

Council

Location: MC 5479

December 5, 2023 · 6:00 PM ET

Google Meet: *Send a request to the speaker*

Original agenda: [F23-12-05 Council Meeting Agenda](#)

Speaker	Katherine Leddy
Secretary	Alex Zhao
Attendees (Voting)	Executive Officers: Damian Mustatea (President), Logan Batson (VPA), Akshay Thambipillai (VPF), Rachel Tania (VPI), Mick Wang (VPO), Iris Pan (VPC) Actuarial Science Representatives: Statistics Representatives: Cooper Stone Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Combinatorics and Optimization Representatives: Evan Girardin, Kareem Alfarra, Henry Li Computer Science Representatives: Daniel Matlin, Sarah Wilson, Awab Qureshi, Laura Nguyen Business Representatives: Diana Tatar Computing and Financial Management Representatives: Software Engineering Representatives: Aayush Patel Teaching Representatives: Arushi Sapra Mathematical Studies and Other Representatives: At-Large Representatives: Lucas Tate, Zev Friedman, Daniel Wang, Cindy Li First Year Representatives: Fahmi Omer, Cristian Moretto, Vincent Chen, Danny Liu
(Non-Voting)	Rose Penner (Business Manager); Jackie Jones (Dean's Delegate); math NEWS ; Daniel Matlin (MEF Executive Director); Club Representatives
Expected Absences	Diana Tatar
Unexcused Absences	Fahmi Omer

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1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

1.1 Call to Order

Note that quorum for council meetings is $\frac{2}{3}$ of voting members.

The speaker calls the meeting to order at **6:06 PM** ET.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

The speaker assumes the agenda.

1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo acknowledges:

“The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.”

1.4 Oral Conflict of Interest Declaration

“In relation to any of the items of business on the agenda for this meeting, does any councillor have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest?”

1.5 Reference of Relevant Rules

MathSoc follows a modified version of Robert’s Rules to help keep our meetings orderly. They prevent us from talking over each other. Please wait to be acknowledged before speaking. For each speaking turn focus on a single point. Everyone has the right to speak. For a motion to be discussed it needs a “mover” and a “seconder”.

If you wish to:

- Make a new point → 1
- Reply as part of the ongoing conversation → 2
- Ask information about the speaking order, or relevant bylaws, or policies → POI (Point of Inquiry)
- When you see someone else not following the speaking order → POO (Point of Order)
- If you couldn’t hear or need to take a break, etc. → POP (Point of Personal Privilege)

Most motions at Council aren’t controversial, so we generally use a method of voting where you only need to explicitly vote if you wish to vote against a motion or abstain from voting. You can ask to have your vote noted in the minutes. We can also use roll-call voting or ballot box voting if $\frac{2}{3}$ of Council agrees to it.

2 Consent Agenda – Councillor Qureshi, VP Pan

If anyone objects to an item on the consent agenda, they can ask it be moved to the general orders.

2.1 Approval of Council Minutes

Be it resolved that Council approves the minutes from the November 16th Meeting:

 F23-11-16 Council Meeting Minutes

Be it further resolved that Council approves the minutes from the October 26th meeting and the November 2nd Special Council Meeting:  F23-10-26 Council Meeting MInutes

 F23-11-02 Special Council Meeting Minutes

3 Special Orders

Special orders are items of business to be taken up at a meeting that usually represent something deserving more immediate attention or are more fixed; often, these are committee appointments or other motions that are required at a particular time by our policies and bylaws.

3.1 Speaker and Council Secretary Appreciation – Councillor Stone, Councillor Girardin

Whereas the evaluation criteria for the Speaker is given:

[Speaker Evaluation Criteria](#);

Whereas Council must decide amounts to accord to Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Secretary Based on performance during Fall 2023 term; then,

Be it resolved that Speaker Katherine Leddy is awarded \$300;

Be it further resolved that Deputy Speaker Awab Qureshi is awarded \$100; and

Be it further resolved that Council Secretary Alex Zhao is awarded \$200.

4 Reports

Each executive report shall be considered for a maximum of 2 minutes.

4.1 Executive Reports

President's Report:  12-05-2023 President Council Report

VPF's Report: oral report

VPO's Report: oral report

VPI's Report:  VPI Report: Council Meeting #5

VPA's Report:  VPA Council Report - December 5th 2023

VPC's Report: Oral Report

4.2 Other Reports

Each of these reports shall be considered for a maximum of 5 minutes.

Business Manager's Report:

Chair's Report:

5 General Orders

~~5.1 MathSoc Stance on the Co-op Algorithm for Job Matching— Councillor Friedman, VP Pan [Tabled]~~

Whereas the intended function of the matching algorithm is to create matchings that are based on the preferences of students and employers;

Whereas in the current system, each job assigns a number from 1-10 to students they are considering, and then has each student assign a number from 1-10 to the jobs that ranked them while only being able to see the actual number if it was a 1, and then pairs where the sum of these two numbers is minimal are matched, with ties broken randomly;

Whereas students have the highest chance of getting a job if they rank everything 1, but in this case their own preference would not be considered, meaning that students must choose between maximizing their chances of getting a job or actually trying to get one that they want;

Whereas this system encourages students to rank strategically, i.e. the optimal decision for you may change based on what other students do, and based on what rankings you were given;

Whereas feeling the need to rank based on factors other than one's own preferences, especially if said factors are unknown, causes a large amount of extra stress to students, which not only negatively affects any student who is looking for a job but also disproportionately impacts students with mental health conditions;

Whereas in a system where students are encouraged to rank based on their preferences, employers that are less desirable will be naturally filtered out by students' choices, but the current system causes that to happen much less, thereby upholding a toxic culture where employers need not put effort into making their workplaces a healthy environment for employees

Whereas other algorithms have been presented and shown to be superior to the current one by CS professors in the faculty of mathematics, notably algorithms that mathematically encourage students to actually vote based on their own preferences, which would remove all the aforementioned problems;

Whereas CEE has stated that they are revisiting these other algorithms through discussion with the systems team at WaterlooWorks and also with a different CS professor, but that the work on this has been slow;

Whereas, when CEE was asked why rankings of 2-10 are not shown, they responded by saying that "sharing that information with students does not give a full picture of rankings, as

employers may not rank sequentially”, which is not a compelling reason since the hiding of that information gives even less of a full picture to students; and

Whereas MathSoc not only represents many students who are negatively impacted by this issue, we also represent students for whom this issue falls under their field of study; then,

Be it resolved that MathSoc takes a stance against the current job matching algorithm and advocates for it to be replaced with a better one;

Be it further resolved that, until the algorithm is changed to one that no longer encourages students to rank based on what rankings they were given by employers, MathSoc advocates for the freedom of students to know what rank employers gave them.

5.2 MathSoc Stance on Reneging and Ranking “Not Interested” for Job Offers – *Councillor Friedman, Councillor Tate*

Whereas a change has recently been made where students who renege on job offers are not able to receive a co-op credit for that term, even if they take an external offer, thereby forcing them to keep whatever job they got matched with in order to get a co-op credit at all;

Whereas this change makes it much more difficult for students to consider external jobs, as in order to have a chance at getting a credit for one, a student must refrain from entering any co-op cycles which occur before that external job has given them an offer;

Whereas this punishment is disproportionately harsh, especially when it is considered that employers who renege are not given any such punishment, and that students are more harshly affected by employers reneging than anyone is affected by students reneging;

Whereas being punished by being unable to receive a work term credit at all may disproportionately affect international students who may have visa/permit issues if they don’t get the credit

Whereas the appeal process for students who receive this punishment is reportedly very slow and students have been blown off, which not only adds stress on its own, but can cause a student to give up and settle for a job that misrepresented itself or otherwise had petitionable cause for the student to renege; and

Whereas this issue is exacerbated by the fact that students can only rank a limited number of jobs “Not Interested”, and thus can be forced into a match where they’d rather receive no match for that cycle; then,

Be it resolved that MathSoc takes a stance against this change, and advocates for the harshness of the punishment to be reduced; and

Be it further resolved that MathSoc advocates for the right of students to rank as many jobs “Not Interested” as they want.

5.3 MathSoc Stance on Proctor360 – *Councillor Friedman, Councillor Qureshi*

Whereas, at the beginning of the term, Peter Wood requested MathSoc’s input on Proctor360 and came to a MathSoc meeting to discuss it with us;

Whereas the general consensus among MathSoc Council members was that Proctor360 does not solve many of the issues with proctoring software that led to it being banned, while also presenting issues of its own;

Whereas there were issues with Proctor360 which were not addressed by Peter Wood until they were brought up by MathSoc council after a trial had already been done, despite many of these issues having been laid out when proctoring software was originally banned; and

Whereas this sets a dangerous precedent of said issues being ignored when deciding whether to conduct a trial of experimental proctoring software; then,

Be it resolved that MathSoc does not support further trials of Proctor360 or any other proctoring software; and

Be it further resolved that MathSoc takes the stance that, if trialling experimental proctoring software, the onus falls on the organisers of said trial to address all potential issues with it before conducting a trial, including all issues outlined at

<https://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/proctoring-software/> and discussed at the October 3, 2023 Council meeting with Peter Wood ([agenda](#), [minutes](#)).

6 New Business

6.1 DSC Budget Carryover – *VP Thambipillai, President Mustatea*

Whereas Data Science Club was allocated \$2192.26 to “54 - Hoodies”; and

Whereas Data Science Club will not be purchasing hoodies this term, and wishes to purchase them next term instead; then

Be it resolved that the \$2192.26 in “54 - Hoodies” is carried over to Data Science Club’s Winter 2024 budget.

7 Announcements

Very sad that it is Evan and Daniel’s final meeting :(

It may be Cooper’s as well :(

Damian is graduating!!! (HOPEFULLY)

burger :)

8 Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at **6:54 PM** ET.