

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Emergency Executive Committee Meeting, October 4th, 2022, UNC 133C

Called to Order at 11:07

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)

Jakson Pashelka

Vice-President External

Cade Desjarlais

Vice President Finance and Administration

Vrushank Kekre

Vice-President Internal

Dhruv Bihani

Vice-President Campus Life

Danial Asif

Directors Absent

Staff Present

General Manager

Jason Evans

Governance Coordinator

Bri Fedoruk

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral territory of the Okanagan Nation. We would like to recognize that learning happened in this place long before this institution was established. It is important to understand the privilege we hold to be living, working, and learning on Syilx territory.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

22/10/04.01

Desjarlais/Asif

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Carried

3. NEW BUSINESS

22/10/04.02

Desjarlais/Bihani

Be it resolved that the Project Manager be given voting rights in the Electoral Committee for the duration of the By-elections period, Winter Term One (1), 2022.

Carried

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

Pashelka introduced his ideas of what we should do. It would require time, money, and resources. He was looking forward in case of the strike taking more time than anticipated. He wanted to develop a page on the SUO website or put it on an external website, that based on certain subdivisions in Kelowna, students can carpool taxis or other ride-sharing services, which we can reimburse students for their trip to school, while reducing costs for us and students by pooling their transit needs. Students would have to work together and take certain times in order for this to work. We would be reimbursing students who would be able to share a taxi or a ride share.

Desjarlais replied asking if Pashelka read the email from Mullings. They are promoting another carpool app. He understands where Pashelka was coming from, as we need to find a solution, but he knows that we do not have the capacity to facilitate something like this. This would be starting from scratch. The last strike in twenty fifteen (2015) lasted sixteen (16) days. He would like to take some of the leftover money that we have in different categories, in order to make up for the issue now.

Kekre entered [11:14]

Pashelka replied that the main part is the reimbursement for the students. When he says to encourage students to share a vehicle, this would take our dollar further, but getting students the support they need is paramount first.

Evans replied that he spoke with Smailes that reimbursement would be a logistical nightmare for our finance department. Around twenty percent (20%) of our Membership utilize transit. There was a solution he would like to present. In 2021 SUO donated a large sum of money for a COVID fund, as well as a large amount for Emergency Funds.

We have the ability to reroute that money to be transportation funds. It would be a one (1) time application process. The timespan and the energy required may take Pashelka's idea to next year.

Asif agreed with Evans' idea. He also wondered if we would be able to rent buses to use as a shuttle service. We could advertise specific times that students can utilize the service.

Pashelka agreed that this was an idea he had thought of as well, but contacts and liability issues got in the way of this plan. Background checks and outsourcing are issues as well.

Desjarlais tried to speak with the lead negotiators, he spoke with the transit side about exchanging very clear support to establish a line that continued service for UBCO. Once they set up a picket line and strike, any type of transportation like that will withhold their services in solidarity. He believed that it would be a better choice to preserve some funds that we could utilize to reimburse students, for example, an extra five (\$5) back on their U-Pass, would be more support than the university is even expecting us to provide. He wanted to make sure students were getting some support, and timely.

Kekre wanted clarification. How much of an amount are we looking to put forward for the emergency fund? How much per student?

Evans replied with the statistics that he had gone over earlier with the percentage of students who rely on transit. We are trying to decide on an amount, the terms of the funding would be negotiated by you all, the executive committee.

Kekre asked what were we doing with U-Ride.

Desjarlais replied that they have two (2) or three (3) drivers, they do not have enough drivers. He added that we could encourage the community to support students to offset this cost. If we promote U-Ride too much, students would not be able to utilize their services.

Pashelka agreed that encouraging students this way, as well as encouraging professors to return to online means of teaching.

Desjarlais added that the university was fairly limited in what they could do. He wanted to know the thoughts of the executive committee. He brought up safety concerns for students that their solutions brought up. He thought that making parking free in some of the lots for the duration of the strike.

Kekre wanted to know if we could collaborate with UBC to support, and make up the slack left over. Instead of reimbursements, perhaps services would be a better use of our funds.

Evans replied that the only drawback of this was this it was a crisis, and the timeline does not support this type of solution. He thought that the university should take a leading role in supporting students, rather than relying on the Students' Union.

Desjarlais wanted to echo what Evans and Kekre were saying, he would like to fill a gap with a service, however, like Evans has put forward, the timeline was demanding action, and doing something immediately could be a better option than letting students feel as though they are not being taken care of or supported.

Kekre replied that the issue then becomes monetary, and our cashflow may be an issue. Things coming out of our reserves may hard us in the future. This was a major factor to keep in mind.

Desjarlais asked, should we go forward with an emergency reimbursement, but are we able to take the underspending leftovers from other budget lines, to make up some of the flow issues.

Pashelka added that this may not be enough, but there was a

Evans replied that there are some reserves leftover from the Emergency Funding Bursary.

Kekre replied that there was one more Emergency Funding Bursary that was introduced last April.

Pashelka wondered if the university could match the support that we are looking to put forward for the students, perhaps this would be a good piece in addition to the VP External's proposed letter.

Desjarlais replied that students must be informed as soon as possible. Nothing would stop us from adding to address this issue, but addressing it in a timely manner would help reduce students' stress.

Evans replied that he agreed with Desjarlais' idea for statements.

Desjarlais updated that he met with the negotiators yesterday, he was trying to stay on top of what was happening, but he wanted to make sure that students were aware of what was going on, and that we were working on it.

Kekre wanted to know how we generally release our statements? On Instagram? Other social media? Email?

Evans replied that it was his understanding that we get two (2) opportunities to send out mass emails, so we must use them sparingly.

Pashelka replied that there was a service that the Management Society used an app that could mass text students.

Desjarlais requested Evans two action items: to check how many emails we can mass send out, and how much money we have to attribute to the emergency reimbursements/emergency student financial support. He introduced his proposed letter and asked for any additions.

Kekre asked if the struggles of the students could be added to outline the issue in detail.

Desjarlais replied that he addresses this in his first sentence, and further outlines the percentage of students who rely on the bus system.

Evans replied that because it was a press release, we would not want it to be too long.

22/10/04.03

Desjarlais/Kekre

Be it resolved that the media release, written by the VP External, on the transportation strike be approved by the executive committee and released as soon as possible.

Carried

5. IN-CAMERA

5.1 EngSoc

22/10/04.04

Pashelka/Desjarlais

Be it resolved the meeting move in-camera.

Carried

Pashelka updated on the letter and requested feedback from the committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:03