

Semi-Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | 6:00pm-9:00pm

Tecumseh Auditorium

Land Acknowledgement

Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University are in the "Dish With One Spoon Territory." The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe (hoh-dee-noh-shoh-nee), Mississaugas (mi-suh-saa-guh-s) and Haudenosaunee (Ah-nish-ih-nah'-bey) that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

<https://native-land.ca>

TMSU Equity Statement

Students' union solidarity is based on the principle that all members are equal and deserve mutual respect and understanding. As members of the students' union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We should neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. It is our collective responsibility to create an inclusive space for discussion and dialogue. All forms of discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated, nor will hate speech rooted in, but not limited to Islamophobia, antisemitism, sexism, racism, classism, ableism, homophobia or transphobia. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate, is established.



Agenda:

ITEM ONE: Call to Order

Meeting is called to order at 6:17pm.

There is no quorum for this meeting so we will only proceed with the executive updates. You cannot amend the agenda on the floor or add any new business

ITEM TWO: Procedural Business

READ BY: Ra'eesa Baksh - VP Equity

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Remarks from the Chair

Chair introduces themselves. Pronouns are he/him. First students union AGM. We will not be using Robert's Rules to its fullest extent since we do not have quorum. Please raise your hand if you wish to speak and I will add you to the speakers list.

In the agenda we will be proceeding with the remarks from the President but we won't be voting on anything since we don't have quorum.

Remarks from the President

Marina: we don't have quorum but I have said so much in my last two years. Thanks to the board to coming and everyone else that came here during exam time.

MOTION 2023-12-05-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the December 5, 2023 Semi-Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

Moved: Marina Gerges	Seconded:	Result:
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MOTION 2023-12-05-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the December 1, 2022 Semi-Annual Meeting be ratified as presented in Appendix A.

Be it resolved that the unofficial minutes for the April 26, 2023 Annual General Meeting be accepted as non-binding minutes due to a lack of quorum.

Moved: Marina Gerges	Seconded:	Result:
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ITEM THREE: Approval of Audited Financial Statements & Auditors

MOTION 2023-12-05-03

Whereas the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements were presented to members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting which did not meet quorum requirements for ratification; and

Whereas the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements have been prepared for the 2023 Semi-Annual General Meeting; and

Whereas the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements show the TMSU is in good financial standing; and

Whereas all Audited Financial Statements require General Meeting ratification; therefore

Be It resolved that the Audited Financial Statements for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal year be accepted as presented in Appendix B.

Be It resolved that the Audited Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 fiscal year be accepted as presented in Appendix B.

Moved: Nathan Sugunalan	Seconded:	Result:
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MOTION 2023-12-05-04

Be it resolved that BDO be appointed as the TMSU auditors for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Moved: Nathan Sugunalan	Seconded:	Result:
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ITEM FOUR: By-law Amendment Package

MOTION 2023-12-05-05

Whereas this motion was originally served for the 2023 Annual General Meeting;
therefore

Be it resolved that By-Law One: Interpretation be updated to include the following
amendments:

1.4 Books & Registry

1. The Secretary of the Corporation shall maintain the following books and registry:
 - a. Articles of Incorporation, Amendment, or Continuance, that exist from time to time; and
 - b. By-laws in accordance with By-law Twelve (12): By-laws of the Union; and
 - c. Policies in accordance with By-law Eleven (11): Policies of the Union; and
 - d. Meeting minutes and agendas for each meeting of:
 1. General Meetings in accordance with By-law Three (3): General Meetings; and
 2. The Board of Directors in accordance with By-law Four (4): Board of Directors; and
 3. Committee Meetings in accordance with By-law Five (5): Committees and By-law Six (6): Executive Committee; and
 - e. Register of all individuals who are or have served on the Board of Directors, indicating the name and address of each and the respective commencement and the end of their term in office.
2. The books and registry of the Corporation shall be kept by the Secretary of the Board as defined in By-law Four (4): Board of Directors, at the head office of the Corporation.

Moved: J. Callaghan	Seconded:	Result:
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MOTION 2023-12-05-06

Whereas this motion was originally served for the 2023 Annual General Meeting;
therefore

Be it resolved that By-Law Four: Board of Directors be updated to include the following amendments:

3.3 Notice

1. Notice for **Semi-Annual** General Meetings and **Annual General Meetings** shall be provided at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting date.
2. **Notice for Special General Meetings shall be provided at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting date.**
3. Notice shall include the date, time and general location of the meeting as well as a website link which includes at least:
 - a. RSVP and pre-registration links;
 - b. Accommodations procedures;
 - c. Corporation By-laws;
 - d. Information and timeline to submit motions; and
 - e. Timeline for additional meeting documentation.
4. Notice shall be sent out to all Members via the Corporation membership email listserv and/or the Office of the Vice-Provost Students.
5. Notice shall be provided to campus media.
6. Reasonable outreach should be provided to advertise notice including but not limited to social media, print media, university platforms and campus media advertisements.

By-law Four: Board of Directors

4.18 Meetings of the Board of Directors - Notice

1. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President, ~~or any Vice-President,~~ or upon the direction in writing of two (2) Directors.
2. Notice of meetings of the Board of Directors shall be communicated via email not less than five (5) business days before the meeting is to take place.
3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held, without notice, immediately following a General Meeting.
4. Notice of meetings of the Board of Directors shall be provided to campus media.

Moved: J. Callaghan	Seconded:	Result:
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MOTION 2023-12-05-07

Whereas this motion was originally served for the 2023 Annual General Meeting;
therefore

Be it resolved that By-Law Twelve: By-laws of the Union be updated to include the
following amendments:

1. Amendment Procedure

- a. These By-laws may not be amended except by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a General Meeting.
- b. To be considered at a General Meeting, a proposed by-law amendment must:
 - i. Be submitted to the By-laws and Policies Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the General Meeting;
 - ii. Be submitted by the By-laws and Policies Committee to the Board of Directors twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the General Meeting; and
 - iii. Be submitted by the Board of Directors as a General Meeting resolution at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- c. The By-laws and Policies Committee and Board of Directors are responsible for reviewing the legality and consequences of By-law amendments and practicing their fiduciary duty in recommending By-law amendments.
- d. The By-law mover shall be entitled to motivate their motion at all stages of the amendment procedure.
- e. Unless otherwise stated, By-law amendments come into effect twenty-four (24) hours after the approval by the Members.

2. Access to By-laws

- a. All By-laws shall be available on the Corporation's website and updated within ~~two (2)~~ ~~four (4)~~ weeks of any adoption, amendment and rescindment.

Moved: J. Callaghan	Seconded:	Result:
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MOTION 2023-12-05-08

Whereas this motion was originally served for the 2023 Annual General Meeting;
therefore

Be it resolved that By-Law Eight: Elections 8.3.2. be updated to include the following amendments:

1. To be eligible to stand as a candidate in an election, an International Student Director candidate shall:
 - a. Be a Member of the Corporation as set forth in By-law Two (2): Membership;
 - b. Be an international student;
 - c. Be nominated by no less than twenty-five (25) Members **with international student status of their faculty**;
 - d. Complete the requirements of By-law 8.4 Board and Election Training; and
 - e. Submit nomination materials to the Election and Referenda Committee prior to the end of nomination period.

Moved: Gus Cousins	Seconded:	Result:
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ITEM FIVE: Better Bathrooms Campaign**MOTION 2023-12-05-09**

Whereas students, faculty and staff have brought forth numerous complaints about the accessibility, safety and cleanliness of washrooms at Toronto Metropolitan University;
and

Whereas in October 2022 and January 2023 there were high-profile instances of gender and sexual-violence reports that occurred in Toronto Metropolitan University, not including the numerous unreported cases; and

Whereas the university community has been divided on the best approach to address short and long-term solutions to the issues plaguing Toronto Metropolitan University washrooms, campus safety and policing; and

Whereas the Centre for Safer Sex and Sexual Violence Support has launched a Better Bathrooms Campaign that focuses on bring attention to the multiple issues



surrounding university bathrooms - primarily through long-term planning, public investments and institutional accountability;

Whereas Queen's University and Waterloo University have implemented washrooms policies and/or projects which have looked at long-term planning and phases to improve and renovate campus washrooms; and

Whereas the Student Campus Centre has renovated washrooms in the Oakham and Met Pub facility to have all-gender, single-stalled and accessible washrooms, including a universally-accessible washroom; and

Whereas all levels of institutions and governments can play a role in improving the state of washrooms and community safety; therefore

Be it resolved that the Better Bathrooms Campaign be endorsed by the membership of the Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union; and

Be it resolved that a letter be drafted to the Board of Governors calling for increased investment in improving and renovating current washrooms for accessibility, safety and cleanliness; improved signage and redesignation of gendered single-stalled washrooms; and implementing campus-wide policies on the inclusion of all-gender washrooms in new buildings; and

Be it resolved that a letter be drafted to Toronto City Council calling on investments in public washrooms and facilities in the downtown core.

Moved: Ra'eesa Baksh	Seconded:	Result:
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ITEM SIX: Remarks from the Executive

Marina - President [insert speech here]

- Increased transparency with the members
- Created a strong relationship with the Univeirty
- Openness with campus media
- Appointed vacancies for the board and the executive
- Created a TMSU street team (they have these for the societies)
 - This will be a marketing power hour



- Students are having issues creating lasting relationships and I truly believe that this will help with marketing and on the ground outreach
- focused on training the board
- gave direction to the legal for the financial mismanagement
- chair and schedule every Board of Directors meeting and exec meeting as well as the ERC
- took the lead on the student grants committee
- sat as the vice chair on the palin foundation
- as a signing officer I signed almost all of the cheques of the organization
- met with student groups and supported them
- prepared statements for the membership

I made decisions with students in mind at all times

Nathan - VP Operations

The Vice-President Operations is the Treasurer of the TMSU. They are the elected student representative that jointly oversees the finances of the union alongside management staff. I was interested in taking on this role because I wanted to help the organization's internal controls develop, investigate new avenues of revenue, and allocate resources for professional development. Through my research of the union's history, time as Vice-President, Education as well as my own work and volunteer experience in university as a student senator; I noticed that professional development was never a large or seemingly integral part of the union's portfolio. In the instances where they were incorporated they seemed to either end once a campaign was achieved, or were never fulfilled due a mismatch in responsibilities and resources. As a students' union, I believe we need to balance protecting and providing for students socially and professionally. As VP Operations, it is especially important to understand how and when to balance funding between social and professional needs. The students' union, like many opportunities, is what you make of it. I encourage fellow students to be active in your union by voting for the change that you want to see, joining a committee, or get involved when you can to be the change that you want to see within the organization.



If you want to make things better, sometimes you have to be that change. When I thought that I couldn't do it myself there was always people there that believed in me and supported me. You are better than what you think you are.

MAJOR-UPDATES

- Trans-Affirmation Reimbursement

The Trans-Affirming Reimbursement is designed to help trans-identifying students purchase gender affirming gear to help them better showcase their gender expression.

- 360 Photo Booth Event Production

The 360 Photo Booth is a novelty attraction that we wanted to include at TMSU hosted or affiliated events to help be interactive.

- New Freezer Acquisition

A new freezer was acquired in order to help have more storage capacity for frozen goods. Currently placed in TMSU's storage room, once renovations of the Good Food Center are finalized the freezer will be able to be moved in to help hold more produce.

- Refurbished Popcorn Machine Acquisition

After seeing the over demand in popcorn from last year's events we were able to acquire a larger popcorn machine. We hope to offer this as a rentable service for student groups.

- Cotton Candy Machine Refurbishment

Wanting to keep a variety of snack options for students we were also able to refurbish our cotton candy machine. This is also another item we are working on offering out to student groups as well.

- Simply Voting System Acquisition

Taking recommendations to use a different voting system from last year's election report; we were able to secure a deal with Simply Voting. They are a reputable full-service provider for online elections, with particular experience in post-secondary elections. Using this new system has increased TMSU's independence as we now no longer have to rely on the university's system and preferred timing.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Annual Budget



The Annual Budget is the guiding financial document for the fiscal year. It helps to guide both “real-time” spending and needed financial reallocations. Final Draft in work to allow for new time to finalize and account for their own ideas.

- Tax Clinic

The Annual Tax Clinic is the TMSU's free option to help students file their taxes. This is Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) certified through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) program. After last year's tax clinic coordination with the other student unions on campus (TMAPS & TMGSU), we've decided to organize our sessions together once again to better service the wider student community.

- Grammarly

Grammarly has been a great service to the TMSU community in helping students complete their work concisely. As such we are working to have another annual purchase of the service at the same rate as last year.

- Adobe

Adobe is a very useful service to provide, but numbers have not been as high as grammarly. This is especially notable considering the price point of nearly \$70. It has been a great service to the few that have used it, but future plans will lie with the next team on its offering.

- Budget Projection Timelines & Policies

The TMSU usually creates their annual budget after a fiscal year already starts. By developing budget projections throughout the previous years, a more reliable estimate can be created earlier. This can then be given to the new team during their on-boarding months, to better account for overall planning earlier in the summer of their terms.

Kishore Thavaneethan - VP SL

- Creates and fun and interactive space on campus
- Overlooking the SG'S CU'S and affiliates
- I was interested in this role because I was the detrimental toll that COVID took on students including myself
- I am an extroverted person so I used my skills to make meaningful connections with other students
- I want to be authentic to students and planned and attended events that students can relate to
- Share meaningful connection, smiles and laughs with students that made this worth the experience



- Planned and collaborated with the University for Week of Welcome and O-week
 - It was very intense with the late nights and early mornings
 - The TMSU was able to foster a good connection with central O-team and create a good relationship with the University
- I also helped with the sponsorship package
- Worked with TMU board to collaborate on the homecoming event
- Set on the hiring committee for the events lead
- Sat on the Palin foundation as well and the Campus Group Committee
- Overseeing a lot of the TMSU social media and trying to get engagement up and community building
- I am looking forward to see the events for the Winter week of welcome
- I am happy with our events team!
- I want to see the relationship between TMSU and TMU continue to grow in terms of collaborating on events
- I want to see more collaborations with TMSU and the societies on campus
- We can accomplish a lot partnering with external companies
- I am looking forward to more student groups being approved

Ra'essa Baksh - VP Equity

- The VP equity is the TMSU representative on equity issues that affect you
- Programming, events and campaigns on campus
- Responsible to the equity center on the 2nd floor - creates and invitation for students to explore their identity
- Promoted our center through outreach and partnerships
- We can move on to the ongoing development stage
- We have rebranded the center and are launching a new campaign for better bathroom
- I used to work in the SHIFT wellness center and I was excited to become a part of the team as an exec
- I believe that in this position that holding fiduciary duty to a greater cause was something that I committed myself to
- Equity is on ongoing efforts and I wanted to make people feel comfortable in their identity
- The major updates are: in June the residence team created first year queer programming.
- We had a social justice committee



- The biggest project was the launch of our better bathroom campaign
 - We chose to focus on the places that needed safety the most
 - We mapped out all of the bathroom on campus to identify some of the places that need change
 - We need to prompt the University and the government to provide better bathrooms for students
- The summer I attended the CFS general assembly as our local representative
- We need to try and connect with other student unions to bring better program and joint campaigns and more students power
- Look forward I encourage the new VP equity to keep maintaining relations with the University.
- I also look forward to the continuation of the better bathrooms campaigns
- I would like to see the TMSU work with C3SVS to update our harassment policy

Chair: We will move into question period right now. Please raise your hand if you have any questions and we will bring the mic over to you.

D’Juan: In terms of two things 1) the most impressive things right now is that membership engagement with the Union is not the best. What commitment did the board make to membership engagement that they have not fulfilled

2) Have we hired a financial controller and are working on hiring a coordinator.

Marina: D’Juan used to be on the board but stepped down for personal reasons. My own brother would not attend because he had exams so we need to plan the meeting accordingly. In terms of the engagement we agreed that the union should take this on and in my experience how I did this was to directly put myself into the planning process with student groups. This was not a one off survey this was through having weekly meetings

In terms of the finance controller we did post in the summer and extended an offer. They took a while to get back to us, but they declined the offer. I think the exec should continue to hire for this, but there are shortages for qualified candidates.

Black jacket: Is there a plan to increase funding for student societies because right now it is a lot less than other schools, it is kind of frustrating.



Marina: are you talking about student groups or societies. I got to Waterloo and they have a whole building. I think that campus group funding does need to be increased. It is easy to increase it, all you need to do is serve the motion at the Board meeting. I want you to know the process on how to achieve this for the new team

D'Juan: I have a follow up question. The previous committee that I asked was about the ad-hoc committee for the membership committee meetings. What commitment has this organization made in regards to that motion that was passed, as an organization as a whole there are operational things you can do that ongoing membership engagement is good. There is a lot for this organization to do. The transparency behind all of this is lacking because you cannot find general meeting reports

Ra'eesa: We are still rebuilding and it hasn't been long since we turned RSU to TMSU. This quorum does not reflect the work that we have done. Our board members are only here for an interim period and I can vouch for the amount of work that our Board has done. Our website underwent a lot of changes. The website used to have the minutes posted. The incoming team is in a development phase and can make these implementations

Alex: You could have come here, come to school, gone home and graduated. You have all decided to stay here and make things better. What is one thing you are most proud of and what is the biggest lesson you have learned in office

Kishore: I am most proud of community engagement. We have really increased this through orientation and week of welcome we got our followers up by 3000. For Instagram we had so many more students interacting with our account. Culture day was my favorite event that I ran at TMSU we had 50 campus groups perform and showcase their culture and to see how diverse TMU is. There were so many different people and groups that we interacting that did not know each other before. What I learned is you can get involved as much as you want as long as you put in that energy. Everyone was here to help me out so much.

Marina: I was there for both the orientations and it was day and night, I have never seen so many students lining up for our merch and it was not like this last year. We were able to achieve a really good achievement. Something that I am proud of is the financial litigation, it was important for the director of the union that nothing like that would ever happen again. I have gained so many skills in my positions, this is a



corporate organization and you are leading it. There are so many people you meet and learn from. One thing I would change was the focus I put on distractions. If you are not thinking about the students, those are the priorities, I was the happiest when I was able to get something done for a student group. As long as the students are at the forefront it is a fulfilling job

Nathan: My favorite thing was orientation. It was fun running around and doing so many things. Seeing how happy the smallest things made students. What I wanted students to know about TMSU is that whatever goes wrong at school the Union will always have you and I felt that at orientation. The second thing would be us bringing in new management, like the operations manager - Alyssa has been an invaluable help and her general knowledge on how to approach things are fresh and new and a great step. She will be able to help so many other students moving forward. I want students to know that whatever they go through they know that the TMSU will have their back

Ra'eesa: I love how all of our experiences center around orientation. Some of my favorite memories have been at disorientation because it centered around your inner political shakes. There was a point where disorientation was creeping up and I didn't know if we would enough people to fill the street. On September 13th around 12 noon the entire street was covered with students, vendors and small businesses. This turned into a networking session. Everyone there was exchanging ideas. What I learned is to listen more, especially in terms of equity and when you are listening to people's stories. When you step into this role listening to your students and members will be the most important thing to work on

Marina: I want to thank Alex for that question and this is your new VP Ops!

D'Juan: this pertains to the by-laws that is not a legacy, this has to do with external directors. Have we appointed them? If we have not, have you realized that this is failing to meet the by-laws if we have not filled this. We are failing on one side.

Marina: I want to start this off to say there is nothing we can do to deter scandals. These are stories that come at a convenient time especially during elections. I think to put the onus on these execs even though this has been happening for decades before that. The external directors has been posted and the TMSU is working against it's on reputation. We need to continue to make progress and those scandals will subside. The positions are still open and we are looking for professionals to guide the organization. There is not shortfall on any face



Ra'eesa: to Marina's point I also disagree with you (D'juan) to say that it will destroy our internal processes. If this is something that needs to be done it will be done. As an interim board and execs we have dealt with scandals as much as we can. It's about the people that sit at this desk that step up to these roles to make things happen. While we have failed on one part let's not dismiss the efforts that went into rebuilding. We successfully had a by-election and that is a testament to our dedication to students. We will continue to follow what students want us to do because we are in these positions

D'juan: I have a follow up - if i'm not mistaken it would be this meeting and the last meeting that we did not receive quorum on. What true commitment or suggestions would you give to the next exec to boost engagement at the SAGM & AGM

Corey: Outgoing Director of Programming I also helped to draft the by-law amendments. You need to realize the difficulty in which this is being held. We just ran a by-election and a by-election that was really a general election. This is meant to be held around november, again not a great time but it is a better time.

ITEM SEVEN: Adjournment

MOTION 2023-12-05-10

Be it resolved that the December 5, 2023 Semi-Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Marina Gerges	Seconded:	Result:
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Meeting is adjourned at ____.

