

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students  
Board of Directors Meeting, November 6th, 2023, Team

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## Directors Present

President (meeting chair)

Vice President Finance and Administration

Vice-President Internal

Vice-President Campus Life

Vice-President External

Director-at-Large

Director-at-Large

Director-at-Large

Director-at-Large

Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative

Faculty of Management Representative

Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative

Faculty of Science Representative

Faculty of Applied Science Representative

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative

Faculty of Education Representative

College of Graduate Studies Representative

Cade Desjarlais

Osho Gnanasivam

Shreyansh Mehendiratta

Uday Gill

Lakshay Karnwal

Twinkle Hora

Darsh Alamchandani

Aryan Arora

Japnit Singh Madaan

Grace Halpin

Rajat Arora

Hanna Donaldson

Sunish Grover

Rishan Pfaender

Georgia Mayhew

Vacant

Anjali Desai

## Directors Absent

Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)

Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)

Isabella Bravo

Salman Hafeez (Saami)

## Staff Present

General Manager

Governance Coordinator

Jason Evans

Cecily Qiu

## Staff Absent

Finance Manager

Well Pub Manager

Membership Outreach Coordinator

Communications & Marketing Manager

Student Advocate

Food Security & Nutrition Manager

Leanne Smailes

Michael Ouellet

Izzy Rusch

Becca Evans

Rachel Fortin

Stephanie Patterson

## Guests

Tompkins Wozny, LLP.

Tompkins Wozny, LLP.

Erik Allas

Brian Hwang

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AT 5:03 P.M.**

### **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**

23/11/06.01

Hora/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Karnwal/Desjarlais

Be it resolved that the appointment of Abby Newman to Campaigns Committee as Student-at-Large be added to the agenda under Campaigns Committee.

**Amendment carried.**

Karnwal/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the appointment of Sunish Grover to Campaigns Committee be added to the agenda under Campaigns Committee.

**Amendment carried.**

**Carried as amended.**

## **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

23/11/06.02

Hora/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

## **4. PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

Presentation by Erik Allas from Tompkins Wozny, LLP.

Allas presented the auditor's report of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 financial statements. He pointed out what financial information board members should look for, and explained their audit process. He went over the balance sheet, revenue and expense. He stated that the financial statements were presented fairly; and meanwhile, he provided some minor recommendations.

Gnanasivam asked about the discrepancy of VP Finance Expenses between 2023 and 2022 reports. Desjarlais and Evans explained that during 2021-2022 fiscal year, they paid two VP Finance for two months, one of whom was suspended. Allas stated that they would investigate it and report back. Desjarlais expressed their gratitude to Allas for their detailed and informative report.

23/11/06.03

Grover/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the Auditor's Report for the 2022/2023 fiscal year be approved as presented.

**Carried.**

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Executive Committee**

23/11/06.04

Grover/Hora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

### **5.2 Finance Committee**

### **5.3 Policy Committee**

23/11/06.05

Mehendiratta/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

Meeting recessed at 5:38 p.m. and reconvened at 5:41 p.m.

Desjarlais stated that approved Bylaw changes would be recommended to AGM for adoption from the membership.

23/11/06.06 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that [Bylaw V:9]:

A Referendum shall be called without delay by the President of the Students' Union upon:

- a. a Resolution of the Board of Directors; or

- b. receipt of a petition duly signed by ten (10) percent of the Members delivered to the President of the Students' Union requisitioning a Referendum on a particular question.

be amended by adding a new point (c) "the Chief Returning Officer receiving the duly signed petition and the Referendum question at least fourteen (14) days prior to the first day that the Students' Union is required to give notice of Referendum or Election", so [Bylaw V:9] then reads:

A Referendum shall be called without delay by the President of the Students' Union upon:

- a. a Resolution of the Board of Directors; or
- b. receipt of a petition duly signed by ten (10) percent of the Members delivered to the President of the Students' Union requisitioning a Referendum on a particular question;
- c. the Chief Returning Officer receiving the duly signed petition and the Referendum question at least fourteen (14) days prior to the first day that the Students' Union is required to give notice of Referendum or Election.

Mehendiratta provided the motivation that the added wording would better reflect administration needs to vet petition signatures and prepare referendum questions prior to the beginning of providing two weeks' notice. During General Election 2023, SUO Received the referendum question on the day that the Students' Union had to give notice, which made it impossible to vet the signatures and prepare the question to go to the Board of Directors in time. It meant that a Referendum question could not go to the student body during General Election 2023. Halpin and Evans also took the Fieldhouse Referendum for an example, and explained the importance and reasons for student groups to send the petition and referendum question in advance. Gnanasivam asked how students could know when SUO send the notice. Evans stated that students can trigger a referendum at anytime of the year. If there is not enough time for administration work, the referendum would be pushed to the next election.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.07 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that [Regulation II:1(d)]:

- d. "Campaign Volunteer" means any Member that actively contributes to the candidate's campaign, including but not limited to: printing

and putting up posters, assisting with tabling and assisting with social media advertising.

be amended by replacing the words “social media advertising” with the words “social media campaigning/awareness”, so [Regulation II:1(d)] then reads:

- d. “Campaign Volunteer” means any Member that actively contributes to the candidate’s campaign, including but not limited to: printing and putting up posters, assisting with tabling and assisting with social media campaigning/awareness.

Mehendiratta stated that using the word “advertising” suggested possible paid sponsorship/advertisement. He mentioned that during the General Elections 2023, there was immense confusion around the use of social media advertising, paid and otherwise. To avoid this issue in the future, they recommended this change in the wording of the Regulation to eliminate the suggestion that social media advertising is acceptable. Evans added that the change of the wording implied that students could not engage in social media marketing, but they could engage in social media awareness.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.08 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

Be it resolved that [Regulation II:7(a)]:

Wherever possible the schedule for General Elections shall be as follows:

- a. Nomination period will open at 8:00 am PST on the second Monday in February, and will run until 4:00 pm PST the Friday of that week;

be amended by replacing the word “second” with the word “first” and replacing the words “that week” with the words “the second week”, so [Regulation II:7(a)] then reads:

- a. Nomination period will open at 8:00 am PST on the first Monday in February, and will run until 4:00 pm PST on the Friday of the second week;

Mehendiratta stated that they highly recommended that the nomination period be extended by one week. That would give students more leeway to apply in time and potentially promote more nominations. In the General Election 2023, nominations were extremely low. They knew it would not be guaranteed that extending the nomination period would increase student participation; however, any small change in favour of increasing involvement would be worthwhile. Evans added that

extending the nomination period would give students more time to learn the roles and make proper decisions.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.09 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Desai

Be it resolved that [Regulation II:24(a)]

Candidates may campaign by any means except may not:

a. Campaign

be amended by adding a new point (xviii) under "a. Campaign" which strictly states the guidelines for Candidates' use of the SUO Logo on campaign materials:

"xviii. while using campaign materials with any Students' Union logo other than the approved Students' Union Elections Logo."

Mehendiratta stated that they recommended the Regulation be amended by adding strict guidelines for SUO logo usage due to the candidate's confusion about the use of the SUO logo. Without this overtly stated guideline, in the past, candidates were confused about their inability to use the SUO logo in campaigning. Moreover, having the Regulations state clearly that there is an intended SUO Elections logo for campaigning purposes would ensure that SUO staff and candidates are clearly informed at all times.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.10 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Hora

Be it resolved that the [Bylaw IX:2]:

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a. the President;
- b. the Vice-President Internal;
- c. the Vice-President External;
- d. the Vice-President Finance and Administration; and
- e. the Vice-President Campus Life.

be amended by adding a new point " f. the General Manager as a non-voting, advisory member", so [Bylaw IX:2] then reads:

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a. the President;
- b. the Vice-President Internal;
- c. the Vice-President External;
- d. the Vice-President Finance and Administration;

- e. the Vice-President Campus Life; and
- f. the General Manager as a non-voting, advisory member.

Mehendiratta stated that this change would recognize the involvement of the General Manager in the committee.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.11 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the [Bylaw X:1] be amended by striking the point (K) "oversee the operation of the Pantry- a student food bank" from the roles and responsibilities of the President, and renumbering the consecutive points as necessary.

Mehendiratta stated that SUO had a Food and Nutrition Manager overseeing the operation of the pantry. Evans added that this responsibility was created before they created the Food and Nutrition Manager position.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.12 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Halpin

Be it resolved that [Regulation VIII:17] be amended by adding a new point (i) "lottery tickets and raffle tickets," so [Regulation VIII:17] then reads:

Funding directly provided by SUO shall not be used for the following expenses:

- a. capital purchases;
- b. alcohol and illegal substances;
- c. wages such as but not limited to staff expenses and honorariums;
- d. fundraising purposes such as but not limited to donations, activities, raffles or events that require a gaming license;
- e. direct contributions to external organizations' activities, operations or fundraisers related to groups not registered under the SUO Student Associations policy;
- f. off-campus events held without prior approval through the Off-campus Event application request form; and/or
- g. events not insured through the SUO;
- h. pre-paid gift cards;
- i. lottery tickets and raffle tickets;

Qiu stated that this policy had been in the regulation before the first Policy Committee meeting this year, and it was deleted by mistake at the first Policy Committee meeting.

**Carried.**

Meeting recessed at 6:21p.m. and reconvened at 6:23 p.m.

#### **5.4 Campus Life Committee**

23/11/06.13

Gill/Hora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

#### **5.5 Campaigns Committee**

23/11/06.14

Karnwal/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.15

Karnwal/Grover

Be it resolved that Abby Newman be appointed to Campaigns Committee as Student-at-Large.

Karnwal stated that he conducted an interview with Newman and he was impressed by her experience at MSA and in student advocacy. She had been actively involved in the \$5 Smart Meal promotion. In addition, she had ideas of how to engage students. She would be a good fit for Campaigns Committee.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.16

Karnwal/Mayhew

Be it resolved that Sunish Grover be appointed to Campaigns Committee.

Grover stated that he wanted to get more involved. As he was helping with the \$5 Smart Meal plan, he would like to engage more in the community.

**Carried.**

#### **5.6 Graduate Student Committee**

#### **5.7 Oversight Committee**

### **6. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

#### **6.1 Senate**

Summary of the discussion of UBC budget and tuition expenditure at recent senate meeting.



Desjarlais stated that Hafeez sent the regret and would circulate the information via emails.

## **6.2 Board of Governors**

## **6.3 Other University Committees**

Desjarlais mentioned a few committees he sat on: Hiring Committee of AVP Health which looked over the health program and health initiatives on campus; Generative AI Committee; Student Affordability Task Force; a steering committee for students funding. Halpin mentioned she would attend the President Installation at UBC November graduation on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hora mentioned that she was in the Academic Integrity Committee, and they had a meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of discussion about academic integrity, and it was very informative.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Student Association Ratification**

23/11/06.17

Mehendiratta/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the Visual Arts Course Union be renewed as a student association for the 2023-24 academic year.

Mehendiratta stated that VACU could be renewed as they recently had an election of club executives

**Carried.**

### **7.2 Approval of the CRO Report**

23/11/06.18

Mehendiratta /Mayhew

Be it resolved that the SUO of UBC Board of Directors approve the 2023-2024 By-Election report as submitted by the Chief Returning Officer.

On behalf of the CRO, Evans stated that the election was peaceful without any major issues.

**Carried.**

23/11/06.19

Desai/Halpin

Be it further resolved that the SUO of UBC Board of Directors approve the destruction of the nomination forms used in the 2023-2024 By-Election.

**Carried.**

### **7.3 Calls for nominations from the Membership of the Student's Union of the University of British Columbia, Okanagan for:**

- One (1) Faculty of Education Representative

Desjarlais stated that this position was not filled during the By-Election, and they would place a call and appoint the position until General Election.

23/11/06.20

Hora/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan place a call for Faculty of Education Representative applicants to sit on the SUO Board of Directors.

**Carried.**

#### 7.4 Indigenous Student Representative

23/11/06.21

Donaldson/Mayhew

Whereas the SUO of UBC is situated on the unceded, traditional territory and stolen lands of the Okanagan Sylix Nation, and whereas the SUO of UBC is committed to active Indigenous reconciliation and upholding the TRC's Calls to Action,

Be it resolved that the Policy Committee develop a framework to implement an Indigenous Student Representative Bylaw change for next year's Annual General Meeting, or a Special Annual General Meeting if one is called, and presented to the Board of Directors no later than April 1st, 2024.

Desjarlais stated that it was part of his action plan and his campaign promise to create that position. The purpose was to increase the engagement of Indigenous students and gain their perspectives in the students' governance. It also gave them an opportunity to explore the possibility of adding more representatives such as woman representative, pride representative, international student representative etc. The goal was to get it done by this year but due to some unexpected situations and the importance of consulting with Indigenous groups, Desjarlais thought they should push it to the next year. With that motion, policy committee and the board would perceive a proposed bylaw change outlining the roles and responsibilities of Indigenous Student Representative. They could endorse the document and have it in their transition documents so the next year the board could present it to AGM. It would be a commitment of this board.

Gill concerned that other marginalized groups may want to have their representatives on the board. Desjarlais stated that many student unions across BC have their indigenous representative on their board. Desjarlais agreed that it did open a conversation if they would have other representatives on the board such as disability representative and pride representative, or if directors were doing what they were supposed to do, or if there would be other models. It would be a mandated task for the board to find out the answer.

Pfaender wondered if the Indigenous Representative would run for and be voted by Indigenous students. Desjarlais stated that this motion itself did not lay out any policy, but requested the policy committee to present recommendations. Pfaender asked for some documents showing that they should have an Indigenous board representative. Desjarlais responded that creating that position would demonstrate their commitment to Indigenous reconciliation.

**Carried.**

#### 7.5 Approval of the 2023 SUO Annual General Meeting Agenda

23/11/06.22

Pfaender/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the 2023 SUO Annual General Meeting Agenda be approved as attached.

**Carried.**

### **8. DISCUSSION**

#### **8.1 Volunteers for AGM**

- Registration Table List ( at least 5 volunteers)
- Tear Down Team Preparations
- Mic Assistant Arrangements (2 volunteers)

Desjarlais reminded that the AGM 2023 would be held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at ADM 026. Board members who could not attend should send their regrets in advance. They would call for volunteers from the board to help set up and clean up venue. For mic assistant arrangements, Desjarlais preferred that students could come to the front and line up for speaking. Qiu encouraged board members to contact her to sign up for the volunteer work.

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.