

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, 1-3 pm of January 17th, 2024 , 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 Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Georgia Mayhew
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Anjali Desai
Faculty of Education Representative	Vacant
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Isabella Bravo
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Salman Hafeez (Saami)

Directors Absent

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Finance Manager	Leanne Smailes
Governance Coordinator	Cecily Qiu
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

Staff Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

24/01/17.01

/

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

24/01/17.02

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Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 15th, 2023 be adopted.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 OKANAGAN CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE

Presented by UBC Engagement & Communications

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Executive Committee

24/01/17/03

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Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 21st, 2023 be adopted.

5.2 Finance Committee

5.3 Policy Committee

5.4 Campus Life Committee

23/01/17.03

/

Be it resolved that Georgia Goerz be appointed to the Campus Life Committee as a Student at Large.

5.5 Campaigns Committee

5.6 Graduate Student Committee

5.7 Oversight Committee

6. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

6.1 Senate

6.2 Board of Governors

6.3 Other University Committees

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Term 1 Faculty Representative Engagment Report

Attachment

Report from Graduate Student Representative – Anjali Desai

8. INFORMATION

8.1 TOWNHALL

8.2 ELECTION & INFORMATION SESSION

9. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, December 15, 2023, UNC105 Board Room/Zoom

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 (zoom)
Director-at-Large	Japnit Singh Madaan (zoom)
Faculty of Management Representative	Rajat Arora (zoom)
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	Hanna Donaldson
Faculty of Science Representative	Sunish Grover
Faculty of Applied Science Representative	Rishan Pfaender
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Georgia Mayhew
Faculty of Education Representative	Vacant
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Salman Hafeez (Saami)

Directors Absent Without Notice

Director-at-Large	Aryan Arora
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Isabella Bravo

Directors Absent With Notice

Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative	Grace Halpin
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Anjali Desai

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Governance Coordinator	Cecily Qiu
Well Pub Manager	Michael Ouellet

Staff Absent

Finance Manager	Leanne Smailes
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 4:11 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

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2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

23/12/15.01

Hora/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Desjarlais/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the presentation of Environmental Law & Sustainability Advocates Club be removed from the agenda.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

23/12/15.02

Mayhew/Gill

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 29th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

4. Presentations

4.1 Dermatology Club

Dermatology Club had changed its name to Picture Perfect Skin Club. The representative introduced its executive members, their goals and future plans. Board members asked about how the events would be like and the usage of fundings. They also answered Mayhew's question regarding the use of funding.

4.2 StudentCare Presentation

Robyn and Sophia provided an overview of the StudentCare plan, the benefits of the Health and Dental plan, and the role of StudentCare and SUO in the plan. They also introduced the concepts of plan fees and plan premiums, and how the plan costs were determined. They illustrated the 2022-2023 claim overview by providing a 5-year claim trend. Psychology under Health and Preventive under Dental saw the biggest increases in the claims.

Ouellet asked about how StudentCare got the money from the plan and asked whether the premiums go to StudentCare or Bluecross. Sophia confirmed that SUO paid the health and dental funds to StudentCare and she explained the services and management that StudentCare provides for the plan. Ouellet followed up, asking how SUO could know how much StudentCare was paid out. Sophia replied that the StudentCare fees were outlined in their agreement. Pfaender also asked about the coverage of mental health.

4.3 Fiber Craft Club

Sammie introduced herself, the aim of the club and the potential activities they could host. She emphasized the positive effects that the craft club could have on the students and the community.

5. Committee Business

5.1 Executive Committee

23/12/15.03

Pfaender/Mayhew

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

Carried.

23/12/15.04

Hora/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 8th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

Mayhew asked about what the MOU referred to in the minutes. Desjarlais explained when Tashia was president, they had a 3-year contract/agreement working in partnership with UBCO on Picnic. The agreement was set to end in March 2024, and they would begin the discussion soon. MOU stands for a memorandum of understanding.

23/12/15.05

Mayhew/Karnwal

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

Carried.

Qiu explained that those two April meeting minutes were from the previous executive committee. The minutes got missing and were not published as the previous governance coordinator was on a sick leave in April. Qiu was not aware of

those meetings until recently she found the meeting notes. With the help of Desjarlais, she was able to retrieve the documents.

23/12/15.06

Hora/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 21st, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

5.2 Finance Committee

5.3 Policy Committee

5.4 Campus Life Committee

23/12/15.07

Gill/Mehendiratta

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 7th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/12/15.08

Gill/Hora

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

Carried.

5.5 Campaigns Committee

23/12/15.09

Karnwal/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 30th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/12/15.10

Mayhew/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 07, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

23/12/15.11

Karnwal/Gill

Be it resolved that Rajat Arora be appointed to Campaigns Committee.

R. Arora stated that he had learnt more about Campaigns Committee business and wanted to get more involved in the Campaigns Committee and make more contributions.

Carried.

5.6 Graduate Student Committee

5.7 Oversight Committee

23/12/15.12

Mayhew/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the October Executive Reports be adopted.

Carried.

23/12/15.13

Hora/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the November Executive Reports be adopted.

Carried.

Mayhew commented that the reports were well-done.

23/12/15.14

Donaldson/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 8th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

6. Report on University Relations

6.1 Senate

Hafeez stated that at the October Senate Meeting, UBC VP Finance & Operations presented the budget process and faculty tuition allocation model. He would share the details with board members via email after the meeting so they could have a better idea where the tuition was allocated. He also mentioned that at the November Senate Meeting, they approved some awards including the new awards such as the research award and WALLS award. They also had a discussion on the Generative Artificial Intelligence used in the academic field. He talked about the benefits and concerns of Generative AI.

6.2 Board of Governors

Desjarlais stated that tuition increase was passed on December 5 with a tight vote 12 to 8. He would draft a statement to share with their members.

6.3 Other University Committees

Desjarlais stated that he was in the Generative AI committee. He introduced the Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism fund, and he was in the legislation committee for this fund. Desjarlais may work on a list of committees in the new year that the board members sat on.

7. New Business

7.1 Student Association Ratification

23/12/15.15

Mehendiratta/Hora

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

Gnanasivam/Grover

Be it resolved that the motion be amended by replacing the words "Dermatology Club" with the words "Picture Perfect Skin Club", so the motion reads as : Be it resolved that the Picture Perfect Skin Club be ratified as a student association.

Amendment carried.

Mehendiratta stated that to raise the awareness of skin cancer is more of a campaign. Pfaender doubted how the sample collection would work out as it would take a long time for a product to change the skin condition. Gnanasivam stated that it would not be a sustainable way to use the funding to pay the dermatologist to tell what skin types those samples are. Mayhew agreed with his idea, stating that unless they charge the membership fee, they would not have enough funding to pay for the diagnoses of samples.

Motion failed.

23/12/15.16

Gnanasivam/Donaldson

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

Members thought the presentation provided a very good context and also have some good points.

Carried.

23/12/15.17

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

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

Mehendiratta stated that it was the second time they invited the club for presentation as it was tabled at the previous meeting.

Failed.

7.2 Regulation Amendments (Special Resolution)

23/12/15.18

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that [Regulation VIII:1]:

- a. "Club" means any organization ratified by the Student Union in accordance with this Regulation, except for a Course Union;
- b. "Council" means the governing body of a Course Union;
- c. "Course Union" means a Department-specific organization of Members, ratified by the Student Union in accordance with this Regulation;
- d. "President" means the Executive Officer and primary contact of a Student Association;
- e. "VP Finance" means the Executive Officer responsible for the finances of the Student Association;
- f. "VP Events" means the Executive Officer who is the main contact for event planning;
- g. "Event" is any gathering of 2 members or more for the purpose of a meeting or social gathering in relation to the purpose of the specific Student Association;
- h. "Department" means any academic field available for study at the University;
- i. "Executive Member" means any duty elected or appointed governing member of a Club or Course Union; and
- j. "Student Association, per Bylaw 1, shall mean clubs or, course unions groups ratified by the Student Union.

be amended by adding one new point after Point (i), which reads as: "Member" means any student who is enrolled in a UBCO degree or program and/or has paid the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan student fee for the current academic year, to be numbered as needed, so that [Regulation VIII:1] then reads:

- a. "Club" means any organization ratified by the Student Union in accordance with this Regulation, except for a Course Union;
- b. "Council" means the governing body of a Course Union;
- c. "Course Union" means a Department-specific organization of Members,

- ratified by the Student Union in accordance with this Regulation;
- d. "President" means the Executive Officer and primary contact of a Student Association;
- e. "VP Finance" means the Executive Officer responsible for the finances of the Student Association;
- f. "VP Events" means the Executive Officer who is the main contact for event planning;
- g. "Event" is any gathering of 2 members or more for the purpose of a meeting or social gathering in relation to the purpose of the specific Student Association;
- h. "Department" means any academic field available for study at the University;
- i. "Executive Member" means any duty elected or appointed governing member of a Club or Course Union; and
- j. "Member" means any student who is enrolled in a UBCO degree or program and/or has paid the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan student fee for the current academic year;
- k. "Student Association, per Bylaw 1, shall mean clubs or, course unions groups ratified by the Student Union.

Carried.

23/12/15.19

Mehendiratta/Gill

Be it resolved that [Regulation VIII:20 (d)]:

d. Total membership is 95% current registered UBCO students;
be amended by changing "95%" to "100%" and adding the words "based on Student Association definitions" after the words "UBCO students", so that [Regulation VIII:20 (d)] then reads:

d. Total membership is 100% current registered UBCO students based on Student Association definitions;

Mehendiratta stated that the change was made out of insurance concern. Their insurance only covers students but not members who are not students. By changing it, if an accident happens in the club event, they could make sure all the members get covered by the insurance. Desjarlais also mentioned that they did not have authority over the members who are not students. The 5% non-student members may cause issues to the management of a club. Desjarlais also thought

that 100% funding should go to 100% students, but out-of-community members could take part in the events. Board members had questions regarding the definition of “registered ubco students”. Desjarlais clarified that students on leave are not their members unless they pay their student fees, and co-op students are registered UBCO students. Desjarlais and Evans recommended that as the definition of “Member” was given by the previous motion, they could simply use the words “Students’ Union members” to replace the words “ registered UBCO students based on Student Association definitions”.

Desjarlais/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the [Regulation VIII:20(d)] be amended by changing “95%” to “100%” and replacing the words “ registered UBCO students” with the words “ Students’ Union Members”, so that [Regulation VIII:20 (d)] then reads:

d. Total membership is 100% current Students’ Union Members;

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

7.3 Review of Term 1 Engagement Reports with Undergraduate and Graduate students from Faculty Representatives:

Attachments:

- 2 Reports from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative - Georgia Mayhew
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Applied Science Representative - Rishan Pfaender
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative - Hanna Donaldson
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Management Representative - Rajat Arora
(Reports from Nov.1st to December 10th, 2023)
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Management Representative – Abby Newman
(Reports from June 20th to Oct. 31st, 2023)
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative - Grace Halpin
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Science Representative - Sunish Grover

Pfaender stated that it was a good practice to recognize the issues or concerns brought by undergraduate and graduate students. They could work together with course unions to create the awareness and create support for the students.

Mayhew stated that it was a reflection of what they had done for their faculties. For her, it is important to connect with her faculty especially the graduate students. She suggested that faculty representatives could work as a team to increase

interaction and engagement with their faculty students. Hafeez would like to help connect faculty representatives with senator curriculum committee. Hafeez also mentioned he was helping connecting D. Khrabsheh and Desai, the graduate student representatives, with academic chair of senator about their concerns on parental leave. The case was passed to Prof. Simpson who was the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Hafeez also stated that student can reach out to the student senators via email.

8. Discussion

8.1 Special General Meeting

Desjarlais asked for the thoughts of board members regarding if it is necessary to have the Special General Meeting (SGM) and what purpose of the SGM could fill. He stated that main concern raised at AGM was the policy of when the financial statements/auditor's report would be distributed to membership. They could put forward this bylaw change in a referendum with their election. Hafeez asked about the concerns raised at AGM. Desjarlais stated the main concerns were that they could like to receive the financial statements before the AGM, and the role of graduate student representative. Gnanasivam stated except the concern of financial statements, there was an overall concern as to how to propose bylaw changes. Mayhew stated that there needed to be some process before they call a SGM. From her understanding, the students who expressed concerns at AGM did not bring their concerns again after AGM. Desjarlais recognized the gap in the communication and engagement with students, and that students needed more forms to voice their concerns. Desjarlais stated starting from next term, he was going to hold a Townhall where any students can come to ask questions and he hoped that it could become a yearly tradition. Newsletter would be coming next January to increase the engagement with students. Desjarlais also had worked with Communication Manager on a survey on students' opinion of SUO performance. Gnanasivam stated though students had not reached out regarding the bylaw changes, SUO should make the efforts to reach out. Evans suggested a meeting or forum with students where students could bring forward all their concerns and the changes they would like to see so SUO could have the opportunity to study what those changes are. Regarding reaching out to students, Desjarlais stated he did not know every individual student who expressed concerns at the meeting, and he also doubted about the representation, as he thought they represented 12,000 students but not just one student. Desjarlais stated that executives were extremely accessible, their cellphones and emails, and their office hours were all published. Students could reach out to them. Hafeez expressed his support in the Townhall idea, and he also expressed that they did not necessarily have to reach an individual student, but they could use the social media to reach out to a bunch of

students who have legitimate concerns. Desjarlais stated that at that point, he was not able to put forward a motion for SGM unless they have the legitimate concerns for calling a SGM. Gnanasivam suggested that policy committee shall work on the bylaw change to address the concerns. Desjarlais stated that he had not heard any concerns from Graduate student Representative, and so far, 3 weeks after AGM, no student visited him regarding the bylaw concerns. Only one student followed up with him after AGM regarding the feminine hygiene product dispenser, which he had brought to UBCO and got solved. From his perspective, it was not hard to reach out to him to make changes. If graduate students were passionate about some changes, their representative who sat on the board should have passed the information and informed him of what needed to be done. Hafeez recognized the communication and awareness were missing, and suggested they channel the concerns properly. Gnanasivam stated that it was a busy time and students who hadn't reached out may be under the impression that they were going to have a SGM. Desjarlais concluded that firstly, they would establish the communication channels either through Townhall or newsletters; secondly, they would reach out broadly to students, re-affirming that if they have concerns on the bylaw, they could reach out through emails, office hours, or contact the governance coordinator; thirdly, they would consult students if there is gap in the bylaws regardless of SGM. The policy of financial statements would be changed and put forward as a referendum. Members talked more about the communication channels.

9. In-Camera (Legal)

23/12/15.20

Pfaender/Hora

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved in-camera at 6:20 p.m.

Carried.

23/12/15.21

Donaldson/Gnanasviam

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved ex-camera at 6:41 p.m.

Carried.

23/12/15.22

Desjarlais/Grover

WHEREAS the Societies Act, s. 78, requires notice of an annual general meeting to include the text of any special resolution to be submitted to the meeting;

AND WHEREAS UBCSUO held its annual general meeting on or about November 23, 2023;

AND WHEREAS notice of the annual general meeting included text of the following special resolution:

Be it resolved that [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.

AND WHEREAS the special resolution was amended from the floor to provide as follows (amendment from the floor underlined) (the “Amended Resolution”):

Be it resolved that [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 two new points (f) “the General Manager as a non-voting, advisory member” and (g) “the College of Graduate Studies Representative 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;
- f. the General Manager as a non-voting, advisory member; and
- g. the College of Graduate Studies Representative as a non-voting, advisory member.

AND WHEREAS notice of the text of the Amended Resolution was not provided to the membership as a whole as part of the notice of the annual general meeting;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors has learned that amendments to special resolutions from the floor are not permitted because doing so is contrary to the notice requirements in the Societies Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors will cease applying and implementing the Amended Resolution because it was passed contrary to the notice requirements of the Societies Act.

Carried. Gnanasivam voted against it.

10.Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Executive Committee Meeting, December 21, 2023, Team

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)

Vice President Finance and Administration

Vice-President Internal

Cade Desjarlais

Osho Gnanasivam

Shreyansh Mehendiratta

Directors Absent

Vice-President Campus Life

Vice-President External

Uday Gill

Lakshay Karnwal

Staff Present

General Manager

Governance Coordinator

Jason Evans

Cecily Qiu

1. Called to order at 2:03 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

23/12/21.01

Karnwal/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

23/12/21.02

Karnwal/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 8th, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

4. New Business

4.1 November Board Honoraria

23/12/21.03

Gnanasivam/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the November Board Honoraria be disbursed as follows:

Name	Title	
Alamchandani, Darsh	Director-at-Large	100%
Arora, Aryan	Director-at-Large	100%
Arora, Rajat	Faculty of Management Representative	100%
Desai, Anjali	College of Graduate Studies Representative	\$50
Donaldson, Hanna	Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	100%
Grover, Sunish	Faculty of Science Representative	100%
Halpin, Grace	Faculty of health & Social Development Representative	100%
Hora, Twinkle	Director-at-Large	100%

Madaan, Japnit	Director-at-Large	100%
Mayhew, Georgia	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	100%
Pfaender, Rishan	Faculty of Applied Sciences Representative	100%

Desjarlais stated that all the directors except Desai had submitted the monthly report on time. It was the second time in a row that Desai submitted the report late. She was in the meeting when they discussed about the October honoraria. As per their regulation, she would receive the honoraria for attending the board meetings.

Carried.

5. Information

5.1 Lunch with President Bacon Jan 10th 12-1 pm

Desjarlais stated that President Bacon was coming to campus on Jan. 10 at 12 pm, and he invited the executives for lunch. Karnwal asked if there would be any agenda items for that meeting, or it would be an informal meeting. Desjarlais stated that it would be an informal one, and they could introduce themselves, what they do and the services provided by SUO.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2: 10 p.m.

SUO Engagement Report

(Graduate Students)

Name: Anjali Desai

Position: Graduate Student Representative

Report End Date (by the end of each term): 31/12/2023

OBJECTIVES

(Please indicate what the purpose of the engagement; what you hope to achieve through the engagement; or why the project was initiated if there was a project involved.)

As the Graduate Student Representative and the chair of the Graduate Student Committee (GSC), various activities and events have been undertaken to foster a sense of community amongst the graduate students who often belong to a different demographic age group compared to the majority students on campus. The hope was to create a socially engaging space on campus to prevent the new and existing students to feel isolated which has been one of the most common feedback received from students over the years.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

(Please describe when, where and how the engagement activities were conducted; and briefly showcase the key touchpoints and communication channels. Engagement activities could be faculty events, face-to-face workshops/meetings, forums, idea walls, surveys etc.)

One of the most successful programs initiated by the GSC this year has been the Weekly Graduate Student Coffee Chats. Over the term, we have seen an increased participation with up to 70 students regularly showing up. This repetitive event has enabled people to make friends, the GSC to get familiar with the student body and use this as an open office hour to assist the students with their concerns. The GSC has also held tabling events at the SUO expo and the Graduate Student Lunch organized by the CoGS.

In the Summer term, the Graduate Student Barbeque was one of the biggest events with an outstanding turnout of over 100 students along with a Graduate Students Cricket tournament. In the Winter term, two major events were organized in collaboration with the Student Experience office. The Boat Cruise in September was expanded this year to two rounds to accommodate the overwhelming interest received from the student body. The Graduate Gala event was a formal event organized in November and was a big success with all tickets being sold out and a waitlist, and various performances, games, karaoke and a photo booth. Rest as resistance was a yoga event organized.

The GSC members being a part of the Campus life committee also worked with them to promote the general events like the Pumpkin carving, Christmas cookie decoration and hot breakfast.

ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

(Please display the feedback from the undergraduate students of your faculty; summarize what you heard or what issues were addressed.)

At the weekly graduate coffee events , we have received feedback regarding the need to have more family friendly events to accommodate graduate students with children and family. Additionally, we have also received interest in having graduate student nights at The Well.

During the SUO Annual General Meeting, a few graduate students expressed their dissatisfaction with the positioning and remuneration of the Graduate student representative.

OUTCOME AND NEXT STEPS

(Please outline how the feedback has been considered and applied. You can reflect on the following questions: What actions are you taking based on the feedback; What's coming up next in the engagement process; What impact do you hope that your actions will have? How can students stay informed on the issue? Did you meet your objectives of the engagement.)

For the Winter term 2, the GSC has various activities which include outdoor snow events, Graduate Cultural night, yoga and sports events. With regards to the feedback, a children and family friendly social mixer is being organized in late January at the Graduate Collegium.

With regards to the feedback received about the remuneration of the Graduate Student Representative in the SUO, I shall work with the governance coordinator and the policy committee to explore the possibilities of change.

The GSC strives to keep the graduate students informed of the upcoming events and activities through social media posts and word of mouth at the weekly coffee events.

In the past two terms, the GSC has successfully been able to create an engaging space for the students on campus and has assisted students with their concerns regarding funding and childcare where they can.

NOTES / OTHER