

Laurentian University SGA/AGÉ Board of Directors Meeting

June 25, 2018/ 6:00pm-8:00pm / Location: Executive Learning Center



Land Acknowledgment by Tommi-Lee Gauthier

Action items:

- 1) Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to amend the agenda by PSA to include Motions 11-15, and include a report from the Director of Finance.
 - i. Motion moved by Roberto Bagnato
 - ii. Motion seconded by Whitney Simpson
 - iii. In favour (10)
 - iv. Against (0)
 - v. Abstentions (1)
 - vi. Motion passes.

- 2) Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - a. There were no official meeting minutes as quorum was not met last month.
 - b. November, January, February, March minutes to be approved and posted online.
 - c. April AGM minutes to be approved at next AGM.
 - d. PSA shall post minutes from last meeting for approval.

- 3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
 - a. No conflicts of interest.

- 4) Election of Speaker
 - a. Candidates: Roberto Bagnato
 - i. Motion to nominate Roberto Bagnato by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
 - ii. Motion seconded by Rob Moyer
 - b. In favour of Roberto Bagnato as speaker (10)
 - c. None against
 - d. Abstentions (1)
 - e. Motion passes, and Roberto Bagnato is elected as Speaker of the Board for the Summer Term.

5) Senator Dates Motion

- a. Motion to amend the Constitution so that elected Senators claim their positions and begin their work on the same date as the first Senate Meeting of the Academic year.
- b. Motion moved by Neill Martin.
- c. Motion seconded by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
- d. Motion to amend by Eric Chappell.
 - i. Eric suggests that this motion be put into effect at the start of this upcoming Academic year so as to not lose quorum this summer.
- e. Neill accepts the motion as a friendly amendment.
- f. In favour (10)
- g. None against
- h. Abstained (1)
- i. Motion passes

6) Board Vacancy Motion

- a. Motion to amend the Constitution so that the SGA/AGÉ policies on filling vacant positions is in accordance with the Canadian Non-For-Profit Act of 2017.
- b. Motion moved by Andrew Bradley.
- c. Motion seconded by Tommi-Lee Gauthier.
- d. Motion to amend the motion by Tommi-Lee. Suggested Constitution amendment shall also allow SGA/AGÉ policies to be in compliance with the Ontario Corporations Act and other provincial and federal laws.
- e. In favour (10)
- f. None against
- g. Abstained (1)
- h. Motion passes

7) AGM Criteria Motion (Referred from AGM)

- a. Motion to amend the Constitution so that the AGM's criteria and processes are clearly defined to ensure transparency with the SGA/AGÉ's members and accountability of the Executive team.
- b. Motion moved by Andrew Bradley.
- c. Motion seconded by Tommi-Lee Gauthier.
- d. Discussion
 - i. Questions around the Board's power to amend a Constitution during a Board Meeting as opposed to at an AGM.
 - (1) Point of information: Motions for Constitution amendments, according to the Constitution, can be approved and ratified at either a Board Meeting or an AGM. All changes are effective immediately after ratification at either a Board Meeting or an AGM.
 - (2) Amendment will become effective in October, so students will have the opportunity to provide input.

- e. In favour (6)
 - f. Against (1)
 - g. Abstained (4)
 - h. Motion passes
- 8) Summer Board of Directors Motion (Referred from AGM)
- a. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
 - b. Motion seconded by Andrew Bradley
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Comments about how this suggested motion will help repair the SGA/AGÉ and its reputation, and keep people accountable during the summer months
 - d. In favour (10)
 - e. Abstained (1)
 - f. None against
 - g. Motion passes
- 9) Executive Accountability Motion (Referred from AGM)
- a. Motion to create measures to ensure that Executives are held accountable for their actions, and are more thoroughly assessed during their term.
 - b. Motion moved by Neill Martin
 - c. Motion seconded by Katlyn Kotila
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Neill Martin explains how he was encouraged to create this motion after the last VSPL impeachment, to ensure that SGA/AGÉ Executives are held accountable for their actions.
 - ii. Comments about how the Constitution amendments should both pass through the Board and earn approval at the AGM. Constitutionally, the Board has the authority to approve amendments to the Constitution without awaiting the approval of the SGA/AGÉ membership at the AGM. Discussion continued surrounding the Board's role as representatives of the student body and their ability to make changes without having to constantly wait for the two AGMs.
 - iii. Controversy about the Chair's ability to be on the HR Committee.
 - (1) Point of Order: Board members urged to focus on the roles of the Chair itself as opposed to the individual(s) associated with the role.
 - (2) The Chair has access to additional information that can be valuable during assessments.
 - (3) The HR Committee is simply responsible for relaying conflict details to the Board and creating a report, and does not have a role in determining resolutions or executing disciplinary action.

- (4) The Chair receives such additional information from the Executives themselves, which can be problematic as that may provide biased and unreliable information.
- (5) Traditionally, the Chair can also be the President.
- (6) The Chair is a non-voting member.
 - (a) Point of Order: Constitutionally, the Chair can be a Voting member, although traditionally, the Chair does not keep their vote.
- (7) The COO is already responsible for reporting the Executive's and Chair's performance in writing.
- iv. Discussion continued surrounding the evaluation of the COO, who is a non-voting executive.
 - (1) Tommi-Lee spoke about the weekly Executive Committee Meetings that help ensure that all members are working appropriately and are on the same page.
 - (2) Motion to create an amendment to have the same Committee formation assess the COO with the addition of one Executive member. Motion denied under the pretense that the current focus is on the Executive.
- e. In favour (6)
- f. Against (3)
- g. Abstained (2)
- h. Motion passes.

10) Pronouns Motion

- a. Motion to include pronouns in introductions at SGA/AGÉ events to promote a welcoming environment for MOGII and LGBTQ2+ individuals.
- b. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
- c. Motion seconded by Neill Martin
- d. Discussion:
 - i. Pronoun introduction is very simple and is a common practice within many other organizations.
 - ii. Pronoun introduction can be very helpful for many individuals.
 - iii. Amendment suggested to change the header of the document to better suit the policy.
- e. In favour (11)
- f. Against (0)
- g. Abstained (0)
- h. Motion passes unanimously.

11) Signing Officer Motion

- a. Motion to amend the Constitution so that the Director of Finance is a signing officer.
- b. Motion moved by Eric Chappell

- c. Motion seconded by Neill Martin
- d. Discussion
 - i. This motion was drafted by the Executive to ensure that the Director of Finance is able to do their financial work for the Association without hindrance.
 - ii. Motion shall also ensure that large sums of SGA/AGÉ money are only managed by the Executive, who are elected by the student body, and not by staff members.
 - iii. At minimum 2/3 of the Executive must support a financial decision before the President can sign.
 - iv. Should the staff members disagree with a financial decision made by the Executive, they are encouraged to document the event and bring it forth to the Board if necessary.
- e. President declared a conflict of interest with regards to this motion and abstained from voting.
- f. In favour (7)
- g. Against (2)
- h. Abstain (2)
- i. Motion passes.

12) Goliath Motion

- a. Motion to allow Simon Lafontant (hereafter “Goliath”) to perform at the SGA/AGÉ Concert at a discounted price, despite having been impeached from his role as VPSL in January 2018.
- b. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
- c. Motion seconded by Whitney Simpson
- d. Tommi motions an amendment that ensures that Simon signs an agreement saying that he will not slander or speak poorly of the SGA/AGÉ in any way throughout the time period before or after the Concert.
 - i. Goliath immediately agreed to the amendment and is willing to sign such agreement.
- e. Discussion
 - i. Suggested amendment to the motion may restrict Goliath’s freedom of speech. Because there are no legal implications for negative information spread about the SGA/AGÉ, Goliath’s freedom of speech is technically not infringed on. If such a term was to be included in the contract, it would be common practice and perfectly acceptable.

- ii. Suggested amendment may be difficult to enforce if Goliath is paid up-front. Contract ensures that Goliath is paid 50% of the agreed-upon cost prior to the Concert and the remaining will be paid after his performance.
 - iii. Conflicts between staff and Goliath may create an unnecessarily uncomfortable work environment.
- f. Eric Chappell motions an amendment to give VPSL the authority to negotiate the contract with Goliath. Suggested amendment is already practiced, as the VSPL does have the authority to negotiate contracts with artists at their discretion.
- g. Discussion
 - i. Discussion continues around common HR practices, with members agreeing that it is uncommon to terminate an individual from one job and then rehire them for another role within the same organization.
 - ii. The Board is reminded of how Goliath has already previously slandered the SGA/AGÉ on social media.
 - iii. The Executive contend that Goliath's offer is an attempt to make amends, and should not be viewed as being malicious in any capacity.
 - iv. Question arises about how the staff can be protected and not subjected to uncomfortable situation should the SGA/AGÉ agree to hire Goliath. The Executive ascertain that they will do as much as possible to restrict contact between Simon and the staff.
 - v. The Board is reminded of the fact that Goliath is offering a lower rate than other credible DJs, although no exact cost has been confirmed.
 - vi. The Board is reminded of their decision to impeach Goliath (Simon Lafontant) from his position as VPSL last year. Arguably, it would not reflect well on the SGA/AGÉ, or its integrity, if he is hired to perform at the concert after such a controversial event.
 - vii. President believes that hiring Goliath will improve the SGA/AGÉ's brand image, as it will show attempts to make amends, especially with the impeachment of the last two VPSLs. President also believes that the student body that is served by the SGA/AGÉ would favour this decision and be supportive of it.
- h. In favour (4)
- i. Against (4)
- j. Abstention (3)

- k. Motion does not pass - tiebreaker decides against the motion.

13) Finance Policies Motion

- a. Motion to ratify proposed SGA/AGÉ Financial Policies and Procedures.
- b. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier.
- c. Motion seconded by Whitney Simpson.
- d. Discussion
 - i. New financial policies will assist SGA/AGÉ in becoming more financially accountable.
 - ii. New financial policies are necessary given the new Constitutional changes.
- e. Tommi-Lee Gauthier motions an amendment to ensure that the proposed changes take effect immediately. Motion accepted as friendly amendment.
- f. For (9)
- g. Against (0)
- h. Abstentions (2)
- i. Motion passes.

14) CRA Motion

- a. Motion to obtain access to online CRA documents, and be able to view the SGA/AGÉ's past history with the CRA.
- b. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier.
- c. Motion seconded by Eric Chappell
- d. Discussion
 - i. SGA/AGÉ has one director with the CRA who may access the documents and view the information. This director is a past SGA/AGÉ member.
 - ii. It is necessary that the SGA/AGÉ has access to this information, so the proposed motion shall allow three SGA/AGÉ members to become the directors of this CRA account.
 - iii. Selected directors shall be the Executive Director, the President and the Director of Finance.
- e. In favour (10)
- f. Against (0)
- g. Abstained (1)
- h. Motion passes.

15) Motion to send letter to the University of Toronto

- a. Motion to send letter to the University of Toronto's Governing Council to condemn their motion to ratify a policy that imposes mandatory leaves of absence on students who are suffering from mental wellness challenges, while also restricting their access to mental health services.
- b. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
- c. Motion seconded by Kathryn Kettle
- d. Discussion
 - i. Discussion surrounding strong language choice. President agrees to change wording accordingly.
 - ii. CFS has also voiced disapproval of UoT's proposed motion, and many other universities will also be speaking out against the motion.
 - iii. Rationale for the University of Toronto's decision to push this motion is unclear, however, it is likely due to the fact that the University's prestige is called into question when increasing numbers of students struggle in their classes.
 - iv. The SGA/AGÉ has not tried to collaborate with other Universities or Laurentian University associations to write the letter. President agrees to contact them to include their voices to further support the letter.
 - v. Proposed letter also indirectly supports the idea that mental health should be included within accessibility in the Human Rights Code.
- e. In favour (9)
- f. Against (1)
- g. Abstained (1)
- h. Motion passes.

Reports/Information Items:

- 1) President's Report
 - a. No comments or questions.
- 2) VPPA's Report
 - a. No comments or questions.
- 3) VPSL's Report
 - a. No comments or questions.
- 4) COO's Report
 - a. Regular HR reports are included in Chief Operating Officer's report.

- b. The Campus Trust Conference was attended last week by the Chief Operating Officer and the President. Last Thursday, at the conference, a student leader approached the Chief Operating Officer and informed her that the President had asked them about how to remove the Chief Operating Officer from the Board. The Chief Operating Officer had not been made aware of any wrong-doings on her part that would warrant such a consequence, despite repeatedly asking all Executives and staff how or if she can improve her work performance. Additionally, there was an attempt made three weeks ago to reprimand the Chief Operating Officer, as outlined in the report.
- c. The Chief Operating Officer reports a negative shift in office atmosphere since the new Executive have taken office. This negative shift has proven to be a hindrance to the productivity and comfort of the office.
- d. The Chief Operating Officer would like to seek recommendations from the Board on how these issues can be tackled. The Chief Operating Officer suggests a third party consultation, as past attempts to resolve problems within the office have not been successful.
- e. Andrew motions to move in camera at the end of the meeting to discuss this topic.
- f. Tommi-Lee Gauthier seconds motion to move in camera.
- g. For (10)
- h. Against (0)
- i. Abstentions (1)
- j. Motion passes.

5) Senator's reports

- a. Budget consultation is currently in process.
- b. Nothing to report otherwise.
- c. No questions posed.

6) Finance Report

- a. Annual audit has commenced. Once the report reflecting the SGA/AGÉ's complete fiscal year has been finalized, it will be presented to the Board.
- b. Director of Finance is currently working with KPMG to develop an easier method of communicating financials.
- c. With regards to the Health Plan, the SGA/AGÉ had a surplus of \$20 000, which lowered the overall debt and demonstrated the effectiveness of the changes made to the Health Plan. The total loss for the last Academic year was approximately \$71 000. Updates will be given on a monthly basis by Campus Trust. It is expected that the Health Plan will stabilize in the near future.

- d. The loan for the new Student Centre is close to being finalized. There have been some delays due to some complications, but they have been worked out and everything is back on track.
- e. The search for temporary or permanent vendors for the Student Centre continues.
- f. Work to improve the financial operations of SGA/AGÉ continue, with the development of financial policies for risk minimization and processing, which will hopefully soon be ratified.
- g. In collaboration with KPMG, more policies will be developed to further improve the financial operations of the SGA/AGÉ.
- h. Considering low attendance at the Pub DownUnder and the Voyager's Café, the SGA/AGÉ will be shortening staff. Pub Nights and Pub events will continue to have the same amount of staff.

7) Student Center Update

- a. Little to update, as construction has begun.
- b. Meetings minimized to bi-weekly.
- c. Meeting currently entail discussing small details, such as paint colours, etc.

Other Business

1) Motion to move in-camera

- a. Motion moved by Tommi-Lee Gauthier
- b. Motion seconded by Whitney Simpson
- c. In favour (10)
- d. Against (1)
- e. Abstained (0)
- f. Motion passes.

2) Motion to move out of camera

- a. Moved by Neill Martin
- b. Motion seconded by Katlyn Kotila
- c. In favour (11)
- d. Against (0)
- e. Abstained (0)
- f. Passed unanimously.

3) Motion to adjourn

- a. Moved by Robert Moyer
- b. Seconded by Neill Martin
- c. All in favour
- d. None against

- e. No abstentions
- f. Passes unanimously