CUSA Constitutional and Policy Review Committee Meeting

June 15th, 2015

Attendance
Sofia Dala
Taryn Ashdown
Sebastian Srugo
Erin Hemm
Shawn Humfrey

1. Introduction
2. Chair and Clerk
   - Taryn - Chair
   - Erin - Secretary
3. Carleton University Students' Association Mission Statement

The executives decided during the summer retreat that the CUSA mission statement should to be updated from:

ARTICLE II - AIMS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mission of the Organization

The Carleton University Students’ Association is a democratically elected body, whose mission is to provide services to the undergraduate students of Carleton University and to effectively represent the undergraduate students before the University’s administration, the community, and public officials.

Vision of the Organization

To support an undergraduate community where undergraduate students are able to pursue academic excellence and personal growth, and to enrich the experience of undergraduate students with a positive educational, social and cultural environment while attending Carleton University.

Values of the Organization

1. We respect that undergraduates are the owners of the Association and the primary reason for our existence.
2. We will work to involve undergraduate students in extracurricular activities that enhance the quality of their Carleton experience, and which help them develop skills that will aid them in their future endeavours.
3. We seek protection of intellectual freedom and an environment conducive to student discussion on all issues.
4. We will promote and assist in maintaining an environment that protects and promotes the safety and dignity of every person on campus.
5. We seek to have an environmentally conscious campus.
6. We will strive to promote equity in all aspects of campus life.
7. We will strive for innovation and continuous improvement in all that we do to increase the level of service offered to undergraduate students.
8. We will monitor our efforts and use evidence of results to guide our processes of continuous improvement.
9. We will have an Association that is transparent, communicative, and responsive with sound financial management.
10. We will utilize all communication resources available to efficiently disperse and receive information.
To:

Mission of the Association

To effectively represent and advocate on behalf of undergraduate students before the University administration, community organizations and the public.

The Carleton University Students’ Association is committed to a community in which all members belong and are inspired through leadership and innovation, in the pursuit of personal growth.

Values of the Association

1. SERVICE - We will facilitate the various ambitions of our members through diverse and innovative services.
2. ACCOUNTABILITY - We will provide value to our members through transparent and sound financial management.
3. DEVELOPMENT - We will facilitate and support involvement and personal development opportunities that enhance the quality of our members’ Carleton experience.
4. DIVERSITY - We will strive to facilitate the diverse representation and perspectives of our members in all aspects of campus life.
5. COMMUNITY - We will promote and assist in maintaining an environment that protects and promotes the safety and dignity of every person on campus.

This revised Mission Statement will be brought before council on June 16th, 2015.

4. CUSA Live Policies (7.0)

The executives of 2012-2013 had envisioned an app that connected the students and functioned as an easy tool to utilize CUSA’s services as well as work as a social media platform. Unfortunately this was not successful. Last year’s executives did not see the need for it and decided not to pursue it, and this year the executives feel it is unnecessary and would like to remove it entirely from the policy manual. With eliminating CUSA live, the ASL interpreters will be a service that will still continue to be provided.

It costs CUSA roughly $10,000 to maintain the service of this app, and the executive has deemed this an unnecessary cost for the council. Only 100 people have downloaded this app, and it's only available on android.

5. CUSA Inc. Constitution

Has not been updated since 1969.
CUSA will be getting a lawyer to review this document. Once a lawyer has reviewed the constitution, it will be presented to the Constitutional and Policy Review Committee, and then to council to be passed.

6. Adjournment

7:19 pm
Constitution and Policy Review Committee  
July 13th  
UC 513  
5:00pm

Agenda

Attendance:

Council
Sofia Dala – Vice President Internal  
Taryn Ashdown (Chair) – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Erin Hemm (Secretary) – Faculty of Engineering and Design  
Sebastian Srugo – Faculty of Science  
Brett Parnell – Faculty of Public Affairs  
Peter Russell - Journalism  
Kevin Nguyen – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Member at Large
Melissa Torrado – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Haseena Hakeemi – Public Affairs and Policy Management

Called to Order:  
5:05 pm

1. By Law Changes  
CUSA Clubs and Societies Fund (previously Financial Assistance Committee for Clubs and Societies)  
Sofia: Did a lot of research through other schools and other funding opportunities, and the following changes were made during this meeting:

- Clarified the semester funding maximum

The following was amended prior to the meeting and presented to the committee:

- Renamed
- Added a purpose
- Reorganized and reformatted
- Added a councilor representative to the committee

See Appendix for amended document.

2. Go over council reform  
Vice President Internal is in the process of procuring updated enrollment numbers from the faculty to reevaluate the seats on council to best represent the departmental proportions on council. The total number of seats will remain constant (26) but the allocation of departmental seats is to be analyzed and distributed accordingly.

3. Delegate tasks amongst committee  
Brett will analyze the new enrollment numbers

Adjournment:  
5:42 pm
APPENDIX

By Law X – CUSA Clubs and Societies Fund FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE FOR CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

4.0 Financial Assistance Committee for Clubs and Societies (FACCS)

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The CUSA Clubs and Societies Fund assists Clubs & Societies with financial support that will contribute to their short and long term goals to ensure they run efficiently and effectively at Carleton University and furthermore, to encourage students active involvement on campus.

2.0 Criteria

2.1 All registered CUSA Clubs and Societies are eligible to apply for the fund. The committee has the power to deny applications to those Clubs and Societies with bad record.

a. The C&S Fund will prioritize events that are open to all members of the Association and that are focused on engaging the Carleton community as a whole.

b. C&S fund will examine all applications on a case-by-case basis, but the goal is to allocate funding fairly among all Clubs and Societies.

c. Clubs and Societies can only apply for funding once a year. Funding will be allocated on a per annum basis except where a Club or Society has become certified in the Winter Term.

d. The C&S Fund may grant up to $1,100.00 to Clubs and Societies per term.

f. The C&S Fund may grant $250 in funding to new Clubs and Societies at their discretion, to the exclusion of any other C&S funding.

g. All Clubs and Societies wishing to apply are required to fill out the application form available in the CUSA website and provide all the requested information.

h. The C&S Fund will not fund the purchase of alcohol.

3.0 CUSA Clubs and Societies Fund Committee

3.14 The C&S Fund Committee FACCS shall consist of the following voting members:

a. The CUSA Vice President Internal;

b. The CUSA Vice President Finance;

c. Clubs & Societies Commissioners

d. 1 CUSA Councillor

A-Clubs & Societies Commissioners;

b. The CUSA Vice President Internal;

c. The CUSA Vice President Finance;
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d. Six (6) delegates: two (2) Clubs and two (2) Societies, elected at the fall introduction Meeting. The Clubs or Societies that receive the highest number of votes, following the first four (4) delegates shall fill the remaining (2) seats. Each delegate shall hold one vote.

3.24.2 The C&S Fund committee FACCS shall be empowered to:

a. Request any financial information from a Club or Society requesting money.

b. Inquire about anything relevant to the funding request before the C&S fund.

c. Order the return of any funding allocation that has been used for prohibited, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate use; and/or order a hold or shut down a club bank account; in keeping with the principals of equal treatment and institutional fairness. These may be appealed to the Constitutional Board.

4.0 The C&S Fund shall meet:

a. Once in the Fall Term to consider yearly funding applications for all certified Clubs and Societies.

b. Once in the Winter Term to consider the funding applications for any Clubs or Societies who did not apply in the fall term.

4.1 Quorum for the C&S fund shall be five (5) committee members

a. Request any financial information from a Club or Society requesting money.

b. Inquire about anything relevant to the funding request before FACCS.

c. Order the return of any funding allocation that has been used for prohibited, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate use; and/or order a hold or shut down a club bank account; in keeping with the principals of equal treatment and institutional fairness. These may be appealed to the Constitutional Board.

d. Grant money upon majority vote of all the voting members of FACCS who are present.

1.3 FACCS shall meet:

a. Once in the Fall Term to consider yearly funding applications for all certified Clubs and Societies.

b. Once in the Winter Term to consider only the funding applications for any Clubs or Societies who were certified during the Winter Term.

1.4 Quorum for FACCS shall be five (5) committee members

1.5 Public notice shall be required for all meetings of FACCS.

52.0 Application FACCS Procedure

52.1 To receive funding, Clubs and Societies shall be required to provide in electronic form available in the CUSA website:

a. A full and complete budget, exception applies for new Clubs and Societies requesting $250;

b. For recertified Clubs and Societies a ledger must be submitted at year-end.

c. For new and recertified Clubs and Societies a membership list
d. Complete answer to every single question in the application

To receive funding, Clubs and Societies shall be required to provide in electronic form:

a. A full and complete budget;

b. A complete record of expenditures;

c. For recertified Clubs and Societies a financial and membership report at year-end.

d. For new Clubs and Societies a membership list.

2.2 Applications to be heard at a meeting of FACCS must be received by the Clubs and Societies Commissioners and the Vice President Internal in electronic form by the deadline set.

2.3 Grants to an individual Club or Society shall not exceed $2200.00 for the combined fall and winter semesters.

63.0 Financial Review

63.1 A financial review can be performed on any Club or Society by recommendation of C&S Fund committee. Supported by three (3) members of the C&S Fund Committee.

6.2 It is the responsibility of the Clubs and Societies Office to conduct the financial review in cooperation with the Vice President Finance and the Vice President Internal.

A financial review can be performed on any Club or Society by recommendation of FACCS.

3.2 A recommendation for financial review must be supported by three (3) members of FACCS. There is no requirement to vote.

3.3 It is the responsibility of the Clubs and Societies Office to conduct the financial review in cooperation with Vice President Finance and the Vice President Internal.

74.0 FACCS-Feedback

74.1 Any Club or Society may request to see the notes made by C&S fundFACCS regarding their specific funding application. The Clubs and Societies Commissioner’s shall provide these notes upon request.

85.0 Asset Registry

85.1 All Clubs and Societies that purchase permanent assets (as deemed so by C&S Fund) exceeding $100 must register them with the Clubs and Societies office by way of electronic communication.

8.2 These assets must be passed from outgoing executive to incoming executive. In the event that the Club or Society ceases to exist, then the Club or Society must relinquish all registered assets to the Clubs and Societies Office.

All Clubs and Societies that purchase permanent assets (as deemed so by FACCS) exceeding $100 must register them with the Clubs and Societies office by way of electronic communication.

5.2 These assets must be passed from outgoing executive to incoming executive. In the event that the Club or Society ceases to exist, then the Club or Society must relinquish all registered assets to the Clubs and Societies Office.
The Club or Society must include at least two quotes for the assets that they wish to purchase in electronic form at the time of their presentation to the FACCS Board.

96.0 Funding Guidelines Policies

96.1 Under the discretion of the C&S fund committee the following items can be funded: advertising, apparel, equipment rentals, guest speakers, food, refreshments, supplies, travel, venue, and other miscellaneous funds.

9.2 The C&S Fund will regard advantageous those applications with the following aspects:

a. Clubs and Societies who implement membership fee to their Club or Society.

b. All attached budgets must provide detailed explanation.

c. All questions on the application form must be answered.

d. The application must be clear about how the funds will be used.

Purpose

a. FACCS will prioritize events that are open to all members of the Association and that are focused on engaging the Carleton community as a whole.

b. The FACCS may examine all applications on a case-by-case basis, but the goal is to allocate funding fairly among all Clubs and Societies.

c. Funding will be allocated on a per annum basis except where a Club or Society has become certified in the Winter Term.

d. It is not the jurisdiction of FACCS to determine funding based on the nature of the event with regards to CUSA’s discrimination policy or safe space requirements.

e. FACCS will highly consider Clubs and Societies who implement membership fee to their Club or Society.

f. FACCS shall only fund Clubs and Societies whose operating budgets will run a deficit without a FACCS grant. The amount of funding granted shall not exceed 75% of the Club or Society’s total revenue.

g. The FACCS board may grant $250 in funding to new clubs and societies at their discretion, to the exclusion of any other FACCS funding, and without regard to the other funding rules.

6.2 Refreshments and Food

a. FACCS may cover refreshments and serving of food for a Club and Society to a maximum of $350. c. FACCS will not fund the purchase of alcohol.

6.3 Apparel

a. FACCS will not fund clothing apparel for executives or members of a Club or Society unless the items are registered assets that are to remain in possession of the Club or Society or the Clubs and Societies Office.

6.4 Supplies

a. With a detailed explanation FACCS may fund office supplies up to a maximum of $100 per annum.
b. FACCS may partially fund the purchase of large assets for Clubs and Societies so long as they abide by the asset registration guidelines laid out in s. 6.0 above.

6.5 — Room and Equipment Rentals

a. All Clubs and Societies are encouraged to use the free room bookings available on campus as well as the equipment available through CUSA.

b. In the event that required external venues have an associated cost, with proof of expenditure, FACCS may cover up to half the cost of the booking to a maximum of $500 per annum.

c. FACCS may give a grant up to $200 to the Clubs and Societies who plans to use the Carleton University Conference Services that include an associated cost. (i.e. Fenn Lounge, Rivera building.)

d. With detailed explanation in the event that CUSA equipment is not appropriate for a Club or Society event, FACCS may fund the costs of using AV equipment to a maximum of $200 per annum.

f. FACCS will not fund the rental of any office.

6.6 — Alternative Funding

a. FACCS will not fund any Club or Society that receives a levy from any portion of the Carleton University student body.

b. FACCS will not fund any club or society that is a subsidiary of a for-profit private sector corporation.

6.7 — Advertising

a. CUSA provides an annual $50 printing and copying account for each Club and Society that may be accessed by emailing CUSA publications and placing an order through whatever process is provided. 3 days in advance up to 50 posters.

6.8 — Guest Speakers

a. FACCS may fund speakers fees, honourariums, or gifts for non-student guest speakers, instructors, or other guests, up to a maximum of $200 per annum.

6.9 — Travel Expenses

a. If provided detailed explanation FACCS may fund travel expenses at the rate of $5.00 per Club or Society member travelling.

b. with detailed explanation FACCS will fund travel expenses up to a maximum of $400 per annum. (i.e. Buses)

6.10 — Miscellaneous Funding

a. If provided proof and detailed description of funding needs FACCS may fund any Club or Society up to $200 per annum.
Attendance:
Taryn Ashdown (Chair)*
Erin Hemm (Secretary)*
Sarah Garlough
Matthew Pelletier*
Kevin Nguyen*
Ruth Lau MacDonald
Sofia Dala*
Fahd Alhattab
Brett Parnell*
*Voting member of the committee

Preamble:
This meeting was called to discuss and review the Motion to Enhance CUSA Voting as cited in the appendix.

Called to order: 4:14 pm
Matthew: I had brought this motion to council earlier, and we had originally decided to only implement it on single councillor positions. Although due to the fact that there were not enough candidate running for these positions we were not able to fully test the ranked voting system. Many other student unions have been adopting the ranked voting systems, and therefore CUSA would not be the first. As you can see in the recent election the vote was split between the 3 parties with the winning party only winning 31.4% of the votes, and 83% of the seats. Having a ranked voting system would better represent the voter’s opinion and create better transparency within the election. I would really like someone from the current executive, or incoming executive to move, or second this motion moving forward.

Sofia: Which other student union have adopted this?
Matthew: University of Alberta, Dalhousie, Macmaster, as well as many throughout Europe.

Sofia: How long did it take for these student unions to adopt ranked voting?
Matthew: Some have adopted them within 1 to 2 years.
Ruth: I was working with an organization called French Youth Ontario, and they have been using ranked voting for 10 years. Ranked voting is used in a wide variety of organizations outside of student politics.

Matthew: On that note there are a lot of non-for profit organizations that have adopted ranked voting for a long time. A lot of festivals and academies as well. The current house of common speaker was elected through a ranked ballot. Recently the provincial government has given the option for municipalities to adopt it.

Sofia: We had passed the motion to make this a pilot in December, although we were not able to make it a successful pilot. Why don't we keep it as a pilot for another year to see how it works?

Matthew: I think this is important to give it a full try, and if it doesn’t work we can always veto it. Is this going to cost more? No. Is it a bullet proof plan? Yes. Yes we will have to work with ORIP to make it work, but they are willing to work with us. Science students may not be as involved in comparison to students in PAPM, and if the Science society was able to so eagerly adopt this voting system, there is a lot of hope that we can educate a very wide audience, and this voting system is gaining great traction, and I believe we should be a part of this chance.

Taryn: Why do you think this is the best fit for CUSA?

Matthew: For a single seat area, your options are very limited. An exhaustive ballot would be more work than is necessarily worth it. This option is the simplest and most thorough to engage the voters. It’s not about changing results, it’s about affirming them.

Fahd: You’re saying that 95% of the elections results will end in the same. Why do you want to do all this work if not very much changes?

Matthew: One of the issues with first past the post is strategic voting. This undermines how people genuinely want to vote, whereas with ranked voting people would not feel like they need to group up to vote against the person they dislike the most.

Fahd: You will need to spend more money in voter education. A much higher dollar mount is needed to educate on how ranked voting works and how to vote. I also don’t think that strategic voting will be totally avoided in this case.

Matthew: In this case you would not need to sacrifice your first choice to ensure that you’re least favourite candidate wins.

Fahd: *unrelated tangent about hating kiwis*

Matthew: There is no obligation to go into ranked voting when there is two or less candidates running as it would not be applicable and would be redundant.
Fahd: You will get slates who will campaign with the strategy of teaming up with another slates to defeat another slate, and campaign with on the basis of “vote for us first, and vote for them second”.

Ruth: But that’s just campaigning

Fahd: But strategic voting is part of campaigning

Matthew: No, That’s called electoral alliances. That’s not an unusual phenomenon and happens in Australia where ranked voting is used.

Fahd: I see that creates more potential for unfair results. With slates teaming up with other slates. I don’t see strategic voting as a negative

Matthew: The basis of politics is where groups of people to team up to accomplish common goals. What you’re describing isn’t democracy, teams need to work together to make things happen. Politics is really all about collaboration.

Taryn: Studies have shown that ranked ballots reduce strategic voting where voters decide not to choose their favourite candidate to ensure their least favourite candidate doesn’t win. Ranked voting also reduces negative campaigning, as it encourages candidates to appeal to a wider audience. We need to talk about what will effect more students, and I think it’s the impact of negative campaigning.

Matthew: Currently student politics has a very bad reputation, and we need to make people care about student politics and not have it be as petty as it currently is. It’s important to change our entire system to avoid creating more voter apathy

Fahd: I don’t think we should adopt a system that’s not fully tested, and I’m not confident this is the best system. I believe we took a good step piloting it for councillors, although I don’t think we should move it forward on the entire council. I don’t think this is warranted, this is a problem, not a crisis, and not worth the effort and money.

Matthew: So we can keep dancing around until we have a small pocket to test it on, but that’s not going to help the issue. The voter split was incredibly close this year, and that is a big issue. Students are not satisfied with the current election results.

Fahd: I’m asking for another test, and not to implement it in executive elections yet, this is a risk.

Matthew: The ORIP has already confirmed that this will run smoothly, so what do you have to lose? The ballot is incredibly intuitive (shown an example). A lot of counties are moving to ranked voting. This would provide an opportunity for the CUSA executive to take initiative to a more transparent voting system.

Brett: a second, third, or fourth place vote will never be the same as a first place vote
Ruth: This provides a better opportunity to voters to better reflect how they feel about the candidates. You can still vote for one candidate if you only feel like one candidate is worthy of a vote, you are by no obligation required to vote for more than one candidate. This voting systems allows more options to voice your opinion on the ballot.

Taryn: This will reduce the voter split between likeminded candidates. And the executive seats will always be contested, and therefore you can guarantee that ranked voting will be a successful pilot.

Matt: This is in the best interest of everyone on board, I hope the executive will embrace this change and spearhead this. If you do this change and make Your Carleton be a more “Our Carleton” instead of a 1/9 Carleton. I plead that at least someone in your executive join and be a seconder on this motion.

Those in favour recommending this motion to council:
Taryn Ashdown
Matthew Pelletier
Kevin Nguyen
Erin Hemm
Sofia Dala

Abstentions:
Brett Parnell

Against:
None

Adjournment: 5:02pm
Appendix:

Motion to Enhance CUSA Voting.

Presentation summary

Whereas CUSA has general elections for constituency representative and executive positions every year.

Whereas in single-seat election races, the current electoral system elects the candidate with a plurality of votes but not a majority (50% of all votes plus one additional vote).

Whereas in the 2016 CUSA General Elections.

- no executive candidate successfully obtained a majority of votes cast
- a single slate had 83% of their candidates elected with only 30% of the vote
- nearly 15% of the undergraduate community abstained from voting

Whereas the discrepancy in votes cast and the reflected seat counts in previous elections requires action to ensure student preferences are more accurately reflected in CUSA’s composition

Whereas alternative voting, commonly known as ranked voting, is being implemented province-wide for municipal elections for its simplicity and ability to guarantee a majority vote for a single candidate

Whereas ranked voting is more reflective of the interests of voters, and is subsequently the most effective method to combat voter apathy in student elections while maintaining direct representation for students

Information Transfer

Be it resolved that Section 19.1 (a) of the Electoral Code Policy be amended to include the words “executive or” before the words “single-seat constituencies”

Be it further resolved that this policy action be subject to committee review following the 2017 CUSA General Elections.

Moved: Matthew Pelletier
Seconded: