

OUSA 2008 Fall General Assembly

University of Windsor
Sunday, October 26, 2008

PLENARY MINUTES

1. Meeting Opened by OUSA President

- 9:00 am
- Introduction of Naaila Sangrar, chair

2. Meeting Officially Opened by Chair

- 9:16 am

3. Roll Call

- WESTERN
- MCMASTER
- QUEENS
- WINDSOR
- WATERLOO
- LAURIER
- BROCK
- All present

4. Approval of Speaker

- Moved by Tithicot, Seconded by Caldwell, Motion Carried

BIRT OUSA Assembly approves Naaila Sangrar as the Speaker for final plenary.

1. Approval and additions to the Agenda

- Any Additions?
- None
- Moved by Caldwell, Seconded by Zeni, Motion Carried

2. Any amendments to last year's meeting minutes?

- Jacob Arun has no 's' at the end
- It is spelt John Done not, John Dolan

3. Approval of Spring 2008 General Assembly Minutes

- Moved by Mayoh, Seconded by Singer, Motion Carried

BIRT OUSA Assembly approves agenda for final plenary.

4. General Assembly Discussion

BIRT Steering Committee consider scheduling an extra day for Spring GA

- Caldwell: would this extra day be on the Sunday?
- Mayoh: The extra day would be the Friday with an early morning start and the same end time on Sunday, this would ensure more debate and discussion would take place with more breaks
- Singer: any additional costs from institutions which are traveling farther?
- Mayoh- all fees will be the same for all delegates respectively. Delegates from institutions that are farther away would have to potentially stay over night on Thursday
- Motion to accept BIRT moved by Cole, Seconded by Mayoh, Abstained by Singer, Motion Carried

5. Reports of the Officers and Home Office (For Information)

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the report of Home Office.

- Cole: Presentation of the Home Office Report on behalf of the home office staff.
 - 4 Key areas of discussion: General Office, Lobbying/ Advocacy, Communications/Campaigns/Conferences, Research and Policy
 - (please see presentation)
1. General Office:
 - o We have gained a whole new staff. Howie Bender as Executive Director, Tammy McQueen as the new Director of Communications and Paul Bien as the new Director of Research and Policy
 2. Lobbying/Advocacy:
 - o Our main focus for the last 3 months has been the CSGP, Canada Student Opportunity Grant and OSAP Reform.
 - o We have also been in serious discussions surrounding Distance Grants, Textbook and Technology Grant priorities for this year, Meeting with MPs and MPPs, Lobby conference,
 - o National Partners Conference, Policy Symposium
 - o We have had a lot of stakeholder meetings
 3. Research and Policy
 - o We made recommendations on the Canada Student Grant Program (CSGP)
 - o We have been working on a joint submission on post-secondary education as a tool for poverty reduction with the College Student Alliance, the Ontario Associate Food Banks and the Town and Gown Association
 - o Municipal affairs, Alternate Cost Recovery and Our Bright Futures as was presented yesterday
 4. Communications
 - o We will be re-designing our OUSA website and so we can look forward to this next semester
 - o Educated Solutions is now a bi-annual magazine thanks to Tammy McQueen
 - o Upcoming Dates: We have our first Alumni Event, Blue Chair Campaign (March 2-6), Spring GA (March 13-15), Partners in Higher Education Event in late March/ early April
 - o Campus Visits/ Council Meetings have started already

- Campus Coordinator Orientation day to be announced
- A series of press releases have come out and we have had a lot of media coverage in the last few months
- Questions? None
- Motion to accept the HO Report
- Moved by Cole, Seconded by Khan, Motion Carried

6. Presentation of Financial Statements

- Tiwari: Presentation of Financial Statements

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the financial report from the VP Finance and Executive Director

- OUSA financial update is to provide a financial snapshot of our organization so as to remain transparent and accountable (please see presentation)
- Fees for this year are \$2.14/ student
- Questions? None
- Motion to accept the financial statements
- Moved by Tiwari, Seconded by Park, Motion Carried

7. Quality Strategy

- Mayoh

BIRT OUSA exec and home office be mandated to strike a sub-committee to make recommendations regarding student success.

BIFRT OUSA approach Quality positions through the lens of "Student Success".

BIFRT OUSA engages partners and stakeholders in the definition process.

BIFRT OUSA present suggested policy positions on Student Success at the Spring GA to be held at McMaster.

- Mayoh: Presentation of Quality Strategy
- Singer: can we have more clarification on the sub-committee
- Mayoh: We talked about this yesterday. It will be 4 people comprised of steering committee members
- Singer: can more people get involved? Can delegates help out?
- Cole: typically this is done by steering committee members but no one would be opposed to involving delegates
- Motion to adopt the quality strategy
- Moved by Mayoh, Seconded by Yarkowitch, Motion Carried

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the updated versions of the policy papers brought to Fall GA.

- Moved by Mayoh, Seconded by Park, Motion Carried

8. Policy Revisions brought to Plenary

a. Rural students (Recording #04/07/26 minutes)

- (see papers)
- Lanteigne: Presentation of Rural Students Paper
- All of the changes that were made overnight have been tracked in this overhead presentation for all of you to see
- (see presentation)
- Singer: recommendation 2 does not include the word 'targeted'
- Taylor- recommendation 2 will financial assistance for travel really put rural and northern students on equal footing?
- Lanteigne: The text reads that it will 'begin to address' the situation , even if you go far away, the statistics show that urban students are much likelier to go with this financial assistance
- Hyland- My concern: why don't urban students have the same right to travel funds?, What about students in Toronto traveling to Western
- Kasmani - this is a traditionally underrepresented group that is focused on rural and northern students, not about students in Toronto. The point of this paper is to address access issues for them, and lobby MPPs on it
- Preston – why was “academic standing” added to the motion?
- Lanteigne – if you don't get into a school because you miss their threshold but get into another university you should still be supported
- Williams- We are making assumptions about this group of people, which are not based on fact. Are there other issues here besides travel that are creating barriers?
- Taylor- many of these issues were presented as causation but they are actually correlation, we need stronger evidence of these ideas that we are presenting as fact, we don't have enough statistics in this paper
- Taylor – Not enough research to prove causation
- Lanteigne – lots of research from the states points to direct causation between distance grants and increased enrolment
- Kasmani: can we motion to divide the question?
- Moved by Azim, Seconded by Clark, Motion Carried
- Motion to move the paper
- Moved by Preston, Seconded by Lanteigne.
- 2 Opposed, 2 Abstentions, Motion Carried

b. Students with dependants (Recording #04/07/45.40 minutes)

- (see papers)
- Mayoh and Tiwari: Presentation of Students with Dependants Paper
- Mayoh- just a few switch-a-roos, Principal one now includes all dependents, not just children
- Tiwari- all tuition in Ontario must REMAIN regulated not BE regulated
- Mayoh- Recommendation 4 changed
- Tiwari- Recommendation 7

Motion

- Moved by Lafoyiannis, seconded Lanteigne, Motion Carried
- Kasmani: not all programs are regulated
- Bender: they are all regulated, just not in a way that we like
- Park: the idea of dependents is a broad statement, for the purposes of this paper, you could define dependents as children
- Lafoyiannis - I agree, and desires an addition to the paper to reflect it
- Tasneem- I have a question about Recommendation #2, my recommendation was not taken into account
- Mayoh: the blurb underneath explains this
- Taylor- I disagree with Park. This paper is leaving us open to explore other ideas of people with dependents
- Martin: suggests that a definition of dependants happen earlier in the paper
- Mayoh – it would change the intro, but not the PCRs
- Kasmani - steering committee will go back and change this wording?
- Mayoh- yes
- Park: the PCRs in this paper are fantastic
- Move to Approve: all
- Duffield- clarification: were these two passed?
- Chair- yes
- Cole- only PCRs need to be approved, not text

c. Creating a framework for quality assessment (Recording #04/07/56 minutes)

- (see papers)
- Cole and Lombardi: Presentation of Quality Assessment Paper
- Cole there were not many changed, Principal 4 addition (academic)
- Recommendation 1: more information about HECQO added
- Recommendation 4: more information added
- Recommendation 6: additions to the text
- Recommendation 7: more text
- Kasmani – in solutions we specify that 25% should be the amount of student involvement
- Cole – we wanted to do more research into what “meaningful participation” might mean
- Yeung – Rec. 3 doesn’t specify funding by quality anymore
- Cole- this is out of the scope of this paper
- Moved by Gupta, Seconded by Carruthers, Motion Carried

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the updated versions of the policy papers brought to Fall GA.

9. Aboriginal Students (Recording #04/07/103.30 minutes)

- St. Clair and Fuentes: Presentation of Aboriginal Students Paper
- Stephanie: we want to take all of your recommendations into account
- Move that we would like to extend the deadline to next GA
- Move, seconded
- Gupta: when is the extension to? We shouldn't keep on pushing deadlines back
- St. Clair: It will be complete for the Spring GA
- Lafoyiannis: Can we make this more official so that we don't keep on pushing the date of this paper back?
- St. Claire: yes
- Chair: is everyone alright with the friendly amendment to include the words "Spring GA" in the extension
- All: yes

BIRT Assembly extends the deadline for the aboriginal students' paper to Spring GA.

BIFRT Steering Committee continue to consult with partners and stakeholders regarding aboriginal students

- Moved by St. Clair, Seconded by Benarzi, Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Our Bright Future Update (Recording #04/07/105.50 minutes)

a. System Vision

- Cole, St. Claire and Bien: Presentation of System Vision
- Cole: Recommendation 1 we changed Must and should, 'taroted' to targeted, just grammatical changes
- Apprentice teachers- additional text added
- Recommendation 8: environment – We have stricken the section about the environment from this paper
- Moved by Cole, Seconded by Fuentes
- Zeni: can we look back at text for recommendation 10
- Williams: international students aren't traditionally considered underrepresented groups under the access agenda, so I have difficulties with this
- Cole: we can change the wording to 'and underrepresented groups'... not 'and other underrepresented groups' as a friendly change
- Martin: Can we add "if appropriate to student learning and success" to 4i
- Chair: any objections? None
- Preston: will taking out the environmental section hurt our relationship with stakeholders and partners?
- Mayoh: we have already respectfully declined offers without hurting any relationships
- St. Clair: We will take this back to our steering committee and discuss our options to provide a diverse and international learning environment
- Western: why are exchanges included in something about international students?
- Cole: it fits with the overall heading of this section

- Zeni: Recommendation 10, 'first and foremost' takes away from other groups, the language is too strong and it implies other students don't matter as much
- Cole: was a grammar issue, can be changed to 'firstly'
- Park: 4.e: Table an amendment that the provincial government not 'lead by example' and 'place a greater emphasis on teaching quality'
- Mayoh: the intent was that institutions would follow suit
- Kasmani: our end target is the Ontario Government- not other governments
- Andrey: I would like to make an amendment that we strike 3.c
- Chair: Do we have a move for an incidental motion?
- Moved by Andrey, Seconded by Williams, Motion Carried
- Martin: this is a paper on the 'ideal' university, it should not be stricken
- Singer: this is a solid way to increase relations with Town and Gown
- Zeni: I would like to speak for the motion, this doesn't change anything for students
- Williams: Many reports, including NESSE, point out that campuses don't have enough space, thus we can't be providing public lectures and taking away from student spaces
- St. Clair: again, this is an ideal situation, I don't see why this couldn't be an OUSA issue, we have a broad vision
- Krawec: I agree but it is very specific
- Martin: This document say, 'which MAY include' may is the key word here
- Park: I agree
- Lafoyiannis: this is outside of our scope
- Caldwell: I'm against public lecture spaces
- Zeni: even in an ideal world, a lot of universities in Ontario don't have any land to build on
- Cole: it is not our intent to construct these spaces and new buildings, it was making use of the spaces we have
- Zeni: 'creation of physical spaces' implies that
- Benarzi: this is a town and gown issue, these spaces impact student life, if we had a better relationship with communities we would have a better student life
- Mayoh: we are interested in student success
- Gupta: 3.c we should change wording
- Andrey: this is not an issue that should be at the top of the list. I don't like that we do municipal affairs because we are a provincial organization
- Singer: it is not the choice of public space and student space, this is not a fight over resources, this is maximizing unused classrooms, rooms etc. post classes
- Lanteigne: this is the only point we have that invites citizens to the campus in non-peak times, we are saying that it should be a shared space and not an exclusive one
- Duffield: Who can be against this integration? Especially in an ideal institution
- Kasmani: read the text before the recommendation, "bring the benefits of the community inwards" i.e. Windsor automotive industry sends representatives to the university and directly offers students employment opportunities
- Martin: There is wisdom in Mr. Duffield's statement. Anyone from the public is welcome as is, we don't check student cards when entering lecture halls, quite frankly- it would be quite ridiculous to strike this
- Hyland: if it was made clearer, and the 1 example was removed, it would read better
- Williams: if we vote this down, will we be able to add something in its place
- St. Clair: I would like to move an amendment to amend this amendment

- Chair: to do this, we would have to vote down the motion and strike down the speakers list
- Opposed 7, Abstentions 1
- Chair: all in favour of striking what's up there (10), all opposed to striking (28), abstention 2
- Motion failed
- Friendly amendment
- St. Clair: 'while space for students remains a priority, Universities should work to improve the relationships between students and the community through promoting a culture of integrated local and campus learning opportunities'
- Chair: anyone opposed? No, Recap, discussion on System vision
- Gupta: withdrawn
- Singer: 2b, can you make it more specific?
- Cole: it is unspecific on purpose because all students require different types of support
- Singer: #10 not all international students 'contribute' to the learning experience
- Cole: in general, it creates a rich learning experience for all
- Singer: we don't have the firm data to back this point
- Cole: this is not a research paper
- Caldwell: Can we go back to 3 e... it is the exact same thing we just changed in number 10? Why is this here?
- We are talking about communities
- Cole: we didn't author this paper, but, we would like to put forth a friendly motion to strike it?
- Any opposed? No
- Martin: we should be careful referring to 'they' and 'them,' we should be careful with taking the teeth out of motions
- Duffield: 10a, this could be interpreted as an implied causation, international students move around for a variety of reasons, not just tuition costs, by capping international students' tuition fees, we use the provincial taxation base to subsidize non-Canadian student
- St. Clair: tuition fees in other papers have shown that tuition is a barrier to getting the best and the brightest
- Bender: we have been talking about a responsible cost sharing model. In the case of international students, there is not split. There is no tax subsidy for international students, a few institutions use international students as a revenue source and charge these students higher rates than all other students, a cost-that is beyond the full cost of their tuition
- International students can work on campus and off and they have to pay taxes from this
- They also have to pay UHIP since they don't qualify for OHIP (over 7000 a year)
- Kasmani: 10a, 'to recruit the world's best', this language is an us and them... this is why this is so concerning, we should take another look at our policies
- Preston: 10b- point of clarification, take out 'other'
- Crothers: 10a, by putting a cap on their tuitions are we removing spots for local students
- St. Clair: given demographic shifts, we actually need students to fill in the spots, we need to attract these students because we need to support our economy
- Yeung: We as all upset that we are footing the bill for international students
- Mayoh: International student are paying more

- Williams: In our own data, it is clear that international students, our constituents, pay more than what they get out of their institutions, at Waterloo some students paid more than 18000. if we did our research and looked into this before we talked
- Lanteigne: friendly recommendation to 'thus improving the world's best'
- Chair: anyone opposed to friendly amendment
- Andrey: awkward, this links cost and effect
- Chair: no opposition so it is passed
- Preston: can we close the speakers list? Withdrawn
- Duffield: for the time being, this shouldn't be a revenue approach, more research should be done on this, it is a disputable point that they are disadvantaged
- Chair: motion to approve system vision
- Moved by Cole, Seconded by Fuentes, Motion Carried
- OPPOSED- 1 (singer)
- Abstained 2 (Hyland, Gupta)
- Move to take a 15 minute break by Mayoh, Seconded by Tiwari, Motioned Carried
- 11:35 am

Chair: called the meeting to order 11:52 am

b. Opportunities (Recording #06/07/ 1.45 minute)

- Cole: many of your recommendations are in this report
- Singer: Can we make a friendly amendment to Recommendation 7. to include 'student government?'
- Chair: passed
- Caldwell: Can we make a friendly amendment to Recommendation 6, to change 'grants' to 'support mechanisms
- Singer: point of information, should we cut out last part of sentence?
- Caldwell: no, it supports the statement
- Chair: passed
- Kazmani: can we make a friendly amendment to change the wording for Recommendation 7? Maybe add "experiential learning?"
- Duffield: can someone define the term?
- Kasmani: read definition from Wikipedia
- Chair: Motion to amend this text?
- moved by Cole, 2nd Fuentes
- Lanteigne: a don't think experiential learning fits into this section
- Singer: I agree with Rob
- Taylor: I disagree, learning is not just in the classroom
- King Wale: maybe this recommendation is best suited in another paper
- Duffield: point of distinction between academic and non academic is vague so, it is important to have in this paper, I like this part.
- Williams: point against the amendment, what does experiential learning mean? We don't know and it shouldn't be included in the policy
- Cole: rather than being an amendment, Steering Committee could take this back and look at our other papers

- Ferguson: Experiential Learning is a vague term, not all experiential learning is intended as academic
- Tithecott: I agree
- Kasmani: Steering Committee should take this back and decide at Spring GA
- Chair: all in favour of Steering Committee doing this?
- In favour 38, Abstentions 6
- King Wale: why was 'underrepresented groups' included in the text regarding exchange opportunities?
- Cole: it came up in other groups as an increased measure of support
- Yeung: recommendation 1 – can we amend to exclude “including international” and change it to say All students
- Chair: anyone opposed?
- Moved by Yeung, Seconded by Williams, Motion Carried
- Singer: it singles out 1 group of people
- Tithecott: this is about international students, so we should include them
- Singer: we can't say “continue to regulate” for international student because they aren't regulated currently
- Williams: doesn't like highlighting international students because we already refer to all students
- Kasmani: agrees with Williams
- CHAIR: motion to strike 'including international'
- In favour- 36, all opposed 1, abstentions- 4
- Andrey: Recommendation 7, can we add in student space?
- Chair: friendly amendment
- Kasmani: opposed, this is getting too long. We can't add everything here, it's not a list
- Andrey: it's in the text already, the recommendation should just include that
- Chair: do we have a move for a motion?
- Moved by Fuentes, Seconded by Williams
- Kasmani: we can't have everything included in this
- Singer: having it in the text is good
- Duffield: I agree with Sam Andrey, we should include it because the text does, in fact, speak to student space
- Williams: student space allows for fraternization, to hang out and feel welcome, general level of socialization
- Tasneen: I agree, in light of our discussion with system vision
- Lafoyiannis: I agree with Duffield
- Kasmani: I don't disagree with student space, it's just that there is a long list of everything we want, it has expanded to a point that it is ineffective, I would like SC to take this back and look at it
- Taylor: what is the definition of student success? Reword to “...all aspects of student success”
- Chair: motion to add student space to recommendation 7, in favour 19, opposed, 10, abstentions 11
- Motion passed
- Lanteigne (MSU): Recommendation 4, wording is jargon-y because of capitalization, we don't have a solid understanding of these terms, add text underneath to explain

- Cole: we will fix it
- Motion to approve policy, 2 abstentions

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives and approves the updates to Our Bright Future.

- Moved by Cole, Seconded by Tithicot, Motion Carried

11. Tuition Paper (Recording #06/07/ 38.35 minute)

BIRT the OUSA Steering Committee and Home Office take the direction from the tuition consultations to develop a Tuition Policy.

BIFRT the policy paper include:

1. A responsible cost-sharing model
2. The regulation of all tuition
3. Further research on differential and flat fees and their impact on access and affordability
4. The need for better operating funding
5. Additional input from the sessions based on the discussion at GA

- Moved by Trevor, Seconded by Lafoyiannis, Motion Carried unanimously

12. Faculty Renewal, Retention and Recruitment (Recording #06/07/ 41 minute)

BIRT OUSA Assembly extends the adoption of the Faculty Renewal, Retention and Recruitment paper to the Spring General Assembly.

BIFRT that the Steering Committee update the paper to include the Reaching Higher investments and its impact on the system as well as incorporate the input from GA's sessions.

- Moved by Lanteigne, Seconded by Taylor, Motion Carried

13. Expiring Policies

- a. **Open Universities: Raising Access, Reducing Barriers**
- b. **Multi-Year Plans in Ontario: Securing a Bright Future**
- c. **A Higher Education Act in Ontario: Enshrining Access, Affordability, and Quality in Post-Secondary Education**

BIRT OUSA Assembly directs the Steering Committee to review the expiring policies and decide whether or not to renew, revise or rewrite them.

- Kasmani: keeping with the OUSA tradition these should be put to the GA to discuss
- Bender: we don't have time. As is, GA delegates have too much to read. It would be impossible for them to read all of the expiring policies as well. SC will make the decisions based on delegate feedback.
- Chair: all in favour?
- Opposed 3
- Moved by Mayoh, Seconded by Lanteigne, Motion Carried

14. Research Proposals

BIRT Steering Committee receives the research proposals for further consideration and approval.

- Paul: send them to me via email and we will work through them with SC
- Chair: all in favour? –all
- Moved by Mayoh, Seconded by Cole, Motion Carried

15. Spring GA

BIRT OUSA Assembly accept the Steering Committee recommendation to have the McMaster Students' Union host the Spring General Assembly

- Moved by Tiwari, Seconded by Kasmani, Motion Carried

16. Fill out questionnaires

17. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn Mayoh, Seconded by Lanteigne
- 12:50 pm