



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LITERARY AND ATHLETIC SOCIETY
AGENDA OF THE JULY MEETING OF COUNCIL
11:00AM ON NOVEMBER 19TH, 2017 AT CROFT CHAPTER HOUSE

Attendance

Core Exec

PRESIDENT: Albert Hoang
VICE-PRESIDENT: Victoria Kourtis

Executive

ATHLETICS COMMISSIONER: Benjamin Wang
SOCIAL COMMISSIONER: Tua Hytonen
LITERARY AND CREATIVE ARTS COMMISSIONER: Kaitlyn Ferreira
SPIRIT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONER: Dan Proctor
UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER: Danielle Stella
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSIONER: Michelle Zhong
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER: Thomas Pender
OFF-CAMPUS COMMISSIONER: Sara Mandia

Representatives

UPPER YEAR: Michelle Beyn
Sameer Rai

MIDDLE YEAR: Paul Schweitzer
Olivia Jordan
Priya Gupta
Aster Gerard
Sarita Bhukal
Miranda Desbiens

FIRST YEAR: Brie Augustine
Tony Liang
Soli Yared

UTSU Directors

UTSU VOTING DIRECTOR: Aidan Swirsky
Kshemani Constantinescu

Staff

SPEAKER: Ryan Gomes
SECRETARY: Snow Mei

Guests

N/A

Not in Attendance

FINANCE COMMISSIONER:
SERVICES COMMISSIONER:
EQUITY AND OUTREACH COMMISSIONER:
UPPER YEAR:
FIRST YEAR:

Raye Negatu
Martha Beach Bartel
Mira El Hussein
Mahzeb Ashraf
Brandon Lee
Sabrina Weinstein
Anushka Kurian
Meng Lim
Artur Khasanov

UTSU VOTING DIRECTOR:
STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR:
UCRC PRESIDENT:

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting is called to order at 11:16AM.

2. **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Ryan Gomes reads the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. **BIRT the October council meeting minutes be approved as presented (Kourtis/Stella)**

MOTION CARRIES.

4. **BIRT the agenda be approved as presented. (Kourtis/Wang)**

Dan: Wording be clarified on motion 9, just the way it is worded is a bit confusing.

Albert: The campaign is "Vote no, save OPIRG."

Amend the agenda, Motion 9 to a Discussion Item. (Proctor/Hoang)

MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION CARRIES.

5. **BIRT council reports are approved as presented. (Kourtis/Ferreira)**

MOTION CARRIES.

6. **Reports**

a. **President**

Albert reads his report.

Aidan: The link to consultation meeting is in the report.

Danielle: Do non-graduating council members get one??

Albert: No.

Kaitlyn: Who's taking the minutes?

Albert: Victoria is right now. Snow is on her way.

b. **Vice-President**

Victoria reads her report.

c. **Finance**

No Report.

d. **Athletics**

Ben reads his report.

e. **Equity and Outreach**

(see report)

f. **Literary and Creative Arts**

Kaitlyn reads her report.

Victoria: You should not be in the office in the JCR unless it is your event.

g. **Mental Health**

Thomas reads his report.

Albert: Could I suggest doing a UC guide?

Thomas: The main big thing is that the UTSU is already doing.

h. **Off-Campus**

Sara reads her report.

Miranda: What time do you want help for pancake brunch?

Sara: Make any time you can!

Tua: Anyone want to volunteer to sell tickets at the brunch?

i. **Services**

No Report.

j. **Social**

Tua reads her report.

k. **SCC**

Dan reads his report.

Dan: Kaitlyn, Sara and Thomas, link your Facebook to the page. Also students view how we use the office as a VIP room and find it very exclusive so try to keep your belongings on you.

l. **Sustainability**

Michelle Z. reads her report.

Michelle Z: Come and get, friends!

m. **University and Academic Affairs**

Danielle reads her report.

n. **Middle Year Representatives**

The report is read.

Olivia: Does anyone have any questions? We were going to schedule it for last week.

Danielle: Can we get a detail of what it will entail?

Priya: Cheese, and a meet and greet with the reps.

Ryan: Will there be cheesy puns?

Olivia: We're working on Rep Pics for Diabolos.'

Paul: My favourite is the salted caramel brownies.

o. **Upper-Year Representatives**

(Never Submitted)

Sameer: We had a stern talk on how this no report needs to stop being a thing.

Paul: I like how it says never instead of not.

p. **Orientation**

Michelle read the report.

q. **UC Review**

No Report.

r. **UC Follies**

(see report)

s. **Diabolos'**

No Report.

Albert: Depending on how sales go in December, Diabs will be closing earlier than the 13th if the profits are low.

t. **UCRC**

No Report.

u. **Gargoyle**

(see report)

v. **UTSU**

Aidan and Kshemani read the report.

w. **SLC**

No Report.

7. **BIRT the First Year Representative be ratified to specified Commissions. (Kourtis/Hoang)**

Paul: No more first year reps - all in favour.

Be it resolved that the First Year Representatives be ratified to the specified Commissions:

Soli Yared: LCA, Mental Health, UCOC

Brie Augustine: UCOC, Athletics, LCA

Sabrina Weinstein: SCC, LCA, Sustainability

Brandon Lee: Social, UAA, Athletics

Tony Liang: Services, Mental Health, Equity

8. **Orientation Budget**

Michelle B: If you look at the budget, don't worry about the stuff that is highlighted in purple. The only thing we're waiting for is the UC Day lunch but we budgeted way over than what they think it would be. We are still waiting on getting paid but that doesn't affect the budget. We went under budget for every block of events except for meals because we're hungry. The final numbers was around 730ish. Do you have any questions?

Albert: What's the difference between this and last year registration?

Michelle B: We were at 652 in registration numbers.

Ryan: We should give a round of applause for no deficit this year.

9. **OPIRG Vote No Campaign**

Albert: OPIRG are a progressive organization; it's an Ontario research group chartered across universities. They have a levy that the UTSU collects, and they propose to put on events like conferences, workshops, and they gave graduate students research opportunities. The undergrads pay 1\$ a year. We have the option to opt out. They do a lot of equity work from what the website says. Someone from the campaign was supposed to come to discuss this but if anyone has any questions we can start dialogue.

Ben: Michael Wong, my frosh, says they helped complete against carbon audits. (Ben reads the rest of the script). There's a suggestion that it's not clear who's organizing the campaign. Conservative groups on campus are funding it, so something seems a little funny about the campaign, that is, the campaign to defund the campaign.

Ryan: Chris Dryden is listed as the person driving the campaign.

Aidan: He's the sole person on the UTSU right now. This does not preclude something on the anti-campaign.

Paul: Are we still talking about the motion as to support it as the council? There's like a day remaining to vote.

Dan: I'd like to discuss this more.

Albert: If there's no more discussion on it, I'd like to change the discussion item. If anyone had any questions seeing the agenda at first, please ask. You can also find their expense/audit report on their website. I encourage you to do your own research.

Paul: If after discussion, someone feels strongly one way or another, you're free to support your position as an individual, you're allowed to do that even if council has a different opinion. It's to show we're not just one hive mind, we can think differently.

10. **Relay for Life**

Albert: The purpose of Relay for Life is raising funds for cancer research. They asked me if they could collaborate with the Lit. They were thinking of doing a coffeehouse with the UC Lit in January. We don't have to propose funds; they just wanted to have a donation opportunity at these events.

Albert reads Relay for Life script.

Aidan: Are they trying to get involved with Winterfest, if that angle might be worth it more especially since they're not a UC group?

Albert: That could make a lot of sense. All judges would have contact. I'll bring it back to Winterfest.

11. **Muslim Students' Association Collaboration**

Albert: They wanted to see if the UC Lit would collaborate. If they don't collaborate they'd have to pay for Croft. It would not mean offering funds, helping advertise, making it a UC Lit event as well, and the expectation that UC students would have the opportunity to come.

Dan: There's concerns about the sound equipment, glitter all over the JCR last time events were held by MSA.

Kaitlyn: Can you tell them to tell me that they want sound like yesterday and this isn't to any particular group. And to Dan's point - You're not supposed to unplug things when it's plugged in, so I cried a little bit.

Paul: Has UTSU not got you?

12. **Suggestions of brands for UTSU discount purchasing portal**

Aidan: Adrian Huntelar has been providing services for students. One is called Brands for Canada. He basically implied it's an organization that brings outlet stores together who then sells them through community organizations portals. The discussions are going well. The board of directors emailed us. They said they're soliciting Brands for Canada items. It can be general things like travel items, and they're asking for suggestions so we could bring it back to Adrian at the board meeting in a week.

Albert: Is it possible for Apple products to be included in tech products?

Aidan: He didn't give indication as to how likely a certain brand could be involved, but we can try to negotiate for apple. It may not be a huge discount but it's worth a shot.

Dan: General function of this program: this program is targeting to students with low incomes, struggling financially. Will people not in that position abuse the program, or is it just a: whoever just shows up thing?

Aidan: The rationale is that they don't want students to show their OSAP records for personal reasons, so it's intended to be on a trust-based system. But I think it's important to consider this for this purchasing portal, I'll bring it back to Adrian but I wouldn't be surprised if there is one for this so far.

Albert: Does this also work with other schools or is UofT the first school?

Aidan: I haven't heard that this has been at any other school. This is likely a unique pilot project.

Michelle Zhong: Do they purchase just on online portal, or is it brand based or brand product based?

Aidan: Yes it'll be accessible through UofT email. You can be notified when products are sold out, etc. in term of disbursement, I feel like it could be pick up from student commons, or occasional pop up shops. Secondly, it's like supplier by supplier.

13. **UC Involvement in You Decide Campaign**

Aidan: I hope you had a chance to read the Facebook page post. Basically Adrian is in charge of the You Decide campaign. For context it's a petition that goes around to have a vote to stay or leave the CFS, which those of you have heard at our retreat this weekend. The point of this petition to have a vote on whether to stay or leave the CFS, and there has not been a vote for the past 15 years. The You Decide campaign might be necessary due to degree of corruption, and CFS inaction. The Lit previously endorsed this campaign last year, and in discussion with Albert, it seems that would continue, the only thing that changed is the person in charge of it. The objectives, and how we can incorporate it into our community spaces, events are the same.

Albert: We met the past week. We spoke about how to re-engage with You Decide. We wanted to have You Decide involved in feedback, newsletters; we can easily get at least 500 signatures from the 4000 members. I think it's time for us to get rid of the CFS. If you have any big events and would like You Decide to show up please let us know.

Aidan: I'm part of Adrian's team to strategize, so talk to the core exec or myself, so it could be a love triangle of anti CFS-ing.

Dan: I'm not happy with the way signatures are collected, I've never heard a single one elaborate beyond or state any reason to support the CFS. Nobody has told me why, but I think for an honest campaign you should give both sides. I feel that the way people ask for signature is like a light invasive method.

Miranda: I'm going to back up Dan, as much as I agree on the referendum, the approach to signatures is "it's bad if you agree with the CFS" and I feel cornered. Inform us instead of having the shame mentality if you disagree.

Kaitlyn: I don't completely agree with what Dan said, I was involved with the campaign in my first year, we were told to just explain the situation, in a "we don't have a stand" way. So yeah talk to Aidan about that.

Albert: We shouldn't attack membership. It gives motivation to just have them attend our events so students can know about it. I understand concerns about predatory light. The average students just want their degree and internships, so we really have to try to get students to listen. I do think there should be some sensitivity especially to people just studying.

Danielle: Could we get Adrian's email, and maybe have a table in the JCR where he has snacks and can preach the campaign?

Paul: I was talking with Aidan. There are different options to have. I think the reason they're going to JCR and CSC is because when they go to one large event, they get a lot of signatures, but the same signatures every time because it's the problem we've faced with our events for years – the same people. Maybe have table set ups – I like tables.

Victoria: My suggestion is to set this up the same way our elections are held: if you're in a UC space, don't go up to a student that looks like they don't want to talk to you. Don't ask them to take our their headphones.

Soli: When I was approached, I was told "this and this is bad." I think as a first year we're really trusting of people if they're older. I think if it's possible to provide links to additional resources

and information that'd be great. There were four of us first years that were like "sure" when it came to signing.

Brie: When I was approached I was given information because I asked about it; I piggyback on what Soli said about first years.

Aidan: There's a lot of franticness to achieve signatures. There's a big exam post in December. where there are stations in the exam centre for people who want to sign. Please do read up on the links I posted in our Facebook group, if you think an info session or getting You Decide to talk about the campaign is something that can be worked out for your own benefit. When you're talking to some students like in the "Pit" and say "here's a campaign to save money" students respond with "sign me the fuck up."

Sarita: When I was approached in second year, the hardest thing is that they're concerned with taking up too much students' time, which might seem short and insufficient information. You know how some people provide a snack or drinks, like Dan's Foodback thing, so it's not like an environment where it's like spoke to us on stage? If there's a little presentation to con hall class that's still good.

14. **Other Business**

Ryan: There's been quite a few people missing meetings, if you missed more than three meetings, you're supposed to get kicked off the UC Lit. If you're not coming to meetings then you shouldn't be on council. Everyone ran to be elected to this committee to do better for UC students.

Kaitlyn: All I can say is that you need to be here to be called out.

Albert: This also includes training meetings like the retreat, and so if you didn't come to retreat and didn't let us know, it counts as the same weight as missing a council meeting. Also, generally on council, the word "savage" has a lot of colonial roots, don't do it around UC space, you don't know their roots, or if they're indigenous. Even though it has new connotations, with respect to the values of this college, I'd recommend that you refrain and think before you say it. It's ironic that there's a land acknowledgement statement if you say that word.

Dan: I have something I forgot to mention in my report. If you are having events in December, have it on the calendar by Friday. Please send me blurbs, often it's only Ben that sends me blurbs.

Victoria: We're gonna do a Secret Santa; it's a 15\$ maximum. We're gonna write your names on this paper and draw right now. The present swap is December 3.

Kaitlyn: Send me your playlist.

Victoria: Why don't we just sign into Spotify on the UC Lit computer?

Kaitlyn: Because they keep re-signing into Fonte's account.

Albert: So in December we're doing a holiday photo/postcard sent to everybody from the Lit.

Sameer: I know for Secret Santa, historically people don't want to do it for financial reasons, if anyone wanted to opt out they should be able to.

Victoria: If you do not want to do it you can message me. We can do it through Elfsfter.

Aidan: Would the lit website photos be taken at the Dec 3 meeting as well?

Dan: To that point, if Albert doesn't want to, AJ volunteered to take our photos, Rachel can also take our photos. The problem is that at every meeting at least 5 members aren't here.

Michelle Zhong: Since we ratified all the first year reps, I'd just like to remind everybody to actually attend the meetings.

15. **Quote of the Meeting (Kourtis/Swirsky)**

Be it resolved that Aidan: "Sign me the fuck up" be the quote of the meeting.

16. **BIRT the meeting be adjourned (Kourtis/Wang)**

Meeting Adjourns at 12:38PM.

President:

Hey council! A few things to report on my end.

- Planning a training session for RIRI during the first weekend of December, December 3. Our plan is to get this off the ground and get it moving.
- On SGRT, I've been elected as one of the Winterfest co-chairs along with Innis and SMCSU. We've got a very exciting week of events coming up in January, with many UC commissioners taking the lead as sub-committee heads. Please volunteer through the Google form if you're interested in getting involved!
- SGRT has also been compiling responses and feedback on the Draft Policy for the University Mandated Leave of Absence to present to Simcoe Hall. Its proposal has been pushed back to the next governing cycle, so it is no longer going to the next UAB meeting, which means there is more time to leave comments and concerns. Aidan held a consultation meeting and there was a lot of good discussion around the Draft Policy. They'll probably release a summary of what was said soon!
- I've decided to hire a deputy for January onwards. I'll see if there's enough delegation of responsibilities for the Deputy, so this will be largely a test-run, and then I'll recommend next year's President whether it was necessary or not for them to propose it to constitution review
- Please keep the Lit office clean!
- Core exec will be doing check-ins with council by visiting you during your office hours in the later weeks of November and early December. It'll be largely informal, but we'll send you a set of some questions we'll ask you just in case you want to be prepared.
- If you're graduating this year, please let me know -- You're eligible for free grad photo packages and a bobble head through Lassman Studios.

Vice-President:

Good morning sunshines!

When I read this out loud the retreat will be over and I hope that you all took some leadership and enjoyment out of it.

There is actually, now that the retreat is over, not a lot for me to report on. DO NOT FORGET that after the meeting, we will be doing a quick clean up of the JCR. Many hands make light work so we are going to get this done quickly! I don't like when our home looks like an untidy barn.

Hope your reading week was relaxing!

Lots of VP love,

Vic <3

Finance:

Nothing Submitted.

Athletics:

Hey everybody! As the semester wraps up, I hope that it's treated you well up until this point, and that things are looking good for finals! To wrap up 2017, Athletics has a couple of things going on.

First, we'll be going to see the Toronto Raptors take on the Washington Wizards a little after this meeting. Tickets were very popular, as they sold out within an hour of sales beginning! I'm excited to be taking so many members of our community to the game, and expect it should be fun for everybody involved!

Second, signups for winter intramurals have opened! We have a few new sports being offered, such as field hockey, lacrosse, dodgeball, and innertube water polo, and we also have a few spots on teams that started in fall. Signups will end on December 1 st ; although people can continue to indicate their interest beyond this point, there is no guarantee they'll have a chance to play. Also, we need to know if we have the numbers to register teams for the new sports by Nov 22. Please tell your friends about these opportunities, as I'd love to have as many people get involved as possible!

Third, we sent a team to compete at the glow-in- the-dark dodgeball tournament over reading week, and it was a fantastic experience! People had a lot of fun, and it was well-organized considering it was the first time this tournament was organized.

Looking forward, we'll be having our November commission meeting on November 23, and we also have two tournaments coming up at the end of November – innertube basketball and handball.

That's all from me! Hope the rest of November goes well for you guys!

From Athletics with love,

Benjamin Wang

Equity and Outreach:

Hey folks!

Not much to report on our end. Our movie night was pretty well although attendance could've been better! All things considered, it went well! We hope you're taking care of yourselves and are being kind to your brains and bodies!

Lots of love,
Mira and Ziigwen

Literary and Creative Arts:

Hey everyone! Thanks so much for an amazing November. It was a loooong month but we've all survived! Since finals are coming up, LCA is going to be pretty quiet. Melanie and I have opted to not do a December coffeehouse due to exam scheduling. However, for the upcoming January coffeehouse we would like to set in place some new rules. First, we would appreciate it if people were NOT in the Lit office during coffeehouses. It's cool if you're in there doing work quietly or something but having 6 Lit members in the office with the door open and laughing while someone on the stage is a little distracting. Either leave the door closed and keep a little quieter or please enjoy the show from the audience! Also if you're around Diabolos and waiting for a drink while performances are going on, please take the lead in making sure people are not talking too loud or exiting during performances. That would make mine and Melanie's job a lot easier! As far as December goes, Melanie and I will be working on the planning of Battle of the Bands! You should totally join our subcommittee please and thank you.

Mental Health:

Hey Everyone!

So we had a few issues planning our Yoga night this month. Basically there was a weird method of communication with our contact and I was told they were willing to do it and that they would get back to me but then they never did, and it was a bit too short notice for some of my backup contacts at that point, so we're not able to have it this month, but we will have more in future months. I also met with the UTSU mental health commissioner to discuss what we were both doing, and it turns out the UTSU is already compiling a list of mental health resources on campus, something we were looking at doing as a commission which is great to hear, so I offered my help on that.

That's all from me,
Thomas <3

Off-Campus:

Hello friends! Hope everyone had a great week back! So the last couple of events we had (Pumpkin carving and the Halloween party) were great successes! Currently we have assassins going on with the game officially starting on Monday, as well as a pancake breakfast Monday morning (which everyone should come to). At the moment we also have the secret Santa sign ups and will soon be starting that so that there is enough time to get the gifts before the holiday party. We are also planning a games night and smash tournament called UCOC winter games coming up on the 28th so please help spread the word for that and make sure to come by! Thanks everyone!

Services:

Not Submitted

Social:

Hey guys! I hope you all had a great reading week and got some good rest for the upcoming pub crawl! As you all know it's happening on Thursday, November 23rd. While I'm writing this we're still figuring out some of the logistics with a few bars, but otherwise everything should be done and the t-shirts should arrive tomorrow. At my last commission meeting of the year we came up with a great activity for the bars so that everyone will get a chance to meet new people, so I hope that works out. Please promote the event to your friends and buy your tickets! I don't want to stress about ticket sales... My last event of the year will be Masterchef UC which I am currently working on with Aynaz, and we have already gotten a bunch of sign ups. I hope everything goes well as this is the first time I'll be organizing something on residence and working with the UCRC. That's it for now!

Spirit and Communications:

Hey all, this has been a pretty good month with only a few (minor) nasty surprises. I'll get those out of the way first, because of issues with our suppliers, the gryphon caps and crewnecks are going to be late (Gryphon caps expected in a week or so and the crewnecks are TBA). Otherwise we're getting our second "half" of our sales year off to a pretty good start. Send me a picture of a cow if you've made it this far. The Last Chance sale didn't sell out the items we had but it did bring in about \$500 of revenue in a week so I count that as a win. My deps and I have decided we're going to be having a Black Friday sale this Friday (with actual deals this time I swear).

The feedback and get involved forms have still been running well (I've added two new members to the blog team, one of whom is super psyched to start working on it). Foodback was also a success although I hope our turnout improves for the next one in January as we only had a little over a dozen

non Lit people there. If you sent me a picture of a cow apologize, if not send me a picture of pig. Someone suggested that we host the next one at Fung during dinner so I'm going to check with Scott and Colin as to how reasonable that is. We got some really good Feedback that we hadn't really heard from the forms yet. One of which was that UC spaces other than the JCR feel somewhat alienated from the Lit. Also someone suggested we make our own opt-in Listserv that goes out weekly or bi-weekly. Also the honus of introducing had to be on us, not on the people attending our events. We've also heard that people see the way we use the office during events as it being a "VIP room" or a "private closet" and that's just adding to the exclusivity, so maybe we should start locking the office during events in the JCR.

Another thing we kept hearing was that it's really hard for people to make time for our events. This goes along with things we've heard in the feedback form about having too many events for people to keep track of or decide between. Maybe having more drop-in style events could help with this. Also only one more thing I promise, the letterboard is in and please use it. I've already had multiple non-Lit people come up and tell me how much they appreciate having it up.

Sustainability:

The BYOC event went really really well, I got feedback saying that a lot of people came by for the pumpkin spice, so we will try to make this an annual legacy!

We will also be running a Salad Fest event at the CSC in two weeks, please share with your friends and commissions! We will be working with Dig In! so most of the salad will have been grown on campus, how cool is that? If this goes well, we will also try to make this an annual thing.

That's all :)

University and Academic Affairs:

Heya!

- The Study Groups form ended on Friday so groups will now be meeting with each other for the next few weeks! YAY! I am working with Aynaz (UCRC) to plan two big Study Group days in Fung with food and drinks.

- The De-Stressor page is up and running! Please share it and invite your friends! There is going to be Arts & Crafts, Button-making, Therapy Dogs, and a Cereal Bar! If anyone wants to help out, come talk to me!

- Tua and I are also sub-committee heads for Winterfest's Snakes and Lattes night. If you have any ideas for the night, come talk to us!

Love you all <3

Mid-Year Reps:

We met, planned cheesy reps, rescheduled cheesy reps, communicated with RiRi, feedback was pretty good (need more turnout tho), we're STILL repping

Olivia: Does anyone have any questions? We were going to schedule it for last week but then scheduled it

Danielle: can we get a detail of what it will entail?

Priya: cheese, and a meet and greet with the reps.

Ryan: will there be cheesy puns? YES.

Olivia: we're working on Rep Pics for Diabolos.

Paul: mine is the salted caramel brownies.

Upper-Year Reps:

Never Submitted.

Orientation:

Hi friends! We ain't in a deficit, take a look and ask us any questions about our budget that you have thank u

UC Review:**UC Follies:**

The UC Follies is currently working to promote Spring Awakening which goes up December 1st and runs until the 9th! We are currently working to find sponsors and connect with those we feel can support our production! If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the Spring Awakening production or UC Follies in general please let Hannah-Rae know!

Diabolos:**UCRC:****Gargoyle:**

Our fifth issue, The Mommy Issue, will be released this week. We have one more issue, The Yule Issue this semester and it will be our last in the office. I hope you all can come 8pm, November 30, in the basement of the F wing. Please find Taryn, Penny and myself at the groundbreaking ceremony in all black and crying. Hope you're all doing well.

UTSU:

Here's what's up at the UTSU:

- Anushka is currently away in Ottawa, helping represent UTSU at the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) national general meeting! UTSU will be trying, *yet again*, to get the CFS to finally institute online voting for referenda, and to disclose details of its hidden bank account. Keep sending her your good graces – lord knows she needs them.
- The Annual General Meeting happened October 30th; thank you to all who took the time to proxy their votes and read up on the issues! And of course thanks to the “UC delegation” for showing up and taking the initiative to see for themselves how the UTSU runs: Miranda, Tony, Sabrina B., Paul, Albert and Aidan.
 - There was a bylaw change made to merge Vice President External and Vice President University Affairs into a new position. It was externalized, and the meeting attendees voted to reverse this change.
 - The changes made to the General Equity Directors structure, spearheaded by VP Equity Chim Alao, passed. Now, equity directors will be selected from new collectives based on the current 7 covered identities – with seats reserved on each for related equity organizations on campus – and will now be financially compensated for their labour, though, due to corporate law prohibiting voting members from being compensated, they can no longer vote. They, and their entire collectives, will still have speaking rights at meetings, and will be expected to be extensively consulted on all initiatives undertaken by the UTSU.
 - Some other changes:
 - entrenching the right to online voting
 - reforming how executives can be removed from office
 - entrenching the new Campaigns, Outreach and Equity committees
 - preventing the UTSU from joining any organizations from which it cannot exit without a simple vote of the board (paging the CFS).
- We're hiring a Vice President, University Affairs next weekend! Once hired, this person will get right to work advocating to administration, and coming up with projects to work on with board members and other students.

- Free Vegan Breakfast on Friday, November 24th!
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2021406061424616/>
- If you have concerns with the new Mandatory Leave Policy for students with mental health issues (which has luckily been pushed back!!!), please come out to the University Affairs Board meeting, Monday, November 20th at 4:30 in Simcoe Hall. Some UTSU members will likely be speaking; if you're interested in speaking there, fill out this form (<https://uoftgc.wufoo.com/forms/request-by-a-nonmember-to-address/>). If you're not interested in doing so, but still want to share concerns with someone who will be speaking, there are a number of things you can still do:
 - Add your thoughts to this line-by-line critique of the policy, which has been developed by students and shared with voting members of Governing Council and the Vice Provost, Students:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tslQQrQ2w8pxfTbmPcgoGZcedBHhXnojoy-aufr_i7PQ/edit
 - Fill out this form from the UTSU, who have also shared concerns with the Vice Provost, Students: https://utsu.formstack.com/forms/u_of_t_leave_policy
 - Another form from the SGRT, who have also gone to the Vice Provost, Students: [UofT Student Feedback - Draft Policy on the Mandatory Leave of Absence Policydocs.google.com](https://policydocs.google.com)
 - Sign this petition from Students for Barrier-Free Access, to be sent to (you guessed it!) the Vice Provost, Students: [Re: University-Mandated Leave Policydocs.google.com](https://policydocs.google.com)
 - A community consultation on the policy, led by a group of individual students rather than any organization, was held this past week. You can read the anonymized minutes here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/189mFwc6WEosJ61GOOG2qFrQUNuajhCmVUCjk-OQ5Vzk/edit>.
- Aidan is taking the lead on an urban issues hackathon, in partnership with the Centre for Community Partnerships and Alternative Reading Week. It's meant to link up students to urban-focused volunteer opportunities and exchange ideas for initiatives, and it's in the very early planning stages, so if you want to get involved in it, please join the Community Action Commission group! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/278977689178093/>
- Our humanities director, Kassandra Neranjan, has undertaken an effort to compile academic-related concerns from humanities students. If you are a humanities student, please feel free to contribute to this working document (https://docs.google.com/.../1G20FDENCdM1D7LH_iKW3uFDmrjg.../edit), and/or email

kassandra.neranjan@utsu.ca with question suggestions for a survey! Or you could just tell any of us 3 and we'll let her know your concerns.

- Our new Woodsworth director, Max Xi, has taken the lead on a project to create short videos on student rights, study tips, and neat study/food spaces on or off campus. This is in line with a forthcoming "Bill of Student Rights" that the UTSU plans to work on. Let us know if you want to take part in this project, either through suggesting ideas, or using your filmmaking/editing skills to put it all together!
- Our LGBTQ equity director, Andrea Bermudez, is holding a Trans Day of Remembrance vigil this Monday, November 20th. It will involve the making of paper flowers, which will be left at LGBTQOUT's office (in Sir Dan's) in remembrance of victims of transphobic violence. Please come! <https://www.facebook.com/events/127176624628282/>
- Our Women's equity director, Grace Marshall, is holding a screening of "The Hunting Ground" and discussion on campus sexual violence, also on Monday, November 20th. <https://www.facebook.com/events/523665034658316/>
- Our Sustainability Commissioner, Zhenglin Liu, is leading an initiative to audit buildings on campus, to track need for composting and overuse of lights, as well as campus food spaces, to determine how they can run more sustainably. You can sign up to help on the event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1119517198182748/>.
- U-Commute is going along very swimmingly; Anne Boucher, our VP External, recently met with the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx, to discuss the future implementation of GO Transit into the plan! You can still expect a vote on the TTC transit pass this March.
- The UTSU's Help Desk has been a huge success thus far. If you're ever in need of academic advice, or need to seek out resources in general, just go on utsu.ca, click on the chat icon in the corner, and a student staff will quickly respond to your inquiry!
- UTSU's President, Mathias Memmel, is part of a group of other student union presidents, called UCRU, which spent a week in Ottawa recently advocating to over 50 MP's to act on certain issues affecting students, such as changing the Tuition Tax Credit into up-front grants and loans, and increasing funding for reconciliation initiatives on campuses. They wrote briefs on these and other topics; let us know if you want to read them, and we'll send them your way!
- Adrian Huntelar, UTSU's representative for low-income students, recently issued a public call for student organizations to assist with providing food items for the UTSU's food bank; if you're ever looking for a charitable donation component for any of your events, encouraging guests to donate non-perishable food items to the UTSU's food bank is a good way to help fellow students in need!

- Finally – and perhaps most fun – Adrian also has been working on a partnership between the UTSU and an organization called Brands for Canada. We'll let him explain:

“Some of you may know that I've been working on a partnership between the UTSU and an organization called Brands For Canada (BFC). The main work that BFC does is they source surplus clothing from major brands that has been produced but not sold (still new and unworn), and connects that supply with community organizations through “portals”. We are planning to build a U of T Student “portal”, accessible to anyone with a U of T email, where students can purchase products at heavy discounts. BFC also donates a portion of their supply to organizations that serve low-income communities. In the case of the UTSU partnership, we've agreed that BFC would help supply a Clothing Bank that will become operational in the next few months. They are also expanding their mandate into partnering with companies who provide personal care items, technology, travel services, and entertainment.

“All this is a long-winded way of saying, we need your help. BFC needs to know which brands would be of interest to U of T students, so they can negotiate with the companies to come on board the platform. That's where you come in. We'd like to crowd-source ideas for which companies to reach out to – we're asking anyone who is interested in pitching ideas to come up with a list of their top-5 or top-10 brands that you would like to see, in the following categories:

- Fashion
- Personal Care
- Tech
- Travel
- Entertainment (Music, Events, Restaurants)

“Please also feel free to ask your constituents, council members and friends for ideas when making your lists. All suggestions will be forwarded to Brands for Canada, who will work with the companies to bring their products to U of T students at a discount, and in some cases, for free.”

To this end, we'll be motioning to have a discussion on this topic, to get everyone's input!

***ON AN UNRELATED NOTE: Aidan is a member of the Planning Committee for next year's Student Leadership Conference, for which the planning is ramping up. If you have any feedback about workshops from last year (what worked, what didn't etc.), logistics or anything else, please let him know! Similarly, also let him know if you'd want to give a testimonial for our promotions!

SLC: