

OUSA 2009 Spring General Assembly

McMaster University
March 15, 2009

PLENARY MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:42am

-Chair hands out motion sheet and Robert's Rules are explained

1. Roll Call

Representatives of all seven OUSA member schools were in attendance:

Alma Mater Society of Queen's University

University Students' Council at the University of Western Ontario

McMaster Students Union

Brock University Students' Union

University of Windsor Students' Alliance

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union

Waterloo Federation of Students

2. Approval of Speaker

BIRT OUSA Assembly approves Norman Kearney as the Speaker for final plenary.

-Moved Park; Second, Gupta

-approved by general consent

3. Approval and additions to the Agenda

-Moved Crothers, Second Lafoyannis

-adopted by general consent

4. Approval of Fall 2008 General Assembly Minutes

-Moved Gooch, Second Bradley

-correction of names

-Approved by general consent

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

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the report of the President and Home Office.

-Moved Martin; Second Holland

-carried by general consent

6. Presentation of Financial Statements

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

-Tiwari explained that the presentation of the financial report was presented and could now be further questioned.

Moved, Caldwell; Second Ferguson

-Motion carried by general consent

7. Policy Revisions brought to Plenary

a. Faculty Renewal

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the updated version of the faculty renewal policy paper brought to Spring GA.

-Moved Park; Second R. Lanteigne

-Presentation from Cole regarding changes made to original document over course of the General Assembly

-Park – Approves of the paper in general, but wishes to see the revisions

-Bradley – points out grammatical issue.

-Crothers – why was one of the BIRFT stricken?

-Cole – wanted to narrow the scope of the paper

-Motion Carries, 44-0-0

b. Tuition

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the updated version of the tuition policy paper brought to Spring GA.

Moved Dua; Second Iqbal

-Presentation by Mr. Mayoh

-Crothers – question: “are there any statistics which support the point of international students paying double that of domestic students”

-Mayoh – response: we can include it if need be.

-St. Clair – in favour – international student regulation is important. International students make up a large demographic of students at all of our institutions. Read statement in support of international students.

-Abdallah – for those who want more information regarding cost of courses in different disciplines, they can consult course calendars at our various institutions.

Hyland – against – proposes an amendment on behalf of domestic students and Western

Whereas regulated tuition will create an opportunity lost and a revenue shortfall for all of our institutions we attend.

Whereas we must recognize the fact that our schools will respond to make up this shortfall. To deny this fact is to be ignorant to the realities that exist. Where as our institutions can be expected to look for other revenue streams for funding rather than sacrifice the quality of education it would be a fair assumption that our institutions will instead get those funds by drawing on our undergraduate communities at-large.

Be it Resolved that – the portion of the tuition policy paper that pertains to a tuition cap for international students be stricken.

-Moved, Hyland; Second, Yurkewich

- Park – speaking against – we represent all undergraduate students, and all student's that OUSA represents deserve to have a voice. Our school and university loses out and the richness and quality that they bring.
- Iqbal – speaking against – OUSA represents all undergraduate students. Discriminating on the grounds that if you are from another country, you must have a profit made from you. Funding short falls should not be recouped by students that we represent.
- McGarigale – in the additions to the paper did we include a statistic that points out the discrepancy between costs and tuition of international students.
- Martin – Deregulated tuition was a terrible burden on undergraduate students in Ontario. This constitutes exploitation against a minority amongst our membership.
- Williamson – We all support international students. If we keep raising tuition we will lose revenue because we will lose students.
- Hyland – we must represent the best interests of a majority of students. The price is related to demand and market principles. Students come to our country as students regardless of cost.
- Nikesh – if you want to compete for the best students, you must prohibitively price tuition for these students. Treating them as a profit making group is wrong.
- Return to McGarigale point of information –
- Bender responds – average tuition on our campus is approx. \$4000, and given that we pay between 35% and 50% through tuition, then it begs to reason that the average cost of education is \$10,000. At best, on our campuses, international students are paying 120% of the cost education.
- Bradely – why are we fighting for only a section of our population? If we are going to fight for our other students to pay for what are they are getting, the same should be done for international students.
- Move to call the question (requiring 2/3 vote)
Moved Neil; Second Ferguson
carried, 42-1-1
voting on the amendment
-amendment fails 2-40-2
-Vote on main motion
carries - 43-0-1

8. Research Papers

a. Student Success

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the Student Success research paper with comments and undertakes further research on the topic

- moved by Iqbal, Atkinson
- voting, carries 44-0-0

9. Adjournment

-adjournment 10:48