student Life Endowment Fund, as the fund seems under-utilized by societies.

OPEN SEATS ON THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A councillor inquired about open seats on IAC, the Vice President, Internal responded that there were none.

OPEN SEATS ON COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

A councillor inquired about open seats due to the term changing. They were informed that Councillors and at large students will continue in their seats unless replaced.

The architecture representative on Council raised the issue that students on their campus feel neglected by Feds, and see a lot of attention during the election but would like to see more attention during the year.

The councillor would like to see executive office hours on their campus for a day at least once a month, ideally more frequently.

They would also like more support from the Feds and the University, as students are feeling a lot of pressure and many are working till 3am every night.

The executives responded that they would be looking into that, and to reach out with any other concerns or suggestions.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Be it resolved that Council adjourn until the next meeting.

elizabeth and brian.

With the agenda exhausted and no other business, the Speaker adjourned the meeting at 3:07PM

Motion carries unanimously.

Agenda for FEDs Council Meeting

September 17, 2017

Present

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Altaf, Subham | • OSullivan, Elizabeth |
| • Ayre, Alexander | • Potter, Tristan |
| • Brieva, Antonio | • Schwan, Brian |
| • Clarke, Antonio | • Shibli, Aisha |
| • Clubine, Andrew | • Simpson, Abigail |
| • Easton, Benjamin | • Small, Jason |
| • George, Rebecca | • Terzian, Hagop |
| • Goomer, Kanishk | • Tran, Tomson |
| • Jowhari, Nickta* | • Velling, Seneca* |
| • Knight, Jill | • Ye-Mowe, Stephanie* |
| • Mistry, Harsh | • Xu, Wenyu |
| • Mohan, Andrew* | |

* remote

Excused

- Mills, Cameron

Preliminaries

1. **Motion:** Be it resolved Council elects _____ as temporary Assistant Secretary of Students' Council.

Approval of the Agenda

Adding items to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote, although new items of business can still be raised without needing that vote once the entire agenda is complete.

2. **Motion:** Be it resolved Council approves the agenda for this meeting.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

No motion or vote is required to adopt the minutes, once corrections are made. If there are significant reservations about the minutes, the approval may be dispensed with, and the minutes will be returned at the subsequent meeting for approval.

3. **Minutes:** Minutes of May meeting

Consent Agenda

Per Council Procedure 9, items on the consent agenda will be considered in gross, without debate or amendment. Items will be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda upon the request of any member. The purpose of the consent agenda is not to suppress debate but to allow Council to quickly consider and approve uncontroversial items.

4. **Councillor Reports**
5. **Committee Reports**

Regular Agenda

Reports

Reports are submitted to Council by various officers and committees of Feds and of Council. Motions arising directly out of a report, including to adopt recommendations in the report, may be considered immediately after the report without having to wait until later in the meeting. No action is required to receive a report. If Council decides to adopt or accept a report, then it is endorsing the entire report and not just the recommendations.

6. Executive Reports

- President
- Vice-President, Internal
- Vice-President, Operations and Finance
- Vice-President, Education

7. Executive QA Period**8. Councillor Oral Reports**

9. **Councillor Oral Report** (Councillors who submitted a report will be called to deliver an oral summary lasting no longer than 30 seconds)

10. Speaker Update**Special Orders**

A special order is an item of business that will take precedence over all other business at the designated time for the special order. As it suspends the normal rule that each item must be disposed of before another can be brought up, setting or removing a special order requires a two-thirds vote unless originally included in the agenda.

Unfinished Business and General Orders

Unfinished business is business carried on to a meeting from the previous meeting. A general order is an item of business that is ordered to be taken up at a meeting. The most important thing that the agenda does is set general orders and their relative ordering. Time limits to discussions indicate the point at which the Speaker will end the discussion unless Council directs otherwise.

11. **Motion:** Be it resolved that Council renews of Policy 2. Hours of Teaching Buildings. - Tristan Potter
12. **Motion:** Be it resolved that Council approves the **.Service Coordinators** - Jill Knight

13. **Update:** The library has given us an update on the renovations (in the form of a power point that is attached to this agenda) that they would like to share with the students. **Service Coordinators** - Jill Knight
14. **QandA:** A brief summary on the feedback for extending Fall Reading Week. - Seneca Velling
15. **Motion:** Be it resolved that Council approves the policies (**Policy 1,3,16,31**) from the PPC's recommended renewals currently in the works/being renewed. - Seneca Velling
16. **For Discussion:** plastic water bottle policy - Jason Small
17. **Motion:** Be it resolved that Council revokes the authority of the Policy and Procedure Committee to ratify policy or procedures without the approval of Council. - Seneca Velling
18. **Discussion:** A discussion of the (**Freedom of Speech and Expression on Campus**) - Alexander Eyre
19. **Motion:** Be it resolved that Council approves the future council meeting days to be Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 3. - Antonio Brieva

New Business

Any Councillor may raise any item of concern during New Business. Generally, long discussions without a specific motion before Council should be avoided, and are technically against the rules of procedure. If a Councillor has any questions about the procedure, form, or content, they should ask the Speaker or another experienced Councillor.

Adjournment by 4:00 PM

President' Report

Antonio Brieva, President's; September Report

Orientation Week

- Spoke at several events including leader appreciation, Warrior Welcome, Transfer and Exchange orientation, and an SSO event called Dear First Year Me.
- Besides these speaking requests, I was also embedded as part of Faculty programming for various faculties (i.e. Arts Academic Sessions and Engineering Showcase). The week overall was a great success.

Presidents Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health

- At the end of July the Committee hosted all the panels that will be reporting their findings to the main committee. These Panels have begun meeting on a biweekly basis and will have mid-term reports completed by October 24th.
- These reports will be presented at a Symposium, where all the panels and their Chairs will get the chance to present their early findings and recommendations. As a Committee member, I'll be liaising the Student Experience Panel.

Federal Advocacy: Undergraduates of the Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)

- Our Briefs on our four priorities (e.g. Canadian Student Loans Program, Indigenous Students, Undergraduate Research Funding, and International Students) this year are on track to be completed by this month. These briefs will inform our Federal Advocacy efforts in Ottawa. Our Advocacy week is set to occur from November 6-10.
- In addition to our briefs, we collaboratively developed a new logo and creating a brand guideline for the organization. The goal is to set ourselves apart from other federal student advocacy groups;

- And finally, were close to adding two new members to our Coalition.

Policies and Procedures Committee

- The Committee is committing itself to a thorough policy clean-up. Were looking to review all the policies on the books that are set to expire within the next 12 months or already are expired. Some of the policies presented to Council for renewal at this meeting are a result of some of that work. Well look for opportunities to merge existing policies that fall under broader policy categories (i.e. mental Health and student financial aid) to reduce the sheer number of policies on the books.
- Were also looking at our council procedures to identify any potential changes that can be made to facilitate and enhance Councils evidence-based policy development process. Any of these changes will be recommended to council. In addition, were looking at ways we can classify and distinguish our policies and belief statements.

Vice-President Internal Report

Jill Knight, Vice President Internal; September Report

Events

Orientation was a great time and I had the opportunity to give 4 speeches during the week. I had a thank you and difficult conversation speech with all the dons on our campus before Single and Sexy. I had the honour to do a welcome speech for Arts, Applied Health Sciences and Environment faculties for their International students. I spoke at the Faculty of Science welcome and did a presentation for the Student Success event Dear Future Me. On top of the speeches, we attended several other events.

Welcome Week just happened. The week was filled with events and activities. I attended an event per day and engaged with students there. Highlights of this week were the two-day carnival plus the bonfire that happened on the Tuesday evening.

Get Involved Week is upcoming. During this week we host the Feds Open House and our Clubs and Society days. These events are to inform the student population about the different ways to get involved with Feds.

Wellness

The Campus Life Department has started to redefine their purpose of wrap up week. We have started working with Campus Wellness and Athletics and Recreation to organize wellness events for Winter 2018 as a united front. As for this upcoming Fall Wrap Up Week, we will remain consistent with what has traditionally happened.

Feds on Tour

These dates for our satellite campuses have been booked with the help of the respective societies.

Societies

The Committee of Presidents meeting has been booked. Societies are getting back into a routine from the change over during the Spring term. Moving

forward, visiting student societies will be booked for the last week of September.

The Societies Relations Commissioner role has been taking a lead at planning our Fall event with the societies.

OUSA Best Practices

The Executives attended a best practice sharing day with 7 other universities. I had the opportunity to share information about Orientation, volunteer appreciation, and volunteer training.

Presidents Advisory Committee on Equity

This meeting resumed this summer. I will be apart of the subcommittee Gender and Sexual Diversity Work Group. The sub meetings start shortly in September. More updates to come as the meetings take place.

Clubs

The part time Clubs Assistant role was posted, interviewed, hired and trained over the end of the Spring term. The role is now working at better supporting the clubs that we have on our campus.

Vice-President of Operations and Finance

Brian Schwan, VP Operations and Finance; September Report

Executive Report

- Month Summary
- Current Projects/ Initiatives

Month Summary

The Bombshelter:

New Menu has launched at Bomber, more food options with a greater menu diversity. We have created more menu options for vegans and vegetarians but are still looking at increasing options in the future. We are working on creating an express menu at bomber to increase speed of service.

Bomber is in the process of phasing out straws and becoming a straw free restaurant to reduce the amount of waste that is caused through the restaurant industry.

International News:

We are currently working on creating a fried chicken option for the hot grab and go section. Have seen more traffic than usual and are in the process of opening up a third till to reduce the amount of time customers have to wait.

Campus Bubble/Bento:

Nothing new to report.

Feds Used Books:

Feds Used Books has seen incredible traffic this term and we are giving away free calendars with every purchase to aide in students planning while keeping a cost effective solution in mind.

Current Projects/Initiatives

A. Action Planning

Our Action Plan is now available on line.. check it out and reach out to us if you have any comments or concerns!

B. Pharmacare

Slowly but surely we have received more information from the government. Looking at a Jan 1 st launch date and will benefit Ontario students aged 24 and younger. Will be able to claim prescriptions under the OBD formulary by using their health card. We still need to confirm a couple other details but will communicate these to council when we get them. Additionally, we will be working on a communications plan to launch in the fall term to inform students.

C. Budget Committee

You all received an email regarding the budget and I received a handful of questions but nothing major and I appeared that all those were satisfied due to the lack of follow up questions. The budget will be posted online in conjunction with the new website.

D. Website

We are very close to finally launching a new website. Hopefully less than a month away and are very excited for the improved aesthetics, increased functionality, and more efficient layout that will ultimately improve students experience and decrease the time they spend looking for information.

E. OPT OUTs

Please communicate to your fellow students that the Opt Out period for the health and dental plan for the 2017-2018 year is from September 5 th October 7 th and can be done online at www.studentcare.ca

F. Legal Survey

We are in the process of setting a date to send out a survey to students to see if there is a demand for legal insurance. Ultimately the results will be brought back to council to have a critical and fruitful discussion to see if we would like to continue pursuing it or not. We are looking to have this completed in October.

Vice President, Education

Andrew Clubine, VP Education September Report

Co-op Fee Review

The co-op fee review team met throughout the summer. Hannah Beckett (Coop Affairs Commissioner) and I are representing Feds on this group. A draft work plan was agreed to. The current state analysis was delayed because of an unexpected staffing issue in the Co-op Department. However, a terms of reference for a Student Advisory Panel were approved. Applications for the panel will be available next week and will be due at the end of the month.

OUSA

OUSA has set lobby priorities for this year. These include experiential learning, open educational resources, data collection for universities, sexual violence prevention, tuition and mental health. In October, WLU will be hosting the Fall General Assembly. Applications to become a Feds delegate will be available at the end of September. The policy papers to be discussed are indigenous students, system vision, accountability and open educational resources.

Academic Advising

Feds has been offering academic guidance for a few years, but has only recently begun to formalize the service. Maya Venters (Academic Affairs Commissioner) has developed a suite of resources for students who are filing petitions, grievance or appeals. These are now being used and have received positive responses from students.

Campus Design

Campus design and development have been issues of interest at Feds for a few years, but have not been addressed in policy to date. Jennifer Chen (Municipal Affairs Commissioner) has begun compiling a draft report on this topic, with support from staff and students. This draft should be completed by the end of September.

Government Relations

Throughout the summer, I have met with elected officials at all levels of government. Our municipal, provincial and federal partners have been briefed on our priorities for their respective jurisdictions already. We have received overwhelmingly positive responses about Feds OUSAs and U-CRUs priorities.

Outreach

Following the Feds Exec Welcome Video, we will be releasing the first a series of videos about the Feds Education portfolio.

Student Housing

For the fourth year in a row, we have seen a major housing development in Waterloo go unfinished. Shortly after move in, I had the opportunity to attend a roundtable with the Minister of Housing at Queens Park. The minister acknowledged Waterloo students concerns and committed to following up.

Course Evaluations

The Provosts Course Evaluations Project Team has completed a 3-year report with recommendations for how to improve the course evaluation tool on campus. This group was initiated a result of former Feds VPED, Adam Garcias advocacy. The report will be presented to Senate at the September meeting for approval.

EAC and GAAC

In Fall term, I intend to revitalize the existing VPED Council Committees by consolidating them into a single committee for the portfolio. The committees will meet together until an updated terms of reference is presented to Council.

Service Coordinators

| Name | Service |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Declan Smeaton | Food Bank |
| Vanessa Wilderman | Food Bank |
| Tori Garner | OCC |
| Michael Pinnau | OCC |
| Alana Carr-Matthews | Volunteer Centre |
| Jevera Knelsen | Volunteer Centre |
| Shashwat Pratap | ICSN |
| Shuyan Hong (Nancy) | ICSN |
| Hannah Sesink | Warrior Tribe |
| Awn Duqoum | MATES |
| Vaiva Dzemionas | MATES |
| Jesse Jakobsh | Bike Centre |
| Lucas Krist | Bike Centre |
| Alex McEwin | Glow |
| Judy Liu | Glow |
| Midori Matthew | Women's Centre |
| Amanda Singh | Women's Centre |
| Zayd Schafer | CRT |
| Tatiana Portelli-Graham | CRT |
| Meghan Metke | SCI |
| Shengdi (Sharon) Chen | SCI |
| Jade Alexander | Co-op Connection |

PPC Recommend Renewals

Policy 1: Secrecy in University Governance

WHEREAS the essence of higher education is open and free discussion; and

WHEREAS this ideal is not realized when the governance of institutions dedicated to higher learning is conducted in secrecy; and

WHEREAS in such situations students, staff, and faculty are unable to exercise their rights and responsibilities as members of the institutions; and

WHEREAS a restricted flow of information produces unnecessary and harmful tensions within the institution; and

WHEREAS an atmosphere of openness, integrity, accountability and transparency is essential to the effective operation of the University,

BIRT All decisions in the government of an institution of post-secondary education should be made in a democratically open, transparent, and accountable manner; and

BIFRT Every exception to the principles of open decision-making must be justified by the person or persons making it; and

BIFRT Non-confidential documents should be available upon request by a member of the student body in a timely fashion.

Policy 3: Statement of Autonomy

WHEREAS the Charter of Incorporation of the Federation of Students approved by the Board of Governors of the University of Waterloo charges the Federation of Students with the responsibility for administering its own affairs; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Students cannot tolerate any arbitrary interference in its internal operations that opposes the spirit of the Charter of Incorporation;

BIRT the faculty student societies shall have the exclusive right to exercise control over and influence in the Federation of Students through methods determined by the Students Council and approved by General Meeting of the Federation; and

BIFRT while the Federation of Students welcomes the opportunity to hear advice and discuss policies, no external entity not herein discussed will be permitted to exercise any control over the activities of the Federation of Students.

Policy 16: Academic Autonomy

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is responsible for the financing, and overall health and sustainability of the post-secondary sector; and

WHEREAS Universities in Ontario are semi-autonomous, self-governing entities; and

WHEREAS final decisions involving the curricula at the university should only be made at the university level, following all proper and relevant decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS the University of Waterloo should endeavor to maintain its autonomy regarding the academic programs and courses it provides, when it doesn't impede the needs of students, the marketplace and society; and

WHEREAS there may be opportunities for partnerships with third parties from the government or private sector to improve the courses the University of Waterloo provides. BIRT the Federation of Students Council believes that the university, through its faculty, administration and students, should strive to be the final arbiter of the content of courses and curricula offered at the institution;

BIFRT the Federation of Students believes that where it is not overly restrictive to academic autonomy, the University, through its administration, faculty and students, should work with the provincial government to achieve a broader system-wide vision for post-secondary education;

BIFRT the Federation of Students Council believes that where it is not overly restrictive to academic autonomy, the university, through its faculty, administration and students, should pursue opportunities to connect with private and public sector for the purposes of experiential learning and other community partnerships that improve the quality of the broader learning environment, so long as this private partnership does not erode the independence and quality of the learning process;

BIFRT the Federation of Students Council believes that all private sources of funding should in no way infringe upon the academic autonomy of the University and its administration, faculty and students;

BIFRT the Federation of Students Council believes that private funding should not be viewed as the alternative source for operational funding shortfalls, and that the provincial government has the primary responsibility for providing operational funding.

Policy 31: Student Space

WHEREAS student space is defined as space in which most students can comfortably: study, either independently or collaboratively; socialize; run and attend events unrelated to academics; play games; engage in physical activity; or enjoy a coffee or other snack; and

WHEREAS students have expressed continuous need for increased social and study space that scales with increased enrollment; and

WHEREAS student space on our campus has been in a continued decline since 1977; and

WHEREAS the University of Waterloo has less athletics, recreation, and study space than most other similarly sized Ontario Universities, far beneath the Council of Ontario Universities Space Guidelines;

BIRT the University of Waterloo should increase the total square metres of study space to the minimum recommended benchmarks of the Council of Ontario Universities; and

BIFRT students should only be charged for the cost of building student space once it is completed to ensure that students are only paying for space they deem useable; and

BIFRT students should not pay for space that is primarily academic, service oriented, administrative, or not directly usable by students; and

BIFRT at minimum, the University should fund half of all study space; and

BIFRT the University should fund any space allocated for use by the University in its administrative activities, academic activities, or service activities through its operating budget; and

BIFRT the Federation of Students should seek to offset the cost of managing student space through external means, external sponsorship, and commercial operations; and

BIFRT students and student representatives from the relevant faculty stu-

dent societies and the Federation of Students should be consistently involved with the development of the plans for all student space; and

BIFRT students should have full management control of student space; and

BIFRT the consultation and negotiation process regarding all student space should strive to achieve the highest level of transparency and accountability, through constant communication with the student body; and

BIFRT student space should strive to accommodate students technology needs; and

BIFRT the university should enhance existing spaces on campus to improve its student friendliness and use, by adding better seating, lighting, power sources, and work space; and

BIFRT any fee charged to students for student space must pass through referendum; and

BIFRT the Federation of Students believes that non-academic ancillary buildings should be eligible for funding from the provincial government; and

BIFRT students should either comprise the majority of any decision-making body, or hold a percentage proportional to their financial contribution to the project budget, whichever is higher, in student buildings; and

BIFRT the University in its allocation of student space and the Federation of Students in its administration of student space should prioritize utilization of space consistent with student wishes (be it recreational, academic, or social in nature).

Proposed Policy: Vending of Bottled Water

WHEREAS the Federation of Students strives for ethical and environmental responsibility in the conduct of its operations and practices (FEDS Policy 25, Sustainability); and

WHEREAS the University of Waterloo supports practices and processes to reduce consumption of resources, minimize output of water, and mitigate upstream and downstream environmental impacts from campus operations (UW Policy 53, Environmental Sustainability); and

WHEREAS bottled water is the cause of large volumes of plastic waste and the ongoing privatization of an essential human need; and

WHEREAS the use of cheap reusable bottles filled with tap water is a low-cost, safe, and sustainable alternative;

BIRT the commercial services run by the Federation not sell bottled water; and

BIFRT the International News store in the SLC instead sell reusable water bottles; and

BIFRT the Federation advocate to the university that UW Food Services cease to sell bottled water at food service locations and vending machines.

Note: I have chosen to write a full policy as a way of expressing my full ideas on the matter. I am very open to both amendments to this suggested policy and suggestions to pursue this in a completely different way. I also understand if time for consideration/discussion is desired before voting on something of this subject matter at some future meeting. I have primarily written this as a way of initiating discussion on this subject.

*Federation of Students' Council
University of Waterloo
17 September, 2017*

A Resolution on the Extension of the Fall Reading Week:

WHEREAS the Federation of Students' (FEDS) Council acknowledges the approaching end to the three year trial period for the two-day Fall Reading Week as supported by a referendum of Waterloo undergraduate students casting ballots in the affirmative¹,

WHEREAS the initial 2014 referendum followed the culmination of years of student polling and summary reports by the Fall Reading Week committee (Consideration of a Fall Break at the University of Waterloo, Report to the Vice President and Provost; September 8, 2014.
https://uwaterloo.ca/associate-vice-president-academic/sites/ca.associate-vice-president-academic/files/uploads/files/fallbreak_-_sept_8_2014_final_report-accessible.pdf),

WHEREAS the FEDS Council reminds the student body that prior to this referendum Math and Engineering surveys indicated considerable student interest² in the implementation of a Fall Reading Week,

WHEREAS fourteen of the twenty Ontario University maintain a full week break in the fall for students, particularly out of province and international students, to study for midterms, visit family, and enjoy their long weekend for Thanksgiving,

WHERE such rest and recuperation in the difficult study environment of the University of Waterloo is essential to the mental health, stress-management and accommodation of extensive academic workload for student³,

WHEREAS the Federation acknowledges the significant concerns regarding Co-operative Education during this period and the accessibility of students in the employment process,

WHEREAS the Federation acknowledges the challenge of finding sufficient space to schedule a full Fall Reading Week break: 60 teaching days, a minimum of 2 pre-exam study days, and a minimum of 12 exam days while finishing by December 22,

¹ Federation records indicate that 73.8 per cent voted in favour of building a break into the school calendar.

² March 10th, 2014 Federation General Meeting Agenda
www.feds.ca/home/feds-general-meeting-agenda/

³ Based on the Report to the Vice President and Provost, "Promotion of sound mental health is widely claimed as the rationale for installing a Fall Break, although hard data to support this assertion is lacking. Students, counselors, instructors and academic advisors will, however, readily attest that the Fall term is widely seen as a "pressure cooker", especially in regards to transitioning issues and looming midterm exams for new incoming students. The University of Waterloo, among numerous other Ontario institutions, is keenly aware of the need to provide conditions that promote the physical and mental well-being of our students. An institution whose actions promote mental health well-being will be well regarded by undergraduate and graduate students, prospective students and their parents."

*Federation of Students' Council
University of Waterloo
17 September, 2017*

WHEREAS a majority of students support the extension of the Fall break into a full week period,

BIFRT Students calls for a referendum on the implementation of a full, week-long Fall Reading Break at the University of Waterloo, after the implementation of a two (2) year pilot period to assess impact on student mental health, scheduling, and exams,

BIFRT the Federation believes Mid-term breaks, regardless of the term in which they occur, should have the same terms of reference:

1. A mid-term break (e.g., Winter Reading Week) is intended to act as a pause for on-campus students to reflect upon and catch up on their term's work to date and, as necessary, prepare for any upcoming mid-term assignments and assessments,
2. During this pause, there are to be no scheduled meetings for students (e.g., classes, labs, tutorials, seminars, exams),
3. Deadlines for graded assessments should neither be scheduled during the break nor within the first two (2) days following the extended break, so as to defeat the purpose of this hiatus,
4. Student services, such as Health Services, Counselling Services, the library, residences, etc. are expected to continue working at full capacity,

BIFRT the Students enrolled in online courses should realize the same benefits accrued for on-campus students during the Fall Break,

BIFRT that while the Federation did support, albeit with student consent and positive approval at the time⁴, a re-adjustment of the duration of Orientation, any further shortening the Orientation timeline to accommodate Fall Reading Week extension would be far too deleterious to the 1st Year Students and would reduce the capacity of the University, faculty-student societies, and the Federation to potentially introduce, transition, and equip these students in a manner to best provide them the opportunities for success at Waterloo,

BIFRT there ought to be an extension of "Orientation"-type activities judiciously into the first few weeks following the start of classes to continue to provide students opportunities lost to them by the prior reduction in Orientation length,

⁴ The duration of Orientation Week was particularly flexible in the implementation of Fall Reading Week in the past due to the removal of required ELPE writing during this period and the University's engagement with undergraduate students prior to their arrival on campus.

*Federation of Students' Council
University of Waterloo
17 September, 2017*

BIFRT believes it best to accommodate the extension of Fall Reading Week by allowing all days of the week, including Sundays when required⁵, for the writing of examinations, provided religious exemptions, verified illness or familial exemptions, and exam conflict (all as currently supported) for students to whom these concerns apply,

BIFRT that to accommodate Fall Reading week, the University should considering starting the term earlier, without impinging the Orientation of 1st Year Students or the one-day Out-of-Province/American Students Orientation⁶, by adequately moving both Orientation and the first day of classes earlier into the fall,

BIFRT this option should not be acted on if it negatively impacts the sizeable portion of international students⁷ and out of province students that attend the University who already have limited time to visit family further away, particularly with Co-op,

BIFRT the Students call for the implementation of a full Fall Reading Week at the University of Waterloo, Students tasks the executive of the Federation of Students to work with the University to implement a full Fall Reading Week complimentary to its Winter counterpart, with the inclusion of the Federation Orientation Committee (FOC) in any decision making panel to ensure protection of the Orientation week from further cuts.

⁵ Including one Sunday exam day in the regular Fall exam period will allow the minimum 12 days for the exam period and the normal conclusion to the exam period (December 22). An alternative is using a Saturday later in the term as a teaching day.

⁶ Out-of-Province and American International students have a specialized one-day extension of orientation to acclimate and prepare them for life in Ontario

<https://uwaterloo.ca/orientation/first-year-out-province-american-students>

⁷ International Students account for ~25% rounded to the nearest full percentage of students at the University of Waterloo over the last 5 years. Information based on student headcount data:
<https://uwaterloo.ca/institutional-analysis-planning/university-data-and-statistics/student-data/student-headcounts>

Draft Policy: Freedom of Speech and Expression on Campus

WHEREAS the Statement on Campus Free Speech and the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression guides Feds free speech policy;

WHEREAS the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes the freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression as well as freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association;

WHEREAS the students of the University of Waterloo hold diverse and sometimes opposing moralistic, religious, and political beliefs;

WHEREAS recently many Canadian and American universities have discriminated against politically-orientated clubs and banned guest speakers on the basis of their political beliefs.

BIRT Feds must not censor or impede any of its affiliates and/or clubs from holding events or hosting speakers. Feds must also not censor the promotion of clubs or club events on the basis of their political beliefs. Clubs must not be tasked with hiring security for their events.

BIFRT Feds must not forcibly disinvite or ban guest speakers and will advocate to the university to abandon the practice of disinviting or banning guest speakers invited by clubs.

BIFRT we request that the University of Waterloo Senate endorse the Chicago Principles as official university policy.

BIFRT Campus police must intervene if any protestors at any event become violent.

BIFRT Feds will not prevent ratification of any club based on a club's political affiliations and/or opinions.

BIFRT Feds will enforce its non-obstructionist policy for protests as laid on in the Statement on Campus Free Speech and advocate to the Campus Police to intervene if any protestors at or in the vicinity of an event turn violent

BIFRT Feds will enforce its resolution to improve viewpoint diversity as outlined in the Statement on Campus Free Speech.

BIRFT Feds must not discriminate in favour or against clubs in terms of the services FEDS provides on the basis of a club's political affiliations and/or opinions.

BIRFT A club may not be placed in probationary status by Feds on the basis of its political affiliations and/or opinions.