



**Members Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2015 – MC 2038 5:00-7:30pm**

Agenda Item	Description	Time
Introductions	Meeting starts at 5:30pm. Quorum is achieved (42 members present).	5:30PM
Approval of the Agenda	The agenda was approved with the following amendments: 1) Women in Science to make an announcement and 2) To eliminate the meeting break.	5:35PM
WPIRG Updates	<p>-Palestine Solidarity Action Group: Handing in petition for Ethical Collaboration referendum to Feds tomorrow. Still collecting signatures.</p> <p>-Food Not Bombs: Always taking new volunteers</p> <p>-KW Solidarity Network: Working on various housing cases.</p> <p>-Fossil Fuel Free UW: Recruiting new members to help with promotion and outreach and also to do research related to divestment at UW. Working towards the WESEF AGM where our divestment motion will be voted on and we want to get a large number of arsenate to come out. Sign up to our e-mail list via our Facebook page to get a large number of arsenate to come out. Also sign up to our e-mail list via our Facebook page to learn about upcoming meetings.</p> <p>-Board of Directors update: This new Members Meeting format emerged from a Board discussion about strategic planning and wanting to know what members thought about campus issues.</p> <p>-Women in Science: Group is driven by the following question: How do we create a more inclusive environment for historically marginalized individuals in Science/STEM? First meeting is this Friday. RCH 305 at 12:30.</p>	5:40PM
Open Discussion: Taking Stock of Campus	<p><b>High International and Domestic Tuition Fees:</b></p> <p>-Workshops related to saving money on textbooks.</p> <p>-Is it necessary to require courseware for every individual student? Can we share books to save money?</p> <p>-Courseware is inexpensive, encouraging computer literacy to be able to download books</p>	6:10PM

- Edition updates often include very minor updates but require students to purchase a whole new textbook
- Tuition debate is a provincial problem. Putting pressure on province versus individual schools should be a priority
- Students are coming up with ways to not pay for books. Having to pay for textbooks adds up and can be the difference between staying in university and leaving.
- International Tuition is rising. There isn't a regulation on how much you can raise the international fee each term (however, there is for domestic)
- Universities are actively trying to get more international students and using it to make profit
- What have other students successfully done to combat tuition increases? Protests. Quebec Student Movement.
- Is there the potential to have book fees being covered by faculties?
- Feel underrepresented by Feds in terms of tuition rising

**Concrete steps:**

- Mailing list was passed along

**Sexism on Campus:**

- Misogynistic comments made re: Hack the North on reddit thread in response to students being kicked out of UW's hackathon
- University talks a lot about being a diverse place but hasn't made any commitments to make the climate of UW more inclusive
- One female science student mentioned her experience of working in biochemistry lab in with 7 other men. She was made to feel incompetent through actions such as not being assigned certain roles and not being asked for her opinion (demonstration of gendered roles enforced at jobs)
- Potential concrete step: Having a Humans of New York like project but which focuses on sexism. Possibly expand it to include major issues on campus like mental health issues
- Getting men involved in sexism is important. Men have a role in resisting and calling out sexist acts.
- The administration treats sexism as a PR issue. They need to get their act together and not self-congratulate themselves. How do we pressure the administration?

**Concrete steps:**

- WiCs, Women Centre, FemPhys to collaborate?
- Having a space at the Women's Centre once a month to help each other respond to sexist profs etc
- Women in Science could make equipment (such as safety equipment) available to women working in labs/conducting fieldwork

	<p>-Humans of UW for sexism and other campus issues (mailing list passed along).</p> <p>-Having an “ally space” where men and other allies can show up and participate (i.e. in order to show that not only women care about sexism). Can talk about how sexism etc shape the constructions of masculinity.</p>	
Break (optional)	Removed from the agenda.	7:10PM
Business Motions	<p><u>Context:</u> WPIRG’s Board of Directors is proposing to change the current structure of Members Meetings. The original intention with Members Meetings was to have an open space for discussion and decision-making, which currently does not exist. This proposal is meant to address this gap.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>In Favour: Having a space where we can discuss campus issues is valuable. The discussion part of the meeting was productive and there were a lot of great ideas. It seems like a lot of people care more about discussing the issues. It seems like a good space for people to find out about WPIRG and have discussions; it is more relevant than having a meeting dedicated to deciding on funding proposals. The funding committee is open to as many people who want to be part of that committee. That is, 5 is just a minimum (it’s based on what is require to have quorum for the Board of Directors). This proposal is a response to a lack of proper engagement re: funding applications for the previous structure. You need this informal/open space so you can gather what student issues are so action on them can be taken.</p> <p>Against: The proposed structure is much less democratic than the current structure. There should be more time in this meeting to discuss this proposal. Also, some people felt like these meetings might not be able to go on for very long because people will start organizing outside of the meeting and will no longer have incentive to come to the meetings. Having a small amount of people deciding what a lot of groups get for funding is not fair.</p> <p>Motion to vote on this proposal at a later date.</p> <p>14 in favour 7 against.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The proposal to change the structure of Members Meetings was not passed. It will be voted on at a later date.</p>	7:20PM
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.	7:30pm