

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting # 15B
March 15, 2023 – 6:00 pm
UC 441



Attendance – March 15, 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	
Simran Kalra	College of Biological Science	Present	
Jake Levy	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Present	
Jesse Varkul	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Present	d: 9:00pm
Ella Odeh	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences	Present	
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	
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	Present	
Michaela Hishon	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Student Council	Present	
Samantha Ogbeiwi	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences - Student Alliance	Present	
Alec Moyle	Lang Students' Association	Present	
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)	Regrets	
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	

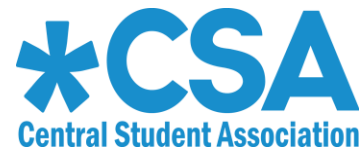
Staff	Position
Cameron Olesen	Chair
Colleen Bovay	Policy & Transition Coordinator
Sean Lloyd	Scribe

Guest	Affiliation

*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

15B.2.1 Approve the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 15B on March 15, 2023, be approved as printed and distributed.

Motion Carried

MOTION: to move in-camera.

Motion Carried

15B.14 In-Camera Session

15B.14.1 CSA Winter 2023 General Elections: Online Elections Contingency Plan and Elections Ballot Report

WHEREAS the CSA has historically utilized an online voting ballot distributed via Gryphmail for a minimum of a decade;

WHEREAS for the CSA Winter 2022 General Elections it was decided to use an anonymous voting link along with the Gryphmail ballots to further promote voting on campus and online through the use of a QR code;

WHEREAS the use of anonymous voting links has become standard practice by the CSA since the CSA Winter 2022 General Elections and was incorporated in the Qualtrics training provided to the current Chief Returning Officer for assembling the voting ballot;

WHEREAS the CSA Elections Office was first contacted on the night of Thursday, March 9, 2023 of concerns regarding the integrity of the online ballot and the inability of registered undergraduate students to access their ballot;

WHEREAS after investigation, it has been determined that the online ballot does not have sufficient security to prevent individuals from accessing the ballots of multiple students;

WHEREAS evidence in relation to the security risks of the online ballot has been provided to the Board of Directors in the Elections Ballot Report; and

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WHEREAS CSA Policy Manual Appendix G (Electoral), Section 26.1 states that in the event that the Board of Directors rules that online elections have been ascertainably compromised, or the online polling provider can no longer support, CSA elections must move to the contingency plan outlined in this policy.

BE IT RESOLVED that after reviewing the evidence provided in the Elections Ballot Report, the Board of Directors rule that the CSA Winter 2023 General Elections have been ascertainably compromised;

FURTHER that the Online Elections Contingency Plan, as provided in writing to the Board of Directors on March 15, 2023, be approved for use for the Winter 2023 General Elections;

FURTHER that the CSA will post the Online Elections Contingency Plan to the CSA website in the interest of transparency;

FURTHER that the Board of Directors approve the mass email to be sent to the CSA Membership regarding the Online Elections Contingency Plan, as provided in writing to the Board of Directors;

FURTHER that the CSA will work with the University regarding the security of online ballots for future elections, to be implemented before the Fall 2023 By-Election;

FURTHER that the CSA will conduct a review of the CSA Elections Office and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors including future staffing structures;

FURTHER that the CSA will continue the ongoing review and updating of our Electoral Bylaws and Policies, with consultation from a lawyer;

FURTHER that the Board of Directors will receive a report to be updated on the above resolutions, prior to the final Board Meeting of the Summer 2023 semester.

FURTHER that Directors will be invited to attend an Executive Committee Meeting to participate in discussion regarding the locations of polling stations for the in-person voting period;

AND FURTHER that the discussion for this meeting will become immediately public and the minutes will be public when completed.

Motion Carried

15B.15 Adjournment

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MOTION: That the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 15B on March 15, 2023, be adjourned at 9:55 pm

Motion Carried

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Agenda – March 15, 2023

15B.0	Call to Order	
15B.1	Land Acknowledgement Member Ella Odeh	
15B.2	Adoption of the Agenda 15B.2.1 Approve the Agenda 15B.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts	
15B.3	Ratifications and De-Ratifications	
15B.4	Comments from the Chair 15B.4.1 Introductions and Pronouns	
15B.5	Approval of Past Minutes	
15B.6	Executive Committee Minutes	
15B.7	Executive Updates	
15B.8	Director Reports	
15B.9	CSA Service Update and Report	
15B.10	Committee Updates and Reports	
15B.11	Business	
15B.12	New Business	
15B.13	Announcements	
15B.14	In Camera Session 15B.14.1 Motion: re Urgent Matter	
15B.15	Adjournment	

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Minutes – March 15, 2023

15B.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

15B.1 Land Acknowledgement

Member **Ella Odeh** presented the following Land Acknowledgement:

I would like us to take some time to acknowledge that the land of Canada, which many of us call home, as well as the University of Guelph, sits on ancestral lands belonging to Indigenous People. More specifically, our university sits on the traditional lands of the Attawandron people and the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. As a member of the African diaspora whose homeland was also colonized, I can testify to the fact that colonization is not a thing of the past, and its negative effects are deeply rooted in our society today. As such, I would like us to educate ourselves on the impacts colonization has had on Indigenous people and work towards dismantling its consequences, which Indigenous people are still suffering from today. In this way, we can work towards reconciliation with our Indigenous communities and help make Canada a just nation for everyone who calls it home. Thank you.

Ella Odeh, Board Member

15B.2 Adoption of the Agenda

15B.2.1 Approve the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 15B on March 15, 2023, be approved as printed and distributed.

Moved:

Seconded:

Motion Carried

MOTION: to move in-camera.

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Moved:

Seconded:

Motion Carried

15B.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts

The President noted that as the agenda item pertains to the current general elections, this would put any board members that are candidates in the election in a conflict of interest.

The Chair concurred with this assessment and asked for any members running in the election to declare the conflict.

Several members challenged that this would be considered a conflict of interest, noting that they need to be able to voice the interests of the colleges that they represent regarding the discussion.

The Chair explained that in order for members to overrule his decision regarding the conflict of interest, they will have to move to challenge the Chair. The Chair explained that he would leave the room for the members to discuss, and the board would take a vote, with the President acting as Chair during the proceedings.

MOTION: to challenge the Chair.

Moved: Daniel Neiterman

Seconded: Jake Levy

Board members debated the issue, and the motioning members withdrew the motion to challenge the Chair.

Members Jake Levy, Daniel Neiterman, Mauricio Fernandez, and Mason Friebe, VP Academic, declared conflicts of interest as candidates in the general elections. The members left the room for the duration of the in-camera discussion of the item.

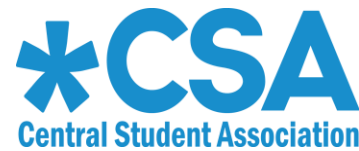
15B.4 Comments from the Chair

15B.4.1 Introductions and Pronouns

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

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15B.14 In Camera Session

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WHEREAS evidence in relation to the security risks of the online ballot has been provided to the Board of Directors in the Elections Ballot Report; and

WHEREAS CSA Policy Manual Appendix G (Electoral), Section 26.1 states that in the event that the Board of Directors rules that online elections have been ascertainably compromised, or the online polling provider can no longer support, CSA elections must move to the contingency plan outlined in this policy.

BE IT RESOLVED that after reviewing the evidence provided in the Elections Ballot Report, the Board of Directors rule that the CSA Winter 2023 General Elections have been ascertainably compromised;

FURTHER that the Online Elections Contingency Plan, as provided in writing to the Board of Directors on March 15, 2023, be approved for use for the Winter 2023 General Elections;

FURTHER that the CSA will post the Online Elections Contingency Plan to the CSA website in the interest of transparency;

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FURTHER that the Board of Directors approve the mass email to be sent to the CSA Membership regarding the Online Elections Contingency Plan, as provided in writing to the Board of Directors;

FURTHER that the CSA will work with the University regarding the security of online ballots for future elections, to be implemented before the Fall 2023 By-Election;

FURTHER that the CSA will conduct a review of the CSA Elections Office and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors including future staffing structures;

FURTHER that the CSA will continue the ongoing review and updating of our Electoral Bylaws and Policies, with consultation from a lawyer;

AND FURTHER that the Board of Directors will receive a report to be updated on the above resolutions, prior to the final Board Meeting of the Summer 2023 semester.

Moved: Nicole Walker, President

Seconded:

The Board reviewed the materials provided and discussed the options for moving forward with the contingency plan.

Members inquired if there was an option to allow a new online election. The Chair explained that a motion of that nature would require an amendment to policy, which would not be able to occur in the space of one meeting.

Members voiced their concerns for the in-person voting plan as provided and suggested changes.

The question was raised of how co-op students, study abroad students, and students with accessibility considerations will be able to vote. It was suggested that a form of absentee voting can be adopted to allow the students to vote from off-campus. This will require a policy amendment to be given as notice and approved prior to the end of the new voting period, to ensure that votes provided in that format can be counted.

Members also called for the list of polling stations to be revised to add more varied locations, since the students of some colleges are localized to particular buildings on campus, and may not visit the areas where the polling stations are, which would risk these colleges not reaching quorum.

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MOTION: to call the question.

Moved: Anthony Periera

The motion was not seconded and therefore was defeated.

MOTION: to amend item 15b.14.1 by adding the following resolutions:

FURTHER that Directors will be invited to attend an Executive Committee Meeting to participate in discussion regarding the locations of polling stations for the in-person voting period;

AND FURTHER that the agenda item and discussion of this meeting will become immediately public, and the minutes will be public when completed.

Moved: Nicole Walker, President

Seconded:

Motion Carried

15B.15 **Adjournment**

MOTION: That the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 15B on March 15, 2023 be adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Moved: Anthony Pereira

Seconded: Michaela Hishon

Motion Carried

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Approved by the Board of Directors

Date: October 18, 2023

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cameron Olesen
Board Chair

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Colleen Bovay
Policy & Transition Coordinator