

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students  
Board of Directors Meeting, March 18 at 5 pm, 2024, UNC 334

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## 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
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
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Anjali Desai
Faculty of Education Representative	Vacant
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Georgia Mayhew
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Isabella Bravo

## Directors Absent

Vice-President External	Lakshay Karnwal
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Salman Hafeez (Saami)

## 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 5:10 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**

24/03/18.01

Gnanasivam/Desai

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Carried.

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

24/03/18.02

A. Arora/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Medical Exploration Society**

The club representatives were absent.

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Executive Committee**

24/03/18.03

Hora/Gill

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

24/03/18.04

Mehendiratta/Gill

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

### **5.2 Finance Committee**

24/03/18.05

Gnanasivam/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

[Halpin, Mayhew, Madaan and R. Arora entered at 5:15 p.m.]

### **5.3 Policy Committee**

24/03/18.06

Mehendiratta/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

24/03/18.07 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

WHEREAS the Students' Union recognizes the need for robust oversight of club activities and efficient management of funding

BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Association Funding Committee section under [Regulation I – Committees] be amended to reflect the establishment of the Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee with updated mandates, meeting schedules, composition, and powers as outlined in the revised document dated January 31, 2024. (See the attached document.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Association Grants section under [REGULATION III – FINANCE] be amended to align with the changes to the committee structure.

Mehendiratta introduced the updated mandate, meeting schedule and powers of the committee, saying that VP Internal would play the role of club oversight officer to ensure the oversight duties. Desjarlais wondered who worked these policies, and what issues the committee wanted to tackle with those policies, and what difference it would make in terms of its business process. Mehendiratta and Gnanasivam replied that those recommendations were from them, and Mehendiratta and Evans worked on the policies. Gnanasivam mentioned that currently the financial procedure for the new student association was entirely completed by VP Finance; however, with this proposed change, the committee would oversee and regulate student associations in terms of their status and financial conditions. With this change, they could interlink all the groups, and oversee all the clubs.

Carried.

24/03/18.08 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/R. Arora

Be it resolved that a new regulation be added after [Regulation VIII:8], to be numbered as needed, which reads as follows:

A student may be a signing authority to a maximum of one student association per academic year.

Mehendiratta stated that the current policies allowed a student to be a signing authority to more than one club. Due to certain financial concern, they wanted to set up the restriction on the signing authorities, which are the most important roles in a club. A student could be an executive to more than one club, but they could not be a signing authority to more than one club during an academic year. Members discussed the difference of being an executive and a signing authority. Grover wondered if a student could be the president of two clubs. Desjarlais concerned that it may restrict students' engagement. Mehendiratta confirmed that their regulation only stated a student association must delegate three signing authorities, but it did not state that the President, VP Finance and VP Events are designated signing authorities. Desjarlais also asked how they could keep track of the signing authority. Gnanasivam replied that names of the three signing authorities were in the application form. They could digitalize the form, which would make it easier to track; and the ad-hoc Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee would keep track of the details.

Carried.

24/03/18.09 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Halpin

Be it resolved that a new regulation be added after [Regulation VIII:19], to be numbered as needed, which reads as follows:

The Student Union shall refrain from considering or approving donations to charity organizations, including charitable organizations, public foundations, or private foundations unless they are duly registered with the Canada Revenue Agency.

Mehendiratta stated the proposed policy would ensure fundings or donations from student associations are sent to the right organization, which is tracked by Canadian authority. Evans added that the government implemented a new policy this year that when funding or donation is sent to a person or an organization, certain information is required by the government. With this proposed policy, SUO would not be able to send donations to unregistered organizations or charities.

Desjarlais was concerned about the wording, saying “shall refrain” did not mean “no”. Mehendiratta and Gnanasivam explained that if a natural disaster happens overseas, and a student association is committed to helping with the situation, as Students Union, they should support it. Desjarlais asked about what “duly registered” means and took EFRT as an example, as he thought EFRT would not be registered with the CRA. Gnanasivam stated that EFRT is under the UBC, and the UBC is registered with the CRA. Members discussed the example of Pantry, confirming that student associations could donate money to pantry, as Pantry is under SUO, which is registered with the CRA.

Carried.

**5.4 Campus Life Committee**

**5.5 Campaigns Committee**

24/03/18.10

Mayhew/Gill

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

**5.6 Graduate Student Committee**

24/03/18.11

Desai/Grover

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

24/03/18.12

Desai/Gill

Be it resolved that the February 2024 Honoraria for GSC Students at Large be disbursed as follows:

GSC February		
Sr. No	Name of SAL	Amount(\$)
1	Akshta Sharma	50
2	Ammar Riyadh	50
3	Dina Khrabshesh	50
4	Fatima Canales	0
5	Hammad Ahmad	50
6	Nibirh Jawad	50
7	Omang Baheti	50
8	Satabdi Das	0
9	Yazdanmehr Gordanpour	50

Carried.

### **5.7 Oversight Committee**

### **5.8 Electoral Committee**

24/03/18.13

Alamchandani/R. Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on

- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

be adopted.

Carried.

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

### **6.1 Senate**

### **6.2 Board of Governors**

Bravo stated that they had a committee meeting and discussed changing the tuition engagement process. She also mentioned that they may approve the budget at the next meeting.

### **6.3 Other University Committees**

Desjarlais stated that he was sitting on the Hiring Committee for VP External Relations at UBC. He introduced the role of VP External Relations, and hoped that SUO could have some connection with this role in the future.

Gnanasivam was on the Generative AI Teaching and Learning Committee. The committee was drafting a guideline for using AI. A lot of work still needed to be done for the document. He strongly suggested that someone on the incoming new board should join this committee.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Student Association Ratification**

24/03/18.14

Mehendiratta/Halpin

Be it resolved that Medical Exploration Society be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes of the society: To bring forth opportunities and knowledge that would aid in the pursuit of a diverse range of careers in the medical field.

Mehendiratta had suggested they join in other medical clubs; however, they thought other clubs had specific purposes. Alamchandani thought the club had no direction and would be not practical. Desjarlais also stated that a club should be specific about what they would be doing. Mehendiratta stated that they would provide information to students regarding internship and job opportunities. Desjarlais thought it would be similar to the Pre-Med club.

Failed.

24/03/18.15

R. Arora/A. Arora

Be it resolved that Scientific Instruments club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes of the club: It aims to bring scientific instruments and their underlying concepts to students on campus, as well as to provide the opportunity for students to design, build, and test their own.

Mehendiratta stated that those were passionate students, and they wanted to form their lab. They had support from their faculty. The only concern was that the executives of the club would graduate in May. Desjarlais asked if they could join the Chemistry Course Union. Halpin asked if they have external fundings, and if not, it would be expensive to run this club. Pfaender suggested that they partnership with faculties. Grover asked if they do experiments. Gnanasivam suggested they could give a presentation to the board to clarify questions.

Gnanasivam/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the ratification of the Scientific Instruments Club be tabled.  
Carried.

24/03/18.16

Halpin/Grover

Be it resolved that Caffeine & Cram Club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes of the club: It aims to create a productive and social environment, over two big things all students have in common: caffeine and cramming! To provide students with an alternative study space where they can enjoy a cup of coffee, relax, socialize, and study. Rather than a traditional library or classroom setting, it is a more comfortable and a less rigid setting. To hopefully encourage and promote a healthy work and relaxation balance and to enhance students' overall well-being!

Halpin wondered if the group was interested in coffee or creating a community to study and have the coffee. Alamchandani stated that students could go to Starbucks to study and have coffee, which would serve the same purpose of the club. Grover thought it sounded like a group of friends wanted to have free coffees when studying.

Failed.

24/03/18.17

Alamchandani/R. Arora

Be it resolved that Iranian Culture Club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes of the club: The main purpose of this club is to demonstrate and share Iranian culture with everyone and enjoy the ceremonies and events, such as Iran new year. This club is also a play for Iranians to gather and communicate especially the newcomers to UBCO. Note that this club is not going to cover any political topics or events.

Mehendiratta stated the club was passionate about bringing back the culture and having culture events but would not cover any political topics or events.

Carried.

24/03/18.18

Pfaender/R. Arora

Be it resolved that Badminton Club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes of the club: To promote health and wellness for students through the badminton sport. The club seeks to bolster a sense of sportsmanship,



teamwork and inclusivity by allowing members to engage in friendly competitions and tournaments.

Mehendiratta provided some context for the badminton club, and mentioned this year they had new executives. Grover asked what the membership fee would be used for. Mehendiratta stated that the fee would be used for renting the space.

Carried.

24/03/18.19

A. Arora/Desjarlais

Be it resolved that Lesbians for Liveable Futures club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: This club strives to create a queer, feminist space for UBCO students to get involved in societal and political struggles that matter to them. Community support is incredibly important when exploring how to become actively involved in shaping our society; they want to learn, create, discuss and act together in queer ways!

Gnanasivam stated their intention is similar to that of the Resource Center. Alamchandani and Halpin expressed their concern, asking if the club would be exclusive and only lesbians are allowed to join the club. Gnanasivam stated that he did not see any difference between ratification of this club and other culture-based clubs, as they pose the same concern in terms of exclusivity. Halpin moved to table this motion with a request for presentation.

Halpin/Desjarlais

Be it resolved that the ratification of the Lesbians for Liveable Futures club be tabled.

Failed.

The board members voted on the original motion.

The ratification motion failed.

24/03/18.20

Alamchandani/Mayhew

Be it resolved that Bodybuilding and Wellness club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: Their mission is to empower UBCO students in bodybuilding by providing in-depth muscle building strategies, practical bodybuilding theory and nutritional knowledge, fostering a community dedicated to personal growth and fitness excellence. This scientific approach to bodybuilding promotes physical wellness while helping people achieve their personal fitness goals.

Mehendiratta stated that they had Weightlifting club which shares the same aim and purpose. Bravo stated the signing authority of the weightlifting club had not approved any events. Grover wondered if the weightlifting club provides the scientific knowledge as this club would do. Alamchandani wondered if the club could collaborate with the weightlifting club. Desjarlais stated that the key criterion for a club is that the club would fill a new need. Bravo stated technically weightlifting was different from bodybuilding. Halpin checked the description of Weightlifting club, and it showed that they cover the bodybuilding and teach the fundamentals. Qiu added that the regulation stated Student Association shall not overlap with the scope of an existing student association [Regulation VIII:6(d)]. Desjarlais stated that he could not differentiate the purpose of those two clubs, and ruled this motion out of order.

24/03/18.21

Halpin/Gnanasivam

Be it resolved that Adults of Tomorrow club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: To lead healthy lives, this will include group activities like sports and hikes, also education of nutrition. The club will also be about helping student adjust to living away from home.

Alamchandani stated that they had a club called Exercise Is Medicine which serves the same purpose. Halpin mentioned that there were a lot of support and resources on campus that help students adjust to the life. Desjarlais added that they would help students adjust to living away from home, which is a unique area. However, Halpin and Desjarlais also recognized both clubs have similarities. Mehendiratta stated that they would not like to give a presentation.

Failed.

24/03/18.22

Halpin/Grover

Be it resolved that Tune Titans Production club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: Create a network for people to collaborate and produce music. Work closely with other music related clubs to give them a platform to create music.

Gnanasivam stated that the group had passion for the music, and they were very keen on the music production. They planned to use the UBC studios, and had equipment ready for students to use. They did not require SUO funding to purchase equipment.

Failed.

24/03/18.23

Mehendiratta/Grover

Be it resolved that Palliative Care club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: To bring palliative care education and related opportunities to students. This will include events, volunteer, and research opportunities. This club will be formed with a partnership to the palliative and end of life care lab on campus.

Halpin showed her favor in supporting the club as she perceived it as an interdisciplinary club, involving many faculties. Pfaender wondered if there would be some education on this kind of care. Desjarlais replied that usually students get trained through volunteering.

Failed.

24/03/18.24

Grover/Pfaender

Be it resolved that Engineers in Action, Okanagan Chapter club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: EIA, a nonprofit organization, focuses on constructing essential footbridges in Eswatini and Bolivia. These projects are led by university students and are lifelines for communities during rainy seasons, providing access to vital resources.

Desjarlais wondered what differentiates the club under SUO and the club under Engineering Society (EngSoc) or MSA. Gnanasivam replied that the funding would

come from either SUO or EngSoc or MSA. Pfaender asked if they could join the EngSco. Mehendiratta moved to table this motion.

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the ratification of Engineers in Action, Okanagan Chapter club be tabled.

Carried.

24/03/18.25

Halpin/Pfaender

Be it resolved that Okanagan Housing club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: Identify and provide access to affordable housing options for students of SUO. Create a supportive community for students dealing with housing-related challenges. Advocate for improved housing policies and practices for students of SUO.

Evans had some legal concerns, and he also thought the price was not the only factor the student needed to consider when trying to find housing. Students might think those housing options the club provides are recommended by Students Union. It might impact SUO if something goes wrong with those housing options. Desjarlais stated that it would be under VP External's portfolio in terms of affordable housing.

Failed.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.