

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Executive Meeting, June 29th, 2022, SUO 133 Conference Room

Called to order at 13:03

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

22/06/29.01

Pashelka/Bihani

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

22/06/29.02

Pashelka/Desjarlais

Amend the agenda to bring the in-camera session to the top of the agenda, above the Presentation point.

Carried

22/06/29.03

Bihani/Desjarlais

Add two information items: Expo and Student Care

Carried

22/06/29.04

Desjarlais/Bihani

Amend the agenda to add a discussion about Credit DF Policy in information items.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

22/06/29.05

Pashelka/Bihani

Be it resolved that minutes of the meeting held June 15th, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

4. IN-CAMERA

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Statement on Israel's Occupation of Palestine

Asif stated that he recently saw a statement on the AMS, and updated the committee on the history, and the context of what this statement means. He was wondering if we

could put out a statement to support our Palestinian students as well. To show them we condemn the violence being done against them.

Bihani replied that he agrees, that we should show our support, just as we did with our Russian and Ukrainian students.

Evans stated that it is not a bad thing to support students in that way. It just needs unanimous support with the executive team.

Desjarlais stated that he always has a little hesitation with calls of support like this, just because of the divisiveness. Do we have to make a political policy to take a stance.

Evans stated that we do not want to get involved with the politics.

Pashelka agreed that we want to show support for students, but perhaps we should not use the word "condemn."

Kekre added that as a students' union, we should condemn the violence, rather than take sides.

Desjarlais stated that he would put together a statement with Evans, the communications Manager

8.2 Review of Version 11 of Annual budget 2022-23

Kekre went through the budget with the committee. Income will be coming from eleven thousand two hundred (11,200) students so far. We have a high deficit this year, and this is because of the high amount of money put into the reserves over the past two years during the pandemic.

Bihani wanted to know if the Campus Life budget includes the clubs?

Kekre replied that that was right, they do. All the line items that executives proposed are included.

Evans let the VPs know that some budget lines are shared between overlapping executives.

Bihani wants to know what we will do with the surplus?

Kekre answered that we never know how many students actually come in until the student fees are paid, so eleven thousand five hundred (11,500) students is a general approximation. The surplus amount will go towards our cashflow.

Bihani wanted to know whether the budget was fixed.

Kekre replied that it can be amended.

Evans stated that there is a ten percent (10%) increase that can be brought to the Board.

Kekre also pointed out that the Gym Subsidy and our new Food Hub coming up, what the finance committee is proposing this year is that we include that in the student Dental and Health fee structure. This has come about because of the wording of our Regulation eleven (11), points six (6) and seven (7).

Pashelka wonders whether the structure will be the same every year?

Evans replied, yes. Also, that way, this frees up our cashflow.

Bihani wonders whether the leftover would be able to be used among the executives.

Kekre replied yes, we just do not want to touch our frozen reserves at this moment. If we

are to include the student fees with the Health and Dental together, but keep our plan limited to a certain amount, so that the remaining can go to initiatives.

Desjarlais stated that essentially, we are avoiding the referendum.

Kekre replied no, we are moving around money as we are able to.

Desjarlais stated that no, it states that these fees must be used for Health and Dental.

Kekre said that by combining these we are able to have some flexibility with the reallocation of money.

Desjarlais wondered why we cannot just use Health and Dental reserve money? Instead of changing the fee structure with what we want to improve with student benefits.

Bihani stated that he thinks it would be best to wait for Student Care to come back with their quotes before we make any decisions.

Kekre stated that the unused money from student fees will be used next year, without touching funds that we cannot use right now.

Desjarlais would like more clarification on why the structure is structured the way it is.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 The Yes Campaign for the Building

Bihani wanted to make sure all the executives are on the same page. All of our efforts in events have to be promoting the building and the referendum. He also stated that perhaps the President has a conversation with Dave, the university, to talk about whether the university could cover electricity and utilities. The AMS in Vancouver has some things covered by the university, and some things not covered.

Pashelka wanted to have a model of the building, a diorama, so that students can have something to look at and experience.

Evans stated that the plan was to get them involved in Term One (1), and then Term Two (2) we will show them the building, with all of their asks present all ready.

Pashelka wanted to make sure the students can see what is going on.

Bihani wanted the executives to come up with a slogan for the building, VP Finance came up with "September to Remember" which was really catchy.

Pashelka stated – Embrace Student Space

9.2 Expo

Bihani stated that Rusch and himself had a talk today, and she is free after the eleventh (11th) – so we should meet with her after that. He would also like all the execs to hold short presentations of our plans, about four (4) minutes.

9.3 Student Care

Bihani introduced that he has gotten word back and quotes. He coordinated meeting times to go over this information with the Student Care office.

9.4 Credit DF Policy

Desjarlais updated his meetings with Saami, our at large Student Caucus Representative. There is a new policy he wants to put forward through the Okanagan senate. It gives first year students to take elective credits without it affecting their GPA.

Students can still take the course and get the credits, but it will not bring their GPA down.

Asif asked if it would bump the GPA up?

Desjarlais stated no, but it is up to the student to decide. They can use it to bump up their GPA if they want it to. It is already a policy that exists in Vancouver, and at other universities. He is not sure, in collaboration with Saami's research, why it has not come to the Okanagan. This can help relieve some stress on some students. The fact that it is at UBC Vancouver but not here does not make sense. We may in the future look to put out some kind of survey.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 14:32