

CASG General Assembly Meeting
6:00 pm Monday Nov 30th, 2009
Senate Room
Carleton University

1. Presentation by Ryan Flannigan, Director of Student Affairs at Carleton University

1.1. Not present

2. Call to Order 6:17

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Agenda approved unanimously

4. Approval of Past Minutes

4.1. Approved unanimously

5. Executive, Coordinator and Director Reports

5.1. President James Splinter

5.1.1. This is our December meeting. CASG wishes you all good luck on exams. We had some interesting committee meetings. For example, Financial Planning Committee discussed budget for the whole university, how we can increase revenue or organize cuts. Talk to me if you have any creative ideas about how university can make or save money. Also this week in the Atrium we have an outreach. If you see us, come and say hello, we have hot chocolate, and we want to talk to students about their opinions.

5.2. Vice-President Finance and Administration- Rob Nettleton – not present

5.3. Vice-President Operations- Matt Dick

5.3.1. I have been taking care of general maintenance, logistics, etc. Facebook ads are up. We also have a logo contest of which culmination will be this week. I am trying to have scheduled class talks. As well, this week, we have a table in the Atrium to let people know who we are what do we do, and we want to know whether they have any problems or suggestions. We are trying to illicit changes within the Senate, for example, change in the way the university gives out distinctions. Good luck on your exams.

5.4. Vice-President Internal- Lydia Downing

5.4.1. I have been planning group for the end of semester extravaganza, organizing meetings. I was thinking how to reach out to students more, how committees work better. I have been Involved with creating a spreadsheet for each of faculty coordinators so they can submit records to CASG, so we can know more

about how they are doing. I found something interesting on the OIRP website; they have grade distributions of all of the classes at Carleton. What we are planning to lobby to have those information updated consistently. As well, I am working on departmental email lists which we have to change every year, and I would like to work something more effective.

5.5. Vice-President Academic- Brandon Wallingford

5.5.1. I have been making sure that office is running properly. We bought a new shredder. I have been dealing mostly with administrative stuff.

5.6. FASS Coordinator- Guy Massie (Paroma was absent)

5.6.1. We have two major things happening in FASS. I am an undergraduate representative for the Review Committee. I will to give out a positive review of the Dean's last 5 years. There are also two new representatives for Humanities and one other program. We are still looking for representatives for some constituencies. There are few representatives that we have not talked to and are not returning our emails. We are looking for a possibility to replace them.

5.7. FPA Coordinator- Dean Tester – absent

5.8. Science Coordinator- Lydia Downing on behalf of Taryn Lloyd (absent)

5.8.1. Chemistry program undergoes a number of changes. They are expanding course offerings, changing the introduction to chemistry class. As well, the program of neuroscience is changing, its webpage is changed. I have described it all in my latest blog entry. As well, course requirements are being changed for Life Sciences, and I am writing on the review committee for that program.

5.9. FED Coordinator- Jessica Lynch

5.9.1. Now new meetings, no new changes, no complaints.

5.10. Business Director- Michael Monks

5.10.1. There are only 5 reps, so not much is changed. We have discussed some course offerings, and helped designing courses for people who are just interested in business.

6. **Question Period #1**

6.1. Stephen Conrad to Matt Dick asked about class talks which are to be held, as well as table in the atrium, if people are interested they should send an email to Matt Dick. There is a script, and you can get extra candy.

6.2. Heather Page: Sometimes we do not know what classes to take, and undergraduate calendar is not too descriptive. Can we have the opinions accessible or outlines so we know what class we would like to take. James Splinter: Last year, we lobbied for having class outlines posted before the term starts. It happens in some departments, but not all. As well, we are looking for creating database for our purposes with opinions.

6.3. Matt Dick: These are only for course syllabi, we cannot access the instructors' evaluations because any information you submit to Carleton is held confidential. The evaluations are covered by the CUPE and cannot be disclosed.

7. Reports from Committees

7.1. Financial Review –There was no meeting since last Assembly Meeting.

7.2. Governance Review – Heather Page: we had a pretty decent turnout, we have been talking about proxies, bylaw of student board and interpretation of what does it really mean.

7.3. Volunteer and Director – Julia Letts: We have a movie. We were also talking about signage and posters.

7.4. Elections Review – Dean Tester is absent, James Splinter: in January we will have detailed electoral reform ideas.

7.5. Promotions and Advertising – Michael Monks: As it was mentioned previously, we are running a Facebook campaign. We have two ads about getting involved and what the organization is doing. It costs \$2 a day, 60,000 impressions per dollar. We get on average 22 clicks per day. We were also taking care of smaller promotional thing. Now we are getting a table in the atrium, Lydia is the contact, or Matt or Rob if you would like to get involved with that.

8. Question Period #2

8.1. Adam Dewar to James Splinter: Are we going to be allowed to campaign for the elections in the new electoral code. James: as it looks now, we will be able to.

9. Business Arising – None

10. Business at Hand

10.1. Discussion of Bylaws 1.3.1 – 1.3.6

The CASG Governance Review Committee, while reviewing the bylaws, noticed that according to bylaws 1.3.1 – 1.3.6, representatives (non-ex-officio) are unable to send proxies, and ex-officio proxies are not allowed to vote. There was a suggestion that the bylaw be changed so that reps would be allowed to send proxies and all proxies would be given voting rights. While there was no objection at the committee to this idea, the President, who was attending the meeting, felt that the issue should first be discussed at council before the committee proposed any changes. The committee and the committee chair agreed.

10.1.1. Questions being posed to council:

Should representatives be allowed to send proxies? What are the potential benefits or problems associated with allowing proxies? (maximum 10 minutes for discussion/debate)

Should proxies be given voting rights? What are the potential benefits or problems associated with allowing proxies voting rights? (maximum 10 minutes for discussion/debate)

After discussion/debate has ended we will have a vote on the following:

Should the CASG Governance Review Committee investigate and propose changes to the relevant sections of Bylaw 1.3 regarding proxies?

James Splinter talked about the issue. Committee decided to change the bylaw, but we felt it did not have the required power to do so. Therefore, we decided to ask you those questions.

Opinions on Proxies

10.1.2. Adam Dewar: Yes, we should absolutely allow proxies to come and have a vote because it helps people with coming. It also influences the attendance at meetings. I was surprised that CASG did not allow it.

10.1.3. Matt Dick: There is an important reason for this rule. First, we are a large council, so the idea of one vote making the difference is not that important. Second, as a rep you represent students and you have been at the departmental board, all the changes we have made will go back to departmental boards, and the proxy sometimes is not really familiar with subject matter.

10.1.4. Cameron Mackenzie: Do we still have quorum? James Splinter: yes, we do.

10.1.5. Lydia Downing: you can still be involved when you are not here, so you can forward a report to have it read like Taryn did today. You can be involved in that sense.

10.1.6. Andrew Mossad: I think you will need to find a proxy that is familiar to CASG work and system, the constituency, and there should be an outline what the proxies can and cannot do.

10.1.7. Shahin Yazdani: Question of clarification: Are we talking about meetings of council or committees?

10.1.8. James Splinter: only to council meetings, to the departmental meetings you cannot send proxies.

10.1.9. Stephen Conrad: Proxies can work against you, because they can vote, and complicate your life.

10.1.10. Cameron Mackenzie: we have proxies at CUSA, and I like it, the only issue is that it should be from the same faculty.

10.1.11. Andrew Mossad: if a proxy votes against the rep, what can be done to reverse that?

10.1.12. Emile Scheffel: Under Robert's Rules of Order, there is nothing that can be done.

10.1.13. Matt Dick: I don't have a strong opinion, I kind of like proxies, I am not worried about something being done that the person sent as a proxy to say something not cool. It is the representative that sends the proxy. I would like it to be from the same faculty, ideally from the department. I would like the proxy to have some knowledge of issues that are being debated. That can be overcome by sending additional information to the person being sent as a proxy so they can know.

10.1.14. David Tucker: It is problematic to not allow votes for proxies. Only representatives should be allowed to vote. We should just not allow proxies altogether because that can cause a lot of problems.

10.1.15. Meera Chander: I am in favour of proxies. It is easier to have a meeting with quorum. There is no point of having no proxy if you have no vote. If the person votes against you then you are responsible for it.

10.1.16. Adam Dewar: you can still send regrets and not send a proxy, it's better not to send anyone if you are going to send someone that acts in a irresponsible.

10.1.17. Alexandra: we are elected by the people from the program, so if I have the ability to send a proxy, then I am not really representing people in our programs.

10.1.18. Lydia Downing: At the meetings, usually, we do not discuss about controversial issues, so it is not like someone with influence the outcome of an important vote.

10.1.19. Andrew Mossad: I have a couple of suggestions. Proxies can be vote on things that were on the agenda, but not on emergency motions, for example.

10.1.20. John Mc Laughlan: If we are sending the proxies, we should let them know how they should vote.

10.1.21. Cameron Mackenzie: For example, here we have maybe 20ish people, ability to send proxies will allow for more organizational stability.

10.1.22. Matt Dick: I think we should allow proxies but no count them as regrets or as absences. We should propose a separate count, and proxies should be allowed to vote.

10.1.23. Dave Tucker: If people cannot show up that means they don't have time for us. They can send proxies, and this can be the place where the system can be efficiently used.

Opinions on voting rights

10.1.24. Adam Dewar: Proxies should have voting rights, the system I would propose would be identical to CUSA. They have a limit of meetings missed, limit of proxies you can send. It is a good system and covers all of the basics. I think we should look into it.

10.1.25. Dave Tucker: I think proxies should have no voting rights. In unlikely vote for a controversial issue, the proxies should not be allowed to vote.

10.1.26. Andrew Mossad: Maybe we can have a separate type of category for proxy votes?

10.1.27. Emile Scheffel: Each vote is equal.

10.1.28. Stephen Conrad: Maybe we could have two tiers of proxies: with or without voting rights.

10.1.29. Matt Dick: every year, there is one vote that does not pass. There is one vote per meeting on average, motions are usually uncontroversial. I would be comfortable sending a proxy.

10.1.30. Brandon Wallingford: Proxies will be here if we allow them. They will be here to serve us. If you are uncomfortable sending a proxy, do not send one. For example if there was a motion to ban all of the engineering representatives, and they would have engineering meeting at the same time, we are giving away their right to speak to the council; we can go back if you want to revisit a motion if it was particularly offensive to you; almost no organizations do not allow them.

- 10.2. Vote on whether the committee should investigate and propose changes:
10.2.1. Opposed 5, approved.

11. Open Discussion about Academic Issues & Feedback from Departmental Representative

- 11.1. James Splinter: This is a public forum where you are given an opportunity to talk about things like constituency report.
- 11.2. Dave Tucker: Philosophy: There is a lot of hiring of new professors. New classes will be thought. If anyone is interested in taking a philosophy course, there is a bigger chance that it might be offered.
- 11.3. Cameron Mackenzie: We are hiring a new professor in the school of social work.
- 11.4. Matt Dick: Just wanted to tell people, that there is an ongoing partnership with university of Ottawa where credits are approved equally. It is something a lot of people know about especially in sciences. They offer classes in French. The rules are clearly described by the administration, so take a look at University of Ottawa.
- 11.5. Heather Page: Human Rights are doing projects on different types of resistance. We are wondering about sexual assault centre and what is the official line on it.
- 11.6. James Splinter: We do not have an official stance on it. We might want to look into it while we are here to help each other. We can seat at a committee as a academic issues representatives in agreement with CUSA.
- 11.7. Matt Dick: There was a new student rights and responsibilities policy discussed by CUSA, CASG, and RRRA and the administration. It talked about personal issues and how they should be treated by administration. Now, they have discretion on how to treat that, there is an emergency response team that deals with it. If we have any possible input we will work on that.
- 11.8. Lydia Downing: If anyone is able to sit at the tables this Thursday and Friday, let me know. You can sign up on those sheets if you are interested.
- 11.9. James Splinter: There are also contracts to take care of.
- 11.10. Andrew Mossad: Can we have a committee that deals with University of Ottawa issues.
- 11.11. Matt Dick: We can look into it, but you should probably deal with it directly with University of Ottawa administration.
- 11.12. Guy Massie: We should have name tags back.
- 11.13. Luke Russell: Something to be known by science or engineering rep, NSERC is changing rules, and counting down research grants.
- 11.14. Matt Dick: There is a new position of VP Research and CASG is thrilled to be a part of choosing that person.
- 11.15. Christina Holmes: Criminology Society is organizing a raffle, collecting scarves, and boots for Ottawa Mission. There is a bake sale on December 15. If you are interested in getting raffle tickets, you should contact me.

12. Adjournment 7:30

