CUSA Council acknowledges and respects the Algonquin people, on whose traditional territory the Carleton University Students' Association is located.

AGENDA OF THE

9th Regular (FEBRUARY) Meeting

OF THE

2025/2026 CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

23rd February 2025 at 6:00 pm, 608 Pigiarvik & Online

Prepared by:
Governance and Council Operations Committee

carleton university students' association

ATTENDANCE RECORD:

Position	Member	Signature
President	Sean Joe-Ezigbo	Present
Vice President Finance	*Om Maradia*	Present
Vice President Internal	*Jahnelle Woldegiorgis*	Present
Vice President Student Issues	*Aidan Kallioinen*	Present
Vice President Student Life	*Cass Geddes*	Absent
Speaker	Amy Kopytskiy	Present
Deputy Speaker	Withchelie Louima	Present
Public Affairs (7)	Yasmine Abdulla	Proxy via M. Heroux
	Nifemi Boamah	Present
	Olivia Hainsworth	Present
	Aditri Janapatla	Present
	Elissa Gee	Proxy via W. Louima
	Maxwell Heroux	Present
	Chloe Tran	Absent
FASS (8)	Mohamad Adel El Fitori	Present
	Withchelie Louima	Present
	Gerardo Maldonado-Jimenez	Absent
	Brooke Muzzatti	Absent
	Maya Shaban	Absent
	Cherry Zhang	Present
	Ana Jankowski	Absent
	Vacant	N/A

Business (3)	*Vacant*	N/A
	Vacant	N/A
	Vacant	N/A
Science (6)	Ramla Ahmed	Absent
	Mariem El Domiaty	Present
	Reyna Itani	Absent
	Godchosen Ojediran	Absent
	Rosalie Meunier	Proxy via O. Hainsworth
	Maheeshan Sivanesan	Present
Engineering and Design (7)	*Vacant*	N/A
	Amy Kopytskiy	Present
	Viveca Matida-Torrico	Proxy via A. Bhullar
	Boothaina Sheltami	Present
	Aryan Singh	Absent
	Amani Kaur Bhullar	Absent
	Vacant	N/A
Special Student (1)	*Vacant*	N/A
BOG	*Julie Armstrong*	Absent
	Allan Buri	Absent
GSA	*Vacant*	N/A
RRRA	Alexis Agyei-Gyamera	Absent
CASG	Alison Kocsis	Present

*Non-voting members in *Italics*.

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AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Past Minutes
4. Executive Reports
5. External Reports
6. Council Reports
7. Announcements and Correspondence
    a. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
    b. Items for Information
    c. Notice of Motion
    d. Question Period
8. Regular Business
    a. New Business
        i. (C-108) Motion On OSAP/University Funding Changes
        ii. (C-109) Motion to Amend Clubs Policy – Reclassification of "Autonomous" Clubs
        iii. (C-110) Motion on Student Initiative Fund (SIF) Application Compliance
        iv. (C-111) Motion to Amend the Policy on Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Prevention (E-01)
9. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Before we address the regular business of this meeting, I'd like to acknowledge that we are today gathered on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe, lands never ceded or surrendered in peace to the Crown of Canada. Indigenous peoples living under the modern colonial state of Canada have suffered disproportionate injustice and marginalization. A mere land acknowledgement is not enough to make reconciliation and reparation to the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. We must stand in solidarity against colonialism and remember our responsibility to the land and the peoples who have kept it for generations—which means affirming their call for the free and unencumbered return to their ancestral land. It is also fitting, for this body of lawmakers, to remember the spirit and wisdom of Indigenous governance models—from the collaborative bicameralism of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the consensus-based government of the Inuit—to deliver to students a better student union.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:18 p.m.

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2. Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved, that the agenda be approved as presented to Council, notwithstanding s. 18 of the Council Rules of Order.

Moved: R. Itani **Seconded:** M. El Domiaty

Amendment - Add Motion to Amend [Policy E-01]
Moved: S. Joe-Ezigbo **Seconded**: R. Itani
Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

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3. Approval of Past Minutes

a. Eighth Regular Meeting (January 26)

Be it resolved, that the minutes of the January 26th meeting of Council be approved.

Moved: S. Joe-Ezigbo **Seconded:** M. El Domiaty

Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

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4. Executive Reports

Sean Joe Ezigbo – President/CEO

1. Key Priorities & Goals: Updates on Progress Toward Major Priorities
❖ Priority: #1
- Creating sublicensing agreements to be distributed to levy and non-levy groups to ensure proper utilization of CUSA spaces on campus
❖ Priority: #2
- Creating and implementing an Mou to be used as a means of ensuring levy groups work in alignment to their mandate accepted by the student body

❖ Priority #3
- Budget Finalization to be presented at FFFC & Council by VPF

❖ Priority #4
- Exploring the possibility of enrolling students that enroll in the winter and students that take 1.5 credits into Alumo insurance package

❖ Priority: #5
- VPF hiring & Finalization of transition planning

2. Highlights & Wins: Notable Successes Since the Last Report
❖ Win/Highlight 1
- Successfully worked on and implemented succession planning with the board
❖ Win/Highlight #2
- Hired, trained and onboarded new members to the board & filled all necessary committees
❖ Win/Highlight #3
- Appeals policy passed at council

3. Challenges & Barriers: Key Issues and How They Are Being Addressed
❖ Challenges/Barriers #1

4. Action Items & Next Steps: Planned Actions and Timelines Before the Next Report
● Set meeting with Levy groups to implement MOU's & contracts
● Set meeting with jeremy to implement insurance changes

5. Requests from Council: Input, Support, or Feedback Needed
➢ None at the moment

Jahnelle Woldegiorgis – Vice President Internal

Key Priorities & Goals: Updates on Progress Toward Major Priorities
❖ Updating the website policies and agenda
❖ SIF Applications
❖ Incoming executive training materials
❖ Third phases of clubs funding application review
❖ Working on documentation filing

Highlights & Wins: Notable Successes Since the Last Report
❖ Website is updated with policies and agendas
❖ Third phases funding application open and closed

Challenges & Barriers: Key Issues and How They Are Being Addressed
❖ Trying to look through VPI drive to organize agendas, policies & procedure

Action Items & Next Steps: Planned Actions and Timelines Before the Next Report
❖ Countine working on incoming executive training, clubs funding & reform, documentation system

Requests from Council: Input, Support, or Feedback Needed
❖ Not at this time

Aidan Kallioinen – Vice President Student Issues

Key Priorities & Goals:

- Continued tabling for our ongoing Vacancy Controls petition, working with community partners and Service Centres to distribute, plenty of great conversations with students about rent control
- Met with Bruce at FMP to discuss permanent braille signage from the university, committee updates from Dedicated Access Fund
- Attended Nightlife Council Meeting
- Met with club leaders at SASA to discuss a March Thrift Event
- Think Tank Meeting to finalize Advocacy Roadmap overview and present draft
- Met with UOSU representatives to discuss ongoing collaborations
- Met with Garvi at Wellness to discuss peer support programming
- Met with Comms to discuss Feb/Mar initiatives
- Continued collaboration with the Divestment Subcommittee to distribute our petition
- Met with Horizon Ottawa to finalize planning for our Mobilization Workshop (tomorrow!)
- Met with Ottawa Health Coalition members to finalize our panel event (next week!)
- Met with uOttawa Legal Clinic on an upcoming information session about ending your residential tenancy
- Met with HOUSE Canada representatives to continue collaboration on student housing projects
- Continued media appearances and interviews around the provincial government's recent changes to OSAP and tuition
- Finalized our Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign, which will feature display boards in our Wing space, to be launched as soon as possible
- Fundraiser beginning this week in collaboration with the Ottawa Mission, winter essentials and monetary donations will be taken until April 6

Highlights and Wins:
● CUSA's Wellness Centre collaborated with Iranian students to host a peer support session at the centre, tailored to navigating the ongoing protests. It was well-received and well-attended!
● Our Rent Control petition is at well over 200 signatures and growing! Thank you for the support!
Challenges and Barriers:
● Genuinely lagging behind on Accessibility Fund items, working to make that a priority in March

Action Items and Next Steps:
● Ongoing work on a response plan re: OSAP changes and the end of the domestic tuition freeze, met with UAC to approve a proposed statement, planning events and engagement in March
○ Meeting this Saturday with Student Mobilization Committee and UOSU, planning an eventual rally

Requests from Council:
● Thank you to members of our Divestment Subcommittee for your tremendous work on distributing and promoting the divestment petition
Office Hours Attendance for February: 10

Om Maradia – Vice President Finance/Treasurer

1. Key Priorities & Goals: Updates on Progress Toward Major Priorities

Financial Oversight & Transparency

The focus in the month of February was working on next year's budget. Will be meeting with the budget holders on Feb 23 rd and Feb 24 th to finalize the consolidated CUSA budget. Next steps would involve meeting with the board and FFFC to get their approval before it is presented to the council. Currently aiming

AMM-1 for budget 26/27 presentation. In case there's any feedback/delay in approval of the draft budget, will likely be presented during AMM-2.

Student Discount Card Expansion

We have now successfully onboarded 90 businesses across 110+ locations — a major milestone this year. I continue to monitor the program, manage inquiries, and collaborate with the Communications team, VPSL, and content creators to maintain strong visibility and outreach. No major updates since last report aside from managing inquiries/feedback from partners and content creation from Chonk Nation. We added a new business: La Crystal Nail Studio and had to remove Khokha Eatery (due to change in ownership).

Generating Additional Revenue

I continue to work with the President, and Executive Director to lease underutilized CUSA spaces and create sustainable revenue streams. However, we are still in the process of identifying viable tenants. This remains a challenge, as it has been difficult to find organizations willing to lease space under current university constraints. Currently in contact with an interested party and will be meeting them on January 27 th to discuss potential options. No major update since last report, the interest party needs over 1000sq.ft area for their operations. Currently, we do not have any available space over 600+ sq. Ft.

2. Highlights & Wins: Notable Successes Since the Last Report

NA

3. Challenges & Barriers: Key Issues and How They Are Being Addressed

Wing Space Vendor Access External vendors interested in using the Wing space must go through a lengthy university approval process. Despite the space being managed by CUSA, vendors are often denied due to potential conflicts with the university's existing partnerships. The university committee responsible for approvals meets only once per month, so missed deadlines often delay progress by weeks. No major updates as we haven't been in contact lately due to other work commitments (this isn't a priority as of right now).

4. Action Items & Next Steps: Planned Actions and Timelines Before the Next Report

Will be meeting with each budget holder for Budget 26/27. Meeting with the board and FFFC to approve the budget 26/27 before it is presented to the council during AMM-1 or AMM-2.

5. Requests from Council: Input, Support, or Feedback Needed

Nothing at the moment.

Note: This report highlights only the most pressing and strategic goals and activities. A significant amount of internal and administrative work continues on a daily basis.

Thank you,

Om Maradia

Cass Geddes – Vice President Student Life

✅ Key Priorities & Goals: Updates on Progress Toward Major Priorities

- Planned, coordinated, and supported extensive Black History Month programming, working closely with service centres, student groups, and campus partners.
- Led ongoing planning and development of the Black Excellence Gala, including logistics, partnerships, budgeting, and programming direction.
- Onboarded new volunteers and continued supporting team members across the VPSL portfolio.
- Created and coordinated content to promote events, initiatives, and student engagement.
- Began strategic planning for the remainder of the academic year, including end-of-year programming and portfolio transitions.
- Continued collaboration with various departments and student groups to support their events, initiatives, and operational needs.

- Worked on next steps and implementation planning for council-submitted motions related to Student Support Pathways and student-facing resources.
- Met with students interested in the VPSL role to answer questions and provide transparency on responsibilities and expectations.
- Remained consistently available to support and speak with anyone interested in student leadership or portfolio initiatives.

🌟 **Highlights & Wins: Notable Successes Since the Last Report**

- Successful execution and strong engagement across multiple Black History Month events and initiatives.
- Significant progress made on planning and coordinating the upcoming Black Excellence Gala.
- Effective onboarding of new volunteers and continued strengthening of team capacity.
- Increased collaboration across service centres, departments, and student groups.
- Continued visibility and accessibility of the VPSL role through open communication with students and candidates.
- Strong content output and promotion supporting engagement and awareness of events and services.

⚠️ **Challenges & Barriers: Key Issues and How They Are Being Addressed**

- High volume of events and planning requirements during Black History Month created capacity and scheduling pressures.
    - Addressed through delegation, prioritization, and increased coordination with teams and partners.
- Balancing ongoing programming with long-term planning for the remainder of the year.
    - Addressed by beginning early strategic mapping and distributing planning across timelines.
- Coordinating across multiple departments and stakeholders for large-scale initiatives (e.g., Gala and student support pathways).

- Ongoing communication and structured planning meetings to maintain alignment.

📅 **Action Items & Next Steps: Planned Actions and Timelines Before the Next Report**

- Finalize logistics and execution plans for the Black Excellence Gala.
- Continue implementing and refining Black History Month programming and wrap-up initiatives.
- Advance development of Student Support Pathways resources and related motions.
- Continue onboarding and supporting volunteers and team members.
- Further develop programming and engagement plans for the remainder of the academic year.
- Maintain collaboration with service centres, departments, and student groups on upcoming initiatives.
- Continue supporting VPSL transition and providing information to interested candidates.

🙋 **Requests from Council: Input, Support, or Feedback Needed**

5. Continued council support and attendance at Black History Month initiatives and the Black Excellence Gala.
6. Ongoing feedback and engagement on Student Support Pathways development and implementation.
7. Encouragement of student engagement with VPSL initiatives and upcoming programming.

8. External Reports

a. RRRA – Rideau River Residence Association
b. CASG – Carleton Academic Student Government
c. GSA – Graduate Students' Association
d. Senate
e. BOG – Board of Governors

9. Council Reports

a. Constituency Reports

i. FPGA - Public and Global Affairs
ii. FASS – Arts and Social Sciences
iii. Business
iv. Science
v. FED – Engineering and Design

b. Committee Reports
   i. GCOC – Governance and Council Operations
      - Twelfth Meeting, Thirteenth Meeting
   ii. FFFC – Finance, Fees, and Funds
   iii. UAC – University Affairs
   iv. SLC – Student Life
   v. EAC – External Affairs
   vi. PRC – Policy Review

10. Announcements and Correspondence

a. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
b. Items for Information
   i. Update from the Board Chair
c. Notice of Motion
d. Question Period
   i. **Motion to Move to a Committee of the Whole**
      Be it resolved, that Council moves to a Committee of the Whole.
      Moved: S. Joe-Ezigbo **Seconded:** M. Heroux

      Assumed Unanimous Consent.
      Motion Carried Unanimously.

      Question Period Entered at 6:42 p.m.
      Question Period Exited at 6:43 p.m.

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11. Regular Business

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a. New Business

(C-108) Motion On OSAP/University Funding Changes

Whereas, Ontario has one of the highest tuition fees in Canada and the lowest per student funding;

And whereas, the Government of Ontario has ended the tuition freeze, which will allow post secondary institutions to raise costs by 2% annually;

And whereas removing the interest-free six-month grace period means students will end up paying more, and are pressured to pay their loans even before finding a job or starting a career;

And whereas, recent changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) have resulted in reduced grant funding and increased reliance on loans, leading to higher student debt burdens;

***Be it resolved**,* that CUSA release a public statement outlining these changes and their potential impact on students, and encouraging students to stay informed and engaged;

Be it further resolved, that CUSA formally endorse the protest organized by the University of Ottawa Students' Union (UOSU) in response to these funding changes;

***Be it further resolved**,* that CUSA stands in solidarity with students across Ontario advocating for affordable and accessible post-secondary education.

Be it further resolved**,** that CUSA promote opportunities for student engagement and civic participation by encouraging students to sign petitions opposing cuts to OSAP and advocating for increased post-secondary funding, including:

1. E-7090 MP Leah Gazan: restore funding to the Canada Student Financial Assistance program

2. MPP Teresa Armstrong Petition to Stop Cuts to OSAP

Moved: M. Heroux **Seconded**: S. Joe-Ezigbo

Motion to Waive Reading
Moved: S. Joe-Ezigbo **Seconded**: M. Meroux
Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

(C-109) Motion to Amend Clubs Policy – Reclassification of "Autonomous" Clubs

Whereas the current classification of "Autonomous Clubs" suggests that clubs under this designation are fully independent from Clubs Policy and the expectations that apply to all other recognized clubs; and

Whereas this terminology may create confusion or concern regarding institutional oversight, compliance requirements, and insurance coverage; and

Whereas all recognized clubs, regardless of classification, are expected to adhere to all applicable Clubs Policies and institutional regulations;

Be It Resolved that Council adopts an amendment to the Clubs Policy to change the classification title from "Autonomous Clubs" to "Self-Sufficient Clubs"; and

Be It Further Resolved that this amendment be reflected in Sections 2.6, 2.6.2, and 13 of the Clubs Policy; and

Be It Further Resolved that any reference to "Autonomous" within any Club or organizational policy be interpreted and amended to read "Self-Sufficient," with the understanding that such clubs remain subject to and must adhere to all applicable Clubs Policies and institutional requirements.

Moved: M. Heroux **Seconded**: S. Joe-Ezigbo

Motion to Waive Reading
Moved: A. Kopytskiy **Seconded**: S. Joe-Ezigbo
Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

(C-110) Motion on Student Initiative Fund (SIF) Application Compliance

Whereas, the Student Initiative Fund (SIF) provides students with the opportunity to receive funding for participation in development opportunities that enhance their on-campus leadership abilities; and

Whereas, the SIF Committee has been reviewing submitted applications and has encountered a applications that did not utilize the standard budget breakdown sheet required as part of the application process; and

Whereas, the Committee has previously exercised flexibility in reviewing and granting funding to applications that did not follow the standard budget breakdown format; and

Whereas, applications that are inconsistent with the required format and/or fail to provide all required information make it difficult to fairly assess requests, validate costs and expenses, and ensure equitable decision-making; and

Whereas, such inconsistencies create additional administrative workload for the Vice President Internal (VPI) and the SIF Committee;

Be It Resolved, that Council authorizes the SIF Committee the right to refuse any application that does not fully comply with the outlined templates and/or is missing required information as indicated in the official SIF application materials; and

Be It Further Resolved, that applicants whose submissions are refused for non-compliance may submit a revised application, provided it is completed correctly and adheres to the applicable application timelines outlined in the SIF Policy; and

Be It Further Resolved That, this motion shall take effect immediately upon adoption

Moved: S. Joe-Ezigbo **Seconded**: R. Itani

Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

(C-111) Motion to Amend the Policy on Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Prevention (E-01)

Whereas, the current Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Prevention Policy (E-01) includes Appendix A: Specific Acts of Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence;

And whereas, Appendix A uses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and defines it as: "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." Contemporary examples of antisemitism include:

- "calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or
- an extremist view of religion", "accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing

- or exaggerating the Holocaust", and "holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel;"

And whereas, the IHRA working definition has been criticized by academics and students worldwide, and has been extensively used to silence or censor academics, students and human rights activists;

And whereas, Jewish organizations, including Independent Jewish Voices Canada, the Jewish Faculty Network, and the United Jewish People's Order have rejected the usage of IHRA;

And whereas, hundreds of Canadian Jewish professors signed a petition against the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, including several Carleton University faculty members;

And whereas, the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Association of University Teachers have both passed motions against the application of the IHRA working definition at Canadian universities and colleges;

- Canadian Association of University Teachers, "Motions from the 91st CAUT Council Meeting," November 26, 2021.
- Jewish Faculty Network, "Jewish Faculty against IHRA," May 2021.
- Independent Jewish Voices Canada, Jewish Faculty Network, and United Jewish People's Order, "Canada's IHRA Handbook Threatens Both Palestinians and Jews," October 31, 2024.
- Rowan Gaudet, "IHRA Definition at Work" (Independent Jewish Voices Canada, March 4, 2022).
- Natasha Tusikov and Blayne Haggart, "Canadian Universities and Faculty Must Continue to Push Back against the Speech-Stifling IHRA Antisemitism Working Definition," Centre for Free Expression, 2024.

And whereas, Kenneth Stern, a lead drafter of the IHRA definition, has become a critic of its application, arguing it is being "weaponized" to suppress campus speech and academic freedom. He further states that the working definition equates anti-zionism with antisemitism;

And whereas, CUSA accredits several student groups that have stated they are anti-zionist, including Independent Jewish Voices, Students for Justice in Palestine, and the Carleton University Human Rights Society;

And whereas, the Independent Jewish Voices definition of antisemitism has been endorsed by the Canadian Federation of Students:

> "*Antisemitism is racism, hostility, prejudice, vilification, discrimination or violence, including hate crimes, directed against Jews, as individuals, groups or as a collective – because they are Jews. Its expression includes attributing to Jews, as a group, characteristics or behaviours that are perceived as dangerous, harmful, frightening or threatening to non-Jews.*"

Be it resolved, that CUSA remove mention of the IHRA working definition from Policy E-01, and replace it with the Independent Jewish Voices working definition;

Be it resolved, that CUSA publish the two IJV-CFS graphics on social media, announcing the endorsement of the IJV working definition.

Moved: M. El Fitori **Seconded**: M. Sivanesan

Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

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12. Adjournment

a. Motion to Adjourn to a Specific Time

Be it resolved, that Council adjourns until 6:00 p.m. on March 2nd 2026, and that this shall constitute for the purposes of the Act and our Bylaws, prior notice.

Moved: M. Heroux **Seconded**: A. Janapatla

Assumed Unanimous Consent.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 p.m.