

## **OUSA 2010 Spring General Assembly**

The Great Hall at the University of Western Ontario  
March 21, 2010

### **PLENARY MINUTES**

#### **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 the Agenda**

BIRT OUSA Assembly approves the Spring 2010 Closing Plenary Agenda.

Queen's (Rudnicki) –Addition to the agenda

BIRT OUSA Assembly stands in solidarity with the First Nations University and call on the Federal government to restore their \$7.2 million operational grant

Seconded by Queen's (Chowdhury)

**Motion to amend passes**

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Queens and Seconded by Western

**Motion to approve agenda as amended carries**

#### **3. Officer and Home Office Reports**

a) President's Report

Presentation delivered by OUSA President, Dan Moulton

b) Vice-President (Finance) Report

Presentation delivered by OUSA Vice-President (Finance), Rob Lanteigne

c) Vice-President (Administration) Report

Presentation delivered by OUSA Vice-President (Administration), Justin Williams

d) Home Office Report

Presentation delivered by Home Office collectively

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the reports of the Officers and of Home Office.

Moved by Western (Tithecott) Seconded by Western (Beach)

**Motion carries**

#### **4. Presentation of 2009-2010 Mid-Term Financial Report**

Presentation delivered by Vice-President Finance (Lanteigne)

Western (Shumka)

- OUSA Conferences expenses – why was the original estimation so off from the final?

VP Finance (Lanteigne) – We went through a change in how we budget for conferences this year. However, that was not in effect until after the transition conference.

BIRT OUSA Assembly receives the 2009-2010 Mid-Term Financial Report.

Moved by Brock (Bradley) seconded by Waterloo (Khalid)

**Motion carries**

#### **5. Long-Term Plan**

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the OUSA Long-Term Plan, to expire after a period of three years.

Moved by President (Moulton) seconded by Waterloo (Babor)

**Motion carries**

#### **6. Honourary Memberships**

Presentation delivered by White

BIRT OUSA Assembly bestow honorary memberships on Avvey Peters, Leslie Church, and Rick Martin.

Moved by Brock (Bradley) seconded by WLU (Preston)

**Motion carries**

#### **7. Research Papers**

BIRT OUSA Assembly accepts the research papers on E-Learning and Alternate Cost-Recovery Models.

Moved by WLU (Madden) Seconded Brock (C.White)

*McMaster (Saeed):* Member speaking in favour of the motion but with a concern. Only concern is that we need to look into our IT Infrastructure, which will need to be addressed. Recommend that everyone review their internal IT infrastructure, to identify if our campuses can adequately support E-Learning.

*(WLU) Carpenter:* One change to the E-learning paper. An additional section has been added to the paper to address concerns related to making sure that E-learning keeps up to industry standards.

**Motion carries**

#### **8. Policy Resolutions**

- a) Differentiation

Presentation delivered by Zabrodski on the changes that were made to the paper based on Saturday's breakout sessions.

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the policy statement on Differentiation.

Moved by Queen's (Zabrodski) seconded by Windsor (Woodrich)

*Western (Shumka)*: What amendments can be made to this paper once it has been approved?

*Speaker*: You can change the recommendations but not the body text

Move to ignore the rule (Moulton, Beach)

**Motion to ignore the rule carries**

*WLU (Carpenter)*: Motion to amend to remove Principle 1

Seconded Western (Shumka)

*(WLU) Carpenter*: The wording is contradictory. This principle goes against differentiation and is contradictory to the stance we should take.

*MSU (Wade)*: Speaking against – Interpret this as a statement that students should be able to set up opportunities for research.

*Queen's (Zabrodski)*: Research shows that the opportunity to conduct research is beneficial to student success

*Waterloo (Lafoyiannis)*: Speaking against the motion. I would recommended add "willing and qualified" after

*Western (Beach)*: Zabrodski spoke about research opportunity and benefits to students, does he have an example?

*Zabrodski*: Based on my own engineering education

**Motion to amend fails**

*Western (Shumka)*: Point of Information – mentioned the initial G5 universities' submission and stated that it was only one page long. Does this paper address that original submission?

*Zabrodski*: This counters the argument by supporting institutional autonomy but does not address it directly.

*Western (Beach)*: Speaking against the motion. This is a very complicated topic and at many institutions the costs associated with research, which comes out of operating funding, is very large. Recommendation to let this issue play out more before we take a stance on it. Students are divided on the topic

*Western (Shumka)*: Agree with the spirit, but think that more research should be conducted before we take a stance.

*MSU (Wade)*: Speaking in favour - Research and Quality are equally important and institutions that want to focus on teaching should push to be research centres of teaching quality

*Western (Moulton)*: Speaking in favour of the motion – We have a statement on teaching quality and student success. This is a broad topic that is still vague and our organization can take a firm stance on this issue and become a leader in this topic with this paper. Support of an organic differentiation will provide for institution autonomy

*Queen's (Chowdhury)*: Speaking in favour of the motion – The submission from the G5 would not benefit any of our institutions and we should take a stance against, as it would reduce funds to each of our institutions.

*Western (Beach)*: Motion to add periods to the end of sentences

*Speaker* – out of order

**Motion carries**

b) System Vision

Presentation on changes to the paper delivered by Executive Director, Alexi White

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the policy statement on OUSA's System Vision.

Moved by Brock (Lanteigne) seconded by McMaster (Wade)

*WLU (Carpenter)*: Motion to Amend paragraph in the International Section

- Remove the instance of declining teaching quality

Speaker: Friendly amendment. It will be noted for the minutes that it will be removed

**Motion carries**

c) Student Success

Presentation delivered by Martin related to changes made to the paper based on recommendations from Breakout Sessions

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the revisions to the policy paper on Student Success.

Moved by McMaster (Martin) seconded by Queen's (Gouinlock)

*Western (Shumka)*: Motion to amend to remove the qualifier "academically qualified"

*McMaster (Martin)*: Seen as friendly

*Queens (Chowdhury)*: Motion to table principle ten; Seconded by Queen's (Rudnicki)

*McMaster (Martin)*: This is a concern that came out in the breakout group as well. I think that the research shows that the benefits are there. My concern is also that it speaks to an important concern and recommendation later in the paper.

**Motion to amend fails**

*Western (Beach)*: Motion to add "students" to concern 6

*McMaster (Martin)*: Seen as friendly

*Windsor (Sasso)*: Motion to remove "economic" from principle 10 ; Seconded by Queen's (Chowdhury)

*Windsor (Sasso)*: While understanding that there are economic benefits, it is unnecessary to state

*McMaster (Martin)*: Seen as friendly

**Motion carries as amended**

d) Students with Disabilities

Presentation delivered by Preston and Bradley related to changes made to the paper based on recommendations from Breakout Sessions

BIRT OUSA Assembly adopts the policy paper on Students with Disabilities.

Moved by Brock (Bradley), Seconded by WLU (Preston)

**Motion carries**

**9. Policy for 2010 Spring General Assembly**

- a) International Students
- b) Early Outreach
- c) Student Financial Aid

BIRT OUSA Assembly tasks Steering Committee with preparing the above policies for submission at the 2010 Fall General Assembly.

Moved by Western (Moulton) seconded by Brock (Lanteigne)

*Western (Moulton)*: Would like to recognize the author's of the paper, but also address the positive nature of the breakout session. On the motion, each of these papers are crucial for next year based on the direction of the current government and based on our bylaws they need to be reviewed (Early Outreach and Student Financial Aid)

*WLU (Carpenter)*: Amendment to add a fourth policy paper on differentiation; Seconded Western (Shumka)

*Western (Moulton)*: Speaking against the motion. This is beyond the resource capacity of Steering Committee and Home Office. I would stress that a policy statement is passed, and that members of the General Assembly can work on this policy themselves.

**Motion to amend fails**

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: Clarification, would this be a revisit of Early Outreach paper that current exists?

*Executive Director (White)*: Yes. This paper is set to expire and needs to be reviewed

**Motion carries**

#### **10. Queen's Addition to the Agenda:**

BIRT OUSA Assembly stand in solidarity with the First Nations University and call on the Federal government to restore their \$7.2 million operational grant

Moved by Queen's (Rudnicki); Seconded by Queen's (Chowdhury)

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: The First Nations University is a university that provides education to first nations and non-first nation students. Its purpose is to improve the lives of Aboriginal students.

*McMaster (Finkle)*: Speaking against this motion. This is outside the purview of OUSA, as this a university outside of Ontario

*Western (Mammoletti)*: The university is outside of Ontario and there is a great amount of work needed in the Province of Ontario.

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: Understanding that this is not in Ontario, this is a small gesture, but it will be important for the students at the University and be an important move for indigenous students in Ontario.

*Waterloo (Kasper)*: Does our President find this acceptable for OUSA?

*Western (Moulton)*: This is a difficult question to answer. Our bylaws direct us to focus on PSE in the province in Ontario. I would consider the motion outside of the mandate of OUSA, but not necessarily the issue. To lobby the Federal government on this issue is potentially outside of the mandate of OUSA, but standing in solidarity with these students is not.

*Queen's (Chowdhury)*: Speaking in favour of the motion, I don't think that this is outside of our mandate.

*Western (Mazza)*: Motion to amend the motion to read:

BIRT OUSA Assembly stand in solidarity with First Nations University of Canada.

Second Western (Tithecott)

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: Worry that without the financial backing it would seem that it has no teeth.

*Western (Abdalla)*: Speaking against the motion, because I don't think we should be speaking in solidarity with the university, as it has been accused of corruption

*McMaster (Koziol)*: Speaking against the amendment. The FNU is the only university in Canada that uses an indigenous pedagogy. This is a matter of funding and the motion needs to say this.

*Waterloo (Kasper)*: Speaking against this amendment, I don't think we should be speaking in solidarity with the University until we do substantial research. We don't know all of the reasons that funding has been removed.

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: The FNU has submitted itself to financial management

*McMaster (Wade)*: Motion to call the question

**Motion to call the question passes**

**Motion to amend fails**

*Western (Mammoletti)*: Think about how we support indigenous studies in Ontario and the work that is needed to be done in Ontario. Also, we do need to consider the financial mismanagement.

*Brock (Bradley)*: Speaking against, but could support a motion that supports the students

*Western (Shumka)*: Move an amendment to strike the text and replace with:

BIRT OUSA issue an official request to the government to restore financial support to FNUC

Seconded by Western (Tithecott)

*Western (Tithecott)* This is a strong step forward for OUSA

*Western (Coker)*: In favour of the motion and also would like to thank Mr Rudnicki for bringing this forward today for us to consider.

*Waterloo (Babor)*: Speaking against the motion. Troublesome that this is coming forward to us at the plenary and there was not more notice.

*Queen's (Chowdury)*: If passed, when would OUSA's request to the federal government come out?

*Western (Moulton)*: This could be out in 48 hours

*McMaster (Saeed)*: Against the motion based on the wording. It seems that this is saying the funding is being cut based on lack of support rather than mismanagement

*McMaster (Finkle)*: This is out of our purview and appears to be more of a knee jerk reaction rather than an educated solution.

*Western (Moulton)*: For information, our policy on Aboriginal Education has expired

*Windsor (Orr)*: Speaking in favour, using the term solidarity is not outside of our purview

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: Speaking in favour, this amendment is welcomed and does make this motion fit more closely in line with OUSA's mandate

*Waterloo (Kasper)*: Question for the mover: As this is a broad statement could you speak to the lack of support for aboriginal education?

*Western (Shumka)*: Defer to my colleague from Western

*Western (Mammoletti)*: Research from CMSF directly addressed the continued lack of support for aboriginal students.

*Brock (Bradley)*: Speaking against this motion. Do we know that they haven't tried to reach out?

*Western (Coker)*: Chris would probably be better able to address this, but the information I have on this is that little was done to attempt improvement

*Western (Rudnicki)*: The mismanagement started five years ago, but directed toward the dialogue, the FNU found out that funding was being cut during the throne speech

*Western (Shumka)*: To Mr Babor's points, as this is happening very quickly, we need to act quickly

*McMaster (Koziol)*: In favour. Speaks to a support for a pedagogy that is based on indigenous style of education. There does need to be more information and research, but there is a need to address what is happening right now.

*Western (Beach)*: In favour. If a similar situation was occurring at another university in Canada what would your reaction be?

*Waterloo (Andrey)*: Echo the concerns from Mr. Babor. Speaking to the notion of OUSA working with partners, when we do create partnerships it always happens for the benefit of our members.

*Queen's (Rudnicki)* Point of Information – does OUSA not also speak for those who are not accessing education? Does this not also include indigenous education?

*Waterloo (Kasper)* – Motion to call the question

**Motion to call the question passes**

**Motion to amend passes**

*Western (Beach)*: Speaking against – Appreciate the sentiment, but if we are serious we need to address this with research and policy and not statements outside of our scope

*Queen's (Chowdury)*: Speaking in favour – Research and policy can occur in parallel to this action. This would reaffirm OUSA solidarity with students in Canada. FNU has an emphasis on traditional education in culture

*WLU (Carpenter)*: Speaking against – some very good points have been raised about what is happening. However, this motion goes against our long term vision and mission.

*Waterloo (Kasper)*: Speaking against – I would like to put forward a hypothetical information to the delegate “Look at your university and the programs that are offered and ask yourself if there is a direct lack of support”

*Waterloo (Babor)*: this a bold statement without a lot of thought or research

*McMaster (Koziol)*: In favour – Many first nation students do not identify with a province, but rather as first nations

*McMaster (Saeed)*: Against the motion – Provincial and Federal funding has been cut after attempts to stop widespread and longstanding mismanagement.

*Queen's (Rudnicki)*: Speaking to the comments about mismanagement – this has been five years of mismanagement and the FNU has taken major steps to correct the concerns

*Brock (Prins)*: Speaking against the motion – we do not have the information required to make a sound decision. Our students demand we make prudent decisions

*Western (Mammoletti)*: As an indigenous individual OUSA needs to take this step forward and should see this as a first step in a long goal.

*Western (Shumka)*: Speaking in favour – the argument that there isn't enough information about what is happening on campus speaks to the issue at hands. I will say that bureaucracy in policy is not always the right approach. This is an issue that requires immediate response.

*Waterloo (Lafoyiannis)*: Motion to call the question; Seconded by Waterloo (Kasper)

**Motion to call the question passes**

**Roll call vote takes place**

### **Roll Call**

Waterloo (0-7-0)

AMS (3-0-1)

USC Western (8-2-0)

Brock (1-3-0)

Windsor (5-0-0)

Laurier (0-4-0)  
McMaster (1-5-0)

**Motion fails without support from 2/3 of member associations**

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by WLU (Carpenter); Seconded by Western (Shumka)

**Motion passes**