MINUTES
Special Elections Board Meeting # 10a
February 3, 2021 – 6:00 pm
Microsoft Teams

Attendance for February 3, 2021, Special Elections Board Meeting #10a:

Board of Directors			
At-Large (Elected) Representatives		**Present / Regrets**	**Arrived / Departed**
Areej Amer	College of Arts Student Union		
Bella Harris	College of Arts Student Union	Present	Arrived at 6:07
Katy Oada	College of Biological Science Student Council	Present	
Maya Persram	College of Biological Science Student Council	Present	
Laura Wilson	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Student Alliance		
Jessica Krawitz	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Student Alliance	Present	
Haley Bilokraly	Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Present	
Jas Rubab Singh	Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Present	
VACANT	Ontario Veterinary College Central Veterinary Student Association		
Member College Government Representatives (Appointed)		**Present / Regrets**	**Arrived / Departed**
Manseerat Uppal	College of Arts Student Union		
Kristine Sondergaard	College of Biological Science Student Council	Present	
Olivia Parker	College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Student Council	Present	
Bailey Hussey	College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Student Alliance	Present	
Tori Wakeford	Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics Student Association	Present	
Kendra Cornelissen	Ontario Agricultural College Student Federation		
VACANT	Ontario Veterinary College Central Veterinary Student Association		
Student Organization Representatives (Appointed)		**Present / Regrets**	**Arrived / Departed**
Jena-Lee Ashley	Aboriginal Student Association	Present	

Debbie Aturamu	Guelph Black Students Association		
Alan Negrin	Guelph Queer Equality	Present	
Jaskiran Sethi	Guelph Resource Centre for Gender Empowerment and Diversity		
Lori-Ann Grossett	International Student Organization	Present	
Anum Anjum	Interhall Council	Present	
VACANT	Guelph Campus Co-op		
Blakeney Smith	Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)	Present	
Sooraj Modi	Student Senate Caucus	Present	
Michael Pacheco	Board of Governors	Present	
Executive (Ex-officio, non-voting)		**Present / Regrets**	**Arrived/ Departed**
Tyler Poirier	President	Present	
Sara Kuwatly	Vice President Student Experience	Present	
Sean Mitchell	Vice President Academic	Present	
Horeen Hassan	Vice President External	Present	

Guests	**Affiliation**
Julia Centofanti	CSA Assistant Returning Officer (ARO)
Jewel Lindemann	CSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

Staff	**Position**
Cameron Olesen	Chair
Pete Wobschall	Policy & Transition Manager
Sarah Dias	Scribe

Summary of Significant Resolutions:

S.4.1 Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments Verified Signatures

AMENDED MOTION:

RESOLVED that based on recommendations from the Elections Office:

a) The requirement of Director Candidates securing 25 verified signatures be reduced to 10 verified signatures in Section 4.2.1.d).

b) The Elections Office be permitted to maintain Friday January 29, 2021 as the deadline for the nominations period but extend the date to submit the required number of verified signatures to Thursday February 4, 2021.

c) Recommendations from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) relating to the policy revisions in a), and b) above, be included in their report at the end of the academic year for consideration by the Board for future elections cycles.

Motion as amended carried.

S.4.2 Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer

RESOLVED that:

a) The information provided by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) regarding a potential conflict of interest due to their co-worker relationship with a W21 Elections candidate be received.

b) For the duration of the Winter 2021 General Election process, any decisions regarding candidate Alyssa Ahmed, including approvals for all campaign material for the candidate, as well as for the other candidates for the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Director at-large election position, be determined by other members of the Elections Team moving forward (Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), President, and/or Policy & Transition Manager).

c) Based on a recommendation from the CSA President following a review of electoral period activities to date, this conflict has not disrupted the normal

operation of the democratic process, and no further remedy should be undertaken.

Motion carried.

S.4.3 MOTION: CSA Winter 2021 General Election – Ratification of Candidates

MOTION: That the following undergraduate students be ratified as candidates in the CSA 2021 General Election:

Executive Candidates

Executive Position	Candidate(s)
President	Alex Charette Nicole Walker Radek Zaba
Vice-President Student Experience	Sara Kuwatly
Vice-President Academic	Lisa Kazuhara
Vice-President External	Jamie Gibson Shilik Hamad

Director At-Large Candidates

College	Candidate(s)
College of Arts (COA)	Bella Harris
College of Biological Sciences (CBS)	Maya Persram Leilani Rocha
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS)	No candidates.

College	Candidate(s)
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS)	Alyssa Ahmed Ariel Oleynikov Laura Wilson
Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Leila Stevens Joshua Vito
Ontario Agricultural College (OAC)	No candidates.
Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)	No candidates.

Motion carried.

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Special Elections Board Meeting # 10a
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Agenda – February 3, 2021:

S.0 Call to Order
S.1 Land Acknowledgement
TBD
S.2 Adoption of the Agenda
S.2.1 Approve the Agenda
S.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts
S.3. Comments from the Chair
S.3.1 Introductions and Pronouns
S.4 Business
S.4.1 Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments Verified Signatures
S.4.2 Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer
S.4.3 CSA Winter 2021 General Election – Ratification of Candidates
S.5 New Business
S.5.1.
S.6 *In Camera* Session
S.7 Adjournment

Minutes – February 3, 2021:

S.0 Call to Order

Meeting is called to order at 6:01 pm.

S.1 Land Acknowledgement

I recognize folks are tuning from different locations, but the place that connects us all to one another is the University of Guelph, or rather the city of Guelph which is situated on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of Mississaugas of the Credit, land that is subject to treaty plea of 1972. I highly encourage folks to look into and learn more about the land that you take up space on. One really neat place to look into this is the site called NativeLand.ca, it identifies whose ancestral lands you reside on depending on your region. I myself am a settler who is currently taking up space in Guelph, and I often think of my personal connection to this land as I continue to take up space on it. I along with many others have an obligation to understand the significance of the Dish with One Spoon covenant to this land and I must work to build a relationship with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Métis people. Thank you.

Horeen Hassan
VP External

S.2 Adoption of the Agenda

S.2.1 Approve the Agenda

MOTION that the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Special Elections Meeting #10a on February 3, 2021 be approved as printed and distributed.

Moved: Sara Kuwatly, VP Student Experience
Seconded: Maya Persram

Motion carried.

S.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts

The following Board of Director Members declared a conflict of interest with election-related agenda items as they indicated their intent to run in the upcoming election:

Maya Persram
Sara Kuwatly, VP Student Experience
Laura Wilson
Bella Harris

Tyler Poirier, President declared a conflict of interest relating to item S.4.1 Verified Signatures due to prior knowledge of this item.

S.3. Comments from the Chair

We only have a couple of items in business for tonight, so it will be a short meeting.

S.3.1 Introductions and Pronouns

All Members introduce themselves and share their roles on the Board and their pronouns.

S.4 Business

S.4.1 Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments Verified Signatures

MOTION to extend speaking rights to Julia Centofanti (ARO), and Jewel Lindemann (CRO) for the duration of the meeting to respond to questions that arise from members.

Moved: Sara Kuwatly, VP Student Experience
Seconded: Maya Persram

Motion carried.

MOTION:

Notice of this item was provided, for consideration at the next meeting.

WHEREAS filling all Executive and Board of Director positions is critical to the success of the Central Student Association;

WHEREAS COVID-19 public health policy and University of Guelph COVID-19 regulations have made the prescribed electoral process infeasible;

WHEREAS it is the collective role and responsibility of the CSA Elections Office to ensure the CSA Elections process is organized, fair and democratic;

WHEREAS the Elections Office believes it is necessary for the CSA to amend related policies in order to carry out a fair and successful 2021 Winter General Election;

WHEREAS in response to the challenges listed above, at their meeting on January 13, 2021, the CSA Board of Directors amended various Elections-related policies and bylaws, including Appendix G – Electoral, Section 4.3.1.c) by reducing the requirement for an Executive candidate to secure 100 'verified signatures in support of their candidacy' ('verified signatures') to 50 verified signatures; and

WHEREAS since the nomination period opened on Monday January 25, 2021, the Elections Team has received concerns from several candidates that the number of verified signatures required in the nominations package is prohibitive under Covid-related restrictions, despite employing reasonable tactics to secure the minimum number of signatures including classroom talks and reaching out by electronic means to their immediate contacts.

RESOLVED that based on recommendations from the Elections Office:

a) The requirement of Executive Candidates securing 50 signatures be further reduced to 25 verified signatures in Section 4.3.1.c).

b) The requirement of Director Candidates securing 25 verified signatures be reduced to 10 verified signatures in Section 4.2.1.d).

c) The Elections Office be permitted to maintain Friday January 29, 2021 as the deadline for the nominations period but extend the date to submit the required number of verified signatures to Thursday February 4, 2021.

d) Recommendations from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) relating to the policy revisions in a), b) and c) above, be included in their report at the end of the academic year for consideration by the Board for future elections cycles.

Moved: Horeen Hassan, VP External
Seconded: Anum Anjum

MOTION TO AMEND: To remove point a) The requirement of Executive Candidates securing 50 signatures be further reduced to 25 verified signatures in Section 4.3.1.c).

Moved: Horeen Hassan, VP External
Seconded: Jas Rubab Singh

Horeen Hassan, VP External: This motion has come out because we recognize that a lot of board of Directors are struggling to get the required number of signatures. I recognize why Directors were having such a difficult time getting signatures because they have a much smaller constituency compared to a lot of the Executive positions. Executives have had accommodations made with the reduction going from 100 to 50, which I feel is an appropriate adjustment that has been made. But I feel as though the constituency that the Executives have allows for undergrad to nominate them, making it much easier for the Executives to reach that 50 signature mark. From my understanding I believe most of the Executives running have already met the required signature mark, so I feel a little uncomfortable reducing that threshold mark to 25, given that outreach strategies to the student body should be strong if you are running for an Executive position.

Jas Rubab Singh: I agree with the VP External, as Executives have much larger space to get the votes and that is not the same for Directors.

Jewel Lindemann, CRO: Between yesterday and today all candidates submitted an update of how many signatures they have been able to acquire with the virtual elections. For Directors, 4 out of 8 have reached the number of signatures that is currently required. The one unique thing for Directors is they need to get signatures from their own college, and I want to bring to the board's attention that some colleges are smaller than others which may be impacting some Directors in getting their signatures as they have a smaller outreach, than Directors who are Members of a larger college.

We also received Executive updates, there are currently 7 candidates running for Executive position, and 4 of those candidates have been able to reach the 50 required signatures. One candidate is at 42, so quite close, whereas there are 2 candidates who are quite far from the 50. So, we did see what it would be like if we were to reduce the number of signatures. Currently 50% of Directors have met the quota, and if we were to reduce the signatures to 10 signatures, we would have 75% of Directors. As for Executives, we have 57% of candidates who have been able to reach the number

of signatures and if we were to reduce the number of signatures by half we would have 71% who are meeting the requirements, so we would still have 29% who do not meet requirements.

Motion to amend carried.

AMENDED MOTION:

WHEREAS filling all Executive and Board of Director positions is critical to the success of the Central Student Association;

WHEREAS COVID-19 public health policy and University of Guelph COVID-19 regulations have made the prescribed electoral process infeasible;

WHEREAS it is the collective role and responsibility of the CSA Elections Office to ensure the CSA Elections process is organized, fair and democratic;

WHEREAS the Elections Office believes it is necessary for the CSA to amend related policies in order to carry out a fair and successful 2021 Winter General Election;

WHEREAS in response to the challenges listed above, at their meeting on January 13, 2021, the CSA Board of Directors amended various Elections-related policies and bylaws, including Appendix G – Electoral, Section 4.3.1.c) by reducing the requirement for an Executive candidate to secure 100 'verified signatures in support of their candidacy' ('verified signatures') to 50 verified signatures; and

WHEREAS since the nomination period opened on Monday January 25, 2021, the Elections Team has received concerns from several candidates that the number of verified signatures required in the nominations package is prohibitive under Covid-related restrictions, despite employing reasonable tactics to secure the minimum number of signatures including classroom talks and reaching out by electronic means to their immediate contacts.

RESOLVED that based on recommendations from the Elections Office:

a) The requirement of Director Candidates securing 25 verified signatures be reduced to 10 verified signatures in Section 4.2.1.d).

b) The Elections Office be permitted to maintain Friday January 29, 2021 as the deadline for the nominations period but extend the date to submit the required

number of verified signatures to Thursday February 4, 2021.

c) Recommendations from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) relating to the policy revisions in a), and b) above, be included in their report at the end of the academic year for consideration by the Board for future elections cycles.

Members Maya Persram, Bella Harris, and Laura Wilson abstained from voting.

Motion as amended carried.

S.4.2 Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer

MOTION:

WHEREAS the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) notified the President of a potential conflict of interest in relation to a 2021 General Election candidate via email on January 29, 2021.

RESOLVED that:

a) The information provided by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) regarding a potential conflict of interest due to their co-worker relationship with a W21 Elections candidate be received.

b) For the duration of the Winter 2021 General Election process, any decisions regarding candidate Alyssa Ahmed, including approvals for all campaign material for the candidate, as well as for the other candidates for the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Director at-large election position, be determined by other members of the Elections Team moving forward (Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), President, and/or Policy & Transition Manager).

c) Based on a recommendation from the CSA President following a review of electoral period activities to date, this conflict has not disrupted the normal operation of the democratic process, and no further remedy should be undertaken.

Moved: Sara Kuwatly, VP Student Experience
Seconded: Maya Persram

Motion carried.

S.4.3 CSA Winter 2021 General Election – Ratification of Candidates

MOTION:

WHEREAS Appendix G – Electoral, Section 4.0 Nominations, subsection 4.1.4. states:

> The CRO shall submit the names of all valid candidates and the offices they are seeking to the Board of Directors for ratification within seven days of the close of nominations. If the Board of Directors does not meet within seven days of the close of nomination, the Executive Committee is empowered to ratify the list of candidates.

RESOLVED that the following undergraduate students be ratified as candidates in the CSA 2021 General Election:

Executive Candidates

Executive Position	Candidate(s)
President	Alex Charette Nicole Walker Radek Zaba
Vice-President Student Experience	Sara Kuwatly
Vice-President Academic	Lisa Kazuhara
Vice-President External	Jamie Gibson Shilik Hamad

Director At-Large Candidates

College	Candidate(s)
College of Arts (COA)	Bella Harris
College of Biological Sciences (CBS)	Maya Persram Leilani Rocha

College	Candidate(s)
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS)	No candidates.
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS)	Alyssa Ahmed Ariel Oleynikov Laura Wilson
Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Leila Stevens Joshua Vito
Ontario Agricultural College (OAC)	No candidates.
Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)	No candidates.

Moved: Katy Oada
Seconded: Anum Anjum

Motion carried.

S.5 New Business

No new business.

S.6 *In Camera* Session

No in camera session.

S.7 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the CSA Board of Directors Special Elections Meeting of February 3, 2021 at 6:37 pm.

Moved: Sara Kuwatly, VP Student Experience
Seconded: Maya Persram

Motion carried.

Approved by the Board of Directors	February 24, 2021
Cameron Olesen, Board Chair	
Signature	Date March 2, 2021
Pete Wobschall, Policy and Transition Manager	
Signature	Date February 25, 2021