

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting # 18

April 19, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Microsoft Teams



Attendance – April 19, 2023

Board of Directors			
At-Large Representatives (Elected)		Present / Regrets	Arrived / Departed
Vacant	College of Arts		
Vacant	College of Arts		
Sanya Sareen	College of Biological Science	Present	d: 7:00pm
Simran Kalra	College of Biological Science	Present	a: 6:17pm
Jake Levy	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Present	
Jesse Varkul	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Regrets	
Ella Odeh	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences	Regrets	
Jacob Miller	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences	Present	
Mauricio Fernandez	Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Present	
Daniel Neiterman	Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Present	d: 8:06pm
Isha Maharaj	Ontario Agricultural College	Present	
Jenna Scharnowski	Ontario Agricultural College	Present	
Vacant	Ontario Veterinary College		
Vacant	Ontario Veterinary College		
Member College Government Representatives (Appointed)		Present / Regrets	Arrived / Departed
Vacant	College of Arts Student Union		
Ana Maria Mercu	College of Biological Science Student Council	Regrets	
Michaela Hishon	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Student Council	Present	
Samantha Ogbeiwi	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences - Student Alliance	Regrets	
Alec Moyle	Lang Students' Association	Regrets	
Kelly Ruigrok	Student Federation of the Ontario Agricultural College	Present	
Vacant	Central Veterinary Student Association (Ontario Veterinary College)		

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Student Organization Representatives (Appointed)		Present / Regrets	Arrived / Departed
Duncan McGuire	Indigenous Student Society (ISS)	Absent	
Martha Yiridoe	Guelph Black Students Association (GBSA)	Present	
Olivia Smith	Guelph Queer Equality (GQE)	Present	
Vacant	Guelph Resource Centre for Gender Empowerment and Diversity (GRCGED)		
Varnika Karavadi	International Student Organization (ISO)	Present	
Anthony Pereira	Interhall Council (IHC)	Present	
Naomi Amayaevbo	Guelph Campus Co-op	Present	
Vacant	Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)		
Michelle Wilk	Student Senate Caucus	Present	
Vacant	Board of Governors		
Executive (Ex-officio, Non-voting)		Present / Regrets	Arrived / Departed
Nicole Walker	President	Present	
Vacant	Vice President Student Experience		
Mason Friebe	Vice President Academic	Present	
Jena-Lee Ashley	Vice President External	Present	

Staff	Position
Cameron Olesen	Chair
Colleen Bovay	Policy & Transition Coordinator
Sean Lloyd	Scribe

Guest	Affiliation
Junpyo Lee	Incoming CSA VP Academic
Samar Tariq	Incoming CSA VP External
Shaima Alam	Incoming CSA President
Cora Soda	Arboretum Student Engagement Fee Referendum Team
Jessica Hewitt	Arboretum Student Engagement Fee Referendum Team
Olivia Fournier	Arboretum Student Engagement Fee Referendum Team

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Justine Richardson	Arboretum Student Engagement Fee Referendum Team
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*Note: If a Member arrives after the Call to Order, their arrival time (a) is shown above.
If they leave before Adjournment, their departure time (d) is shown.
If no time is shown in the column, they were present for the entire meeting.*

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Summary of Resolutions

18.2.1 Approve the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 18 on April 19, 2023, be approved as printed and distributed.

Motion Carried

18.6 Executive Committee Minutes

MOTION: That the Minutes be received as information for the following Executive Committee Meetings:

Agenda Item #	Meeting #	Meeting Date
18.6.1	Meeting # 21	February 10, 2023
18.6.2	Meeting # 22	February 15, 2023
18.6.3	Meeting # 23	February 22, 2023
18.6.4	Meeting # 24	February 27, 2023
18.6.5	Meeting # 25	March 8, 2023

Motion Carried

18.7 Executive Updates

MOTION: That the following Executive Updates be received as information:

18.7.1	President	April 19, 2023
18.7.2	VP Student Experience (vacant)	
18.7.3	VP Academic	April 19, 2023
18.7.4	VP External	April 19, 2023

Motion Carried

18.10.1 Hiring Committee Report: SHAC Coordinator

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MOTION: That the hiring of Riya Roy for the position of Student Help and Advocacy Centre Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Motion Carried

18.10.2 Hiring Committee Report: SHAC Assistant Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Pirinda Perazhakan for the position of SHAC Assistant Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Motion Carried

18.10.3 Hiring Committee Report: SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Avneet Grewal for the position of SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Motion Carried

18.10.4 Hiring Committee Report: SE&RM Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Anindita Ponkshe for the position of Student Events and Risk Management Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Motion Carried

18.10.5 Hiring Committee Report: Bike Centre Assistant

MOTION: That the hiring of Joseph Train for the position of Bike Centre Assistant be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Motion Carried

18.11.1 Approve the 2023-2024 CSA Budget

Notice of this motion was provided at the Board Meeting on April 3, 2023.

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Approve the 2023-2024 CSA Budget

MOTION: that the 2023-2024 CSA Budget be approved as included in the Board Package and as presented by the Business Manager at the April 3, 2023 board meeting.

Motion Carried

18.11.2 Winter 2023 Elections Report and Ratification of Results

BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) that the Winter 2023 Elections Report, as included in the Board Package, be received as information;
- b) that the results of the Winter 2023 Elections, as included in the Elections Report, be ratified and declared official;
- c) that the following Members be ratified as CSA Executives for a term of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:

CSA President	Shaima Alam
CSA VP Academic	Junpyo Lee
CSA VP External	Samar Tariq

- d) that the following Members be ratified as At-Large College Representatives on the 2023-24 CSA Board of Directors for a term of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:

College of Arts	Jonah Greenhut
College of Biological Sciences	Daniel Spinner
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Jake Levy
Ontario Veterinary College	Noam Einy

Motion Carried

MOTION: to ratify the three candidates that were unable to reach quorum in the election, but still received a majority "Yes" vote.

College of Social and Applied Human Sciences	Mason Friebe
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Lang School of Business and Economics	Mauricio Fernandez
Lang School of Business and Economics	Daniel Neiterman

Motion Carried

MOTION: to extend speaking rights to Cora Soda, Justine Richardson, Jessica Hewitt, and Olivia Fournier for the duration of the item.

Motion Carried

MOTION: to extend Justine Richardson's speaking time by 3 minutes.

Motion Carried

18.11.3 University of Guelph Partnership with Navitas

WHEREAS Navitas is a private recruiting corporation that has partnerships with universities in Canada and internationally to increase internationalization, diversity, and revenue for post-secondary institutions;

WHEREAS the University of Guelph has released the strategic plan for 2022-2027 which includes aims to increase internationalization and enhance revenue streams;

WHEREAS the University is currently in discussion with Navitas and have visited multiple campuses that are partnered with Navitas;

WHEREAS Navitas would operate as a private college on campus by accepting international students below the University of Guelph admission standard with the stipulation of an extended study term for additional development;

WHEREAS the University will be meeting with the Board of Governors and Senate in the summer 2023 semester for approval of a partnership with Navitas; and

WHEREAS this initiative conflicts with the CSA's advocacy efforts regarding free education for all and fairness for international students;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the CSA Board of Directors receive the University of Guelph Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 as information;

AND FURTHER that the CSA collaborate with the Board of Governors and Senate to draft a letter of opposition addressed to the President and Vice-Provost regarding the concerns among students on the proposed partnership with Navitas.

Motion Carried

18.15 Adjournment

MOTION: That the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 18 on April 19, 2023, be adjourned at 8:36 pm

Motion Carried

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Agenda – April 19, 2023

18.0	Call to Order	
18.1	Land Acknowledgement	
18.2	Adoption of the Agenda 18.2.1 Approve the Agenda 18.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts	
18.3	Ratifications and De-Ratifications	
18.4	Comments from the Chair 18.4.1 Introductions and Pronouns	
18.5	Approval of Past Minutes	
18.6	Executive Committee Minutes 18.6.1 Meeting # 21 – February 10, 2023 18.6.2 Meeting # 22 – February 15, 2023 18.6.3 Meeting # 23 – February 22, 2023 18.6.4 Meeting # 24 – February 27, 2023 18.6.5 Meeting # 25 – March 8, 2023	
18.7	Executive Updates 18.7.1 President – April 19, 2023 18.7.2 VP Student Experience (vacant) 18.7.3 VP Academic – April 19, 2023 18.7.4 VP External – April 19, 2023	
18.8	Director Reports	
18.9	CSA Service Update and Report	
18.10	Committee Updates and Reports 18.10.1 Hiring Committee Report: SHAC Coordinator 18.10.2 Hiring Committee Report SHAC Assistant Coordinator 18.10.3 Hiring Committee Report: SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator 18.10.4 Hiring Committee Report: SE&RM Coordinator 18.10.5 Hiring Committee Report: Bike Centre Assistant	
18.11	Business 18.11.1 Approve the 2023-2024 CSA Draft Budget 18.11.2 Winter 2023 Elections Report and Ratification of Results 18.11.3 University of Guelph Partnership with Navitas	
18.12	New Business 18.12.1	
18.13	Announcements	

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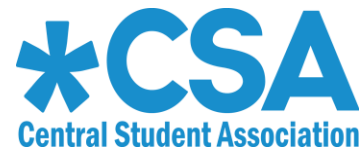
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18.14	In Camera Session	
18.15	Adjournment	

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Minutes – April 19, 2023

18.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

18.1 Land Acknowledgement

Member Jena-Lee Ashley, VP External, presented the following Land Acknowledgement:

I just want to acknowledge that the University of Guelph is situated on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty land and territory of the Mississaugas of the credit. We have a collective responsibility to honor the dish with one spoon covenant to this land, which was a peace agreement between nations that encourages sharing the land to mutually benefit all. As we're tuning into this meeting virtually, I just want to stress the importance of recognizing and offering your respect to the land that you're occupying. The great way to do this is by checking out native-land.ca and once again I want to take my time to offer my respects to my brothers and sisters as we continue our efforts in building a strong and authentic relationship with our neighbors.

Jena-Lee Ashley, VP External

18.2 Adoption of the Agenda

18.2.1 Approve the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 18 on April 19, 2023, be approved as printed and distributed.

Moved: Jake Levy

Seconded: Sanya Sareen

Motion Carried

18.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts

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The VP Academic, Member Levy, Member Neiterman, and Member Fernandez declared conflicts of interest as candidates in the CSA General Elections.

Meeting guests Cora Soda, Olivia Fournier, Jessica Hewitt, and Justine Richardson declared conflicts of interest as members of the Arboretum Referendum Team.

Meeting guests Shaima Alam, Samar Tariq, and Junpyo Lee declared conflicts of interest as candidates in the CSA General Elections.

18.4 Comments from the Chair

The Board Chair provided an overview of key meeting rules in relation to online board meetings, and reviewed the incidental motions that can be utilized such as point of information and point of order. The Chair also reviewed that the members would need to motion to extend speaking rights to meeting guests if they wish to speak to any items on the agenda.

18.4.1 Introductions and Pronouns

Each member provided their name, pronouns, and role on the Board.

18.6 Executive Committee Minutes

MOTION: That the Minutes be received as information for the following Executive Committee Meetings:

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18.6.2	Meeting # 22	February 15, 2023
18.6.3	Meeting # 23	February 22, 2023
18.6.4	Meeting # 24	February 27, 2023
18.6.5	Meeting # 25	March 8, 2023

Moved: Jake Levy

Seconded: Michelle Wilk

Motion Carried

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18.7 Executive Updates

MOTION: That the following Executive Updates be received as information:

18.7.1	President	April 19, 2023
18.7.2	VP Student Experience (vacant)	
18.7.3	VP Academic	April 19, 2023
18.7.4	VP External	April 19, 2023

Moved: Anthony Pereira

Seconded: Sanya Sareen

Motion Carried

18.7.1 President

The President noted that this is her last update after two years in the President role. She advised Board members that the quarter zip sweaters for board appreciation have arrived and can be picked up at the CSA main office.

The President shared that her focus now is working on Executive transition with the PTC. The mandatory 4-day transition with outcoming and incoming Executives takes place next week, but each Executive has been meeting individually with the incoming Executive already.

The President thanked the directors who did class talks as promotion for the CSA General Elections. She gave a shout out to Michaela, Martha, and Anthony for doing more than one class talk each, and a special shout out to Naomi for doing 10 class talks total.

Member Levy asked the President why she wasn't present at the Annual General Meeting.

The President indicated that she has documentation for her absence and that she was advised to not attend for the best interest of her mental health. She shared that she has been harassed online for weeks throughout the elections and has continued to be personally attacked and bullied, which resulted in filing police reports. The President noted that it is not a listed requirement for Executive members to be in attendance for general members meetings and that she prepared a document with answers to anticipated questions in advance of

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the AGM to ensure that answers from her could be provided to students if needed.

18.7.3 VP Academic

The VP Academic noted that his time has been spent working on transition and setting up meetings for the incoming VP Academic as well as the incoming SHAC staff members to ensure a smooth transition. He noted that he has also continued doing his regular casework assisting students, especially with exam season underway. He's currently wrapping everything up and finalizing all the documents on events, committees, and academic initiatives to pass on to the incoming VP Academic.

18.7.4 VP External

The VP External noted that she received an invitation to meet with the VP of Finance and Operations for the University regarding the tap-in campaign, which will be taking place next week.

The VP External shared that hiring has wrapped up for the Bike Centre Assistant and Bike Centre Coordinator. She expressed excitement for the Bike Centre to be open over the summer as it has been closed in the summer months since the pandemic.

The VP External met with the CFS Ontario Food Insecurity Task Force today to review the draft of questions for a survey that will be sent province-wide and was able to provide feedback on the questions.

The VP External concluded that she's been preparing her transition document for the incoming VP External.

18.8 Director Reports

Simran Kalra attended a meeting with the VP Academic regarding the library.

18.10 Committee Updates and Reports

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18.10.1 Hiring Committee Report: SHAC Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Riya Roy for the position of Student Help and Advocacy Centre Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Moved: Mason Friebe, VP Academic

Seconded: Isha Maharaj

Motion Carried

18.10.2 Hiring Committee Report: SHAC Assistant Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Pirinda Perazhakan for the position of SHAC Assistant Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Moved: Mason Friebe, VP Academic

Seconded: Sanya Sareen

Motion Carried

18.10.3 Hiring Committee Report: SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator

MOTION: That the hiring of Avneet Grewal for the position of SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Moved: Jake Levy

Seconded: Anthony Pereira

Motion Carried

18.10.4 Hiring Committee Report: SE&RM Coordinator

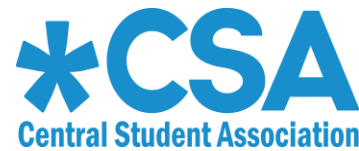
MOTION: That the hiring of Anindita Ponkshe for the position of Student Events and Risk Management Coordinator be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Moved: Isha Maharaj

Seconded: Jake Levy

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Motion Carried

18.10.5 Hiring Committee Report: Bike Centre Assistant

MOTION: That the hiring of Joseph Train for the position of Bike Centre Assistant be approved, as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Moved: Jena-Lee Ashley, VP External

Seconded: Isha Maharaj

Motion Carried

18.11 Business

18.11.1 Approve the 2023-2024 CSA Budget

Notice of this motion was provided at the Board Meeting on April 3, 2023.

Approve the 2023-2024 CSA Budget

MOTION: that the 2023-2024 CSA Budget be approved as included in the Board Package and as presented by the Business Manager at the April 3, 2023 board meeting.

Moved: Isha Maharaj

Seconded: Jake Levy

Member Maharaj spoke to her time sitting on the Finance Committee and outlined the amount of work put into the draft budget, which she feels is putting the CSA in a good place for the coming year.

Motion Carried

18.11.2 Winter 2023 Elections Report and Ratification of Results

BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) that the Winter 2023 Elections Report, as included in the Board Package, be received as information;

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- b) that the results of the Winter 2023 Elections, as included in the Elections Report, be ratified and declared official;
- c) that the following Members be ratified as CSA Executives for a term of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:

CSA President	Shaima Alam
CSA VP Academic	Junpyo Lee
CSA VP External	Samar Tariq

- d) that the following Members be ratified as At-Large College Representatives on the 2023-24 CSA Board of Directors for a term of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:

College of Arts	Jonah Greenhut
College of Biological Sciences	Daniel Spinner
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Jake Levy
Ontario Veterinary College	Noam Einy

Moved: Nicole Walker, President

Seconded: Sanya Sareen

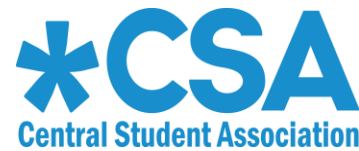
The President noted that there is an opportunity to discuss the quorum consideration clause for the colleges and the referendum which did not reach quorum. The President motivated that the candidates who didn't reach quorum should speak to their campaign efforts, as all candidates are required to commit to certain campaigning requirements, and these were the only colleges to not reach quorum. The President noted that members from the referendum team will have the opportunity to speak to the referendum, but motivated that the university has advised us to maintain the 20% quorum requirement, and that she doesn't think it's appropriate for our Board to amend the motion to pass the referendum without having reached quorum.

Member Neiterman raised a point of information regarding whether members who have declared a conflict of interest will be permitted to speak to this item in order to discuss their campaigning efforts as recommended by the President.

The Chair motivated that it would be appropriate in this instance to allow the members to speak to the item and then step out of the meeting for the remainder of the discussion. The Chair also made a recommendation for members to start by voting on and approving the current motion for those who reached quorum,

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and then propose a subsequent motion to discuss the colleges that did not reach quorum.

Member Levy abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Motion Carried

The Chair recommended to now discuss the members whose colleges did not reach quorum and give the opportunity for the members to speak to it.

Member Neiterman noted that he and Member Fernandez raised concerns regarding the extension of the election and the likelihood of reaching quorum for the Lang School of Business, given the traditional difficulties in reaching quorum for this college. Member Neiterman noted that he is currently on a co-op term and took considerable time off work during the initial online election to ensure quorum would be met. He discussed campaign efforts of messaging hundreds of students and reaching out to professors regarding class talks. Member Neiterman noted that he was unable to take more time off to campaign during the extended election and had less success with reaching out to students individually to encourage voting as there was confusion surrounding the second voting period. He motivated that he tried to campaign as best he could with the time he had available, and Lang reached more than 8% quorum.

Member Fernandez noted similar difficulties with taking time from work and dealing with confusion when reaching out to peers to vote again. He noted that many of his classes are online which is the case for many Lang Business School courses, making it more difficult to engage on campus. Member Fernandez motivated that they were less than 50 votes away from reaching quorum.

Mason Friebe, VP Academic, noted that he focussed more on in-person campaigning for the second voting period of the election. He noted that he contacted many professors to request that they post announcements as well. The VP Academic noted similar difficulties as Member Neiterman and Member Fernandez regarding confusion following the online election as well as difficulties due to the number of online courses in his college making the in-person engagement more challenging.

The Chair requested for the members with a noted conflict of interest to step out of the meeting to allow for discussion.

MOTION: to ratify the three candidates that were unable to reach quorum in the election, but still received a majority “Yes” vote.

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College of Social and Applied Human Sciences	Mason Friebe
Lang School of Business and Economics	Mauricio Fernandez
Lang School of Business and Economics	Daniel Neiterman

Moved: Isha Maharaj

Seconded: Jake Levy

Member Maharaj motivated that the candidates made their case very well, and Board members were expecting this outcome given the policy amendment to allow for a quorum consideration within the election contingency plan. She concluded that it was a strange election, and everyone tried their best.

Motion Carried

MOTION: to extend speaking rights to Cora Soda, Justine Richardson, Jessica Hewitt, and Olivia Fournier for the duration of the item.

Moved: Anthony Pereira

Seconded: Nicole Walker, President

Motion Carried

Justine Richardson thanked the CSA and the Board of Directors for their efforts in the unusual circumstances of the election and efforts to shape the Arboretum referendum plan. She summarized that they have been working on the Arboretum Student Engagement Fee referendum for two years and have gained feedback from the CSA President and others along the way, which contributed to improving the plan to better speak to student experience and increase the impact. Justine spoke to the conversations she's had with students and staff members over past semesters regarding their experiences with the Arboretum and how it showcases the broad range of impact of the Arboretum in relation to student experience at Guelph.

The Board Chair interjected to note that the 3-minute speaking time had been reached and recommended that a member of the Board could motion to extend the speaking time.

MOTION: to extend Justine Richardson's speaking time by 3 minutes.

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Moved: Simran Kalra

Seconded: Daniel Neiterman

Motion Carried

Justine Richardson continued and motivated that the Board has the opportunity and administrative authority to make a decision. She highlighted that the CSA is an independent organization, and the Student Experience Office does not govern the CSA's processes. She motivated that the Arboretum Student Engagement Fee advances the CSA's core aim to enhance student experience, the results from collecting signatures twice and both the online and in-person election voting demonstrates 75% of student voters do support the referendum, and she noted the challenges of reaching 20% quorum with an in-person election. She motivated the referendum team worked very hard to encourage students to vote, and experienced the challenges associated with the confusion of moving to in-person voting. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

The President thanked the referendum team for attending the meeting and recognized the effort and steps involved with running a referendum. The President reiterated that the intention of the quorum consideration clause was to ensure that the CSA would have the required corporate officers, Executive and Directors, for the organization before the end of the current fiscal year on April 30, 2023. The President highlighted that the 20% quorum requirement for referendums should be upheld as this would pass a mandatory fee that's being proposed for all students, subject to CPI, and collected indefinitely. Although 75% of voting students said yes, that's only 13% of the population, and the CSA Board is here to represent all students. We should be mindful that there were students who voted no, declined, or did not vote, and we have to represent everyone. The President proposed an alternative of suspending the section of policy that places a moratorium on re-running failed referendum questions, to allow the arboretum to re-run the question without having to wait a full year. The President noted that the CSA has spoken to the University regarding expediting the referendum process to allow the arboretum to re-propose the question to the membership in the Fall 2023 or Winter 2024 elections.

Member Pereira noted as a STEM-stream student that the Arboretum is a big part of working in biology and the University of Guelph is known for being a top school in this field. He motivated the importance of the programming offered in the Arboretum and

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noted that the vote represented a lot of students despite not reaching quorum. He also recognized the challenges of moving to an in-person election.

Member Maharaj asked the President to elaborate on the advice given from the university on this matter.

The President noted that the staff who support the work of the Compulsory Fee Committee and the process that happens for referendums offered a recommendation that we maintain the 20% quorum requirement regardless of the quorum consideration clause. They motivated for this given that it's a mandatory fee that will be charged to all students. They also offered options for potentially bypassing the signature collection stage of the referendum process to reduce the workload of re-proposing the question.

Cora Soda motivated that the referendum did hit the 20% quorum for the online election, although she recognized the vote was invalidated. She highlighted the number of students who voted with good intentions and with support for the Arboretum, as well as the canvassing efforts put in by the referendum team. Cora noted the fatigue of students after hearing from the referendum team repeatedly due to the rounds of signature collection and the two voting periods.

Member Miller motivated that delaying the collection of the fee puts the Arboretum further behind and wouldn't be in the best interest of students. He agreed with previous statements regarding the importance of the Arboretum and the support shown for the referendum in the previous vote.

The President noted that she isn't arguing the merits or value of the Arboretum, but rather she's motivating the responsibility of the CSA to follow the due process for introducing compulsory fees. She reminded members that the results of the online election shouldn't be considered as part of the discussion as the results were not considered valid due to not knowing who voted. She has spoken to students that have self-reported about using the email addresses of other students to vote for the Arboretum referendum in the online election.

The Chair requested for the guests with a noted conflict of interest with the item to step out of the meeting to allow for the discussion to continue.

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Member Smith noted that it's important to consider that since the referendum didn't meet quorum, we may not be receiving votes that represent the interests of the student population, and it's impossible to know if the majority would be in favour if more students had voted.

The President motivated that it would be irresponsible for the Board to set this precedence for future referendums and noted that the Board is currently comprised of 22 undergraduate students who would be making a decision on a mandatory fee applicable for 22,000 students. She motivated that in terms of democracy, it would be most appropriate for the decision to go back to the student body as a whole.

Member Schamowski motivated that the fees students pay can add up, even if it's only a couple of dollars per semester, it can make a difference over the course of your degree depending on your financial standing. She noted that it's important to make sure all student voices are heard, and take into consideration the different situations that each of them may be in.

No motion was proposed to ratify the results of the Arboretum Student Engagement Fee.

18.11.3 University of Guelph Partnership with Navitas

WHEREAS Navitas is a private recruiting corporation that has partnerships with universities in Canada and internationally to increase internationalization, diversity, and revenue for post-secondary institutions;

WHEREAS the University of Guelph has released the strategic plan for 2022-2027 which includes aims to increase internationalization and enhance revenue streams;

WHEREAS the University is currently in discussion with Navitas and have visited multiple campuses that are partnered with Navitas;

WHEREAS Navitas would operate as a private college on campus by accepting international students below the University of Guelph admission standard with the stipulation of an extended study term for additional development;

WHEREAS the University will be meeting with the Board of Governors and Senate in the summer 2023 semester for approval of a partnership with Navitas; and

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WHEREAS this initiative conflicts with the CSA's advocacy efforts regarding free education for all and fairness for international students;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSA Board of Directors receive the University of Guelph Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 as information;

AND FURTHER that the CSA collaborate with the Board of Governors and Senate to draft a letter of opposition addressed to the President and Vice-Provost regarding the concerns among students on the proposed partnership with Navitas.

Moved: Michelle Wilk

Seconded: Isha Maharaj

Motion Carried

Member Wilk motivated that as a member of the Student Senate Caucus she has been involved in a lot of conversations regarding this potential partnership recently and wants to extend the discussions to other student groups beyond the Student Senate Caucus. Member Wilk provided an overview that Navitas is a private international recruiting company that the University of Guelph is considering partnering with to further commodify international students. She noted that in the university's strategic plan for 2022-2027 it discusses further internationalization of the campus. She highlighted concerns with the increase of international student enrollment such as the housing crisis in Guelph and the lack of sufficient mental health supports. Member Wilk indicated that they are looking to form an opposition letter about the partnership and would like to open discussion with the CSA Board.

Member Amayaevbo spoke to her experiences as an international student and noted the already higher cost that international students pay, and expressed the view that this partnership would be further commoditizing international students.

Member Maharaj noted that the university has paused enrollment for a number of programs in response to budget cuts, and inquired if entering this partnership will cost the university money, and what the rationale is for that cost.

Member Wilk confirmed that the partnership would be a two-way transaction where the university would pay Navitas and enter an approximately 5-year deal to receive their recruiting services.

The VP External noted from a meeting with Byron Sheldrick that the number of international students enrolled in the first year would be approximately 30 to 40, and it would ideally increase every year.

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The VP Academic noted there are risks associated with the partnership and supported the effort of forming an opposition letter. However, he noted that there are also currently risks to programs and services due to the budget deficit, and the partnership could offset some of those risks. He noted that the impact may be minimal over the initial years of the partnership due to the small number of students initially expected. The VP Academic motivated for contacting universities that have partnerships with Navitas and those who have declined to partner with Navitas.

Member Amayaevbo noted that the international students would have to pay not only for the tuition costs but also for the recruiting services offered by Navitas, and she motivated that there would be more cost than benefit from the partnership.

Member Hishon requested clarification on what the motion brought forward is requesting, as the conversation has become repetitive in forming an opinion of the Navitas partnership.

The Board Chair clarified the content of the motion proposed.

Member Pereira inquired for more information on why we're opposed the partnership and what Navitas gains from the partnership.

Member Wilk explained that the opposition is out of concern for the well-being of international students who would be exploited. She noted that she's spoken to faculty and students and thinks there must be other ways to increase internationalization. She noted that the university has been facing economic decline and is motivated in that way to pursue the partnership. She thinks that the partnership is beneficial financially for the university and for Navitas, but not for the education and well-being of international students.

Member Smith noted that it's important for the university to be aware of our concerns regarding the partnership.

MOTION: to call the question.

Moved: Jake Levy

Seconded: Michaela Hishon

The Board Chair explained that the motion to call the question will immediately end all discussion and move to the vote directly.

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Motion Carried

18.12. New Business

No New Business was presented at this meeting.

18.13 Announcements

Members provided personal updates and spoke to their experiences on the CSA Board through the 2022-2023 term.

The Board Chair thanked the Board for the work they do for the students at the University of Guelph as their representatives.

18.14 In Camera

No In Camera session was held at this meeting.

18.15 Adjournment

MOTION: That the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 18 on April 19, 2023 be adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Moved: Isha Maharaj

Seconded: Anthony Pereira

Motion Carried

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Approved by the Board of Directors

Date: July 19, 2023

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cameron Olesen
Board Chair

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Colleen Bovay
Policy & Transition Coordinator