

Agenda - CASG General Meeting, February 23, 2010
6:30 pm, Senate Room, Carleton University

Call To Order 6:47 PM

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approved unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting

Moved by James Splinter, Seconded by Stephen Conrad

Approved unanimously

3.0 Executive Report/Announcements

Report from the Executive as provided by James Splinter

Hi Council! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable reading break! Welcome back! As an executive team, we've spent the last month doing a number of things. President, wrote up a new electoral code that you will all be seeing to night, it has since been edited slightly to the version we see now. I look forward to hearing all your comments. On the Senate front we have been discussing the ineligible to return policy of Carleton. Many students are forced to leave their program, but are able to continue on in another degree at Carleton. This is a large loss of students that could go on to success at Carleton, it's part of our on going initiative to increase retention at Carleton. The BOG (Board of Governors) elections are coming up and CASG has been helping to craft a new electoral code. I am sad to inform you that our VP Finance and Administration, Brandon Wallingford was found in violation of his contract and has forfeited his position as a result.

VPI, Taryn, has been continuing to compile a report on the activity of council in all departments. This will be completed finally by next month. Please report to your coordinators, asap if you haven't already done so. Activities for the next month will include working with Rob, VPA, on creating job profiles for two new coordinator positions: Academic Issues Coordinator and Academic Campaigns Coordinator. VPI will also be working on the bylaws and making appropriate changes - so look for this next month, and if interested, please join the governance review committee (meeting soon!)

VPA, Rob, will be working with VPI to construct job descriptions for two new paid coordinator positions as mentioned above. Continued work with the course outline initiative. Having met with the faculty union (CUASA) things are going to be able to be sped up and gain more momentum. The ideal scenario will be for a separate section of the CASG website dedicated to

course outlines from the various faculties.

VPO, Matt, has been working on our overall promotions for the CASG. We are making arrangements for a profession designer to make our next series of posters and online ads to ensure they are appealing. We are also doing another round of tabling to reach out to students experiencing academic issues. On the policy side of things, I have been busy working on our electoral code, in addition to drafting a policy for a hiring board and consolidating the structure of the organization.

3.0 Co-ordinator Report

3.1 **Dean Tester:** Dean has been working on the electoral code. If you have not sent your reports yet please do so, and continue the good work!

3.2 **Paroma Ray:** We will have a meeting on February 26. So far a lot of people is involved. We have some new people, but there are still vacant seats.

3.3 **Andrew Kwai:** I am new to this position, I have been doing a lot of learning. I have a meeting with representatives in the first week of March. I am going to email to get syllabi form the Faculty in our department. There is some changes is Math courses, if you would like to know what is going on, please let me know.

4.0 Constituency Reports

4.1 **David Tucker** – Philosophy and History: There is some new hiring in the philosophy department. I have been working with Guy Massie on introduction of Gay and Lesbian Studies. At this point, there is no school in Canada that works in it. We are meeting with a head of Women Studies to talk about it, I am sure that some courses from that degree can be used in it.

5.0 Question Period

5.1 **Brian Mortimer:** Why we do not include SASC discussion and what CASG's successes?

James Splinter: I have already done it last meeting, informed on the age cap taken off.

6.0 Presentation by **Brian Mortimer**, Clerk of Senate, re: Electoral code changes

6.1 I have been working with CASG since it has developed. I ran elections, and I have access to online voting tool. This is also how we do Senate elections. The president is now chosen by the entire student body, it does not really work really well. This position is of responsibility and service but not power. It would be better to elect the president by the people who are actually here, who know the people who work in here. If we go to all students, they do not really know who the candidates are,

and a paragraph of description does not work very well. You will have a 100% people voting rather than 2% voting randomly. In the Senate, we used to make decisions with 3 envelope voting, and we had 17% turnout, now with online voting we have almost perfect turnout. I will be sending an email to all of you to let you know about Senate election on which you can seat as a student representative. Each Faculty will have a faculty board meeting in March. Academic Plan of the university will be discussed with the provost at that meeting. We can have another meeting on it if you want here. If you have any information, questions, we can discuss it. 60% of it is about students, so it is really important to get your feedback. It is still a discussion paper.

7.0 Question Period

7.1 **Matt Dick:** Constitutional change regarding elections will have to be ratified by Senate, how will that be received?

Brian Mortimer: If the body has properly discussed it and presented it, the Senate will usually not look at it disapprove, I think there will be no problem, every constitution has to be adjusted with time.

7.2 **Meera Chander:** Don't you think that we are taking a democratic voice of the student body by taking away the right of students to vote for the president?

James Splinter: we have a parliamentary system, we are representing constituencies just like a Canadian prime minister, I do not have any power, and this is not what I would like to see happening to have a person who does not know much about CASG to come in and take this seat. We are representing constituencies, and people are representatives of students. All I do is management, administrative stuff. We might consistently get better results with new system. That makes more sense to the organization that we are now.

8.0 Motion to Amend Constitution Article IV, 4.9 The President of the CASG (President)

Moved by James Splinter, Seconded Matt Dick, motion read by James Splinter

8.1 **James Splinter:** What I just said, I am here to lead the group so it makes sense that a group elects their leader. I think it is a good idea.

8.2 **Matt Dick:** I did not like this idea before, but the more I thought about it, the more I like it. We have a council that empowers the executive, and this council is you. We have an administrative role, not exercise power. Every change goes through the council. We are only spokesperson for you. We are here to carry your will, we are not pushing anything as the powerful people.

8.3 **Cameron McKenzie:** So it will be a current rep that runs for president, I do not see how it makes the process better.

James Splinter: All I run are day-to-day things. I do not think we have a bad

system, all of our VPs are elected this way, and coordinators are as well. I do not see why the president is not. I am not taking anything from the students.

8.4 **Cameron McKenzie:** The process that we have know is the process of all students chooseing their representatives. Councils are how student organizations run. I think it is clearly undemocratic, I think we need to have a voice of all students here at Carleton.

Matt Dick: Historically, there has been some issue that are reflected in this change. The main thing is that we would like to deemphasise the president as a dictator which he is not. We do not want to have a president that would be calling all of the issues. The president is directly accountable to the whole council. In the history of especially NUG, we had some examples of people we were trying to run the whole thing by themselves. All of our decisions are approved by our council. Our role is to guide the council who gives us this role, and who we are accountable to. We never move on our own.

8.5 **Meera Chander:** I do not see how it is changing the role of the president. I just see how it changes the election. I do not see how 100 people can elect someone for a president for 20,000 students of the university.

8.6 **Brandon Wallingford:** I like to see that this is a good thing. Last election was acclaimed by the council anyway.

8.7 **James Splinter:** So was VP academic and the Science coordinator.

8.8 **Brandon Wallingford:**I think it is better to have an election of people who know what is going on, who know the work of all of the candidates, I support it.

8.9 **Alexander Golovko:** It is important to remember that people are not voting in the election.

8.10 **James Splitner:** Executive elections are in March for May. There is a 4 month long overlap of all reps and the new executive.

8.11 **Paroma Ray:** Call to question.

In favour 22, opposed 4, motion passes by division

9.0 Motion to Accept the Electoral Code as amended

Motion read by James Splinter, Seconded by Matt Dick

9.1 **Matt Dick:** All you received it, 3 main changes are placed in whereas clauses, smaller changes were spelling mistakes etc. We are removing VP Finance and Administration: in the past, we did it on the basis of the senate, now we realized that it is not big organization to have this position. There will be three VPs, and its role will be divided between VP Operations and VP Internal.

Another one, the application to be a representative, it is a sheet to be signed by a faculty member, it is to get you know, and to have a push from the professor to be motivated,

Campaign rules are simplified: do not break law, no campaigning in computer labs and libraries, because people vote in a computer, this is a recommendation from the Committee and past CEOs.

9.2 **Rob Nettleton:** Regarding a question whether there are going to be enough people to do the work of VP FA. In fact, there was not enough responsibility for the FA, it is not going to be a strain for the other people, we are dividing the roles, there is no strain on efficiencies, extra work will be supplemented by two new volunteer positions.

9.3 **Stephen Conrad:** Special Students do not have a department, who could sign my form?

Matt Dick: Anyone, chairs of departments can nominate people as well, and the executive committee can waive that responsibility.

9.4 **Alexander Golovko:** We collect \$1 per person, therefore we have some accountability to the students. We should leave that position as an accountability position. Other is the simple math, if we have 4 people in the executive council, then 2 against 2 voting will not make sense, because it will not make a decision.

Matt Dick: Budget will be under operations, and he/she will be responsible with it, we would like to increase accountability and transparency and we are creating rules for that. As for the executive committee, Brian Mortimer has a spot on it, and if there is a case that there is a tie we can ask the clerk to show up and vote it.

9.5 **Brandon Wallingford on behalf of Andrew Mossad:** Sections 3.23, 3.24, 3.25 to be removed because some students might not be approved by the professors. People, especially first year students, might be uncomfortable to ask. It gets faculty to exercise power and decide who can run. In terms of section 2.42 that says that students need to be in good standing. Some people might be on academic warning, and they also would want to contribute. It discriminates 1st year students who do not have good academic standing. People in general get involved after actually having academic issues.

Motion to strike these sections and renumber accordingly moved by Brandon Wallingford on behalf of Andrew Mossad, Seconded by Meera Chander.

9.5.1 **Brian Mortimer:** Every new student is admitted on good standing.

Special case is for a student that is thrown out of a program at a different university and gets admitted to Carleton, that person will get on academic warning. If you are in on an academic warning, your job is to get on a good standing rather than work here. For the people who switch programs then we should make a special case for those people, and I can do that.

Brandon Wallingford: I do not have a problem with 3.23. I think it is ok, for departments to recommend students, but I do not think we should be

requiring people to get signatures from professors, I don't think that they should have that power. With section 3.42, I do not care about that.

Meera Chander: I am in favour of the motion

James Splinter requested to split the Motion into 4 motions (ruled by the Chair as appropriate). Seconded by Stephen Conrad

Motion to strike section 3.23 and renumber accordingly following sections. Moved by Cameron McKenzie, Seconded by Meera Chander.

9.5.2 **Cameron McKenzie:** I think that section is redundant.

James Splinter: I would like to keep it in, because I think people should be able to talk to the departments, and departments could be involved in putting a candidate out.

Paroma Ray: I thought about it, and I think it would be good for the department to be involved with CASG. It would be very helpful for us. We had problems with even getting into the board meetings. It would make this job more prestigious.

Matt Dick: I would like to speak against the motion. There are reps who have a very special relationship with the departments.

Robert Nettleton: If the faculty nominates someone, it is helping them to be nominated, to inspire them to join, and a morale booster.

Brandon Wallingford: I am against striking this. It is a good idea. I do not support this motion.

Cameron McKenzie: I am not against this motion. I think it is good.

Paroma Ray: I think having a department nominating a student is a good thing. People will still vote.

Alexander Golovko: It will make the process elitist, and will put through people who are most active in class and who have the highest GPA.

Motion to strike section 3.23, 3 for, rest against. The motion is defeated on division.

Motion to strike section 3.24 and renumber following sections accordingly. Moved by Cameron McKenzie, Seconded by Meera Chander.

9.5.3 **Cameron McKenzie:** Because this is an independent body we should not include the signature.

Brandon Wallingford: I like what Cameron said, I don't think we need to have an approval from the faculty, this should be an independent body.

Matt Dick: I am against the amendment. I will give a credit to Paroma Ray for this. We are just trying to make the faculty aware who is running, this is to increase accountability. If you need a signature, you will make a

bond with someone, and the professor that is signing it for you, will motivate you to do something and to continue to do your job as a rep.

Andrew Kwai: I believe that in the entire department, there is always someone who will sign it. It will encourage students to actually go to the professors and talk to them. It makes the transition from being an anonymous student to actually build a relationship.

Brandon Wallingford: By doing this we allow professors more input than they are usually allowed to have. I think we should give them an extra step, an extra loop to jump over for students. I think students should represent students and be nominated by them,

Stephen Conrad: Can it be a professor or could it be a professor?

Matt Dick: Anyone.

Paroma Ray: I would like to speak against this motion. We are an academic student government. We are representing people on academic boards, and if people would like to be involved on these issues, they should be in good contact with professors.

Meera Chander: I agree with Brandon. I do feel that if you have students voting for you, it should be students who nominate you.

Rob Nettleton: We should think about it as an endorsement, not nomination.

Motion to strike section 3.24 and renumber following sections accordingly 15 opposed, 16 for. Motion carries by division.

Motion to strike section 3.25 and renumber following sections accordingly does not exist because the term used does not exist.

Motion to strike section 4.32 and renumber following sections accordingly. Moved by Stephen Conrad and Seconded by James Splinter.

9.5.4 **Stephen Conrad:** I do not find it fair.

James Splinter: I think it should not be there. I think even a student on an academic warning could be a good rep. If I could not be in a good standing because the system is failing you, then you should be able to be a rep.

Andrew Kwai: I am against the motion. If you got yourself to the situation when you have academic warning you should probably get to work to get out of that situation. If you are not in a rep you can still make changes especially if you have academic warning, you can email your rep and change things through that.

Julia Letts: Good academic standing depends on the program. I started out in Journalism, and ended up ineligible to return, but in fact in other

programs, I was still in a good standing.

Matt Dick: I do not have an opinion. I think we should debate on it.

David Tucker: I am indifferent. I think you should be focusing on school work if you are in a bad academic standing, but again it is different for some, for example journalism students.

Call to Question, 1 opposed.

Motion to strike section 4.24. 10 for, 9 against, motion passed by division.

Motion to amend section 3.25 and strike “and signed by the instructor”. Motion carries unanimously.

Vote on the original Amendment: In favour 17 opposed 2.

10.0 Motion to Amend Electoral Code Section 4.32, Eligibility Requirements

Moved by Matt Dick, Seconded by Ricardo Reyes.

Matt Dick: I included this motion by myself. This was not discussed by the executive. If, for example, there is someone running against two people that are well known because they run on different bodies, then that person has no chance of winning. We want to make that chance even.

Alexander Golovko: Only reps can run for VPs anyway.

Cameron McKenzie: It sounds good, but I think it should say all student bodies.

Motion to strike “and not a current or elect executive of the RRRR and CUSA”, moved by Meera Chander and seconded by Cameron McKenzie.

Matt Dick: I would like to speak against the motion. There is no animosity here. There is a lot of work for the position of VPs. I do not think people are able to do both jobs.

Stephen Conrad: I do not want to see a dictator of all 3 organizations.

Alexander Golovko: I do speak in favour of what Stephen and Matt say. It is all about friendships and relationships and I think it is unproductive.

Meera Chander: CUSA executive is student’s first and should be allowed to run. CUSA executives are also in different boards at the same time.

Rob Nettleton: Apologies for CUSA affiliates for being attacked at this meeting.

Brandon Wallingford: I do not care about CUSA and RRRR ultimately it is the council who makes this decision, so I do not think this affects it all that much.

Vote on motion to strike a section from amendment. 4 for, 16 opposed, motion fails on division.

Discussion on original motion

Brandon Wallingford: I think this motion should be passed. We will be allowed to pool from a bigger group of students. If someone will run, they will obviously know what they are running for.

Alexander Golovko: Every student could run? Well, I would like to see someone to go through a stage of being a rep.

Vote on the motion to amend electoral code section 4.32., 8 for, 7 against. Motion passes.

11.0 Business Arising

11.1 Discussion re VP Positions

Matt Dick: We encourage people to know what is going on. If you wish to run, please submit a self-nomination to us, and we will vote at the last council meeting.

11.2 Other Business: no other business

12.0 Adjournment

Motion to Amend Constitution Article IV, 4.9 The President of the CASG (President)

Whereas the current constitution states that the President must be elected “by the student body as a whole”;

And Whereas the structure of CASG lends itself to a more parliamentary style of governance;

And Whereas it is crucial that the vote for President is conducted by a well-informed and involved constituency;

And Whereas the position of President has no exceptional control or powers over the CASG or its caucus;

Be It Resolved That Article IV, 4.9 be amended to read “The President shall be elected from Academic Student Government Representatives by the Caucus for a year one term in accordance with electoral bylaws.”

Moved: James Splinter
Seconded: Matt Dick

Motion to Accept the Electoral Code as Amended

Whereas the CASG Electoral Eode is in need of an update;

And Whereas there is no longer a need to have four Vice Presidents;

And Whereas the CASG continues to strive for greater faculty involvement in student representation;

And Whereas a relaxation of campaign rules ensures the greatest freedom to reach students;

Be It Resolved That the CASG adopts the Consolidated Electoral Code as Amended effective immediately.

Moved: James Splinter

Seconded: Matt Dick

Motion to Amend Electoral Code Section 4.32, Eligibility Requirements

Whereas the CASG is always striving to encourage more active student participation;

And Whereas there currently exist limitations on who can run for Vice President positions;

And Whereas a wide variety of skills are applicable to these positions, not exclusive only to CASG experience;

Be It Resolved That Section 4.32 of the Electoral Code be amended to read “4.32 To be eligible to run for a Vice President position you must be a member of the Student Body, in good academic standing, and not a current or elect executive of the Rideau River Residence Association or the Carleton University Students Association.”

Moved: Matt Dick

Seconded: