

Mathematics Society Council Special Meeting Minutes

MC COMFY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: John Hunte

Secretary: Matthew Schwarze

ATTENDANCE

The following voting members were present:

- Alina Sewani (VPF)
- Garrett Hildebrandt
- Jason Eng (VPI)
- Michelle Wang (VPO)
- Kristy Gao
- Jasmine Bal
- Gary Xin
- Catherine Dong
- Kanan Sharma
- Matthew Schwarze (VPA)
- Frank Chen
- Rosie DeFazio (Chairperson)
- Andres Garcia
- Nigel Qiu
- Karl Zhu
- Racheal Ou
- John Hunte (Speaker)

The following non-voting members were present:

- Lily Holmes
 - Tyler Davies
 - Rose Penner
 - Jason Qu
 - Rajat Malhotra
 - Rosie DeFazio
 - Alex Lee
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PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

Be it resolved that the meeting is called to order at 8:45 pm EST.

SPECIAL ORDER: RATIFICATION OF ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS -

Kanan Sharma, Speaker Hunte

Be it resolved that Council ratifies Karl Zhu, Jasmine Bal, Gary Xin, Racheal Ou, and Catherine Dong as the First Year Representatives for Fall 2019 and Winter 2020.

Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - *Speaker Hunte, Kanan Sharma*

Addition to the agenda: Appointment of interim WUSA Council Math Representative, added to the agenda with assumed unanimous consent.

Be it resolved that the Council approves the agenda for this meeting as presented.

Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL ORDERSAPPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM PRESIDENT - *Speaker Hunte, Kristy Gao*

Discussion around the President's resignation occurred, concerns about the professionalism of council members was raised, as well as concerns about toxicity and personal problems in the MathSoc council.

The extended length of the budget meeting was a topic of discussion, with the speaker's role and councilmembers' decorum being common subjects.

Comments were made suggesting previous members of the MathSoc executive give more effort to have a positive effect on MathSoc as a whole, before this line of discussion was cut short for concerns that personal attacks were emerging.

Concerns were also raised that councilmembers were too enthusiastic in micromanaging or overly critiquing club budgets in the budget meeting, and that such conversations should be had in personal discussions with the VPF and VPI.

Counter-concerns were raised surrounding the council's duty to address the large budgetary deficit, and discussion followed surrounding Council's purpose and responsibility regarding the budget. There was some assertion regarding the Board of Directors' consent and comfort with the budget deficit, and that it meant council did not have such a duty.

The discussion then moved to methods for Council to build more comradery and familiarity, with suggestions including team-building events and meet-and-greet events with councillors and their constituents. Further discussion followed regarding the general apathy of the Math electorate.

Proposed ideas included:

- An escape room event as a team-building exercise for the executive team.
- Increase MathSoc office volunteers' involvement with MathSoc council.
 - This has been done in the past (2014-2015); it included a team-oriented leadership event.
- Explore group offerings from Counselling/Wellness Services for the executive and council.

First Year Reps proposed the following ideas to better involve first-year students:

- Have more academic-orientated events, as these are of a higher priority for first-years.
- Promote elections and roles better to first years using social media and posters.

Concerns were raised by a first-year rep surrounding perceived animosity and grudges between members of Council. The council was perceived as ineffectual and dysfunctional.

Nominations were now made.

VPO Wang nominated VPI Eng, which was accepted.

VPF Sewani nominated Garrett Hildebrandt, which was accepted.

Nominations then closed, and both candidates proceeded to speak to their plans as interim presidents. They then exited the room to allow private discussion. Concerns were raised regarding both candidates intentions to pursue permanent election, and that their appointment now will make it appear as an endorsement and as a cause of bias in MathSoc. This discussion ended seeing as no other options remained.

Be it resolved that the meeting end time be moved to 10:05.

Motion passed with assumed consent.

Be it resolved that Council enter unmoderated caucus for three minutes.

Kanan Sharma, Alina Sewani

Motion passed with assumed consent.

Be it resolved that Rosie DeFazio serve as scrutineer for the vote.

Kanan Sharma, Alina Sewani

Motion passed with assumed consent.

A secret ballot vote was run, with Garrett Hildebrandt and VPI Jason Eng both abstaining due to conflicts of interest. The result was a majority of votes for Jason Eng.

Whereas official notice of the resignation of the President of the Society, Rajat Malhotra, which was received on October 2nd, 2019 has caused the position of President to become vacant; and

And whereas the Society's bylaws §8.1.2 read as follows:

"... If an Executive Officer, is declared incapacitated or ceases to hold their position for any reason, a decision of the Society shall appoint an interim replacement. If the position of President or Vice President, Academic becomes vacant, it is necessary for Council to make the appointment. Council shall convene as soon as is practicable to do so, and the remaining Executive Officers, if any, shall recommend a potential appointee at that meeting. If no quorate

meeting of Council may occur within the term, the Board of Directors may appoint a member to the vacant position. ...”,

requiring a decision of the society; then

Be it resolved that Jason Eng is appointed interim President of the Society.

Speaker Hunte, Kristy Gao

motion passes unanimously.

Be it resolved that the ballots from the prior vote be destroyed.

Kanan Sharma, Garrett Hildebrandt

Motion passed unanimously

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - *Speaker Hunte, Kanan Sharma*

Needing to fill two empty seats on the Elections Committee, a question came from a first-year representative asking what the elections committee was, to which Rosie DeFazio, who sat on the Elections Committee, responded “just a fun adventure for you”.

Then nominations for the seats commenced:

Kanan Sharma nominated Karl Zhu, which was accepted.

Racheal Ou nominated Gary Xin and Jasmine Bal, which were accepted.

Catherine Dong nominated herself.

Candidates then spoke about their plans for the committee for 45s each.

Be it resolved that the Elections Committee be increased to 7 positions and suspend existing policy 1.1 to allow this.

Kanan Sharma, Kristy Gao

Following a proposal that Rosie DeFazio and Andres Garcia could give up their seats to make way for the interested first-year representatives, Kanan Sharma withdrew his motion.

Motion withdrawn

Whereas Rosie DeFazio and Andres Garcia resigned,

Be it resolved that Catherine Dong, Gary Xin, Karl Zhu, Jasmine Bal are all appointed to the Elections Committee, and

Be it further resolved that Kanan Sharma is appointed CRO of the Elections Committee.

Rosie DeFazio, Andres Garcia

Motion passed unanimously, Kanan Sharma, Garrett Hildebrant, and Jason Eng abstained.

INTERIM WUSA COUNCIL MATH REPRESENTATIVE - *Speaker Hunte, Kanan Sharma*

Be it resolved that Kanan Sharma is appointed interim WUSA Council Math Representative.

Speaker Hunte, Kanan Sharma

Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By the powers of Bylaw §3.2, notice has been received by the Speaker that Tyler Devries has been appointed by the Vice-President Academic, as Society designate to the WUSA Education Advisory Council, and this announcement shall serve as notice to Council of such.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is scheduled to be adjourned at 10:05pm EST.