

Stewards' Council Agenda

October 21, 2015 at 5:30pm Watson Hall, Room 217

Chair: Co-Chief Steward Jodi MacKeil

Equity Officer Nathalie Butler reads the PSAC Policy on Harassment

1. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

Unanimous approval.

2. Election of a Steward to take minutes

John Haffner volunteers to take minutes for this meeting

3. Approval of Agenda

Craig Berggold requests to add to new business Chief Returning Officer

Unanimous approval.

4. Executive Reports

Stefy McKnight adding to information officer's report about the bylaws meeting Thursday 22nd October at the staff office meeting in Mac-Corry @ 4:30pm

Jodi Mackeil emphasizes the "talking union basics" course being held November 7th and 8th. Registration deadline is October 28th. Stewards will receive \$100 for attending the training.

Craig Berggold on the president's report. Special General Meeting will be held November 4th at 6pm. At this meeting elections will be held for Community Relations position. Give statement of approx. 100 words to **Stefy McKnight** if interested in running for the position. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Other business at the Special General Meeting will be to decide whether or not to send delegates to the Ontario Federation of Labour Convention. Delegates would receive loss of pay for attending. It would cost \$2000 to send a delegate to the convention. PSAC wants us to send a delegate.

Jodi Mackeil references treasures report attached. **Craig Berggold** explains that a bookkeeper has been hired to help the treasurer keep track of accounts. Detailed reports should begin in December.

Samantha asks what the financial year is for the union. It is May 1st – April 30th.

5. CRO Election

CRO is responsible for organizing elections at the General Meetings (i.e. chairing and counting ballot boxes). Basically they are an independent authority outside of the Executive Committee.

Raynold Wonder Alorse has put forth an application and his appointment was approved unanimously.

7. Training Policy Grievance Update

The employer has agreed to pay all of the members of the union for the training they did last year. Members should receive the payment by December 28th.

However, the union has received similar grievances for expected training without compensation this year.

Steward **Madison** asks a clarifying question that the union is trying to secure payment for mandatory training.

7. Joint Health & Safety Committee Reps Update

Alexandru Sonac was not able to make it, so **Silja Frietag** spoke regarding the reps. The applicants were discussed by at a meeting held where Alexandru and an external rep voted to hire the reps. More information on who the health and safety officers are will be provided at the next steward councils meeting.

8. Website Design Feedback from Stewards

A temporary link to the website was provided to the stewards and feedback is welcome to Stefy.

Suggestion from **Madison** to highlight the stewards list. **Craig** and **Jodi** discussed have an active stewards list and what department they represent on the website in order to promote more active involvement.

Samantha is concerned that the scrolling may not load fast enough on computers with slower internet connections. **Stefy** explains that it may be because the temporary site is on a server that may be causing the lag.

Stefy explains that a lot of the feedback has been consisted and that they are working on it. There are apparently some display issues on the website depending on the browser you are using, particularly with Safari. There has also been some concern that the red and white may be difficult for people who are colour blind.

The website is awesome!

9. Working group of Stewards

- issues relating to TA workload, hours, # of students, etc.

It was clarified that the ratio of Students to TA must be less than 50:1. There is interest in starting a working committee to figure out if TAs are being overworked do to the high ratio of students to TA. Some suggestions have been made to start a survey and send it out to TAs to find out what the demands of TAs are (hours, responsibilities, etc.).

Silja suggested that periodic reminders should be sent out for TAs to keep track of hours.

Madison says that as first time TA it is sometimes hard to keep track of hours and to know what counts as hours. **Stefy** and **John** suggests providing a template for people to keep track of hours. **Silja** also explains that a spreadsheet template may be helpful for providing feedback to instructors. **Stefanie** also brought up that some TAs are only marking and some are running tutorials and marking. This makes the student to TA ratio problematic when determining the workload. There was a lot of discussion and support amongst the stewards for helping students keep track of hours.

Jodi will talk to the PSAC rep to see if they have any resources for running a workshop on keeping track of TA hours. Perhaps something can be arranged for next term.

Jodi also mentioned that Teaching Development Day has been billed as a mandatory training for TAs, but this training takes place before students even hold TAships. This has been brought up with faculty relations.

10. New Business

Ahmed wanted to discuss possible funding for TAs and TFs from the union for things like traveling to conferences. **Matt** mentioned that there are a few bursaries. The main bursaries are for child care and subsidies for international students purchasing UHIP. **Stefy** says that the possibility for other types of funding should be discussed at the next AGM. She will talk to **Ayman** about the possibility. **Jodi** suggested that we poll other unions to see what else is being done at with union funds to support graduate students.