

# UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY 'A'

## General Meeting – Fall 2014

**Date:** October 8, 2014

**Location:** CPH 3607

**Speaker:** Kevin McNamara

**Secretary:** Michal Kononenko

[D] = Decision (Will require a vote)

[I] = Information (No vote required)

### 1.0 Welcome/Call to Order

#### 1.1 Welcome/Call to Order

- *Speaking: Kevin McNamara*
  - Welcome to meeting
  - Quorum established at 53 voting members

### 2.0 [D] Ratification of Chair

#### 2.1 Ratification of Chair

- *Motion:* Ratify Kevin McNamara as chair
  - *Mover:* Joe Kinsella
  - *Seconder:* Elizabeth Foran
- Motion passes unopposed

### 3.0 [D] Approval of Engenda

#### 3.1 Approval of Engenda

- *Motion:* Switch the order of items 4.2 and 4.1
  - *Mover:* Leila Meema-Coleman
  - *Seconder:* Brian Howe
- Motion passes unopposed
- *Motion:* Approve the Engenda for the general meeting
  - *Mover:* Sarbajoy Majumdar
  - *Seconder:* Lucas Hudson
- Motion passes unopposed

### 4.0 New Business

#### 4.1 [I] Society Updates Leila Meema-Coleman ([president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca))

- *Speaking:* President
  - Purpose of this talk is to provide a high-level update for EngSoc
  - **Communications**
    - website is live, and any bug reports are appreciated
    - TVs are showing data. Three more are planned to go up.
    - TVs are also showing posters
    - The Executive board outside of the Orifice has also gone up to great success
    - Meeting summaries and minutes are also up on the website, and at a much improved rate compared to those on the old website

- **Ridgidware**
  - Ridgidware opened to great success
- **E7 Referendum**
  - Nominations for the yes and no committee have been extended
  - If no nominations are received, then there will not be a yes and no committee
  - The Town Hall meeting will then be an information session about the referendum, and not a debate
- Academic rep support has been stepped up
- External sponsorships have been procured to a larger degree
- **Governance and Review Committees**
  - The governance and executive review committees are open and reviewing the EngSoc executive and gubernatorial structure, in order to streamline EngSoc processes
  - There will be an open meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> after the E7 town hall meeting, where the Governance and Executive Review Committees will accept feedback from members at large about EngSoc
- A diversity policy just got passed
- **Record keeping and documentation**
  - Most commissionerships, executive positions, and directorships now have transition materials, improving continuity between A and B Socs
- EngSoc is also drafting a new societies agreement between FedS and EngSoc, in the hope of passing a dedicated agreement between FedS and EngSoc, improving our relationships
- **Questions**
  - *Jenn Cerullo*: Is the scholarship bank going to be posted on the EngSoc Website?
    - We are doing it again, but need to start from scratch as a bunch of the scholarships were out of date. The scholarship bank will be back for summer

#### 4.2 [D] Diversity Policy – Appendix A Leila Meema-Coleman ([president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca))

- *Reading of the Motion by Kevin McNamara*
- *Speaking to Motion: Leila Meema-Coleman*
  - Precautionary in nature, in the event if something happens, then the executive have a precedent to deal with such situations
  - Ideally, this policy will never have to be used.
- Discussion
  - Is there a policy to deal with such events in the existing FedS structure?

- Passing this policy would allow issues to be dealt within EngSoc, rather than escalating these issues to FedS
- Direct Response
  - Strike section 2 and 3 of the policy (dealing with disciplinary action), and add a mandate to report any incident within the scope of this policy to the university.
  - EngSoc is not a judiciary body, and so should not have the authority to pursue punitive actions, or arbitrate on violations in the scope of this policy
  - Furthermore, the Board of Directors does not have the necessary qualifications to deal with issues in the scope of the Diversity Policy
  - The policy is also not clear on what the limits to which punitive action can be pursued
  - The language of the policy is also very vague
- Direct Response
  - The policy was written with the intent of being vague, to allow for discretion in EngSoc, and prevent loopholes in the policy
- Direct Response
  - From where does EngSoc have precedence to pursue disciplinary action?
- Is there more room for appeals process other than board?
  - This would allow for each party to plead their case in front of a potentially more impartial body
- Direct Response: Can we escalate violations of this policy to Robin Jardin?
  - Direct Response
    - Robin is already specified as “the faculty” in the policy,
    - As it stands, the policy states that disciplinary action will be administered by the Board of Directors
- Point of clarification: Shouldn’t violations be escalated to Campus police as severe violations of the Diversity policy qualify as verbal assault?
  - The police can facilitate the process, but such a policy would provide EngSoc with the precedent to call the police, making such an action within the scope of EngSoc’s authority.
  - In this regard, the policy will serve to protect the executive and give authority to pursue action with regard to a disciplinary body
- *Motion:* Strike sections 2 and 3, add a mandate to file a report with the student relations officer, in section D1 subsection 1
  - *Mover:* Brian Howe
  - *Seconder:* Inzi Tahir
  - Friendly amendment, allow removal of member from EngSoc leadership position based on executive discretion
  - *Point of clarification:* When would EngSoc be required to file such a report?
    - Very hard to give examples, if they’re not receptive, vandalism,

- *Point of clarification:* Can members be removed from leadership positions even if those positions are not well-defined within the governing documents?
    - The policy has been amended to read that the board will give a recommendation to remove an EngSoc member found in violation of this policy from the leadership position, and the removal will take place via a council vote
- Quorum check
  - Quorum still established
  - Vote: Amend the text as per the motion
    - *Votes For:* 36
    - *Votes Against:* 12
    - *Abstentions:* 4
  - The motion passes
- Motion: Amend the motion to add section D.2, where Board will submit a report for review
  - Mover: Josh Kalpin
  - Seconder: Ola Suchon
  - *Point of clarification:* Would filing this report and making it available constitute a violation of privacy for the Member?
    - No, as executive decisions are already overseen by the Board, and the Board is not obligated to disclose any details of the report, the case can be reviewed behind closed doors, and so the privacy of the member will not be violated.
- Quorum check
  - Quorum still established
  - *Friendly amendment*, apply D2 for executives
  - *Friendly amendment*, change “individuals” to “members”
  - *Kevin McNamara reads the new motion*
- *Vote:* Amend the text of the motion, applying all friendly amendments to section D.2
  - 1 opposed
  - 13 abstain
  - 35 for
  - *Vote passes*
- Vote on the motion to enact the diversity policy
  - No opposition
- *Motion passes unopposed*

## 5.0 Affiliate Reports

### 5.1 [I] Senate – Allyson Francis ([allyson.francis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:allyson.francis@uwaterloo.ca))

- Allyson is not present

### 5.2 [I] Feds Councillors –Julian Wang ([j486wang@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:j486wang@uwaterloo.ca))

- No Report since EngSoc council meeting #2 for Fall term

## 6.0 Adjournment of Meeting

- Quorum Check

- Quorum has been lost

<b>Appendix A: Title</b>	Diversity Policy
<b>Mover</b>	Leila Meema-Coleman
<b>Second</b>	Inzi Tahir
<b>Spirit</b>	To add a clear statement about the Engineering Society's commitment to diversity and inclusivity in our governing documents.
<b>WHEREAS</b>	The Engineering Society represents all students within engineering.
<b>AND WHEREAS</b>	The Engineering Society should be trying to create a safe and inclusive space for all its members and others using the Society services
<b>AND WHEREAS</b>	This policy will provide guidance in the event an incident does arise within the Engineering Society in the future
<b>BIRT:</b>	<p>Policy Manual Section II: Other Policies be modified to include the following section:</p> <p><b>Diversity Policy</b></p> <p>O-7: Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity</p> <p>A. The Society is committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusivity among its members, the Faculty of Engineering, and the engineering profession.</p> <p>B. The Society is committed to ensuring a safe, secure, inclusive and accessible space for all of its activities</p> <p>C. The Society is committed to creating an environment free of harassment and discrimination in all of its activities</p> <p>D. Discipline</p> <p>1. Any member's behaviour that is found in violation of the intent of this policy may be disciplined accordingly at the discretion of the on-term Executive team through a formal warning or removal from a Society event or Service.</p> <p>2. Any disciplinary action taken by the Executive shall be presented to the Board of Directors for review</p> <p>a) The President shall call a special Board of Directors meeting to discuss the incident</p> <p>b) The member(s) in question shall be invited to speak at the Board meeting</p> <p>3. The Board of Directors may issue further disciplinary action including but not limited to:</p> <p>a) Suspension of Society privileges</p> <p>b) Recommendation for removal from leadership</p>

	position if applicable c) Submitting a report to Faculty and University staff members
BIFRT:	The Table of Contents be updated to include the section above.