

CSSS Meeting: Monday, November 2nd, 2020

Meeting commences: 6:08 PM on Monday, November 2nd, 2020

Chair: Millie Close

Attendance:

- Abhi Kurusetty
- Alexander Pardo
- Alexandra Schroeder
- Anjali Shankhatheertha
- Carol Alhurira
- Emily Pope
- Emma Khazzam
- Giselle Beckford
- Greg Dance
- Holly Brown
- Irbaz Rehman
- Jahnessa Velasquez
- Jessica Rackal
- Kyra Kavanagh
- Lexi Webb
- Mackenzie Huckvale
- Malak Al Daraawi
- Mandi Highfield
- Max Kabongo
- Megan Williamson
- Melody Li
- Millie Close
- Morgan Campbell
- Morgan Joly
- Nat Chan
- Oluebube Okafor
- Riley Screatton
- Sarita Cuadros Sanchez
- Sujitha Manivannan
- Sarah Ivanco
- Tara Lepine

Item 1. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

- Moved by: Mackenzie Huckvale
- Seconded by: Greg Dance
- Motion passes.

Item 2. Approval of the Agenda

- Moved by: Mandi Highfield
- Seconded by: Mackenzie Huckvale
- Motion passes.

Item 3. President Report

- Workload reduction
 - Petition
 - Brought results of discussion from previous meeting + personal anecdotes to Dean's Office
 - Leadership is committed to making workload more reasonable
 - Working with Sue Bertram + profs involved in recruitment/retention to ensure that changes carry over into next semester
 - Proposed fewer small assignments (overwhelming during online learning)
 - Read Millie's statement on website or Facebook page
- Worked out banking information
 - Ordered checks
- Figuring out how to administrate scholarships
 - Looks like we can administer scholarships as planned
- Working to support Science Formal, Fail Forward campaign
- Recertified with OSSA, paid membership dues
- Worked with other on campus groups in terms of SAT designation for Fall term
 - 0.5 credit to designate as SAT
 - All failed courses automatically converted to UNSAT
- Working to develop resources for upcoming executive elections next year
 - Writing content for the website
- Working with SSSC and ODS to ensure long-term, sustainable structure of CSSS
- Meeting monthly with Presidents of various science societies at Carleton
- Also goes to monthly meetings with Presidents of science societies from other schools
- Comments and questions: None.

Item 4. Vice-President Reports

- a. Vice President Internal - Sarah Ivanco
 - Making one sheet documents for election protocols
 - Preparing for council meetings
 - Going to be preparing for semi-annual general meeting
 - Comments and questions: None.

- b. Vice President External - Holly Brown
 - Third blog post has been finished
 - Next blog post will start being written
 - Getting designs for SciSoc merch
 - Fail Forward
 - Emailing faculty to get videos about how they overcame adversity
 - Also going to get students to make videos about their failures
 - Industry/alumni videos
 - Will be posted on IgTV + website
 - Paid dues to OSSA
 - Planning summer business meeting for 2021
 - Let Holly know if you want to be a part of the merch committee
 - Ontario Science Games has been cancelled for this year, has been postponed to next year
 - Comments and questions
 - Question from Irbaz Rehman: What are the science games?- team building event with science students at your university, compete against teams from other universities around Ontario (Carleton has never attended because we haven't been able to subsidize fee)
 - Comment from Millie Close: Ontario Science Case Competition will be taking place in March

- c. Vice President Programming - Emma Khazzam
 - One Wellness Wednesday in October
 - Another Wellness Wednesday coming this Wednesday
 - Latin American Heritage month in October in collaboration with HOLAS
 - Trivia Night (Friends themed)
 - Movie Marathon took place before reading week
 - Halloween treats videos (encouraging students to make food and share it with SciSoc on social media)
 - Games Night happening this Thursday, meeting on Discord
 - Started to plan Winter Formal

- Happens in January
 - Going to be a bigger event this year for SciSoc's 10th anniversary
 - 3 day event (Neon Gala)
 - DM Emma if you want to be part of committee
 - For future events, share + promote on your personal accounts if you feel comfortable (especially for the Neon Gala)
 - Comments and questions
 - Comment from Millie Close: ticket sales from Neon Gala will be going to charity (Holly and her team have been looking into a charity to support), also reiterated importance of promoting Neon Gala on personal social media
 - If you are interested in helping chose the charity, contact Holly
- d. Vice President Academic - Abhi Kurusetty
- Advocacy campaigns are now on the SciSoc website
 - CASG council meeting- lots of students showed up
 - Academic Integrity campaign
 - Up on the website
 - Filming a video, going to have some council members included in it
 - Scholarship program
 - Goal is to ensure that students can get scholarships without a GPA requirement
 - Scholarships are based primarily on character traits
 - Done research on how to administer scholarships (T4A specifically)
 - Committee for scholarships (contact Abhi if you want to be apart of the committee)
 - Comments and questions: None.
- e. Vice President Communications - Emily Pope
- Discord server has been officially launched
 - Hosted Friends Trivia Night earlier in the month
 - Constitution went live on website
 - Academic Integrity videos launched on website
 - Peer Check in posts over reading week
 - Launched Emma's cooking video on Instagram
 - Plans to continue series for other major events/holidays
 - Halloween trivia
 - Made timeline for posts about Neon Gala
 - Started to work on coming up with a colour palette for event
 - Getting ready for Fail Forward posts

- Using text description function on Twitter to increase accessibility
 - Comments and questions: None.
- f. Vice President Operations - Sarita Cuadros-Sanchez
- Ordered checks + set up bank account
 - Working on scholarship specifics (legal requirements)
 - Science Community Fund
 - Fund for departmental societies (up to \$300 per society)
 - Will launch when receive money from the university
 - Created PayPal account for the society, working on adding link to PayPal to website
 - Comments and questions: None.

Item 5. Senate Update

- Hoping to contact clerk and secretary of Senate
- If Senate seat for undergraduate science students goes unclaimed, ask President of Science Society to fill this role
 - Want a way for Senate to connect with science students directly in the future
- Comments and questions: None.

Item 6. OSSA Update

- Going to hold all virtual events
- Starting to hire individuals for the Summer Business Meeting
 - Will be starting this process shortly
- Can help with Summer Business Meeting and also be on council
- Comments and questions: None.

Item 7. EDI Committee Update from Sara & Natalie

- Sara and Natalie could not attend meeting, Sarah gave update
- EDI Committee expressed interest in having student groups talk about issues surrounding EDI
- Rowan (chair of committee) asks if CSSS would like to join in on EDI meeting to discuss EDI from our perspective
- Send speaker suggestions to EDI Committee
- Comments and questions
 - Comment from Millie: Faculty of Science hosts annual Herzberg Lecture, this year it is on representation in Computer Science (link to event will be sent in Slack)

Item 8. Motions

a. Motion to Ratify the 2020/21 Department Representatives Election Results

Presentation Summary

Whereas according to Section 2, Article 3 of the CSSS Constitution all those elected shall assume office immediately after final election results are submitted to the Council until the end of the academic year on April 30th 23:59.

Whereas at the first council meeting it was approved that the VP Internal and President may appoint individuals to vacant seats

Information Transfer

Be it resolved that the following faculty members fill the corresponding seats:

- Environmental Science Representative: Megan Williamson
- Mathematics and Statistics Representative: Nicky Junilla Ineza

- Moved by: Millie Close
- Seconded by: Lexi Webb
- Motion passes unanimously.

b. Motion to Approve the Appointment of the Society Representatives of the Carleton Science Student Society

Presentation Summary

Whereas according to Section 2, Article 3.2 of the CSSS Constitution Society Representatives shall be appointed by the society they represent before the first council meeting of the academic year for a term ending at 23:59 of April 30th.

Whereas at the first council meeting it was approved that the VP Internal and President may appoint individuals to vacant seats

Information Transfer

Be it resolved that the following faculty members fill the corresponding seats based on the results of the election:

- Carleton University Geology Society Representative: Nathaniel Chan

- Environmental Science Student Association Representative: Tara Lepine
- Moved by: Millie Close
- Seconded by: Emma Khazzam
- Motion passes.

c. Motion to Split the Chemistry and Biochemistry departmental seats of the Carleton Science Student Society

Presentation Summary

Whereas according to Section 2, Article 1.1.3.2 of the CSSS Constitution Society Representatives there will be three (3) representatives from the departments of chemistry and biochemistry.

Whereas in the 2020 departmental representative election, the biochemistry students did not receive a ballot due to an administrative oversight and confusion around the inclusion criteria for voters.

Information Transfer

Be it resolved that 1 departmental seat will be added to include equal representation as well as the chemistry and biochemistry departmental representative seats will split to: 2 biochemistry departmental representatives and 2 chemistry departmental representatives.

- Moved by: Millie Close
- Seconded by: Lexi Webb
- Motion passes.
 - Greg Dance abstains.
- Friendly amendment proposed by Emma Khazzam: add food science + nanoscience under the department of chemistry representatives
 - Moved by: Millie Close
 - Seconded by: Emma Khazzam

d. FundQi Motion

Presentation Summary

Whereas a working group was formed last meeting to address the FundQi situation and

Whereas a letter has been drafted to be sent to CUSA regarding our stance

Information Transfer

Be it resolved that the letter is sent to CUSA and CUSA councilors on behalf of the CSSS as soon as possible.

- Moved by: Greg Dance
- Seconded by: Millie Close
- Motion passes.
 - 18 for, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions
- Greg Dance proposes Friendly Amendment to promote FundQi Motion on website
 - Seconded by: Emily Pope
 - Motion does not pass.
 - 5 abstentions, 11 opposed, 2 for.

Friendly Amendment Notes:

- Millie fears that we alienate CUSA from science society + societies that depend on CUSA for funding
 - Want to ensure that groups get funded fairly in the future + maintain a good relationship
 - Garnered support from various science student groups
- Millie's counterproposal: wait until we know what action CUSA takes as a result of the letter before publicizing anything
- Greg's comments
 - Indicated in email if societies do not want to participate, they don't have to sign
 - Doesn't believe it will have much of an impact on the Science Society since we are not part of CUSA
 - Smaller societies have already signed
- Millie's comments
 - Apprehensive because student politics are taken quite seriously by certain individuals
 - Millie does agree that departmental societies are well informed but believes that it is SciSoc's responsibility to protect interest of these societies
 - Believes that there could potentially be repercussions for societies

- Greg's comments
 - Doesn't believe that there will be a difference between publicizing + keeping it private
- Mackenzie Huckvale's comments
 - Science councillor with CUSA
 - Definitely is a difference between publicizing + keeping private
 - Suggests we keep it private, will save us from having to deal with issues that could stem from this
 - Future CUSA execs who run next year could watch what we do now and we could face repercussions next year as well
 - Overall recommendation is that we send it privately, see their response, possibly fight more internally (Mackenzie is ok with bringing it up during CUSA meeting)
- Alexandra Schroeder's comments
 - Wondering if when Greg was talking to other clubs, did they know that this would be public or did they think that it would be private?
 - Greg says that they do know that it will be public
 - Still waiting to hear back from 3 societies
- Morgan Campbell comments
 - Agrees with Mackenzie
 - Believes that it would be most beneficial to sent it privately at first in order to keep the peace
- Greg's response
 - Believes that CUSA is going to react negatively whether we send this publicly or privately
 - Just the fact that we have these concerns shows that they don't really take student issues very seriously
 - Doesn't think that we will have another opportunity where we garner this much support on a certain issue
 - 8 student groups across the faculty of science
 - Doesn't think CUSA is going to shut down the faculty of science
 - If we don't think that they are going to respond publicly, they are probably not going to respond privately
- Millie's comments
 - Agrees with Greg's comments about how if CUSA won't respond publicly, they aren't going to respond privately
 - If they choose to do nothing when we bring it to them privately with so much support, this will give us more leverage
 - Different CUSA exec team each year: sitting CUSA executive picks who will be picked to run the next year
 - Come to agreement after debating for months about this

- Very carefully pick people who they know will uphold same expectations + values as the current exec
 - Elections tend to go in their favour
 - Millie believes that there is a good chance that there may be some new faces in CUSA next year because of everything being online
 - Everything is decided before students even know anything, proves that there is a lot of room for development
- Greg's comments
 - Says that we collectively decided that CUSA is taking money + giving it to their friends
 - Believes that they are essentially stealing students money
 - Says it is spineless of us to not act publicly
 - Doesn't think that anything is going to happen if we send it privately
- Morgan Joly's comments
 - Transparency (wouldn't it seem shady on our part if we respond privately first and then go public)
- Greg's comments
 - Agrees with Morgan
 - Believes that going private and then private would be perceived as more aggressive
- Millie's comments
 - Meeting minutes will be public
 - So won't really be a secret (will be updates given)
- Irbaz Rehman's comments
 - We have to try to do this as diplomatically as possible
 - We need to give them the benefit of the doubt
 - If we come to them behind closed doors and they don't respond, we can then go public
 - But if we start with going public, we have nothing left in our back pocket to do
 - We need to emphasize that we are open to working with + helping amend problem, don't want to completely defame CUSA
- Greg's comments
 - Believes that language of letter does not defame CUSA
 - Letter is not accusatory (say in the letter that we would like to work with CUSA)
- Mackenzie Huckvale's comments
 - Way to do this that is transparent while also maintaining private communication with CUSA
 - She has worked with CUSA, believes that current CUSA president is relatively open to change and opinion
 - Believes that CUSA will respond to us

- Risk of sending it publicly is higher than going privately
- Greg's comments
 - Contents of the letter are not allegations of wrongdoing, shouldn't rub people the wrong way
 - Just saying that we would like to fix the problem
 - Doesn't think they will react any more negatively to public letter than to a private letter
 - Believes it is our job to speak out about what is wrong
 - Believes it is just as diplomatic to do things publicly
- Megan Williamson's comments
 - Friends with CUSA president
 - Before this year saw CUSA as shady, but now sees them through a different lens
 - Doesn't believe that we should get the public involved
- Greg's comments
 - Goal is to make it opt-in
 - Purpose of letter will not be fulfilled if we just send it to the email of President or Councillor
 - Believes that we need to take a stand as it will force them to respond in a way that will be favourable
- Megan's comments
 - If they disagree privately then we will do better publicly
- Greg's comments
 - Does not agree
- Sarah Ivanco's comments
 - Yes, we want to be transparent (but we are transparent by posting meeting minutes + constitution)
 - She doesn't think that putting someone on blast is necessarily the best way to be transparent
 - Believes that this is how letter will be interpreted by CUSA if we do this publicly
 - But if we go to them privately, we can emphasize that we want to work together to fix things
- Greg's comments
 - CUSA knows that students are concerned about this
 - CUSA tried to talk about this with students over Reddit
 - Only gets the money if people are ignorant
 - CUSA publishes their motions but students don't look for it
 - Best way to support students is to do this publicly
 - Not accusing them of any wrongdoing, just see this as a problem that we want to work to fix

- Cowardly to not do this publicly (letting down students if we do it privately)
- Wants to make things opt-in rather than opt-out
- Millie's comments
 - Greg's comment about Millie drifting away from idea of referendum
 - Doesn't see them mobilizing enough of their own people to run a "no" campaign
 - Problem with making opt-in service = would have to have referendum
 - True that this is the best outcome for students, but we have a limited circle of influence on campus so referendum probably won't happen
 - So this is why Millie would like for them to do a better job of publicizing how to opt out, not necessarily do a referendum
 - Millie thinks that this is a good opportunity for CUSA's image
 - Kathleen, Morgan, and Tinu (Millie thinks we can work with them to improve things)
 - If we go to them in a private way, if they react negatively people are going to look at them in a negative light
 - CUSA execs know this, so will react well
 - If we go publicly with this too quickly, could be cause for them to react poorly
 - We need to work with CUSA as partners in the future
 - They are a very important and influential partner to us, crucial that we maintain a good working relationship with them
 - CUSA is only now paying attention to SciSoc
 - Millie has put a lot of time into SciSoc, wants to see society positioned as best a possible when she leaves
 - Therefore apprehensive to make such a bold public claim
 - This isn't going to be a secret process, students can find out about this
 - Want people to talk about this motion + have discussion
- Greg's comments
 - Wants the relationship between CUSA and SciSoc to remain strong
 - Believes that going public will give SciSoc legitimacy
 - More people knowing about this is better
 - Doesn't think there will be any results from doing things privately
 - Believes it is in our best interest for both our image + students we represent to do things publicly
- Tiffany Lau's comments
 - By going public, what does this entail (website, social media)?
 - Millie's answer: published on social media + website, freely available for students to share around if necessary (meeting minutes get published)
 - Any student could request to view motions or agendas from past meetings
 - Do we have a timeline as to when we are expecting a response?

- If by beginning of next term they haven't responded, we will reevaluate next steps to have a bigger impact

Comments about Motion

- Abhi's comments
 - Thinks it does come across as accusatory
 - Would be behind letter if we tone the language down
 - Greg's comments
 - Thinks that language is fair
 - Millie's comments
 - Wants to go through letter again
 - Thinks that we can edit letter
 - Can add more people into working group
 - Greg's comments
 - Fine with adding more people into the working group to review the letter
 - Thinks that letter delicately addresses goals that were written on the first page
 - Doesn't think that much needs to be reviewed if we're not doing things publicly
 - Time is an issue, wants to get response before winter semester
 - Wants to send things sooner rather than later
- e. Motion to extend meeting past the 6:00-8:00 PM time frame
- Motion moved by: Sarah Ivanco
 - Motion seconded by: Millie Close
 - Motion passes.

Item 9. Other Business / Question Period

- Greg Dance: received a lot of people in group chats telling him that first year chem hasn't adapted to online learning format
 - Millie will set up a meeting to touch base
- Megan Williamson: asks if SAT will look bad for getting into graduate studies
 - Millie says she brought this up with Senate months ago when it was first implemented (in April)
 - Grades are kept on file, can share these with graduate programs
 - Millie says that her understanding is that it will not impact things too negatively
- Proctoring systems
 - Millie says that proctoring systems were discussed in Senate meeting, they said that it was ok
 - Brought it up at Chairs and Directors meeting

- But not much that Provost can do (can't make it against the rules, would impede with academic freedom)
- Is there anything students can do to avoid proctoring?- No
- Data will just be stored at Carleton on campus
- Proctoring systems are disproportionately affecting STEM students

Item 10. Adjournment

- Moved by: Millie Close
- Seconded by: Sarah Ivanco
- Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourns: 8:45 PM on Monday, November 2nd, 2020