



November 2014 Members Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: November 20, 2014, 5:30pm

Minute Taker: Shifa Abbas, Board Member

Chair: Sepehr Mohaddes, Board Member

Decisions Summary:

1. Approval of October Members Meeting minutes tabled to January Members Meeting.
2. [Statement](#) in support of Dr. Idrisa Pandit adopted.
3. \$500 donated to Students for Palestinian Rights towards the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People dinner.
4. \$400 donated to the Asgard Green Co-op Breakfast Club.
5. \$700 donated to the #WinterisComing clothes drive for Iraqi refugees.
6. \$600 donated to Black Association for Student Expression's (UW BASE) World Aids Day event - Love, Sex, and Disease.
7. \$1300 donated to the Aboriginal Student Association towards their Hand Drum making cultural workshop.
8. Members endorse the Chevron's Dirty Hands Campaign.

Meeting Starts at 6:00pm. Quorum is met.

Item

1. Introduction & Review of Meeting Rules and Agreement

Chair briefly discusses what WPIRG does and explains Members

Meeting purpose. Chair explains Rusty's Rules of Order.

Recognition of the land: Member recognizes that the meeting is taking place on stolen indigenous land (Six Nations of the Grand River).

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is reviewed item by item. Vote is unanimous to pass agenda as presented.

3. Approval of minutes from October Members Meeting

Projector not working. Minutes are not available. Tabled to the next Members Meeting.

4. Discussion on combating Islamophobia in our communities

Presentation Summary:

- Dr. Idrisa Pandit presents - describes experience of Islamophobia after CBC interview - death threats against her and her family
- WPIRG letter of support is discussed.
- root causes of fear - ignorance, lack of knowledge
- fear - generates further ignorance, hatred, removal, "fight or flight"
- language reminds you of WWII with the Nazis - "Never again" - are we becoming complacent?
- how should we respond?
- talking about Islamophobia in our communities -have a long way to go- if this is not my issue, I don't have to talk about it
- avoiding conflict - "shoving under the rug"
- comfortable without acknowledgement
- acknowledgement is the first step - not done our job
- importance to read and acknowledge history (eg of our land, Aboriginal Peoples and their history on this land)

- speaking about Islamophobia means questioning patriotism - are you a Canadian? Or just a Muslim?
- importance in creating safe spaces with accountability (what does accountability look like)
- hate incident - criminal offence - zero response - absence of response
- can't get a copy of the police report
- want to know if they processed anything - no response
- reserved term - terrorism, terrorist, difficult people, relegated to a certain race/faith/people- larger problem we need to address

Questions:

What does the response say about hate laws, and their purpose?

More liberal definition of hate speech in Canada than US until crime has occurred.

Would this be the same response if it was the other way around...

How can student groups work against this in their daily life? All -isms that are negative should rattle you. Don't wait for something that "touches you" - stand against it, you will be a victim one day.

Very easy way to victimize the other by staying silent for our own comfort level, looking the other way, be conscious and aware of how people around you are being treated.

Recognize root causes of fear - change can come

Vote: Members endorse WPIRG Letter of Support unanimously.

5. Funding Applications

- a. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Dinner - UW Students For Palestinian Rights**

- Max is here representing the group
- Comes from Student Solidarity Line
- -Nov 29, 1,200 dollars outside budget, request \$500 for their dinner expenses
- -food, spoken word poet, music, Dabkeh team
- Motion to approve, seconded
- Call to question - vote passes 26 - 0 -2
- Approved- WPIRG will donate \$500 to SFPR

b. Asgard Green Co-op Breakfast Club

- Dan is here to speak to it
- From the Community Solidarity Line
- serve free breakfast to students, give parents a break - focus on healthy food, fruits/veggies/proteins
- aware of WPIRG's mandate of not purchasing meat
- started in September - original funding from Coop board
- Every Tuesday - numbers stabilized around 30 people
- call to question - vote passes 24-1-1 Approved \$400 donation to Asgard Green Co-op Breakfast Club

c. #WinterIsComing

- group involves students throughout Ontario
- coats, hats, mittens to be sent
- refugee camps - houses 1.5 million IDPs/refugees
- diapers, baby formulas, shipping
- receiving organization - international coordinators - RISE organization - Peter Henderson - NGO
- \$200 from McMaster PIRG
- past month - donation collecting - Timeline is Nov 28th, Dec 1st is packed.

- SAS and MSA on campus are involved
- asking for \$3500 - Members vote to amended to \$700
- call to question 12-8-9 \$700 Approved.

d. Love, Sex, and Disease, World Aids Day

- UWBASE
- raise awareness about AIDS, stigma
- working with ACCKWA
- Student Solidarity Line
- Motion amend the motion to fund the event for \$500. Vote 23-1-4 in favour.
- Motion to call to question. Fails - 8-10-9
- Motion to fund the event for \$600. 20-3-5 Approved.

e. Cultural Workshop Hand Drum Making

- asking for \$1300
- comes out of Student Solidarity Line and not Indigenous
- Amy Smoke - President of the Aboriginal Students Associations- Cultural event requested by students
- even split of 50% Aboriginal and 50% Non Aboriginal students
- can do up to 20 students
- done them for Laurier
- Call to Question - 21-0-2 Approved

3. Member Motions

a. Endorsement of Chevron's Dirty Hand Campaign

- Presentation on Chevron's mining activities in Ecuador.
- Motion to Endorse the campaign passes. 26-0-3

4. Action Groups Updates & Announcements

- Waterloo 350
- Cinema Politica

Wednesday - Road Map to Apartheid at Princess Twin in Uptown Waterloo -
next week Wednesday - 7pm

- Amnesty International

-table in SLC for petitioning 10-2pm

-stop by and sign (can also sign online)

- Food not Bombs

- free downtown servings every Saturday - still going

- Schembri Campaign

- working on that all term - apx. 70 students being heard in a group. 52 with
WPIRG.

5. Announcements from Associated Clubs/Groups

- KW solidarity

- won two cases recently. Got back stolen deposits for two members. Victory
potluck to be announced.

- Ian from the Ontario Hong Kong Students United Front group presented on
the ongoing situation with the protests in Hong Kong.

