

## **SSD Annual General Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Heather called to order at 5:19pm

**Territorial Acknowledgement:** Patrick acknowledged the territories

**Approval of the Agenda:** Moved by Heather, seconded by Juan. Carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Heather, seconded by Indira. Carried.

**Reports:**

### **Chairperson/President**

Heather reported that there was an ongoing effort to restructure the Society, with more students in staff positions. As a result, there has not been a permanent office coordinator for part of the year.

Heather sees the Society as a groundbreaking organization, because students with disabilities were guiding the Board.

Heather reported that there has been high attendance in the Society's space and at Society activities, more than in previous years, which is very positive.

The Society has been working on community outreach, trying to inform people about the Society and working to confront ableism. There has been outreach to both children, including with a pumpkin-carving event, and adults, including weekly picnics in the summer. Recently, the Society organized a fishing excursion off campus.

Heather thanked the Board for supporting the Society through transition, as the Board has been helping to keep the office open. Heather specifically thanked Terry for his service in the Society's office and on the Personnel Committee, Joseph for his six years' service on the board and his service on the Personnel Committee, and Patrick for his management of finances and his help with the Society's office. Heather thanked Ravi for his long service and help with office.

Because Heather is moving on to research in super-molecular chemistry, she said she will not be running for the position of Chairperson.

### **UVSS Representative**

Heather reported that the Society has been trying to advocate for several things in the UVSS, including trying to ensure that ableist motions are not passed.

## **Treasurer/Finance Director**

Patrick provided a financial report. Patrick explained the nature of the SSD budget and trust accounts and identified several specific expenditures. He concluded by noting that he expected, after the receipt of winter semester student fee disbursement, for the SSD to run a surplus. He suggested that funds were available for the projects of the incoming Board.

## **GSS Representative**

Joseph discussed the importance of transitioning into universities, and his efforts to design transition programming that empowers student with disabilities. Joseph spoke about creating supportive communities of students with disabilities. He is currently trying to pass on that theme for others to reinvent and recreate.

## **Student Liaison/Resource Person**

Ravi reported that he had seen many positive changes in the Society during his term. All of us are part of the Society, he said, not just the Board. He noted it had been a very productive year, and noted the move to larger space, Society events, and Heather's work in the office. He suggested we should focus on new positives, suggesting that the Society could acquire a library. He also suggested an event for Deaf students at the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASL.

## **Member at Large**

Terry discussed the process of his election to the Board, and emphasized that it was through the volunteer efforts of current students, who are taking classes, that the SSD is being run. Terry said he had enjoyed his work on the Board.

## **Member at Large**

## **Question Period:**

Joseph said he had seen powerful leadership from the Board and that he had seen community coalescing to achieve self-sufficiency this year. He asked what current Board members would have to say to possible incoming members?

- Terry shared some of his thoughts with members. He emphasized that it was important to observe and not put one's self first, but to let the collective be one's motivator.
- Indira commented that had noticed that the SSD Board members were highly consistent and reliable.
- Patrick noted that Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to members, and also a need to protect themselves and their own reputations. He emphasized the importance of the relationship between SSD and UVSS.

- Heather also spoke to the responsibilities of Board members, noting that it can be challenging but also rewarding. Heather noted it was important to preserve the Society's autonomy.

Hannah asked whether the Society has conducted classroom visits, or whether that might be a possibility?

- Heather said it was definitely a possibility for the future, and said it sounded like an excellent idea, but not something that had been done.

Juan asked whether students could run for multiple positions?

- Heather replied that there was precedent, as Patrick had been simultaneously Chairperson and Treasurer in the past, as Heather herself was currently Chairperson and UVSS Representative. However, holding multiple positions has not been taken to indicate that members have multiple votes.

Heather moved to 10-minute recess, seconded by Joseph, carried. Heather called to order at 6:32pm.

### **Elections:**

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Chairperson/ President.

- Juan nominated Hannah. Hannah accepted.
- Sophie nominated Ravi. Ravi accepted.
- Ravi motivated. He spoke about supporting others and empowering others. Ravi spoke about his involvement in organizations in the Deaf and disability communities, including the Society.
- Hannah motivated. She mentioned she felt honoured to be nominated, and felt it would be an opportunity to reach out to others who have confronted ableism in private.
- Heather moved for 2-minute for counting votes. Seconded by Joseph, carried. Called to order at 6:55pm.
- Hannah elected. Hannah delegated the chairing of the AGM to Heather.

BIRT Director/Treasurer nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Finance.

- Patrick nominated Ravi. Ravi accepted. Elected by acclamation.

Heather moved for a short recess, seconded by Joseph. Heather called to order at 7:05pm.

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Graduate Students' Society Representative.

- Heather nominated Joseph. Joseph accepted on the understanding he would only be available for a short transition period. Elected by acclamation.

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of UVSS Constituency Representative.

- Sophie nominated Juan. Juan accepted.
- Indira nominated Terry. Terry declined.
- Juan elected by acclamation.

BIRT nominations are opened to elect one member to the position of Student Liaison/Resource Person.

- Joseph nominated Indira. Indira accepted.
- Joseph nominated Sophie. Sophie accepted.
- Sophie motivated. Sophie said she would like to be involved, would be interested in connecting with people. Sophie mentioned she believed Indira would also be able to fill the position.
- Indira motivated. Indira said that she respects the Society, knows the people who access services, so she believes she would be helpful for the job. She mentioned Sophie might be able to do even better than her.
- Sophie elected.

BIRT nominations are opened to elect one member to the position of International Students Representative.

- Hannah nominated herself. Elected by acclamation.

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Member of Council at Large.

- BIRT “one member” be struck and “four members” be inserted. BIFRT that the second, third, and fourth iterations of the motion “BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Member of Council at Large” are deleted. Moved by Patrick, seconded by Juan, carried.
- Heather nominated Indira. Indira accepted.
- Heather nominated Paul. Paul accepted.
- Heather nominated Terry. Terry accepted on the understanding he might only be available for a transition period.
  - Joseph wished it to be noted in the minutes that he especially supported Indira’s nomination and wished to thank Terry for his service.
- Sophie nominated herself.
- Heather nominated herself, on the understanding she would only be available for a short transition period.
- Sophie withdrew her nomination.
- Indira, Paul, Terry, and Heather were elected by acclamation.

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one member to the position of Member of Council at Large. Struck from the agenda.

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**Discussions:**

Paul asked when terms of office commence. Heather and Patrick replied.

Heather thanked everyone and said she was excited to see

Juan moved to amend the agenda to insert the following motion: BIRT the Society will purchase pretzels for meetings. Seconded by Patrick. Patrick suggested that this could be included under motions already in force. Juan withdrew the motion.

Indira suggested relocating waste bins in the Society's office.

Joseph suggested that ordinary business might be better addressed at Council meetings.

**Adjournment:** Heather moved to adjourn at 7:47pm, seconded by Terry, carried.