

# Laurentian University SGA/AGÉ Board of Directors Meeting



January 22, 2017 / 5:00pm / Location: Executive Learning Centre FA-386

## AGENDA:

Land acknowledgment by Azhiinienhs Kwe

Presentation: Laurentian Architecture Student Association

Action items:

- 1) Approval of previous meetings minutes
  - a) Tabled until the next meeting
- 2) Approval of agenda
  - a) Moved by Cassidy Houston
  - b) Seconded by Kat Cornelius
  - c) No abstentions
  - d) All in favour
  - e) None against
  - f) Motion passes
- 3) Declaration of conflict of interests in relation to the election candidate ratification
  - a) Roch Goulet declares a conflict of interest with one of the Vice President of Policy and Advocacy candidates
- 4) Election of CRO
  - a) Introduction of candidates
    - i) Alexandra Stankiewicz
    - ii) Zvikombrero Gwekwerere
    - iii) Jackson Walling
  - b) Questions for CRO
  - c) Voting for CRO
    - i) Abstentions
      - (1) Katlyn Kotila
      - (2) Eric Chappell
    - ii) CRO is Zvikombrero Gwekwerere
- 5) Nomination of Election Committee (need two board members)
  - a) Leah McGilvary and Neill Martin

6) Ratification of Candidates for upcoming SGA elections

a) Introduction of candidates

i) President:

(1) Eric Chappell

(a) Q: Do you have leadership experience?

(b) Q: Do you anticipate having enough time for this position as it is full time?

(c) Q: Are you bilingual?

(2) Tommi-Lee Gauthier

(a) Q: Are you equipped to handle the various stressors associated with this role

ii) Vice President of Policy & Advocacy:

(1) Kaella Earl

(a) Q: You were recently on the board and resigned, what made you decide to run for this position?

(b) Q: With all your involvement do you feel you'll be able to meet the hour requirement?

(c) Q: VPPA deals with a lot of students, and their various experiences, what is your approach towards policy is and how it intersects with race, gender, etc.

(d) Q: Are you bilingual, or are you willing to learn?

(2) Kathryn Kettle

(a) Q: What academic regulations would you like to see more of?

(b) Q: How do you feel your experience from U Ottawa will translate to your candidacy

(c) Q: OUSA recently authored a paper about indigenous students with eight authors only one of which was indigenous what is your opinion in regards to this?

(d) Q: Are you bilingual? Are you willing to learn?

iii) Vice President of Student Life:

(1) Juac Auger

(a) Q: Could you elaborate more about your involvement with the LGBTQ+ community.

(b) Q: Next year do you have any placements?

(c) Q: How do you deal with stress?

(d) Q: Have you ever dealt with large-scale events?

(e) Q: Are you available weekends?

(f) Q: Do you speak French or are you willing to learn?

(2) Sahir Nagi

(a) Q: What have you learned from your previous experience in event planning? How will you avoid making big mistakes?

(b) Q: Do you have any placements?

(c) Q: How do you handle stress?

(d) Q: There are many different aspects of the VPSL role, how do you plan to include them?

(e) Q: What is your vision is for Student Life?

- (f) Q: Do you speak French?
- (3) Whitney Simpson
  - (a) Q: Do you have a placement?
  - (b) Q: Off-campus students often feel left out, what do you plan on doing to change this?
  - (c) Q: How do you handle stress?
  - (d) Q: Are you prepared to take on the time commitment?
  - (e) Q: Are you able to speak French?
  - (f) Q: The events' budget is large, how do you plan on managing it to effectively so that events are successful and accessible to all students?
- iv) Senators:
  - (1) Matthew Keith
    - (a) Q: What are your plans for next year?
    - (b) Q: Are you able to tailor your approach to people's specific needs?
    - (c) Q: Can you commit to senate and board meetings?
  - (2) Troy D. Liddell
    - (a) Q: Are you able to put your personal opinion to the side to serve the students?
    - (b) Q: Senators often interact with a lot of the student body, do you feel this is something that you are prepared to handle?
  - (3) Anita Kett
    - (a) Q: What are your advocacy strategies?
    - (b) Q: Do you speak French?
    - (c) Q: Are you able to hold your tongue?
    - (d) Q: Can you maintain confidentiality?
  - (4) Katlyn Kotila
    - (a) Q: How do you handle authority and make your voice heard?
    - (b) Q: How do plan to help students with financial barriers?
  - (5) Tomas Antolin Grant
    - (a) Q: Are you prepared to deal with a lot of really difficult situations that you may not have encountered before?
    - (b) Q: Are you able to speak French?
  - (6) Jacob Fielding
    - (a) Q: Are you able to prepare yourself appropriately to convey everyone's opinion in a more formal setting?
    - (b) Q: Do you speak French?
    - (c) Q: Students often feel intimidated, do you have any strategies to make yourself more approachable so that students feel more comfortable coming to you?
- b) Point of clarification: What will happen to the candidates who are employees of the SGA after their ratification this evening if the board chooses to ratify them?
  - i) In the event that candidates who are employees of the SGA are ratified at this board meeting, they will have to take an unpaid leave of absence from work during the campaign period.

- c) Brief discussion period between board members about ratification.
- d) Motion to ratify all candidates who have put their names forward for the position of President, Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, Vice President of Student Life, and Senator positions.
  - i) Moved by Robert Moyer
  - ii) Seconded by Leah McGilivray
  - iii) Abstentions (6)
  - iv) All in favour
  - v) No one against
  - vi) Motion passes
- 7) Motion of Consequences for Vice President Student Life
  - a) Clarification of the reason for consequences
    - i) Grievance letters read and grievances stated by staff
      - (1) Director of Finance
      - (2) Director of Programming
      - (3) Director of Outreach
      - (4) Media content producer
      - (5) Chief Operation Officer
    - ii) Vice President Student Life statement
  - b) Brief clarifications and discussion surrounding reason for consequences.
- 8) Motion to go in camera
  - a) Moved by Cassidy Houston
  - b) Seconded by Kat Cornelius
  - c) Abstentions
  - d) All in favour
  - e) No one against
  - f) Motion passes
- 9) Motion to move out of camera
  - a) Moved by Cassidy Houston
  - b) Seconded by Kat Cornelius
  - c) Abstentions
  - d) All in favour
  - e) No one against
  - f) Motion passes
- 10) Motion to withdraw motion of consequences for Vice-President Student Life from the floor

Reports & Information Items:

- 11) President's Report
  - a) We had a surplus so we paid back \$930 of the health plan debt

- b) Financial update on where the SGA is at in its budget
  - i) Managed to get finances cleared up and now have a clear understanding where the SGA stands financially
  - ii) Pub
  - iii) Café
- c) Attended OUSA Advocacy Week at Queens Park in Toronto and lobbied the government for further investments into OERs, better mental health supports for campuses and throughout the community, as well as raising the base operating grant of universities up to the Canadian average in relation to per-student funding when enrolled in full-time education.
- d) Met with both Healthy Living and the Dental Hygiene Clinic to discuss changes to the health plan, overall the SGA came to a happy compromise with the Dental Hygiene Clinic, and Healthy Living was upset as they perceived the changes as anti-athletics however students still have some coverage in this area.
- e) For the past three years, CFS has not been cashing the pay cheques that the SGA has sent them; there is evidence to support this. As it stands the SGA owes CFS \$327,900.00, with the guidance of the SGA's Director of Finance we are working to find a suitable repayment plan for this debt. We've managed to get ten years to pay back this debt which is very accommodating on CFS' end as it will allow us to pay back our debt without having to cut too much funding from other areas. Right now the SGA is drafting an agreement to pay back the debt which will be approved by the board before it is brought to CFS.
- f) Hosting an OUSA GA in March.
- g) The SGA was heavily consulted in regards to Laurentian's five year Strategic Plan for 2023.
- h) The SGA promoted an OUSA OER campaign in front of the bookstore earlier this month.
- i) Another financial commitment that is being unmet by the SGA came to light earlier this month. Last year the SGA committed to helping Campus Recreation fund new gym equipment hence the giant SGA logo on the wall. As such, the SGA is currently negotiating a repayment plan for this.
- j) Presented to the Northern Ontario Budget Consultation Committee and discussed OERs, the university funding framework, and funding for mental health services in universities.

## 12) VPPA's Report

- a) Confirming the final details of financial literacy week and getting the promotions out for it. A service fair will be held in the atrium with our community partners in the financial sector can interact with students, they will be bringing prizes and handouts for students, and the SGA too will have various prizes and handouts such as little blue piggy banks and bursaries. There will also be a guest speaker, Robert Brown coming and we have copies of his book *Wealthening Like Rabbits* for students to get signed after his presentation.
- b) Currently working on completing a grant application for the NOHFC fund to secure additional funding for the Student Centre's operations once it is up and running.
- c) Assisting students with appeals, currently, have three ongoing cases.

- d) For Black History month, the SGA will be supporting the Laurentian University African, and Caribbean Student Association (LUACSA) club in their initiatives in whatever way they may need be it financial or resources.
- e) The SGA will be hosting Tennant talks in March, which will educate students on their rights as tenants and leases etc.

### 13) VPSL's Report

- a) Frost Week Report
  - i) Project F pub which kicked off frost weekend was a hit as we saw a spike in attendance, over the past little while attendance has been low due to students' financial situations following Christmas and the end of the fall semester. There was a total of 115 people who attended, and the pub made \$1,669.00 in sales that evening as a result. The evening included approximately 20 dance battles between attendees.
  - ii) The cross-country skiing event had a rather low attendance so in the future it may be a better idea to promote the event differently as it is targeted at a different demographic than our normal advertisement.
  - iii) The Frost Concert cost a total of \$30,000.00; attendance was great as we hit max capacity very quickly, however, this is also a negative as not all the student who wanted to attend could attend. Regarding the operational aspect of this event, there is definitely lots of room for improvement in terms of organization and communication.
  - iv) Saturday there was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Adanac Ski Day, we do not yet have the cost breakdown for this yet as we are waiting on the final invoice from Adanac. The busses were paid for by the Residence Life department and stopped at the McEwan School of Architecture and picked up students there.
  - v) Sunday morning there was a pancake breakfast in the pub that was well attended by approximately 70 – 80 people in attendance. The total cost was around \$2,000.00, there were lots of leftovers, and so it was decided by the SGA that we would donate some to the homeless shelter.
  - vi) Working with PRIDE@LU to help organize pride week events and promote engagement from both people involved with the community and those who are not.
  - vii) Mental Wellness week is approaching, and the SGA is very involved with Bell Let's Talk day and evening, and there will be more details to come with that.

### 14) COO's Report

- a) The SGA food bank received a generous donation from the Laurentian University Staff Union, they collected non-perishable food items at their holiday get-together and donated them to the student associations' food bank.
- b) Staff and Executive evaluations took place and went really well although in the future it would be better if there were more board involvement in this aspect.
- c) There have been multiple HR issues within the office this past little while, so there is a lot of focus on dealing with those. These issues are being taken care of in the best ways possible at the moment.

15) Senator's reports

- a) Cassidy Houston
  - i) Senate was very involved in reviewing the 2023 Strategic Plan and reviewing the language and goals.
  - ii) At the last Senate meeting, the creation of the Masters in Medical Studies Program was approved.
- b) Alyssa Mifflin
  - i) Working on a campaign with the Indigenous Students Circle to create some cultural awareness, the idea is to bring the community together to create a healing blanket which will be blessed in a traditional fashion.

16) Student Center Update

- a) There was an emergency Student Centre meeting earlier this month, and the tenders all came in over budget, the lowest one came in \$2,000,000.00 over budget. The SGA was told that they might have to scrap the current design entirely and start over. However, the lowest tender offered to work with us to cut costs and make the building more affordable to build. That being said, the Student Centre is still on track for groundbreaking sometime later during the winter semester or early spring semester so as not to interfere with exam season.

Other business

17) Be it resolved that effective immediately the Board of Directors motion to impeach Simon Lafontant from his position as Vice-President Student Life. Pending legal counsel, Simon will be impeached without pay and will gather no more financial or in-kind compensation.

- a) Moved by Roberto Bagnato
- b) Seconded by Roch Goulet
- c) As per the SGA Constitution, an emergency board meeting will be held one week from today on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5 pm.

18) Motion to adjourn the meeting

- a) Moved by Alyssa Mifflin
- b) Seconded by Cassidy Houston
- c) Adjournments
- d) All in favour
- e) None against.
- f) Motion passes.