



POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

2013 – 2014 #2

Date: May 28th 2013

Time: 6.04 pm

In Attendance:

Kareema Batal (Chair)

Braiden Redman

Natalia Binczyk

Adam Woods

Dylan Hanwell

Dustin Chelen

Colin Champagne

Excused Absence:

William Lau

Kelsey Mills

Others in Attendance:

Petros Kusmu

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *Kareema* at 6.04 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Adam moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by *Dylan*.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

Presentations:

We heard from *Dustin*, *Adam* and *William* (document attached) about their preliminary goals for the year. They will be sending us a complete report by June 1st.

Dustin: For Student summer employment program, S.U. is discussing it with Minister of H.R. Issue of tuition cap and increase of student representation for discussing these issues. Online E-books will be quicker and rentable resources for students. Building a guide of how to evaluate professor to improve quality of teaching and learning.

Executive Reports:

We heard from *Adam* – he just got back into the office, so he has yet to delve into productivity. Will be on Prime Time news tonight.
All executives will send out their reports to Council.

Question Period:

Natalia expressed concern over the state of the GFC meeting times (2:00 pm on a Monday) and was wondering if we have power to change or request to change that. It is an inconvenient time for GFC members to attend and it is hindering their ability to contribute.

Dustin responded to this inquiry and expressed his concern with the way the GFC is managed, and especially how the student voice is being shut out. No accommodations are being made to ensure students are heard, especially on the President's part and her view on students' contribution to GFC

Natalia: Do we have any power to remove the President and will policy contain effects of budget cut on students?

We do have the power to make noise around the removal of the President. She will be retiring soon.

Braiden asked about the current student load situation and if it is possible to discuss, upon review and renewal of the Student Loan Policy, if we can lobby to remove parental income screening.

Adam and *Kareema* both noted that student loans no longer look at parental income

Braiden expressed concern over the budget cuts and what impact it will have on students. What is the SU going to do about that and what can we do about that?

Adam: S.U. has talked about having a one-year political policy that specifically outlines the SU's advocacy role on the budget and its impact on students. If the policy committee sees this as a possible step, we can talk about it more during a scheduled meeting. We've never had policy that expired in one year.

Let's keep this idea in mind and aim to discuss it at one of our upcoming meetings

Old Business:**a. Standing Orders Review**

Natalia: Is there a way to ensure that meeting agendas and materials are sent to us a few days in advance of the meeting to ensure that we have enough time to read them?

Discussion around making that change in the standing orders. The group agreed to assign two business days prior to the meeting as the deadline for material and agenda submission.

New Business:**a. PAD**

Kareema inquired about the PAD process and which executives are included.

Petros and *Dustin*: The distribution of policies amongst executives is to the

Starting next meeting, we will focus on one policy per meeting, get familiar and ask questions. Start with policies that will expire soon

entire executive team. Each executive will be responsible for the policies that relate most to their work, some sharing.

Dustin will send out the PAD list in the next few days.

b. *Committee goals for the year*

Started a round table discussion of everyone's goals. *Kareema* proposed setting time in each meeting to review as a group and familiarize ourselves with the SU's political policies, especially the ones that we will be reviewing and discussing for renewal. *Kareema* also wants to ensure that the policies we have are working for us; take a critical look, and ask if they have been in our favor or not.

Adam: It is not feasible or a good idea to change up policies frequently. It is important that we have a clear stance on topics. Our plan may change, but our position and what we need to lobby for is the same, it just may not have gotten results.

Discussed increasing committee members' engagement in policy review.

c. *Fall Reading Week Policy (amendments)*

Dustin: move that, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in first reading based on the following principles:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will advocate for the creation of a Fall Reading Week That does not specify a particular implementation structure

Petros and *Dustin* provided context and justification for the changes. Most significant is the removal of the last two clauses in order to allow the policy to be more flexible. Part of why the break has not been set yet is because these restrictions in the policy are making it very difficult to agree with administration on a time and duration of the break. With greater flexibility, the executives can be more responsive and flexible in negotiations.

Adam: There is usually trade of between actual time of break and length of fall reading week break. Most Deans like long breaks. S.U. is in favor of 5 days break combined with a long weekend.

Dustin: S.U. will advocate fall reading week that does not specify particular structure.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

Discussion:

What is happening to the vacant business locations in SUB? Will we have a say in what goes there?

Petros: S.U. is planning their own business stores providing more healthy food options for students.

Natalia: Visa issue for international students.

8. NEXT MEETING *June 11, 2013 at 6.00 pm.*

9. ADJOURNMENT *Braiden* moved to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded by *Adam*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7.25 *pm.*



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

Date: **May 28th 2013**

Time: **6.04 pm**

2013 – 2014 **MEETING 1**

Motions

1.	Woods moved to approve the agenda for May 28, 2013	CARRIED 7/0/0
2.	Batal moved to approve the changes to the Policy Committee's Standing Orders The PC decided to change the timing of any materials to be submitted to the agenda and the submission of the agenda to two business days prior to the committee meeting	CARRIED 7/0/0
3.	Chelen moved to amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in first reading President Kusmu brought forth changes to the Fall Reading Week Policy. The PC discussed and approved the changes as first reading.	CARRIED 7/0/0
4.	Redman moved to adjourn the meeting.	CARRIED 7/0/0

ATTACHMENTS

_____/_____/____ move that, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council ~~adopt~~ amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in first reading based on the following principles:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will advocate ~~through University Governance~~ for the creation of a Fall Reading Week

Comment [k1]: That does not specify a particular implementation structure

Expires April 30th, 2015

VI. FALL READING WEEK

WHEREAS student mental health is a growing concern in the post-secondary education system;

WHEREAS a Fall Reading Week will create and opportunity to provide academic, wellness and social programming;

WHEREAS the benefits of a fall break will optimized by providing students with a full week off from classes; and

Comment [k2]: Insert the word "be"

~~WHEREAS a fall reading week that coincides with Remembrance Day holiday is preferable given the constraints on the academic schedule.~~

~~WHEREAS the academic schedule will permit a four calendar day study break at the end of the Fall term in the vast majority of academic years.1~~

Comment [k3]: DELETED in order to give flexibility to establish a suitable time and duration for the FRW break.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will advocate ~~through University Governance~~ for the creation of a Fall Reading Week ~~such that:~~

~~a. A full week without instruction will take place concurrent with the Remembrance Day holiday;~~

~~b. Instruction in the Fall Term will commence, when possible, on the Tuesday following Labour Day; and~~

~~a) The study break at the end of each of Fall Term, excluding consolidated examinations, will be reduced from four to three calendar days.~~

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Rationale for change:

~~-This policy was initially created to provide clarity and direction for the SU Executive on which scenario to choose for advocating to the University. Much time was being spent considering which option may be most favourable for students, so a political policy effectively ensured only one option was pursued.~~

-Since its initial adoption, two amendments have already been required to adapt to feedback and sensitivity from members of the University community.

-At this point, the Executive prefers a more collaborative, flexible approach to Fall Reading Week advocacy. This will facilitate more open conversations with the University, particularly the Provost's Office and Deans, in the hopes that a solution will be arrived at for implementation in Fall, 2014.