

# 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

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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  
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  
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)

Cade Desjarlais  
Osho Gnanasivam  
Shreyansh Mehendiratta  
Uday Gill  
Lakshay Karnwal  
Twinkle Hora  
Darsh Alamchandani (zoom)  
Japnit Singh Madaan (zoom)  
Rajat Arora (zoom)  
Hanna Donaldson  
Sunish Grover  
Rishan Pfaender  
Georgia Mayhew  
Vacant  
Salman Hafeez (Saami)

## Directors Absent Without Notice

Director-at-Large  
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)

Aryan Arora  
Isabella Bravo

## Directors Absent With Notice

Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative  
College of Graduate Studies Representative

Grace Halpin  
Anjali Desai

## Staff Present

General Manager  
Governance Coordinator  
Well Pub Manager

Jason Evans  
Cecily Qiu  
Michael Ouellet

## Staff Absent

Finance Manager  
Membership Outreach Coordinator  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
Student Advocate  
Food Security & Nutrition Manager

Leanne Smailes  
Izzy Rusch  
Becca Evans  
Rachel Fortin  
Stephanie Patterson

## **1. Called to order at 4:11 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**

23/12/15.01

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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 roles 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 were 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. 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

23/12/15.04

Hora/Karnwal

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

23/12/15.08

Gill/Hora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.1<sup>st</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- 2 Reports from Faculty of Management Representative – Abby Newman  
(Reports from June 20<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.