



CUSA SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 27th, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Prepared by:

Ahmad Hashimi, Vice President Internal

ATTENDANCE RECORD:

Position	Councillor	Signature
Interim-President	Ahmad Hashimi	Present
Vice President Finance	Venassa Baptiste	Present
Vice President Internal	Ahmad Hashimi	Present
Vice President Student Issues	Valentina Vera Gonzalez	Present
Vice President Community Engagement	Callie Ogden	Present
Vice President Student Life	Daisy Kasper	Present
Engineering and Design	Cameron Davis	Absent
	Grant Wilson	Present
	Nathan-Cyril Manlangit	Present
	Mohammed Faris Riazuddin	Absent
	Saad Khan	Present
	Sara Hubbard	Present
Business	Diya Kulkarni	Present
	Musab Chaudhry	Absent
Public Affairs	Emily Sowa	Present
	Francesca Lepore	Present
	Gray Simms	Present
	Jordan Vecchio	Present
	Keenan Reynolds	Present
	Lily Huang	Present
	Nora Draper	Present
Science	Alexis St.Pierre	Absent
	Conall McCutcheon	Present
	Greg Dance	Absent
	Patrick Ene	Absent
FASS	Ahmad Kataite	Present
	Baher Mansour	Absent
	Stacy Osazuwa	Absent



	Pierce Burch	Present
	Katelyn Madigan	Present
	Tyson Scott	Present
Special Student		
BOG	Holden Heppler	Absent
GSA		
RRRA	Mira Gillis	Present
CASG	Jennifer Ramnarine	Present

AGENDA:

CUSA the Association Meeting Agenda:

1. Announcements and Correspondence
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Past Minutes
4. Executives Report
 - a. Vice President Finance
 - b. Vice President Internal
 - c. Vice President of Student Issues
 - d. Vice President of Community Engagement
 - e. Vice President of Student Life
5. RRRRA Report
6. GSA Report
7. CASG Report
8. Senate Report
9. Board of Governors Report
10. Constituency Report
11. Committee Reports
12. Items for Information
13. Question Period
14. Other Business
 - a. Motion to Approve the 2021-2022 CUSA Budget
 - b. Motion to Fill the Student Initiative Fund Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year
 - c. Motion to Strike and Fill the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee
 - d. Motion to Fill the Clubs Oversight Committee
15. Adjournment



Meeting commenced at 6:10 pm.

1. Announcements and Correspondence

None.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Saad Khan

Seconded: Gray Simms

3. Approval of the Past Minutes

None.

4. Executive Reports

- a. Vice President Finance

Vice President of Finance Report

September 27th, 2021

Past Month

- Presented the Annual Budget on September 15th to 7 council members and the rest of the Executive team.
 - All relevant documents are posted on the CUSA website (cusaonline.ca).
- Club Oversight Committee
 - Discussing club funding and how it relates to changing COVID guidelines
- Met up with external groups interested in partnering with CUSA with other executives
 - The Revalie, an off-campus student housing organization
 - Carleton University's Ombudsman office
 - Get it Local, a local delivery service
- Volunteered for Fall Orientation events
 - Virtual Frosh events
 - Vaccine roll-out

Ongoing Projects

- Working with VPSI Valentina on planning Financial Literacy campaign
- Presenting budget updates to Executive budgets
- Getting the Academic Resilience Fund Committee up and running
- Working with SEO on CUSA's contribution to SOAR 2022

Month Ahead

- SUDS Conference in BC - October 15th to 21st

If you have any questions, you can always reach me by email at vpf@cusaonline.ca or on instagram [@venassa_bae](https://www.instagram.com/venassa_bae). Have a great week!

Venassa Baptiste <3

b. Vice President Internal

Vice President, Internal Report

September 27th, 2021

Past Month:

- Residence Tabling for Move-ins
- CUSA Website is fully up and running
 - ◆ Committees Page has been updated and students can now apply to be a student-at-large through the website
- Oversight Committee
 - ◆ Completed 170 certification and recertification of clubs
 - ◆ Prepared training for the clubs conference
- Governance document
 - ◆ Updating our bylaws
 - Improve transparency and accountability
 - Prepared a Proposal for restructuring of the Association
- Democratic reform committee
 - ◆ Attending all the meetings
 - Talking to witness (student leaders, people from student with different governance structures, people with CUSA experience)
 - We are discussing how to improve elections, changes to organization structure and decision making power
- Partnered with SEO to have a multi-faith space in Athletics for our faith groups
- Interviews for Unified Support Centre Administrator
- Interviews for the Director of Human Resources

Ongoing Project:

- Regular meetings with SEO: **Jeremy Brzozowski**



- Restructuring the day-to-day operations of the Association
- Working with our lawyers to revamp the bylaws
- Defining the clubs funding process

Month Ahead:

- Focusing on Democratic Reform committee
- Meeting with Suzanne Blanchard
 - ◆ Sexual assault policies
 - ◆ Attendant Services
- Planning for the Multi-Faith conference

If you have any questions, you can always reach me by e-mail at vpi@cusaonline.ca or on instagram at **Ahmadhashimi_**.

Take care,
Ahmad Hashimi

c. Vice President Student Issues

Vice President, Student Issues Report

September 27th, 2021

Past Month

- Finished consultations for the Anti-Racism Strategic Plan (Focus on EDI consultations)
- Attended the International Student Undergraduate Social
- Met with ISSO to talk about a project for with the International Students Advisory Committee
- Volunteered at the Carleton vaccine clinic.
- Met with Jeremy from SEO to discuss CUSA award and procedures
- Meetings with different clubs, organizations and Carleton stakeholders for campaign collaborations.
- CUx Partner Meeting
- Attended Carleton Pride Advisory Committee Meeting #2
- Hosted CAPSA's First Person Language training for all CUSA executives, full-time staff and student staff.
- Meeting with RRRRA, EIC, Residence, Health and Counsellign services and student at large to discuss Call to Action regarding sexual Violence Prevention on Campus at Carleton University
- Launched successfully first campaign of the year BeForeplay Ask
- Bystander Intervention training
- Sex Toy Bingo
- I believe You day
- Met with Ravens Sports Business Club to discuss collaboration for the Ravens House Cup and Pop the Stigma
- Met with Office of Student Affairs, Athletic, Ottawa Public Health and Bylaws to discuss PANDA informational campaign (COVID restriction, logistics)

Ongoing Projects

- Campaigns planning and scheduling. Meeting with Events and Programs Coordinator

- Schedule planned
- Meeting for possible partnerships and guest speakers
- Monthly International Students Advocacy meeting
- Monthly meeting with SEO-ISSO
- Meetings with Ombuds Office
- Working along the RnA Coordinator working on the Anti-Racism Strategic Plan
- Monthly meeting with Dwaine- SEO
- Monthly meetings with RRRRA
- Post-secondary Mental Health Action Plan

Month Ahead

- Work with Mawandoseg on Orange Shirt Day
- Attend the GSA Council meeting
- Attend Student Government lunch
- Meeting with Suzanne Blanchard (Vice-President Students and Enrolment)
- Collaborating with SEO to hold Pride
- CUSA event: An evening with Dan Levy
- Set up a meeting with all student unions regarding next steps of the Post-secondary Mental Health Action Plan
- Review of CUSA's Policies with Research and Advocacy Coordinator and VPCE
- Working on campaigns
- First Frost Week Meeting
- Attend the Student Union Development Summit in Vancouver

If you have any questions, you can always reach me by e-mail at vpsi@cusaonline.ca or on instagram at [valentina_vera_g](https://www.instagram.com/valentina_vera_g).

Best,

Valentina Vera Gonzalez

d. Vice President Community Engagement

Vice President, Community Engagement Report

September 27th, 2021

Past Month:

- All-Candidates Debate for the Federal Election
- All About Signs Event
- Partnerships:
 - ◆ The Revalie
 - ◆ Ottawa Grocer
 - ◆ Atletico FC - VPSL Daisy
 - ◆ SDG Program - FMP Carleton
- Attended Language, Stigma, and Substance Use Health Training
- Interviewed for the USC Operations Coordinator with Services Manager
- Participated in an Instagram Live with the Wellness Centre
- Held an Instagram Live with the Carleton Country Music Association
- Volunteered at Health & Counselling Services' Vaccine Clinic

Ongoing Projects:

- Brand Ambassadors
- Student Leadership Coalition
- EDI Strategic Plan
- Planning an event with Rick Cool The Hypnotist - October 22nd
- CUSA's Guide to Wellness
- Biweekly meetings with the Charlatan



- Student Engagement: Holiday Calendar
- Tiktok

Month Ahead:

- CUSA's Guide to Wellness - Release in November
- Planning SDG Program
- Confirming Partnerships

If you have any questions, you can always reach me by email at vpce@cusaonline.ca or on instagram @callie_ogden.

All the best,
Callie Ogden

e. Vice President Student Life

Vice President, Student Life Report

September 27th, 2021

Past Month

- Continued working alongside the Events and Programs Coordinator (hannah.whale@cusaonline.ca) to execute fall programming
 - Back to School Giveaway with RRRRA and CASG
 - Fall Orientation Programming
 - DJ at Home Dance Party
 - Carleton Jeopardy with RRRRA
 - Ran an “Evening with Fred VanVleet” event
 - Shipped out all remaining gift cards for DJ at Home Dance Party winners
- Planned for major events/programming run by VPSL portfolio
 - CUSA Leadership Academy (yearly) + Leadership Summit (March 5)
 - Panda (October 2) - Created fan packages for students to purchase
 - Winter Orientation Week (January 10-14) - Looking to partner with various stakeholders on campus to create programming for students
 - CUSA Gala (March) - Confirming venue and catering options
- Developed the CUSA Leadership Academy
 - Finalized all workshop facilitators for each month
 - Finished creating the online course using the Brightspace platform
 - Worked with our communications team to finalize promotional materials for the academy
 - Held the first monthly workshop for leadership theme “Branding Yourself”
- Met with Ollie’s Manager to plan for Fall Programming if restrictions allow
- Continued bi-weekly meetings with Raven’s Athletics
 - Brainstormed ways to engage students in Varsity athletics
 - Began selling CU Birdgang Passes out of CUSA office (\$22)



- Finalized contents of Panda Fan packages for students to purchase at CUSA Office (\$22)
- Discussions on selling birdgang passes out of the CUSA office
- Worked alongside CUSA Staff and VPCE to create a CUSA Tik Tok Schedule for the year

Ongoing Projects

- Building and executing the CUSA Leadership Academy + Workshops
- Planning additional Programs and Events for the 2021-22 academic year

Month Ahead

- Begin bi-weekly meetings with campus stakeholders to plan programming for Winter Orientation
- Confirming details for CUSA Gala in March
- Planning fall programming to run in Ollie's
- Attending SUDS conference with executive team

If you have any questions, you can always reach me by e-mail at vpsl@cusaonline.ca or on instagram at [@daizzzzz](https://www.instagram.com/daizzzzz).

Have a great start to the fall semester,

Daisy Kasper

5. RRRR Report

Mira Gillis: This is the first RRRR report, which is very exciting. Just to update you all, we had the RRRR council elections which elected 22 councillors on Friday. The first council meeting will be next Wednesday, October 6th. We are also in the process of hiring a council chair, council clerk and executive assistant. In terms of our store abstentions in res, we have all of our 10 cashiers hired and trained, so everything is good to go. Our store hours for this year will be from noon to midnight. We are thinking of extending our hours from what they previously were from 10 am to 3 am, but that is still tentative. Regarding the Student Call To Action, our President, Sami Islam, attended the first meeting regarding next steps. He has follow-up meetings with housing and life services to see what we can do in terms of RRRR and housing and ways we can move forward. Lastly, with CU Care, the walkout occurred, which Sami and Gia attended. Sami's been meeting with students who have been affected by the Attendant's services. He also has a meeting with Laura Storey who is the Director of Housing and Life Services as well as the Health and Counseling services next week. They have taken over the Attendants Services which is why they're being included in the meeting. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

6. GSA Report

None.

7. CASG Report

Jennifer Ramnarine: In the recent news of CASG, if you haven't already heard from the last senate meeting, SAT/UNSAT for 0.5 credits for the fall semester has been officially passed. It can be used on any credit. If it is a full-year course, you can use it in the first half but your second half grade will still show. It cannot be saved for the winter semester. When the winter comes, we are going to evaluate per semester based on the circumstances and bring it to the senate. CASG is also working on permanent grading reform to hopefully get things like SAT/UNSAT and other helpful measures continued throughout the year. In terms of council, similar to RRRR, we are having our elections now. Thank you to all the people who helped nominate and don't forget to vote if you receive the email for your faculty. We will have our first meeting in October, very soon. We are also hiring a clerk and chair, the post is up on our Instagram. Keep a lookout for our AIF applications which will be happening very soon. That is all, thank you.

8. Senate Report

None.

9. Board of Governors Report

Anastasia Lettieri: Hi everyone, earlier in the month of September, Holden and I attended our Board orientation where we got a chance to meet with our respective committees as well as several other members of the Board. During this session, my committee went over our work plans for this month, which included a Sexual Violence Policy Review Consultation, Communications Plan and Timeline, a Review of Standing Committee Terms of Reference, a Review of Carleton University General Operating Bylaw, and a Review of Student Governor Handbook and election process, some of which I will detail in a moment. During our orientation, we were also given several reports to the Board by the President and Senior Leadership team, some of which included a presentation on the Carleton Strategic Integrated Plan, the Goals & Strategic Directions for 2021/2022 and Senior Administration Portfolios. At my first Governance meeting, we were given a presentation on Carleton's sexual violence policy, which is up for its 3-year review. I am going to take a moment to briefly provide some detail because I think it is an extremely important task for this year. The Review Committee will be presenting this review to the Board over the next several months where members will have the opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions. One thing I noted during this initial presentation is that the University sees this three-year review as a way to be as responsive to the community as possible. I will highlight that their choice of word was responsive, rather than preventative. I want to ensure that Carleton's policy is heavily focused on prevention efforts and so I look forward to working closely on this review, where possible. My committee will also be reviewing the student governor handbook and election process, which will seek to include a 4.0 credit requirement for student elections to ensure a second-year standing as well as a good academic standing, which can only be calculated after that credit requirement has been met. We will be attending our first Board Meeting this Thursday the 30th, which happens to fall on Truth and Reconciliation Day. All Board Members will be wearing an orange ribbon as well as attending an event held by the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives and the Department of Social work, before the meeting. The event is called "From Truth to Conciliation Reflections from Residential School Survivors" and it will be a conversation with residential school survivors to reflect on truth and conciliation in Canada. Looking forward to reporting on these events and meetings at October Council. Thank you.

10. Constituency Report

None.

11. Committee Reports

None.

12. Items for Information

None.

13. Question Period

Emily Sowa: I have a question for the executive team. How can you rationalize sending an executive to another province when students can't even use the tunnels on campus? How can we justify inter-provincial travel in a time where we can't even travel across campus without interruption?

Ahmad Hashimi: I can answer this. I think it's pretty simple since it is not up to us to give permission on who can access the campus. We don't give permission, it's up to Carleton itself so we can't control that. As for going to the conference, we are going as student leaders. We need these conferences to prove ourselves and be better leaders for you all. I hope that makes sense.

Gray Simms: I have a question for the VP Finance, you mentioned in your report that you were quite disappointed with the attendance meeting on September 15th. I think councillors got approximately 12 hours' notice for that meeting. I was able to attend and I was extremely disappointed to see that it was in a presentation style where we weren't allowed to ask any questions and members of the public weren't included. Then we were told that we would have the budget emailed to us but turns out it was only posted to the CUSA website, which the mention of that was hidden in an email. Do you think that it's fair to criticize councillors for not being engaged with the budget when it was

extremely difficult for councillors to even know what was going on? I know I was trying really hard to stay on top of everything that was happening with the budget and I only actually found the written budget report this morning. That definitely concerns me, the accessibility of the budget to councillors and especially to members of the public who are even less informed than we are, and the awareness that the budget was even out there. My question really is that do you think it's fair to councillors to chastise them when we haven't really been included in that budget process at all, apart from a few symbolic things?

Venassa Baptiste: Thank you for your question councillor Simms. I do think it's fair given the fact that I did announce in the August Council meeting that the budget meeting would be on September 15th and given the fact that on September 1st from VP Hashimi's account, there was an email sent to councillors alerting them about the budget meeting happening on September 15th. I double-checked and it was sent out to all councillors. Given the fact that the email notice was sent on the day of, it just to give the councillors an update. There were two updates sent, the two week notice beforehand and the email on the day of, I feel like that was an appropriate amount of time given from us. Additionally, given the fact that no councillors followed up questions afterwards, which I did state multiple times in emails afterwards to the councillors, unfortunately, I did not receive any emails or questions or DMs. I took that as a sign that nobody was interested in hearing the budget. If you were interested, I would appreciate an email, any notification or message for clarification purposes to see if you wanted an update, had questions or just wanted to talk about the budget. I was here and more than happy to answer any questions. I do apologize for chastising people but I do feel that I was in the right to do so. I'm seeing Nora's question in the chat, I do apologize I didn't send out an email to everyone else. That should have been more clear. Given how everything is virtual and email is our primary form of communication, as I don't like using discord, I'll stick to email. If this doesn't answer your question fully, I'll be willing to clarify more.

Gray Simms: Yes I am satisfied, but I think in the future going forward, I think it would be great if the executives could email the pdf to councillors instead of posting it to the website alone and not telling us that it was posted at that precise moment. I think a bit more communication in that respect would be appreciated but I do understand the VP Finance.

14. Other Business

- a. Motion to Approve the 2021-2022 CUSA Budget
-

Motion to Adopt the 2021-2022 CUSA Operating Budget

Whereas the 2021-2022 CUSA Operating Budget was presented to CUSA Council on September 15th, 2021,

And whereas the CUSA Executive made themselves available to CUSA Council to field questions or concerns from CUSA Councillors present at the presentation meeting,

Be it resolved that CUSA Council approves and adopts the CUSA Operation Budget as presented on September 15th for the 2021-2022 year.

MOVED: Venassa Baptiste

SECONDED: Ahmad Hashimi

Gray Simms: If I may, the reason I am opposing, is because I did not see the budget until this morning, which is my own fault. However, a budget like this is supposed to be accessible to the public and at no time did I see any attempt made to make the public aware that the budget was presented and posted to the website. For that reason, I am a bit concerned about the lack of public input as they haven't been able to see it. I read through the budget and the keyword in there is "transparency" and I'm not sure that the budget presentation was up to that.

Tyson Scott: I think councillor simms said more than enough.



Motion to postpone consideration of this Motion to Adopt the 2021-2022
CUSA Operating Budget

Be it resolved, that consideration of this motion be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of CUSA Council following a public consultation process.

Moved: Gray Simms

Seconded: Tyson Scott

Motion carried.

**Motion to Adopt the 2021-2022 CUSA Operating Budget postponed*

- b. Motion to Fill the Student Initiative Fund Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Motion to Fill the Student Initiative Fund Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Whereas the Student Initiative Fund Committee is intended to assist students and student groups on campus in endeavours which improve the Carleton community, the profile of CUSA, and/or the interests of the students involved.

Whereas the Student Initiative Fund Committee was struck for the 2021-2022 academic year at the August 2021 CUSA Council Meeting,

And whereas the Student Initiative Fund Committee requires membership of three CUSA Council members and three Students-at-Large, in addition to the membership of the President and Vice President, Finance of CUSA, in order to operate.

Be it resolved that the Student Initiative Fund Committee be filled for the 2021-2022 academic year by the following individuals:

- Chair: Ahmad Hashimi, Acting President of CUSA
- Executive Member: Venassa Baptiste, Vice President, Finance of CUSA
- Councillor:
- Councillor:
- Councillor:
- Student-at-Large:
- Student-at-Large:
- Student-at-Large:

MOVED: Ahmad Hashimi

SECONDED: Gray Simms

** Motion withdrawn with unanimous consent*

c. Motion to Strike and Fill the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee

Motion to Strike and Fill the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee

Whereas the CUSA Executive is charged with ensuring transparency over the solicitation and use of student fees.

Be it resolved that CUSA Council strike an Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee, and fill said committee for the 2021-2022 academic year by the following individuals:

- Chair: Venassa Baptiste, *Vice President, Finance of CUSA*
- Executive Member: Ahmad Hashimi, *Acting President and Vice President, Internal of CUSA*
- Executive Member: Valentina Vera Gonzalez, *Vice President, Student Issues of CUSA*
- Executive Member: Callie Ogden, *Vice President, Community Engagement of CUSA*
- Executive Member: Daisy Kasper, *Vice President, Student Life of CUSA*

MOVED: Saad Khan

SECONDED: Ahmad Hashimi

Venassa Baptiste: I did not get a chance to look over this motion before. I don't feel too comfortable having no councillors or students-at-large on this committee so I request we don't pass this tonight until it has been revised. I put in a lot of work and want to make sure that in terms of getting the committee prepared and that we know what's on our student levy forms, I want to make sure as much as the undergraduate student body and the CUSA council know what's going on.

Keenan Reynolds: What was the rationale of only having execs on the council?



Venassa Baptiste: I don't think there is a rationale behind this, as you can tell from my point before. I would much rather have students on the committee. I was thinking maybe me, student body representatives, cusa council representatives, and maybe another executive as well? So it's not the only team made up of only executives.

Tyson Scott: I would like to see more students involved to ensure transparency.

Saad Khan: I agree with Tyson but how many students do you need? What's the number?

Tyson Scott: Personally I would like to see an equal number of students-at-large seeing as the whole point of this to ensure transparency. I think moving towards adding more students-at-large who aren't necessarily a part of the council. That would add legitimacy to the committee as a whole and ensure it's not a CUSA dominated committee. Adding more people in would allow more eyes to look in from people who aren't on council.

Ahmad Hashimi: As a suggestion, we can have the VP Finance and maybe another executive? Two Vice-Presidents should be enough. In general, I think the number of people in this committee should be kept low as it is not easy finding a suitable time for everyone. We can reduce the number of Vice Presidents which would allow us to add students-at-large.

Gray Simms: If we keep the committee at only five members, as per the CUSA Bylaws under Ad-Hoc committees, the quorum for the committees is five members. Therefore, even if one member is absent, then the committee cannot function that day. 7 members is starting to get large and six members is difficult because it's an even number, however because of that line, 5.1 in the Bylaws, I'm just concerned.

Saad Khan: Gray I think 7 should be good because I remember that the International Students Advisory Committee has 8 members and it does run smoothly so I think we can go with 7 members.

Tyson Scott: I would propose having 2 executive members followed by 2 councillors and 3 students-at-large. I'm also wondering what the issue is with the chair being a voting member in a committee with that many people. It doesn't seem like too much of a conflict of interest.

Gray Simms: If VP Baptiste is uncomfortable being the chair and a voting member, is it possible for the committee to elect their own committee chair from their members. Perhaps it would be prudent to not specify which member is chair on behalf of council and let the committee decide?

Ahmad Hashimi: Yes I agree, in the first meeting for the committee, they can choose their own chair and vote on that. That makes it a little more removed from council which makes it good for transparency.

Motion to Amend the motion to Strike and Fill the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee

Be it resolved that the text "Executive Member: Valentina Vera Gonzalez, *Vice President, Student Issues of CUSA*; Executive Member: Callie Ogden, *Vice President, Community Engagement of CUSA*; Executive Member: Daisy Kasper, *Vice President, Student Life of CUSA*" be struck out and replaced with "Two (2) Councillors, and; Three (3) Students at Large."

Be it further resolved that the text "Chair:" be struck out and replaced with "Executive Member:."

Moved: Tyson Scott

Seconded: Ahmad Hashimi

Motion carried.

The main motion is now:

Motion to Strike and Fill the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee

Whereas the CUSA Executive is charged with ensuring transparency over the solicitation and use of student fees.

Be it resolved that CUSA Council strike an Ad-Hoc Ancillary Fee Reform Committee, and fill said committee for the 2021-2022 academic year by the following individuals:

- Executive Member: Venassa Baptiste, *Vice President, Finance of CUSA*
- Executive Member: Ahmad Hashimi, *Acting President and Vice President, Internal of CUSA*
- Councillor: Nora Draper, *FPA*
- Councillor: Gray Simms, *FPA*
- Three (3) Students at Large

MOVED: Saad Khan

SECONDED: Ahmad Hashimi

**Meeting moves in-camera*

Councillors vote via secret ballot

Motion passes.

Nora Draper and Gray Simms are elected to the Ad-Hoc Ancillary Committee.



d. Motion to Fill the Clubs Oversight Committee

Motion to Fill the Clubs Oversight Committee

Whereas there exists one (1) CUSA Councillor vacancy on the Clubs Oversight Committee.

Be it resolved that CUSA Council appoint Katelyn Madigan, CUSA Councillor for the 2021-2022 academic year, to serve on the Clubs Oversight Committee.

MOVED: Ahmad Hashimi

SECONDED: Saad Khan

Councillors vote via secret ballot

Motion passes.

Katelyn Madigan is elected to serve on the Clubs Oversight Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Gray Simms: I intended to bring this up during question period and I forgot. Under the CUSA Policies 8.3.1, under vacancies states “vacancies that occurred during the summer terms shall be filled in a September by-election”. I’m concerned since we are on September 27th and we haven’t called an election yet. The policies would seem to indicate that the selection needs to be held in September.

Emily Sowa: I also had a follow-up question on the election. There was an email sent to Christine Falardeau by a couple of councillors a few days ago, on September 19th, asking about the job posting for CEO and DEO and the hiring process that occurred. We have not since received any updates on what has happened for the hiring process of CEO and DEO for the upcoming election. We’ve been out of the loop on this situation.

Ahmad Hashimi: I will speak on this as a VP Internal, not acting President. First, let’s start with the posting. I posted for CEO and DEO and put it up for three weeks on our website and during this period, nobody applied. Also as you know, all the executives have recused ourselves from the elections. I think it’s the responsibility of councillors to reach out to the full-time staff to make that posting. After Musab reached out with Emily and a couple of councillors, I’m pretty sure you got back an email reply.

Emily Sowa: I never received an email response from the acting general manager. It’s been really difficult to be on council when we are not getting communication back because we’ve been trying to ensure that this elections is happening with no proper issue from staff

Ahmad Hashimi: I completely understand and I'm sorry that you didn't get an email back. That's the mistake of the acting general manager. She should have replied to everyone but I'm pretty sure Musab got an email back. The answer to your question is that we did whatever we could as executives who recused ourselves. Our Bylaws put us in a dead end. We've been constantly talking to our lawyers and trying to get solutions and figure out the best way to proceed. If you have any questions regarding this, I'm always happy to answer. Specifically, I will be talking about this in my one-on-one meetings.

Francesca Lepore: I was curious about the posting for the CEO and DEO because I know students that were interested who said that they could not find that posting anywhere. They also emailed about the positions and they did not receive a reply so I was wondering what was happening there?

Ahmad Hashimi: Can you tell me who they emailed?

Francesca Lepore: I'm not too sure at this moment, but I can check and let you know right away on that. That is what I was told from the student since they were inquiring about it. They said that they did not receive an email back nor could they find the posting.

Ahmad Hashimi: Regarding the posting, our policy is that we keep the posting up for two weeks on the website, which has been the policy for a while. The posting is down and we haven't reposted it since we were waiting for councillors to reach out.

Emily Sowa: Since you haven't reposted it yet, can you repost it and share it on social media? The election is something that needs to happen and we need to ensure that students are aware.

Ahmad Hashimi: It was definitely shared on our social media. The executives also shared it on their stories too. We did as much as we could to make students aware of this. We did not force anyone to get hired for this position. We want our students to actively be there because they want to.

Francesca Lepore: The student that I was referring to got back to me. They said they emailed the VP Internal a week ago and did get a reply from the executive assistant. They were told that the date had been missed already and the position had not been filled at the time. Why couldn't they still apply if no one else had?

Ahmad Hashimi: Like I said, the position is down after being posted for three weeks. No one applied during that time. Here at CUSA, we only keep the job postings up for two weeks and we even extended the posting for an extra week. Nobody applied for that so we had to take it down from our website. That is why nobody was able to apply. I hope that makes sense.

Francesca Lepore: Yes, that is understandable. I understand what you are saying in terms of policies but there was an interested student in this position so I'm curious as to why they weren't able to even put an application forward considering there was no one else interested in the position, even though it had closed.

Ahmad Hashimi: Listen, we all released a formal statement recusing ourselves from the elections. As councillors, during that period, you should have reached out to students. That's disappointing for me. I don't think it's fair that councillors weren't active during the time until September 19th but now comes time for the council meeting and you start questioning us. I wanted you guys to be more active. We came into these positions to bring big changes and I need your support to bring these changes. I can't bring it by myself or even the five of us.

Valentina Vera Gonzalez: I just want to add that the executives were the first ones to even put the announcement up since no councillors were, despite recusing ourselves. We had stated that we weren't going to be involved with the elections. When the posting closed, we were not able to put it up again since we had recused ourselves. That is the responsibility of councillors to reach out and post it again. If councillors are not active and not following up then there is nothing we can do since we recused ourselves. I agree with what Ahmad said, there needs to be more participation.

Gray Simms: I'm shocked here. How should councillors be expected to do things that we aren't told we were expected to do? I'm confused as this isn't in our job description and we haven't been told. How is it suddenly our fault that they haven't been done when councillors had anticipated that this was an administrative thing or at the executive level? At that point, the onus is on executives or CUSA administration for not having reached out to councillors.

Ahmad Hashimi: I have a question for you. How can we be rescued when you expect us to do this stuff for the elections?

Tyson Scott: That's true, if they've removed themselves then what are they to do?

Saad Khan: I DM'ed Ahmad on Instagram asking about when the election will happen. He told me that he was working on it and will keep me updated. This was the response I got and now we are being told that we were supposed to do the work. I'm confused.

Ahmad Hashimi: Saad I understand. At the time you sent me that message, we were working on it. I don't want to bring this up here, I wanted to bring this up in our one-on-one with the councillors. I have something I want to share but can't say it in front of everyone, only councillors. I think that the councillors should listen to what I have to say. I will definitely have one-on-one meetings to talk about this. When I reached out to our lawyer, who we are currently talking to, because of our Bylaws, we have some problems that are putting us in a dead end. We can touch on this later but if we recused ourselves, how can you expect us to be a part of the elections?

Gray Simms: From my understanding of the execs' recusal was that they would not be involved in the hiring process of the CEO and DEO, as in actually in the meetings or any other electoral process. I did expect them to actually be doing their jobs to make sure the election goes forward since it is part of the VP Internal's mandate. I didn't think recusing himself from the elections meant that he wouldn't be doing his job.



Tyson Scott: I feel like we are just entering a loop of Catch 22 here where obviously if the executives excuse themselves from this, they shouldn't be involved with the process. Otherwise we would be sitting here asking why they are even involved in the first place? We are just arguing about two sides of the same coin. We are locked in due to what the Bylaws say. I think we need to continue to move forward as opposed to talking about the same point over and over again since we are just wasting our own time.

Venassa Baptiste: Just to be clear, we should repost the posting once again rather than talking about it in circles. I would love to discuss with the execs to have that reposted and ask our communications team to repost it and have it on social media for two weeks. Then half way through October, we can close that position. We can have it posted for Friday, October 1st which would give us enough time to get that done since today is Monday. I am the VP Finance so it's not in my realm of control so I would definitely pass it on to Ahmad.

Gray Simms: I have a question but it's not relevant to what we were just discussing. I was just doing a little bit of research on the Bylaws policies and to my understanding, the election should be in September still stands because the policies form the Bylaws.

Tyson Scott: I understand that filling the role of the President through an election is a very important point but I feel like if we were to hold an election according to the Bylaws that was just mentioned, then it would be with the shortest amount of notice and won't be what's best for the students. We should not host an unprepared election just for the sake of having it done. It's still an issue that we need to get through and get done but I don't see the merit in rushing through it and having a quick election.

Emily Sowa: On that note, I motion to have the assurance that an election is scheduled before October 31st.



Motion to set a date for the Presidential by-election and amend the policy
VIII

Moved: Emily Sowa

Seconded: Nora Draper

Motion withdrawn through unanimous consent

Tyson Scott: I would definitely like to speak before we come to a conclusion on a specific date. Also if there is anyone else who would like to speak because I am not sure of the inner workings of how long it takes for an election to happen. I would also like to hear from others on how long they think it will take for there to be an election before we decide on a finite date.

Venassa Baptiste: There is more than just calling an election on social media platforms. You have to reason with the university and provide specific dates. The reason why the election was supposed to be in September, but postponed to the last week was to make sure that all students that would participate in the elections actually be students. That's why it would've happened in the last few weeks of September. If we did go forward with a date in October, the reading week would've taken a week away and we need a couple weeks to prepare. I would also love to give the university notice of what we are doing because the relationship between the university and CUSA is of the utmost importance. These are the reasons for why I would not be in favor of an October 31st deadline. It would be preferable if we postpone it for later on because elections cost money. I don't have a recommended date and would pass it on to the VP Internal as it is not my primary focus as VP Finance but if I were to suggest a time, it would be in November.

Pierce Burch: As councillor Scott asked how long it would take to plan the election, at this point, it's at least three weeks. We would also have to ratify the writ of this election and that would have to be approved by council which would happen at our next scheduled meeting. I don't even think it's possible to do it in October so at that point, they'll only be president for a few months since they'll have to go to election for the 2022-2023 school year. I'm a little disappointed and I know that I forgot myself but this should have been handled within this month and had a writ drawn up. The President's seat has been vacant since mid July? I just don't know when we could even have this, maybe the second week of November because we have to do so much first.

Ahmad Hashimi: I just want to motion if we can have this in-camera with only councillors in this call. I want to release some information from my side.

Motion to move in-camera

Moved: Ahmad Hashimi

Seconded: Pierce Burch

Tyson Scott: Why do we need to have this information not public?

Ahmad Hashimi: It's confidential information within CUSA. It's important to keep it confidential.

Tyson Scott: I'm also wondering what is confidential to the point where we can't let anyone know? Out of curiosity.

Ahmad Hashimi: You all had so many questions so allow me to answer them and the concerns you have that will help the by-election.



Callie Ogden: The following information will be public eventually but at the moment, it is a bit more sensitive. We want to let you all know what's going on. It will be brought to the student body eventually when everything is dealt with properly. In the meantime, it needs to be kept confidential and we are telling you because it majorly affects what we are trying to do now with the elections. Hopefully that eases it, it's not like we are trying to hide anything. It's confidential at the moment until it can be released properly.

Motion passed.

**Meeting moves in-camera.*



Ahmad Hashimi: We put up the posting for the DEO and CEO which was up for three weeks before we took it down since nobody applied. As you all know in my report, I've been talking about working on the Bylaws. I found an incorporation letter of CUSA Inc. where we incorporated ourselves with the government of Ontario. To give some background, we have CUSA Inc. and CUSA the Association. The CUSA Inc. is incorporated with the province of Ontario and the Association is not. I found this out a week and a half ago, from our lawyer. Whatever goes under the Association's Bylaw, it's useless since we are not incorporated as an association, therefore, it is not valid. That includes elections, clubs, committees, whatever. The only thing that is valid is our full time staff, the businesses, and nothing else. I found this by the incorporation letter of CUSA Inc. and read through it. I was also looking for other incorporation letters from other incorporations too. It was copied and pasted from Western University's corporation letter, not even a single word was different from it. That's from 1968 when this corporation letter was made. For the past 53 years, 318 executives have come into this position and have not solved this problem. We are not incorporated with the government. I found this out when I was trying to look at other Associations' incorporation letters. The Carleton and Western University ones are the exact same. The other universities had different ones as they incorporated before us so we copied and pasted from them. We did that but I don't know exactly who it was. Working on this, talking to the lawyer and prioritizing making this Association an Incorporation, trying to remove CUSA Inc. I don't even know why CUSA Inc. even existed in the first place, why they even made it. The people in CUSA Inc. are only three people who are in-charge of all the budget money. I want to change this as I don't want three people to be the only ones who can make decisions with the money of the students. I want the students to have a voice on this. That's another thing I'm working on. Our main goal should be to incorporate ourselves with the government. Otherwise, the Bylaws that we have are useless. I'm working on making new Bylaws. That's also why I want to have one-on-one meetings with the councillors so I can talk to you guys about what I'm trying to do and my ideas. I want to know your suggestions and input. That's why I keep encouraging you all to take one-on-one meetings with me. I want to know your input. Just so you guys know, we have not just been sitting in our seats trying to do the by-election. The truth is that we are not valid here as an Association. We are not an Association yet. That's the truth. I hope that clears it up but I'm sure you all have lots of

questions. I'm willing to answer them.

Emily Sowa: Why does it make a difference now? I understand that being incorporated is incredibly important now but we've been doing this for 53 years now. Why does it matter all of a sudden? This can be something that can be added to the new portfolio and carried on throughout the rest of the year. Why is this relevant to stop an election from happening when it has never stopped one in the last 53 years?

Ahmad Hashimi: Thank you for the question. I'm really ashamed of the past 318 executives who were in this position before me and did not make any changes. No one from CUSA should be proud of that. I was trying to change and fix our Bylaws so I kept digging. We spoke about this on the Democratic Reform Committee, about finding the head of the monster. We finally found the head of the monster which is the fact that we don't have a corporation. I'm trying to solve it but the past execs misused this position. For that reason, I'm not done and I will bring changes. We promised that as the team of Ravens United. I will make sure these changes happen.

Pierce Burch: We talked about CUSA Inc. being a problem in the Democratic Reform Committee. You guys are down an exec member, I'm not blaming you but you guys are down an exec member. You guys have a lot being pushed on your plate and haven't fully focused on this. How is getting CUSA Inc. first done the main priority? Can't we not elect the President first, get you guys more help to solve the CUSA Inc. problem? Can you explain it to me? I know it's three people who are in control but I don't see how this is a more pressing issue? Shouldn't we elect a President first and then tackle the CUSA Inc. problem?

Valentina Vera Gonzalez: There's a few things I need to say. Basically, elections go under CUSA the Association not CUSA Inc. If we were to hold elections, it would not be official because it is under CUSA the Association, which has essentially been nonexistent for the past 53 years. We said that we are not going to be like the past and do everything by the book. That's why the main focus is getting the Association with the government and then the election.



Pierce Burch: I understand, I got confused with the CUSA Inc. and the Association.

Valentina Vera Gonzalez: Basically, all the elections in the past 53 years have not been official. That's because CUSA the Association has not been registered with the government. We are trying to figure everything out before the election so we can do it by the books this time.

Ahmad Hashimi: Just so you all know, trust me, I'm not doing this to hold this position. I'm not doing that. I'm trying to be straight and make a clear path for the Association. That's what I've been working on. If you have any other questions, go ahead.

Emily Sowa: How long does it take to fix this? This is going to sound problematic but if every election has been invalid, can we not just have one more invalid one and then make it valid? What's the timeline look like? If we are all invalid, what is the point of having this meeting? I'm very confused on what we are actually allowed to do.

Ahmad Hashimi: I really wanted to cancel this meeting since I myself wondered why we are even having this but I didn't want to cancel this and have everyone confused as to why we didn't have a meeting. Essentially this meeting is unofficial. Whenever our council meetings would have CUSA the Association and CUSA Inc. meetings, the only valid part was the CUSA Inc. meetings. Nothing else was valid. As for the timeline, I am working with the lawyer and more than happy than to have to all join us by ccing you the emails and put you in the loop with whatever's happening. I'm not able to do it right away and fix it by tomorrow.

Emily Sowa: I'm really shocked.

Ahmad Hashimi: Me too. When Musab Chaudhry reached out about the by-election, to repost the CEO and DEO position, right before he reached out, I found out about the letter and told our Acting General Manager. She knows about this and that's why she replied to Musab that we have reached a dead end and are figuring it out.

Emily Sowa: We are just confused as to why we didn't find out about this earlier in the meeting? Was it even planned to be introduced in this meeting?

Ahmad Hashimi: This was not planned to be introduced in this meeting, to be honest with you. I was planning on introducing this in my one-on-ones with everyone. That's why I reached out to you all to schedule that meeting with me.

Emily Sowa: Just for clarification purposes, does that mean that you weren't even planning on having the by-election this semester since you weren't even planning on notifying us until the one-on-one meeting which takes place now until October.

Ahmad Hashimi: As I said, right before Musab Chaudhry reached out to us, on September 19th, that's when I found out. I have all the emails with the timestamps. Right before then, we were expecting to have something either at the end of this month or next month. We have to give at least a 3 week notice to Carleton itself.

Francesca Lepore: Would we be able to see these emails and be cc'd the emails? Can councillors have access to it to ensure transparency all around?

Ahmad Hashimi: A hundred percent, I can bcc everyone but I don't want everyone to reply back to those emails. I have all the emails and yes we can all see what the lawyer has said.

Valentina Vera Gonzalez: Ahmad was planning on meeting with each one of you to figure everything out before it goes out to the student body. It is just so confusing so we ask for your discretion.

Francesca Lepore: When are you planning on releasing this to the student body? Do you have any timeline?

Ahmad Hashimi: I really want to fix this issue before releasing this to the student body. I don't want anyone to keep talking about it while the problem has not been solved yet.



Callie Ogden: I just want to add on to that, I think it does also cause issues with the council that oversees all student unions. If this was to be released, this could possibly disband us as a union and it looks really bad as an Association. We're not trying to hide anything, just make sure the problem is fixed going forward and make sure everything happens by the book no matter who the next executive is. That's where we are at.

Tyson Scott: I would just like to know what the plan is moving forward? What is the timeline for how things will be done?

Ahmad Hashimi: Unfortunately, I don't have a perfect timeline right now but when I bcc you all with the lawyer, I'll see what the next step could be. As of right now to the student body, we can continue on as it is but we need to fix what's going on.

Gray Simms: I completely agree, we should continue operating the Association as the Association, but we absolutely have to tell people. If there is an oversight body, it will be far worse for CUSA if they find out two months down the road that we've been hiding the fact that we aren't incorporated to try and fix the problem internally. It would be better to tell the oversight body that we aren't incorporated, that it was a mistake, we only found out a week and a half ago and are doing what we can to fix it. That way they know what's happening and if they need to take over they can.

Tyson Scott: I think that if no one has found out in 53 years, we can risk two months. I'm a gambling man myself.

Gray Simms: Yes but now we know about it. For 53 years we didn't know about it.

Ahmad Hashimi: I agree with councillor Scott. We should keep it to ourselves until we fix it rather than confuse the students and expose it for no reason.

Tyson Scott: I think the panic of the students trying to figure out what this all means and whatever further implications it would have afterwards and the chain reactions that might ground us and cause us problems. That would be the worst case scenario for us and the whole university.



Gray Simms: If I may interject, I've been hypothetically chatting with a cousin of mine who worked as the corporate officer for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, and I did mention the situation to her since I thought her advice would be useful. She told me to fix it but not hide it. That comes from a woman who spent 30-40 years in the public sector working for governments, working for associations, at extremely high levels. Personally, I think we should heed my cousin's advice on this.

Ahmad Hashimi: Can you give me some time to think about this and get back to you so I can figure out next steps. I cannot think right now about this without thinking about how it could affect us in the future. Could you give me at least a day or two to think about this and get back to you? This way we can also talk to our lawyer.

Callie Ogden: I'm going to propose putting out the posting for CEO and DEO by the end of the week and propose a date to meet back in 15 days so we can further discuss this. In the meantime, it will allow Ahmad to talk more with the lawyer and discuss possible ways and find out when we can move forward with the elections. We can also take this time to continue to move forward with the by-election as well, that way the election process has started.

Tyson Scott: I second that reasoning.

Saad Khan: I do think we should at least disclose what is happening in the next few days or weeks. Students already distrust CUSA and they are starting to, so students will not trust CUSA anymore.

Callie Ogden: I do agree with you on that Saad, we do have every intention to let students know but I think we should have a couple days to talk with the lawyer so we can have their input. We can also ask them about potentially moving forward as an unincorporated Association. I think that by the end of the next week we should be able to have an answer.



Valentina Vera Gonzalez: Of course we need to disclose this to the student body, but we should also wait. We don't know our next steps so it would be reckless if we don't know how to answer the questions that students may have. I don't think it's smart to rush this for the sake of rushing this without having a proper plan.

Tyson Scott: I agree with that.

Ahmad Hashimi: Please book a one-on-one with me. Hear the proposal I have so we can have a great chat and talk things through.

Jordan Vecchio: I just have a question because I remember hearing that previous election results were brought to the Ontario Supreme Court. Doesn't that mean that they would know that the Association is unincorporated? I don't understand.

Saad Khan: I can add to that, in 2016 there was an election issue with a student who got elected as VP Student Issues but he was disqualified and sued CUSA. The Ontario Supreme Court said that CUSA Inc. and CUSA the Association are the same.

Ahmad Hashimi: If you look at the corporation letter, it says that only CUSA Inc. is valid. I'm more than happy to send you all the email. The corporation letter only happens once and since we have two different parties, CUSA Inc. and CUSA the Association, they have their own Bylaws.

Tyson Scott: But if some court deemed it to be the same, wouldn't that overrule what was the previous precedent.

Ahmad Hashimi: I'm not a lawyer, maybe you guys are right. I don't know, I'm trusting what the lawyer said.

Tyson Scott: I think we should give you the time to talk to the lawyer and bring additional facts to the table and have another meeting in 15 minutes.



Ahmad Hashimi: I'll see if we can have a council meeting on October 14th. I'll send the emails to all of you. If there are a lot of updates then we can have the council meeting mid october and talk things through.

Tyson Scott: Sounds fair to me.

Gray Simms: Can I just ask a question? If I get this correct, CUSA Incorporated, the business side is incorporated but the Association is unincorporated, but doesn't actually have any reason to be incorporated? If the lawyers were arguing in 2016 that we were unincorporated, surely then there's no reason for us to be incorporated?

Ahmad Hashimi: It doesn't make sense to me as to why we have two separate things, an association and the incorporation?

Tyson Scott: Going back to our original conversation, I would implore everyone to familiarize themselves with the budget since we did postpone it. I would like to pass it at the next meeting. The VP Finance has her inbox open. It's in our best interest to be ready to vote since there is no excuse now.

**Meeting moves out of the in-camera session.*

15. Adjournment

MOVED: Tyson Scott

SECONDED: Valentina Vera Gonzalez

Motion passes.

**Meeting is adjourned at 9:03 pm.*