

**Local 113 of the Canadian Federation of Students**

**Council Meeting: Wednesday March 30th 3:00 PM, In-Person/Microsoft Teams**

1. CALL TO ORDER 3:17pm

Hari volunteers to Chair

1. APPROVAL OF SECRETARY

Office Coordinator volunteers to take minutes

1. PRESENT

Fallen Matthews (VP Student Life and Communications)

Hariprashanth Deivasigamani (VP Academic)

Emily Patterson (Student society)

Kathleen (Chemistry Grad Students society)

Alireza Ghadamagahi (DAGS Director of Architecture, Planning, and Engineering)

Cameron (Grad Physics society)

Pooyan Moradi (Director, Health and Medical Sciences)

Mohammad Ramezani (VP Financial Operations)

Ellen (Grad English Society)

Tiffany Campbell (interim VP External Advocacy)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Hari/Fallen)
   1. Coordinator added three new grant applications
   2. Tiffany added “convening Governance Committee” to old business.
2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS DAGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

No minutes to approve. Hari summarized that the meeting included information from the DSAS and the pass/fail option for winter semester.

Motion to approve Hari’s summary (Hari/Fallen)

1. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Previous DAGS Executive Reports: executive reports (updates) are due monthly at each council meeting. All reports for the term must be submitted before honoraria can be approved and disbursed.   
        
      Hari summarized the DAGS reporting system, and that due to banking issues, honoraria were not distributed.  
      Hari asked Coordinator to further explain the issue, the Coordinator reiterated the above point and brought up that this has been a point of conversation for the past few weeks.  
      Tiffany: This is why a meeting of the Governance Committee is so important.  
      Pooyan: Issue with honoraria not being paid before the end of the term as not everyone will be running.  
      Tiffany: have no honoraria been paid all year? What is the issue?  
      Hari explained the online banking access issue, and that now things are sorted and we have access to etransfers. This brings us to point 6b as well.  
      Hari brought up the by-laws and explained that the November 1 and February 1 Payments can be made now. We still must decide what to do about the Summer.  
      Mohammad: We are not paid hourly, it is through honoraria.  
      Emily: It is deeply concerning the lack of transparency about the Summer payment. I don’t see how DAGS executives can seek payment for a period of time when they were not even in office.  
      Hari: Thank you for your comments.  
      Tiffany: This is why I want to convene the Governance Committee. We can connect after the meeting about this.  
      Alireza: We as DAGS members have served in these positions during a pandemic. I understand Emily’s concern but considering what happened in past years with DAGS we should also think about that.  
      Tiffany: has the board approved the payments already? (Reviews bylaws concerning honoraria) Are we raising this concern because we feel not everyone is worthy of the honoraria? Before our next meeting, could we have a discussion and audit of the reports?  
      Hari: We can consolidate the reports for the year to have a look at what activities happened. It would be helpful for the incoming board too.  
      Hari: We’ll approve the portions for November and February for when we have reports submitted (total $1500 for executive and $500 for directors). We’ll consolidate reports for all semesters and add recent activity. For the Summer, we could have another meeting.  
      Motion to approve the November and February portion of the honoraria: Hari, Tiffany, Alireza, Pooyan, Mohammad vote YES.
   2. DAGS Executive Honoraria Amounts: It must be determined the amount for each of the DAGS honoraria this year. According to DAGS by-laws, the amount is to be pro-rated based on the time each councillor and director has served.  
      Hari: Regarding point B, I would like to take a neutral stance on this. We can make an excel spreadsheet of all reports. Do we have a list of all reports submitted and outstanding?

Coordinator: I had assembled a table at the request of the VPFO, but since them several others have been submitted.  
 Tiffany: Can we as the executive assemble our reports individually be fore the next meeting?

Fallen: I can do mine now: Information about issues with teaching assistants and markers - motion from Bio dept to make all assistants markers without lessening duties. Told them about DAGS, spoke to DSU and the Caribbean Society, many of whom are grad students, about prospective collaborative events.

Hari: Thank you.

Tiffany: Fallen, you had left the meeting and then returned correct?

Fallen: I had to go home from the vet. I already have to do lots of written reports for other things but I can do a written one if needed.

Tiffany: I only ask because we’re still on old business.

Fallen: I need to leave soon for another meeting. Will there be quorum if I do leave?

* 1. DAGS Executive Honoraria Approvals: Pending the submitted reports (as above) and once the amounts have been finalized, the following honoraria are up for approval:

VPA: Hariprashanth Deivasigamani

VPFO: Mohammad Ramezani

VPE: Tiffany Campbell

VPSL: Fallen Matthews

Director of Engineering, Architecture and Planning: Alireza Ghadamgahi Khorassani

Director of Health and Medical Sciences: Pooyan Moradi  
(See above discussion).

d. Convening the Governance Committee

Tiffany: We sent out an email a month and a half ago asking for interest but didn’t receive any responses. We’ve been talking in the meantime about getting food or a small honorarium for these positions.What is the procedure.  
Hari: We can send a request to VPFO for cash.  
Mohammad: What are the demands of the position?

Tiffany: Term is running out, I’d like to have at least one meeting. We have myself and Hari and would need at least three more grad students.

Emily: If it’s just one meeting I and another person from my program would maybe attend, but I could only attend virtually.

Tiffany: I’ll email you, the meeting can be virtual or hybrid.

The CRO may also be able to attend.  
Hari: It sounds like we have enough people to form a governance committee.

1. NEW BUSINESS
   1. DAGS Executive Updates  
      Fallen: See above update.  
      Mohammad: recently we worked on some grants and asked the Coordinator to send more clear information. It was approved last session but according to the application structure it was not complete and we need the bank email for the transfer. The other one was about the insurance. We missed the deadline because of some issue with the online banking. We need to get information on how to pay the insurance. I tired to contact them but didn’t hear back.   
      Coordinator: I can get in touch with them for you.  
      Tiffany: A student contacted DAGS about pass/fail option. Dal had sent a memo out in 2020 regarding pass/fail option for 2020/2021, but haven’t done so for this year. DAGS took this issue to FGS. Student roundtable with NS department of advanced education. Issues included finance, housing, health, childcare, etc- my written report has full details. Justice for Workers Rally - focused on housing crisis, would be good to connect with them or other uni student associations about responding to housing strategy. Attended CRO training and election meeting. Earlier this month, caught up with Fallen and Hari and “reopened” DAGS lounge.  
      Pooyan: It’s midnight here, I’ll be brief. I’m just going to talk about one item missing in my report regarding mental health awareness week. Last year I was involved and this year was invited again. DAGS logo was included on speakers etc. Attended several meetings and gave feedback from the grad perspective. Moderated for a virtual panel discussion for grad and undergrad - was useful and included several resources. Also attended meeting one week later to recap, organizers were thankful and hope that more grad students get involved next year. Hari connected me to Marty who wanted a grad rep for a position in FGS regarding post docs. Waiting for more details about candidates and upcoming meetings. Haven’t heard updates from Marty about the DSU insurance survey but look forward to meeting about it.  
      Fallen rejoined the meeting because the other meeting was mostly about logistics.   
      Alireza had left the meeting before we got to this section.  
      Hari: Deputy minister of education roundtable. Asked whether it was possible to get a committee regarding tuition hikes year to year. She pointed out that she was once an int’l student too. They chose to increase the int’l student fee, but are also working on programs to help all students regarding housing concerns which was discussed extensively. I didn’t get a direct answer but we will follow up. Also - discussed pass/fail with Marty, they are looking into the matter, hoping to get the option on a case by case basis. Updated FGS on elections for DAGS and how to increase student involvement. The Dean wants to meet with DAGS every month regarding email concerns we receive so that she can direct these issues on time to the right people. Any rep from DAGS, any grad willing to be involved, please send an email and we can set up a meeting with Marty. Meeting with new CRO and elections discussion. Will discuss in the next part of agenda. Also the DAGS room is open. Followed up with executive regarding honoraria concerns, discussed above.

* 1. DAGS Elections: Approve timeline  
     CRO Aswini: based on this being March 30, hopefully we can be ready to vote by May.  
     Hari: we need to focus on outreach to make students aware. The pandemic has Mae this difficult. We can reach out to people, use social media. Send emails.  
     CRO: Can we try planning more in-person events?   
     Fallen: NSPIRG is hosting a meeting and it’s a chance to get involved with initiatives regarding public health and research.  
     Hari: We can ask them to promote our elections.  
     Tiffany: I’d be interested in attending.  
     Hari: Coming back to elections: Can we have April 2 - 13 for nominations?  
     CRO: we can have April 2-16.  
     (indiscernible in-person conversation between Hari and CRO)  
     Pooyan: can we look at the grant approvals first? I have to leave soon.  
     Discussion about whether DAGS could approve a grant amount more than the $100 travel grant. Office Coordinator suggested applying to both Travel and Professional Development in the amounts of $100 each.  
     Hari: we need to keep the voting period open for 48 hours. What do you suggest?  
     Discussion around best days of the week to vote and overall timeline.  
     Nominations Advertised: April 6-20  
     Nominations Collected: April 21-24  
     Review of nomination materials: April 25-29  
     Campaigning Period: April 30 - May 6  
     Voting: Voting period: May 7-8  
     Transition to office: May 12  
     Fallen: I just submitted my written report, it’s on record now.
  2. DAGS AGM: Set date and decide point person   
     May 11th. No point person selected.
  3. Grant Approvals
     1. Kitty Kam
     2. Tommy Davies
     3. Jenny Petterson
     4. Tayab Soomro
     5. Kitty Kam
     6. Hariprashanth Deivasigamani

All grants approved.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS
2. ADJOURNMENT 5:40pm (Hari/Mohammad)

Minutes approved at meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Moved by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_