# Engineering Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## November 8, 2017

**Chair:** Bryn Cummings

**Secretary:** Rachel Malevich

**Present Directors:** Rachel Malevich, Abdullah Barakat, Sarah Martin, Awn Duqoum, Felix Jancso-Szabo, Emma Kennedy (remote), Kristopher Sousa, Megan Town (15 minutes late), and Grant Mitchell

**Absent Directors:** Alan Huang

**Ex-Officio Members:** Katie Arnold, Michael Beauchemin

## Welcome and Call to Order

BC: The meeting is called to order at 8:00 pm.

## Approval of the Agenda

**Discussion:**

**Motion:** To add discussion item on new stance as item 4.0.

Mover: AB

Seconder: AD

SM: Item 7.0 should be amended to be a Decision – clerical error.

**Motion:** To approve the Fall 2017 November Agenda

Mover: SM

Seconder: AD

## Make Board Documents Pretty Again

**Discussion**

AB: The Bylaws have been reformatted to look really nice. Working group met to make all the documents formatted well and improved the readability. The numbers are slightly off, but that will be fixed. No content has actually changed, therefore all changes are clericals. A format document will be stored on Box. This will be fully completed by the first council meeting of the Winter term. Does Board want anything changed?

*Consensus was that Board was happy with the modified documents.*

## Review bylaws pertaining to the Executive Officer and CRO vacancies

**Discussion**

MT: Motion has been brought back to the table with redlined changes. With the way this is written, new CROs can basically be elected when necessary. The old document was written to say that we could not elect a CRO in an election term which would be bad if we had a referendum in an election term.

KS: Could we still ask the current CRO to do a referendum?

MT: Yes, Exec could ask them, but if they didn’t want to, we would just elect a new CRO.

MT: If everyone likes these motions, I suggest that Abdullah bring the motions to Council in Winter and Katie in Spring.

KS: Can we just bring it to JAGM?

SM: Maybe we should do this earlier because of Andrew’s potential referendum.

EK: Clarification on referendum?

KA: Andrew wants to get a new Engineering Counselor by adding a small fee for Engineering students and faculty would match that fee.

EK: Okay.

## 5.0 Abdullah’s Stances

AB: We wrote new stances on last Board. I brought them to Council, and Council didn’t like the new motion, even though we were able to retire the old motion. This pertains to the international student tuition hikes.

AB: The current motion reads, “The Society condemns unreasonable increases to international undergraduate student tuition enforced on students, especially without at least one year’s notice.”

AD: I don’t understand why this didn’t pass.

SM: Basically, people didn’t think that it was effective as a bargaining tool for VP Academic because it wasn’t strong enough and up to interpretation.

MB: Using the word “especially” doesn’t add anything to the stance because it’s an implied line.

AD: What about the word “unreasonable”?

AB: It’s more reasonable for students to have time to prepare for a tuition hike.

MB: Is there something to compare to – a strategic plan?

RM: Faculty is currently working on a new plan.

KA: So there exists a published tuition costs, can we not just reference those?

AD: They can just reference the time frame?

GM: Wasn’t the whole point that international students don’t have a cap on the increase? They can have an arbitrary increase.

AB: We made the stance for a specific term when the percent increase was really bad, but then after people paid tuition it became invalid.

AD: Has anyone actively advocated in this area recently?

RM: No, it hasn’t been a point of interest recently.

KA: We definitely shouldn’t just let this die though because we represent a lot of international students.

AD: Can we just condemn all changes without a years notice?

MT: No because they could just give us a years notice and have the hike be really bad.

MB: Can we not just take a stance that they work with EngSoc to decide this?

AB: Faculty wouldn’t like this because we’d always want the smallest tuition possible.

KA: Can we just cap it at the 5% like Ontario?

AD: Ontario pays a lot Ontario tuition so it doesn’t make sense to have the same cap. The same rate of increase makes more sense.

FJ: How much power does the Document of Stances actually have?

AB: None really, it’s an advocating tool. We can say that our Council that represents all engineering students voted in favour of stance.

AD: This also improves our image to engineering students because we can show students what we do for them in terms of advocacy.

KA: “The Waterloo Engineering Society condemns increases to international undergraduate student tuition that does not reflect the rate of change of increase to Canadian student tuition.”

AD: We should bring Katie’s motion to Council.

AB: I will bring this to Council.

## President Termly Updates

**Speaking:** Rachel Malevich

* Student Space Report: Putting together a memo for Council, producing this report ultimately doesn’t make sense but I want to word it correctly to present to Council. I just had a meeting about this today.
* Long Term Strategic Plan: Overall generally liked by Council last week. I’ll be editing it to include Engineering’s relationship with FEDS for next Council where it will hopefully be approved.
* Website Revamp: We’re hoping to get some more funding, but we’ve made a lot of progress with this goal in general this term with redesign and fixing the things that were making the old website unusable.
* KS: Concern about money related to hosting?
* AD: No we need tools.
* Mental Health Referendum: Andrew hopes to propose a referendum in the next year to add a $5 fee for each student each term. This would pay for approximately half of a new engineering counselor’s salary and Andrew wants to ensure that the Faculty would be able to match this to cover the full salary.
  + MT: New office is going to have a new office, don’t we have new offices now?
  + AD: There will be multiple new offices in the new office.
* Branding Guidelines: Dan is looking to get this completed by the end of the term, it was a mandate from Winter 2017. We’ll be meeting tomorrow to go through the details and what to include.
* Bomber: Katie tried to book it this term, but it’s still very expensive even with the space fee waived. We can’t afford to pay this much money for a social event without a lot of advertising.
* Parking Space: Sabrina found that we aren’t able to get a parking space permit for the loading dock, but she’s still looking into another option (like was FOC uses during O-Week).
* Mural: It’s being painted! Should be done by the end of this term.
* Academic Rep Updates: Andrew has been engaging classes with Academic Updates through Academic Reps. It seems to be effective, but we don’t have quantifiable data on effectiveness.
* Sponsorship Advertisement: Katie advertised really well for Sponsorship, lots of Student Teams applied for Sponsorship!

**Speaking:** Abdullah Barakat

* Rachel covered a lot of what my goals will cover, referendum will likely be my goal next term
* Website: want to keep the progress going on that next term.
* Mary Bland Transition Docs: Want to finish this by the end of Winter term so her successor whomever that may be, will know what to do! Preventative measures.
* E7: Working to make sure new space there goes very well.
* Director Support: All of my Exec want to improve our support to directors because we got feedback about that last term.
* Michael (VPF): Ridgidware and space improvements
* Pat (VPA): Wants to work with Faculty to improve exam bank, new commissioner under her portfolio right now, but is unsure about the position at this time. She also wants to keep better minutes next term about her meetings. Wants to collaborate with CECA on Career Fair. Exec wants to have only 1 big event each term: FYELC (F), Career Fair (W), EngHack (S). Hopefully this would improve quality and attendance of these events.
* Céline: On an ESSCO Working group for tuition and wants to do some research and contribute to that. Wants to implement a conference bank and a poster bank. Wants to revamp the LCD screens as well.
  + KS: How do we get information on tuition and things like that?
  + AD: There’s actually a group on campus that works to help with freedom of information.
* Mariko: Wants to revamp the transition docs. Wants to focus on director feedback and event feedback. Also wants to keep the mental health blog going strong.

## Spending Update

**Speaking:** Katie Arnold

* I’m going through Mary’s budget because she can’t be here today. I’ll just talk about the items of concern or interest. Ridgidware has spent a lot of money this term because of new initiatives, we have a lot of revenue because of new interest. Iron Warrior doesn’t have a lot of money, there was no advertising revenue on the orientation week issue. Editor and Chief asked to be back on the budget, but we have promised to bail them out if they go under. The Dean hasn’t offered payment for conferences yet. Novelties budget is off because of the invoice for coveralls hasn’t come through.
* C&D: We got another rebate cheque for buying a lot of items, that was the only item of interest.
* KS: Is it good that Ridgidware is spending a lot of money?
* KA: It’s not good to go over budget, but we’re expecting to make that money back which isn’t bad. But generally it’s better to budget correctly.
* AB: Concerns about C&D revenue?
* KA: Mary is not concerned.
* SM: Expenses are also at half right now, seems normal.

## Allocation of the Engineering Capital Improvements Fund spending

**Speaking:** Katie Arnold

* AD: Camera now?
* SM: We could do this yes.

**Motion:** Move into camera.

Mover: AD

Second: GM

*Motion passes.*

**Motion:** Move out of camera.

Mover: AB

Seconder: MT

*Motion passes.*

* 0 allocated to “Website Needs Things”
* $140 allocated to “SD Card for EngSoc”
* $160 allocated to “Let’s make a great Sandbox” for visual composer & calendar pro
* $1674.20 allocated to “Lockers for Orifice”
* $8375.80 allocated to “E7 C&D”

**Motion:** Amend what was decided by Board.

**Mover:** KA

**Seconder:** MB

*Motion passes.*

**Motion:** Allocate what was decided by Board.

**Mover:** KA

**Seconder:** MB

*Motion passes. AD abstains.*

## 9.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Mover: SM

Seconder: RM

*Motion passes.*