

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, January 27th, 2022, Virtual

Called to Order at 18:02

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)
Vice-President External
Vice-President Internal
Vice-President Campus Life
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative
Graduate Studies Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative
Faculty of Applied Science Representative
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative
Faculty of Education Representative

Tashia Kootenayoo
Ahmed Ahmed
Shiven Vinod Khera
Jakson Pashelka
Cade Desjarlais
Kai Rogers
Priscilla Uribe
Jaanvi Shah
Laavanya Prakash
Kirthana Ganesh
Megan Johnston
Sam Diab
Grace Halpin
Serena Slonowski

Directors Absent

Vice-President Finance & Operations
Faculty of Management Representative
Faculty of Science Representative
Senate Caucus Student Representative (*ex-officio*)
Board of Governors Representative (*ex-officio*)

Muhammad Waseem
Josie Leung
Leoul Woldemariam
Dylan Rogers
Shola Fashanu

Staff Present

General Manager
Communications Manager
Well Pub Manager

Jason Evans
Becca Evans
Mike Ouellet

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's important that we understand that we are very privileged to be living, working, and learning in these territories that are not our own.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

22/01/27.01

Rogers/Kootenayoo

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Desjarlais interrupted with an objection to procedure.

Kootenayoo ruled the point was not taken.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4. PRESENTATIONS

5. OLD BUSINESS

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Policy Committee

22/01/27.02

Khera/Desjarlais

Be it resolved that the Elections regulations be amended as attached.

Khera reviewed the process undertaken by the Policy committee to review the Elections regulations. He discussed the committee used the Electoral reports from the Spring and Fall 2021 elections to inform the proposed changes. Khera explained the inquiries into requiring criminal record checks was not found inadmissible in the electoral process. He added further research into the plausibility of this background check in the Code of Conduct may be undertaken by the policy committee.

Carried

22/01/27.03

Kootenayoo/Rogers

Be it resolved that Elections regulation Seventeen (17) clause C be amended to include candidates for Executive Director positions (President, Vice-President Internal, Vice- President External, Vice-President Campus Life, Vice-President Finance) provide proof of being fully vaccinated against Covid-19, with exemptions being granted by the Electoral Committee in limited circumstances, pursuant to the BC Human Rights Tribunal, and Chief Medical Health Officer.

Be it further resolved this regulation shall cease to be in effect pursuant to the rescinding of government covid-19 health orders.

Kootenayoo motivated the motion and spoke to the operational and logistical challenges posed with Executive Directors being unable to travel or attend to in-person functions and oversee the day-to-day in person responsibilities required in the roles of Executive Directors. She motivated that the UBC Thrive program had improved vaccination percentages in the university community at large and that testing was a resource available to those on campus to attend in-person activities but did not cover responsibilities of Executives jobs that are subject to Provincial and Federal health mandates.

Evans provided clarification that the Executives are required to be in office per SUO policies. He further explained they are required to represent and advocate for students on behalf of the SUO Board of Directors at in-person functions such as but not limited to conferences and other meetings with university administration, Provincial government and external organizations.

Desjarlais was in opposition to the motion, explaining his concerns that it would limit students' participation. He expanded on personal experiences with Covid-19, noting his mother's role as a front-line worker. He argued that vaccines are an important health measure but this mandate was not in the purview of the SUO to enforce. Desjarlais questioned the purpose of the motion to benefit the SUO. He argued that all students pay fees that entitle them to all services and operations of the SUO. He encouraged Directors to reconsider the motion based on the implications it could impose on students experiences.

Khera opposed the motion and noted that the Policy Committee did not recommend the regulations amendment. He noted that he is fully vaccinated and believes in vaccines themselves, but argued that this was not the responsibility of the Board to oversee.

Ahmed inquired about whether the Board of Director had the power to enact the regulation.

Ouellet was in favor of the motion and noted that from his attendance as a guest, the Policy Committee was in agreement to recommending this motion to the Board of Directors. He suggested that the Board of Directors was elected with the responsibility of making decisions such as this. Ouellet reminded the Board of Directors, that they voted unanimously to mandate that new employees of the Union provide proof of full- vaccination, adding that it would severely impact unionized staff to be unable to meet with their Executive partners. He expanded on his personal experience, arguing that as the staff mentor to the Vice- President of Campus Life it would make his role difficult to navigate if the Executive could not attend the events to oversee their logistics and be front facing for students.

Ganesh did not state a position on the question. Instead, she reminded the Board that they have been voting on contentious and important subjects throughout their terms.

Shah spoke in opposition to the motion. She discussed her personal experiences with Covid-19 and status of vaccination. Shah argued the importance of students being able to engage with the students' union in all aspects.

Evans provided a point of information to the Board that Canadian political parties had required candidates of their organizations to be fully-vaccinated to ensure they were able to fulfil their duties and represent their constituents.

Desjarlais rebutted that the candidates were provided adequate time to be vaccinated prior to the election period.

Kootenayoo made a call for the speakers list as the debate was extending past the allocated time.

Saini did not state a position on the question. He requested the Board of Directors make a timely decision that would allow him as CRO to advise the student body and prospective candidates.

Diab opposed the consideration of the motion as he believed it to be untimely. He explained that the Elections regulations cannot be amended in February and March, and there was not significant time to notify membership of the requirement. Diab explained that he wished amendments would have been brought forward earlier.

Rogers was in favor of the motion. He explained this regulation amendment was provided to the Board at a prior meeting but the Board had tabled election amendments as a whole for consideration guiding a review from the Policy committee. He noted that the Policy committee had not met in over a month and not in time for the deadline. Rogers expanded that limitation of in-person attendance would hinder an Executives performance, from an Oversight chair perspective. He provided a personal experience with the 2020-2021 Executive team, where the entire year was virtual. Rogers detailed the hardships of an Executive director being unaccountable for hours and the impact it had on the Executive as a team.

Kootenayoo motivated that this regulation was being proposed to from an organizational perspective. She acknowledged the value of differing perspectives and clarified this was not a decision of personal or moral judgement. Kootenayoo argued the Board as an employer has the agency to address risks to ensure the SUO can function to the best of its abilities to provide quality in-person services and advocacy for students.

Kootenayoo called the question.

Rogers second

The call to question was carried.

The motion carried.

7.2 Electoral Committee

22/01/27.03

Saini/Rogers

Be it resolved that Joshua Milliken be appointed as Deputy Returning Officer.

Saini overviewed the process for applications for the DRO position to the Board. He detailed a multiple interview process that included input from the UBC registrar.

Carried

8. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

8.1 Board of Governors

8.2 Senate

8.3 Other University Committees

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 19:12