



# AGENDA of the 1st Meeting of the General Council

Claude T. Bissell Building, Room 705A  
[Date dd month year] | [Time 00:00-00:00]

## Attendance

### Executive Committee

Jamie Duncan, Co-President  
Emma Findlay-White, Co-President  
Matthew Innes, Treasurer  
Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray, VP Operations  
Jason Cheung, VP Communication

### Committee Chairs

Hugh Samson, Academic Affairs  
Ritchie Singh, Professional Development  
Christina Bondi, Social Committee  
Ciara O’Kelly, Social Committee

### Representatives

Tashleen Kaur, FIAA  
Evelyn Feldman, MISC-MUSSA  
Sarah Gorman, MRAC

### Tech-Fund

Hussein Hashi  
Sarah Gorman

### GSU

Robyn Forman

### Faculty Council

### Members at Large

Alvin He

### Mental Health Working Group

Marta Cooper Burt  
Robyn Forman

## AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

*The meeting is called to order at [17:15 pm by Emma Findlay-White]*

### 2. Land Acknowledgement

Offered by Emma Findlay-White

### 3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION

- Be it that Bronwyn's last name is spelled "Nisbet-Gray" in this and all future documents

MOVED: Sarah Gorman                      SECONDED: Evelyn Feldman

Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## 4. Reports

### MOTION

MOVED: Matthew Innes                      SECONDED: Sarah Gorman

Be it resolved that the following be approved as presented:

1. Report of the Presidents (Appendix)
  - Retreat: Sarah and other council members suggested that it be moved to the fall once the Council has been filled
  - Research project: Sarah asked that there be a REB approval; Emma ensured that would happen
  - Emma: spoke to the invocation of open government to improve the relationship between Faculty and students. Includes better online/in person communications, better meeting structure and general approach to relations between council members
    - o Meetings will be happening with the Dean regularly. MISC currently has a good working relationship; hoping to uphold the cordial mood throughout the year
    - o Mini-update on Inforum collection: no decision has been made. MISC will be told second, after the librarians responsible for the collection
2. Report of the Treasurer (Appendix)
3. Report of Social Committee (Appendix)
- Proposed 2 events for the summer; one to follow the orientation event on July 14.
  - o Should coordinate with Andrea (meeting Monday June 11 at 10am) to promote the event, add the event to the itinerary if possible
  - o Question about when incoming students get added to email distribution lists? To be followed up on.
4. Report of GSU Representatives (Appendix)
5. Report of MISC-MUSSA Representative (Report to Council)

- Discussed the shifting role of the MISC-MUSSA representative; Evelyn thinks it is positive that the two councils/organizations are running events together and bringing their two communities in closer contact.

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## 5. Orientation

### 5.1. Striking of Orientation Committee

#### MOTION

MOVED: Sarah                      SECONDED: Jason

Be it resolved that an Orientation Committee be struck to conduct work up to and possible beyond September 30, 2018, and;

Be it further resolved that the following candidates sit on the Orientation Committee up to and possibly beyond September 30, 2018:

Co-Chair (Social): Christina Bondi

Co-Chair (Social): Ciara O'Kelly

Member: Matthew Innes

Member: Marta Cooper Burt

Member: Emma Findlay-White

- Evelyn would like to be involved closer to orientation
- Marta: iStudents for mental health had discussed approaching MISC re: orientation. Would like to suggest some locations for the scavenger hunt (see appendix) that highlight mental health resources for students

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## 6. Survey

### 6.1. Striking of Survey Working Group

#### MOTION

MOVED: Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray                      SECONDED: Matthew Innes

Be it resolved that a Survey Working group is struck to conduct work related to the design, implementation and analysis of an MI student survey, and;

Be it further resolved that the Survey Working group conduct work up to and possibly beyond December 31, 2018, and;

**Be it further resolved that the following candidates sit on the Survey working group up to and possibly beyond December 31, 2018:**

**Chair: Jason Cheung**

**Member: Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray**

**Member: Emma Findlay-White**

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## **7. Constitution Amendments**

- Some titles have (unofficially) changed within the executive committee; came from Emma's background at the UTSU
- Emma would like to hold an AGM in September/Early October, to invite in first years, new committee members
- Bronwyn and Evelyn gave comments in support of the initiative to move the AGM
- Emma and Jamie will look into how to move the AGM while working within the constitution
- Council discussed the naming/function of the VP Communication/Webmaster role; discussed the possibility of splitting the role
- Jason: talked to Allen Kwan about becoming the webmaster-at-large. The Council agreed this was a good idea and could help with workload

Obviously, these are currently suggestions; no changes have been made to the constitution and will be discussed at subsequent meetings

## **8. Other Business**

Related to the constitution, Emma and Jamie do not believe it is fair for both of them to have votes on the council as co-presidents; at meetings, it is probable that Emma and Jamie will share chairing responsibilities at meetings, meaning that at each meeting, only 1 of the co-presidents will vote, while the other will facilitate the meetings

Emma: proposed possibility of hiring a chair (giving an honorarium for the time spent, opposed to outright paying the chair), and/or hiring a work-study student for administrative tasks. Could go to undergrads or grad students. The co-presidents have tentatively discussed this with the Dean.

- Matt/Sarah – not that interested in having people paid to do small tasks. Not necessarily fair to council members.

- Matt: however, for special projects this could be an idea (think: website redesign, branding/design projects)

- Evelyn/Matt – don't know if a chair is needed; people are pretty calm on Council. Could be helpful in situation where things are heated.

Emma: the chair ensures order for the meeting, knows the rules of governance – could play a role in the AGM

- Bronwyn: asked about the status of the Chief Returning Officer (who it is, if they are available for fall elections); Bronwyn suggested the CRO could serve as a chair at the proposed fall AGM (potential issues could arise in future years if the secretary/ VP Ops in one year returned the next year as an elected council member in another role – but for 2018 this is a viable option)

Emma: talked about reinstating the class representative. The initiative had been in place at the iSchool for a long time, but had evolved into a course evaluation program, generally disliked by faculty. Emma hopes it can be reinvigorated as an active a channel of face-to-face communication with students. Not all classes/faculty will be on board, but there are some professors who will champion the initiative (Colin Furness).

- Evelyn: sounds great. MUSSA has an informal version of this

- Jason: will this be brought up with faculty individually? Emma – this will be discussed at the faculty retreat.

- Sarah: potential to rename the position – MISC liaisons or another variation might be an easier sell to faculty. It should be made explicit that it is not about representing class interests. Sarah - not comfortable with the reps receiving and having to manage complaints about the class. Council had varied discussion about the role of the liaisons, chain of command, etc within MISC. Suggestions included limiting the scope of the role. Sarah – it might be hard to get people to volunteer for this extra work; it might be best to have people on Council try to fill this role within their classes. Sarah: MISC should at least invite class reps to meetings to ensure they feel included and ensure they receive emails, etc.

- Bronwyn – 1. Asked about Emma/Jamie attending the faculty retreat – this has precedence in other UofT faculties/programs, where student reps often can attend at least part of the day. While some discussions are done in camera, it might be worthwhile to see if MISC, MUSSA, the PhDs could get an invite to part of the session and present their plans for the year. This is a good opportunity to speak to faculty at large, and set the tone for the upcoming year. 2. Suggested offering office hours next year as a way to ensure that students do have somewhere to turn if they need support or wish to raise concerns about their courses, professors with some discretion. Office hours can be super informal and shared among the executive council members to ensure that no one person has to put in a lot of time. Emma – suggested holding them in the student lounge, offering tea/snacks.

- Marta: provided an overview of the mandatory leave of absence controversy currently ongoing with UofT's administration. Included commentary on the risks of the mandatory leave, as well as the university's unwillingness to put in place more extensive programs to support student mental health. Five student councils/unions have come out in opposition of the proposed policy. Yet, governors have continued to vote for the policy. In sum, on June 27, the motion will probably be voted into effect. The

iStudents (Robyn particularly) have been active in protesting the measures. Some changes have been made to the policy such as a suggestion that the university seek medical opinion on issues, but the current draft still leaves administrators in charge of deciding if students shall be placed on leave.

Last Tuesday (June 5?) Marta attended a meeting at Victoria college with 20 student leaders to discuss how to deal with the issue. There will probably be a demonstration on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Marta would like information about the demonstration to be distributed in a MISC newsletter if possible. If Robyn and Marta draft a letter opposing the policy, would MISC consider publishing the policy?

Marta wanted to bring everyone up to speed on work done by the iSchool Mental Health Working Group. A number of students have been putting together an annotated reading lists to assist other student leaders in their opposition to the policy.

Emma: thanked Marta for her commentary about this issue. To the first question: the demonstration's information can be put into a newsletter, and shared via MISC's social media. To the second point, this is a governance issue. To pass the publishing of a letter, we need to order a vote on the Council's opinion about the mandatory leave policy before agreeing to publish a letter. An emergency meeting would need to be held.

Bronwyn – happy to get minutes ready to call for an emergency, virtual (?) meeting.

Marta: in regard to student responses against the policy, some have discussed about human rights issues (Robyn is well versed), some have talked about the consultation process, and some parents also should be involved for some undergrads who are under 18.

- various comments on salience of consulting with parents. Many grad students feel protective of the undergrad population.

- Emma (and probably Jamie) would like to sit down with Marta and Robyn to take a role in drafting the letter.

Emma suggested that for the purposes of moving towards an emergency meeting, the Council members present move into an *in-camera* discussion

Motion to continue discussion *in camera*; first – Bronwyn; seconded – Matt, at approximately 18:30

Motion to end *in camera* discussion; first – Matt; seconded Evelyn, at approximately 18:45

Emma - We will be setting an emergency meeting to assess the Council's feelings about the mandatory leave policy, and vote as to whether or not MISC shall release a public statement about the mandatory leave policy.

Marta: will be on campus June 20 – would love to have the meeting then. Emma – is available depending on time. Marta – How long is needed? Emma – very short (15 minutes) Marta – 5pm would work, and will probably work for Robyn and Jamie.

Jason: wants contact details for MISCellaneous, meeting minutes

- Emma – Bronwyn will prep the minutes, confirm with Emma and Jamie, and forward the minutes to Jason.

- Jason: everyone needs photos and a blurb for the website. Please provide a 150-word bio and photo, if possible.

- Emma – with regard to changing titles on the website, keep current roles as-is, and change them after the AGM

- Jason noted some links are broken – announcements, clubs. These should be updated by the end of the summer.

## 9. Adjournment

### MOTION

MOVED: Matthew Innes                      SECONDED: Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray

**Be it resolved that meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED/FAILED**

*The meeting is adjourned at [19:05pm]*

### Action Items:

Before the next (non-emergency) Council meeting, please:

1. Call an emergency meeting to agree on the stance of the council, and the decision to promise to draft a letter to the governing council
2. Based on the outcome of the emergency meeting, organize a statement drafting meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The meeting should include Marta, Robyn, Emma, and Jamie, and any other Council members who wish to attend.
3. Confirm who will be distributing MISCellaneous
4. Create a document to track who has submitted bios and photos to Jason
5. Send introductory emails to the orientation committee, student survey working group
6. Follow-up on when in the summer new students get added to the various iSchool listservs
7. Follow up with MUSSA's executive on the proposed July 14 "Getting Started" social event
8. Confirm with Andrea if the event can be added to the "Getting Started" itinerary
9. Follow up on getting Bronwyn and Jason fob access to the office