

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, November 29th, 2023, UNC334

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)	Cade Desjarlais
Vice President Finance and Administration	Osho Gnanasivam
Vice-President Internal	Shreyansh Mehendiratta
Vice-President Campus Life	Uday Gill
Vice-President External	Lakshay Karnwal
Director-at-Large	Twinkle Hora
Director-at-Large	Darsh Alamchandani
Director-at-Large	Aryan Arora
Director-at-Large	Japnit Singh Madaan
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative	Grace Halpin
Faculty of Management Representative	Rajat Arora
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	Hanna Donaldson
Faculty of Science Representative	Sunish Grover
Faculty of Applied Science Representative	Rishan Pfaender
Faculty of Education Representative	Vacant
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Isabella Bravo

Directors Absent

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Georgia Mayhew
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Anjali Desai
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Salman Hafeez (Saami)

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Governance Coordinator	Cecily Qiu

Staff Absent

Finance Manager	Leanne Smailes
Well Pub Manager	Michael Ouellet
Membership Outreach Coordinator	Izzy Rusch
Communications & Marketing Manager	Becca Evans
Student Advocate	Rachel Fortin
Food Security & Nutrition Manager	Stephanie Patterson

1. Called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1.1 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

23/11/29.01

Mehendiratta/Grover

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

23/11/29.02

Pfaender/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 6th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/11/29.03

Gnanasivam/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 28th, 2023 be adopted.

Desjarlais stated that the minutes were from the last board meeting of last board. It got missing due to a staff turnover. With an audio and a draft found recently, Governance Coordinator was able to complete the minutes. Gnanasivam asked about the presentation that was tabled at that meeting. Desjarlais stated that it was to be presented by a formal employee. As the employee no longer worked there, they were not able to have the presentation. Qiu stated the minutes included some regulation changes. After the board of directors adopt the minutes, she would be able to update the regulations soon.

Carried.

4. Presentations

4.1 Coffee for Charities Club

The club presented its mission, which was to help single mothers and their children. They would collaborate with the Family Friend Program of Kelowna Community Resources (KCR). The representative also introduced on how the club would help single mothers and UBCO students, how donation events would be conducted and the difference between their club and other charity clubs. Board members asked questions regarding the name discrepancy, the focus of the club, benefits of having that club and how they would use the SUO funding. The representative replied they could reconsider the name, and the focus of the club would be to help single mothers which makes it different from other charity clubs. They believed that the club would improve students' mental health; and SUO funding would be used only for social interactions.

4.2 Student Association Funding Report Presentation

Gnanasivam presented a report on student association funding. He gave an overview of the funding and introduced in details the structure of the funding committee and the current procedures for existing student associations and newly ratified student associations. He also presented the 2022-2023 student association statistics and considerations. After he provided the guidelines for allocations of this year, he gave a final breakdown of the allocations. A.Arora asked if funding from last year would affect the allocation for this year. Karnwal also had the same question considering the club executives may change. Gnanasviam replied that they would look at the funding application and the end-of-term report. Pfaender wondered to what extent, the new clubs rely on SUO funding to operate. Gnanasivam replied with the regulations on procedure.

5. New Business

5.1 Student Association Ratification

23/11/29.04

Pfaender/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the Coffee for Charities Club be ratified as a student association.
Carried.

23/11/29.05

Mehendiratta/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the Environmental Law & Sustainability Advocates Club be ratified as a student association.

Desjarlais recommended that the applications be attached to the agenda package and be circulated prior to the board meeting so that board members could have a

review in advance and have questions ready for the meeting. Mehendiratta moved to table the motion as he was trying to ask the executives to give a presentation so that they could have a better understanding of that club.

Mehendiratta/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the ratification of the Environmental Law & Sustainability Advocates Club be tabled until the next board meeting.
Carried.

23/11/29.06

Mehendiratta/ Pfaender

Be it resolved that the Engineers without Borders Club be ratified as a student association.

Mehendiratta motivated that EWB Chapters had been existing in Canada. It was also a pre-existing club at UBCO. With new members coming this year, they decided to start the club again. The aim was to address issues of poverty and inequality in the developing world with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Board members asked a couple of questions on the concept of EWB organization. Desjarlais wondered if the club was under the Engineering Society. Gnanasivam confirmed that it would be under the Engineering Society and SUO.

Carried.

23/11/29.07

Mehendiratta/R. Arora

Be it resolved that the Economics Club be ratified as a student association.

Mehendiratta motivated that the club aimed to explore the practical applications of economic, going beyond the theoretical scope. Their emphasis would extend to analyzing various financial crises, exploring the modern banking system and the growing role of information Technologies in it. They would discuss unique perspectives concerning the modern finance, as well as the major transformations currently reshaping the global economy. Mehendiratta thought they could potentially become a course union under Arts if there are enough interests from students. Desjarlais and Mehendiratta clarified that economics falls under Arts and Science. Mehendiratta also explained that the club would hold discussions about Economics.

Failed.

23/11/29.08

Mehendiratta/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the Fibre Craft Club be ratified as a student association.

Mehendiratta stated that he was not able to get in touch with the club executives, and the club, essentially, wanted space to learn knitting and do craft together.

Failed.

23/11/29.09

Mehendiratta/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that the Dermatology Club be ratified as a student association..

Mehendiratta motivated that the aim of the club was to promote healthy skin habits and to get people more aware of skin cancer. The club mentioned that in Canada, skin cancer was the most common cancer with one third of all new cases being skin cancer. They would like to promote awareness regarding the symptoms that can appear on one's skin indicating problems inside one's body. By undertaking rigorous research, they shall have ongoing social media campaigns and interactive knowledge sharing sessions to get across their message on campus. Halpin thought the name did not reflect their aim. Mehendiratta stated that he was not quite sure how they would arise students' awareness.

Halpin/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the ratification of Dermatology Club be tabled to the next board meeting with a presentation.

Carried.

23/11/29.10

Mehendiratta/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the Pre-Pharmacy Club be ratified as a student association.

Mehendiratta motivated that the aim of the club was to educate others on the possibilities of the pharmaceutical field and create a diverse community. He stated that from his understanding, the club would create some events for students who want to pursue pharmacy as a future career field and introduce how this industry actually works. Desjarlais believed that it was to facilitate students to pursue their career and he gave some examples of similar clubs, such as Pre-Law and Pre-Vet.

Carried.

23/11/29.11

Mehendiratta/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that the Karoake Club be ratified as a student association.

Mehendiratta motivated that the club would be for students with music enthusiasm. Bravo mentioned that they would collaborate with pre-existing clubs to have the events and it would be open Karoake.

Carried.

23/11/29.12

Mehendiratta/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the Okanagan Student Curling Club be ratified as a student association.

Desjarlais introduced the sport of curling to the board members. Kelowna had hosted the world championship of curling and curling is a popular game here. The club would need to use the off-campus facilities and collect fees from members. Halpin also suggested that the club work with UBCO Recreation Center.

Carried.

6. Committee Business

6.1 Executive Committee

23/11/29.13

Halpin/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the minutes from the meeting held on November 6th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

6.2 Finance Committee

23/11/29.14

Gnanasivam/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes from the meeting held on October 27th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

6.3 Policy Committee

23/11/29.15

Mehendiratta/A.Arora

Be it resolved that Japnit Madaan be appointed to Policy Committee.

Madaan motivated that sitting on Policy Committee would make him know what would be happening on campus. He also wanted to know the need from clubs.

Carried.

6.4 Campus Life Committee

23/11/29.16

Gill/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that Rajat Arora be appointed to Campus Life Committee.

R. Arora motivated that he had volunteered and was part of the campus events in the past. He would be happy to help VP Campus Life with events.

Carried.

6.5 Campaigns Committee

6.6 Graduate Student Committee

23/11/29.17

Hora/Gill

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 11th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/11/29.18

Alamchandani/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 08th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/11/29.19

Gnanasivam/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the October and November Honoraria fo GSC Students-at-Large be disbursed as follows:

GSC October			
Sr. No	Name of SAL	Amount (\$)	Note
1	Akshta Sharma	0	New member
2	Dina Khrabshesh	0	
3	Emily Comeau	50	
4	Fatima Canales	50	
5	Nibirh Jawad	50	
6	Satabdi Das	50	
7	Yazdanmehr Gordanpour	50	
8	Hammad Ahmad	50	

GSC November			
Sr. No	Name of SAL	Amount (\$)	Note
1	Akshta Sharma	50	
2	Dina Khrabshesh	0	
3	Emily Comeau	50	
4	Fatima Canales	50	

5	Nibirh Jawad	50	
6	Satabdi Das	50	
7	Yazdanmehr Gordanpour	50	
8	Hammad Ahmad	50	

Carried.

6.7 Oversight Committee

Desjarlais reminded executives and other board members to submit the reports on time and encouraged them to reach out to Halpin and Evans if they have any questions.

7. Report on University Relations

7.1 Senate

7.2 Board of Governors

Bravo stated that they were going to have the Board of Governors meeting on December 5th to vote on Tuition increase. She would send a document to board members regarding the information of tuition and the allocation of UBC funds. She recognized tuition was a struggle for most students especially international students. She believed that UBC had the lowest tuition increase for international students compared with other universities, but they were still working on creating a cap on the tuition increase for international students. She stated that there was some misinformation regarding tuition. The Board of Governors took students' voice/suggestions into consideration, but there were other considerations as well. She would communicate those information with board members via email. Desjarlais encouraged board members to give their feedback after receiving the document.

7.3 Other University Committees

Donaldson provided update on the first Diversity Census Committee meeting held on November 17th.

8. Information

9. Discussion

9.1 AGM Business

23/11/29.20

Desjarlais/ Donaldson

Be it resolved that the letter regarding the motion from the AGM November 23, 2023 be adopted by the board as presented. (The letter was attached to the meeting minutes.)

Desjarlais stated that there was a motion brought up by their membership at the AGM to request SUO to pen a letter to ask UBC not to invest in the nine listed companies. He drafted the letter and would like the board to adopt it so he could circulate it on their social media and website; and send it to UBC Board of Governors the next day. Pfaender stated that the letter was well written. Desjarlais stated that all the Students' Unions across Canada were trying to navigate the conflict between Israel and Palestine and trying to find a solution for their students. As board members, it was their position to serve students and make sure students get the service they require. Desjarlais also mentioned that soon the executives and some staff would have a debrief on the AGM before they update with the board.

Carried.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Dear Board of Governors Chair Nancy Mackenzie,

The SUO of UBC deeply values our membership's feedback and representing over 12,000 diverse student voices comes with its own challenges. Despite this, we work exhaustively to try and balance the variety of perspectives along with our advocacy and fiduciary responsibilities.

One of our most valued forums for collecting this feedback is our Annual General Meeting which was held November 23rd, 2023. It is here where direct democracy takes place. We had many important discussions on policy, goals, our achievements, our shortcomings, as well as our position in the world as global citizens. UBC Okanagan is an international institution, and it is our responsibility to honour the privilege we hold in these critical leadership positions.

After a long and fruitful discussion, a filled room of our membership at the AGM has directed the SUO leadership to call on the Board of Governors to direct the UBC Endowment Fund to divest from any and all companies related to the perpetuation of Israeli settlements in Palestine.¹ In particular, these nine companies:

Motorola Inc.	Bezeq the Israeli Telecommunications Corporation	Caterpillar
General Mills Inc.	Cellcom Israel Ltd	Hewlett Packard
Partner Communications Ltd	Bank Hapoalim BM	Lockheed Martin

The SUO has stepped up in recent years, having fully divested from all forms of oil and gas, tobacco, and any companies related to the military or weapons industry. It is our position that the university do the same with an emphasis on these nine companies as stakeholders in the Israeli settlements in Palestine.

We ask that the Board of Governors respond clearly and **in writing** so we can adequately disperse your response to our membership. Having more information from UBC can hopefully dispel these concerns. In honouring transparency to our membership, this correspondence will be made publicly available.

Thank you, The SUO of UBC Board of Directors

¹ See the adopted motion on the following page.

WHEREAS the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2234 has declared that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories are a “flagrant violation of international law” and that they violate Palestinian human rights.

WHEREAS the United Nations has produced a data base of companies which are wrongly contributing to the development of these illegal settlements.

AND WHEREAS the UN database includes six companies, shares of which are held by the University of British Columbia: Motorola Solutions Inc, General Mills Inc, Partner Communications Ltd, Bezeq the Israeli Telecommunication Corporation, Cellcom Israel Ltd, and Bank Hapoalim BM.

WHEREAS UBC also holds shares in three other companies that have been cited and commented by Investigate (produced by the American Friends Service Committee) and Canadians for Justice and Peace in The Middle East to be violating Palestinian human rights: Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, and Lockheed Martin.

AND WHEREAS UBC has a responsible investment policy and has signed onto the United Nations responsible investment program,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SUO will pen a letter to UBC and the Board of Governors to direct the UBC Endowment Fund to divest from the nine companies mentioned above, no later than one week after the 2023 AGM.