

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students  
Board of Directors Meeting, April 8 at 7pm, 2024, Zoom

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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 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 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

## Directors Absent

Vice-President Campus Life	Uday Gill
Faculty of Science Representative	Sunish Grover
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Isabella Bravo
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Salman Hafeez (Saami)

## Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Governance Coordinator	Cecily Qiu

## Student Guests

Lesbians for Liveable Futures Club	Ideja Efendija
	Lola Melchior
	Neela
Medical Exploration Society	Kazandra Berrie
	Sahana Johal
Engineers in Action	Surya Krishna
	Kye Mychuk
	Insha Hooda
	Kathy Rassavong

## **1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04 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**

24/04/08.01

Halpin/Hora

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Mehendiratta/Alamchandani

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended by adding a motion under 7.1 Student Association Ratification, which read:

Be it resolved that the PPE Course Union be changed to a student association; Be it further resolved that the PPE be renamed the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Student Association.

Amendment carried.

Mehendiratta/R. Arora

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended by adding 4.4 Engineers in Action under Presentation

Amendment carried.

Desjarlais/Pfaender

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended by adding a motion under New Business, which read:

Be it resolved that the Picnic MOU be signed for \$30,000 for the 2024-2025 Academic Year as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

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

24/04/08.02

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Lesbians for Livable Futures Club**

The representatives introduced the mission of the club, the reasoning behind why they need to exist, and events/collaborations planned for the club.

Halpin expressed her appreciation to the group. Karnwal asked about the scope of the club events. Neela replied that they would invite their queer family members to discuss all sort of topics which does not have to be intersectional activism.

Desjarlais expressed his concern as two of them were graduating this year. Neela stated that they received a lot of interest from their queer members, and they had selected new executives for the club.

### **4.2 Scientific Instruments Club**

Absent.

### **4.3 Medical Exploration Society**

The representatives introduced their reasons to start the club, its mission and core values. They explained the difference in goals and ideas between their club and other medical-based clubs, such as the Pre-Med club, Pre-Vet club etc. They explored careers in need of highlight, and they used the Speech-language Pathologist as an example to illustrate what resources and support the club could provide to students.

Mayhew spoke highly of the presentation and stated that the presentation distinguished the aim of their club from other medical-based clubs and addressed the concern the board had before.

### **4.4 Engineers in Action**

The representatives introduced what the EIA bridge program is, why they wanted to bring EIA to UBCO, their operations, the timeline, their team members, and presented a financial breakdown.

Desjarlais had a concern about the funding that SUO could provide for them as SUO is a comparatively small student union. Hooda replied that they reviewed the financial breakdown of the University of Alberta and 80%-90% of their cost was through fund raising and corporation sponsorship. They were building corporation connections at the moment, and they did not see any difficulty raising funds.

Krishna added that the club has other alternatives to reduce the cost, such as sending the team every two years instead of every year, or partnership with other EIAs at other universities. Gnanasivam asked for the minimum cost. Krishna replied that the cost would be related to the number of people they send, and it would also depend on if they take over the program themselves or partner with other schools. Krishna also mentioned that their professor would help them look for support from faculty as well.

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Executive Committee**

24/04/08.03

Halpin/Donaldson

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

24/04/08.04

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 be adopted.  
Carried.

### **5.2 Finance Committee**

### **5.3 Policy Committee**

24/04/08.05

Mehendiratta/Desai

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.  
Carried.

24/04/08.06 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

Be it resolved that [Regulation VIII:5]

#### Ratification of Student Associations

5. New Student Associations applications may only be submitted and ratified in the months of August, September, October, January and February.

be rephrased as

5. New Student Association applications will only be accepted during the periods of August 1 to the 2<sup>nd</sup>(second) Friday of October and January 1 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> (second) Friday of February. New Student Association applications may only be ratified in the months of September, October, January and February.

Mehendiratta stated that the change defined the timeline for ratification.  
Carried.

24/04/08.07 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that [Regulation XII – Resource Centres:1 (d)]:

- d. “Resource Centre Advisor” refers to the part-time casual, student and most Executive Officer of the Resource Centre

Be rephrased as

- d. “Resource Centre Facilitator” refers to the part-time casual, student role that serves as the primary liaison between the membership outreach coordinator/VP Internal, and the Resource Centre, ensuring effective communication and oversight of all activities within the Centre.

Mehendiratta stated the amendment would change the title of Resource Centre Advisor to Resource Centre Facilitator and better define the role of Resource Center Facilitator.

Carried.

24/04/08.08 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Desai

Be it resolved [Regulation XII – Resource Centres:25]:

25. With the exception of the Resource Centre Advisor, positions within a Resource Centre Council must be on a voluntary basis and individuals must not receive salary or honoraria from the Resource Centre in their roles as Volunteer Council Members.

be amended by striking the word “Advisor” and adding the word “Facilitator”, so [Regulation XII – Resource Centres:25] then reads:

25. With the exception of the Resource Centre Facilitator, positions within a Resource Centre Council must be on a voluntary basis and individuals must not receive salary or honoraria from the Resource Centre in their roles as Volunteer Council Members.

Mehendiratta stated the change was in line with the previous policy change. Desjarlais wondered if Resource Center Council is a proper name. Qiu stated the Resource Centre Council includes the facilitator, and the volunteers working at the Resource Centre. She stated that they do not say the words “Resource Center Council” often, but the word council is commonly used in their regulation, for example, student association council. Halpin added that in the regulation, the volunteer council means the executive body of the Resource Center, and it is used in the Student Association regulation and the Resource Center regulation.

Carried.

24/04/08.09 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Hora

Be it resolved that [Regulation VIII:6(a)]

Members may establish a new Student Association or bring forward an existing organization for ratification into the Student Union as a Student Association by following the established application process and meeting the requirements of this Regulation. A proposed Student Association must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- a. designate at least three executive members, including a President, Treasurer, and Secretary;

be amended by replacing the word "Treasurer" with the word "VP Finance" and replacing the word "Secretary" with the word "VP Events," so [Regulation VIII:6(a)] then reads:

- a. designate at least three executive members, including a President, VP Finance, and VP Events;

Mehendiratta stated that earlier in the year, they changed the executive titles of the Student Association. This change was in line with the previous change.

Carried.

24/04/08.10 (Special Resolution)

Mehendiratta/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the Student Association General Membership Waiver form be adopted as attached.

Mehendiratta stated that this waiver aims to make sure students are aware of the risks and aware that they are liable for those risks when they participate in some dangerous activities. Desjarlais asked if they consulted with their lawyer.

Mehendiratta confirmed that the waiver had been approved by their lawyer before it was discussed at the policy committee. Desjarlais asked if every student need to sign the waiver when participate in events? Mehendiratta stated that the waiver would be valid for one year, and every student would sign the waiver at the beginning of the year. Desjarlais wondered who would determine what is risky or dangerous and how the document would be circulated. Mehendiratta replied that it would be an onboarding document for students to sign when they join a club. Evans stated the risks would be evaluated when a club submits their event application to Rusch. The waiver would not affect the coverage of the insurance,

and it was just a general waiver, an additional mechanism to put people on guard. Halpin thought the waiver serves the similar function of alcohol waiver. Mehendiratta confirmed that the general waiver includes the exemption of the risks from the alcohol waiver. Desjarlais asked how they could confirm the validity of the guardian's signature for students under 19. Evans stated based on the law and UBC policies, students under 19 are under the jurisdiction of their parents. If a student finds a friend to sign the waiver, it would not make the waiver invalid. The honesty lies on the person who signs it. Gnanasivam clarified that the waiver was not for a specific event, and it would be a general membership waiver. All students need to sign the waiver to become members of clubs. It would add an additional layer of protection for the club and the SUO when the club executives organize events. It would not change the application process.  
Carried.

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

24/04/08.11

Mayhew/Hora

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

Halpin asked why the chair was absent from the meeting. Pfaender explained that the executive meeting was held on the same day and took longer than they expected. Therefore, Gill asked him to chair the meeting. Desjarlais confirmed that the executive meeting was in camera, and Gill could not leave the meeting.  
Carried.

#### **5.5 Campaigns Committee**

24/04/08.12

Karnwal/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Halpin commended the committee for the mental health initiative.  
Carried.

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

#### **5.7 Oversight Committee**

24/04/08.13

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Halpin added that April review and a general executive report would be presented at the next board meeting.

Carried.

24/04/08.14

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the February Executive Reports be adopted as attached.

Halpin stated that the executive submitted the report in time and the SAL of the committee was passionate about making a slight change on the form.

Carried.

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

### **6.1 Senate**

### **6.2 Board of Governors**

Desjarlais shared some exciting news from the UBC Board of Governors. He stated that the Board of Governors recently approved their budget for the next academic year. Due to some strong student advocacy, they approved 2.4 million dollars in food security funding, which means the Picnic in the UNC would remain open for at least three years. It was a big win for the Student Union and students.

Desjarlais stated that he also signed a letter condemning the proposal of the Board of Governors to eliminate student tuition consultation. In their decision, they hoped the Student Union could take over the consultation and eliminate the Yes/No question to tuition increase. All the three major student societies in UBC opposed the proposal, and they felt students were not given the opportunity to voice their disdain towards the tuition increase.

### **6.3 Other University Committees**

Hora stated that she was on the Academic Integrity Student Advisory committee. On April 4, they presented a report to UBC Okanagan community which contained recommendations and insight regarding academic integrity from students' perspective.

Desjarlais stated that he was in the Hiring Committee for VP External Relations at UBC, and this role is to lobby the provincial government for fundings for post-secondary institutions. There had been some delay in the hiring process, and he was anticipating going to Vancouver for some interviews at the end of this month. Desjarlais was lobbying to have the Okanagan campus in the portfolio of this role.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Student Association Ratification**

24/04/08.15



Halpin/Mayhew

Be it resolved that Lesbians for Livable 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!

Desjarlais stated as a Student Union, they need to do more to empower student activists. Mayhew agreed that more space inclusive to the queer community is needed and it is important to put forward a sense of community. Halpin echoed them in support of this club ratification.

Carried.

24/04/08.16

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that Carrom Board club be ratified as a new Student Association.

Aims and Purposes: The Carrom Board Club is dedicated to promoting carrom culture, fostering a community of players of all levels. Our mission is to provide a welcoming space for skill development, friendly competitions, and the celebration of the classic game of carrom.

Desjarlais explained a bit about the board game.

Carried.

24/04/08.17

Donaldson/Mayhew

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.

Mehendiratta updated that this club would collaborate with two doctors working at the Palliative Care, and they wanted to bring more opportunities to students to be involved in this area.

Carried.

24/04/08.18

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

Be it resolved that Engineers in Action, Okanagan Chapter 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.

Carried.

24/04/08.19

Mehendiratta/Donaldson

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

Aims and Purposes: 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.

Failed

24/04/08.20

Mehendiratta/Pfaender

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

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

Desjarlais stated the presentation was great and they distinguished themselves from other medial clubs.

Carried.

24/04/08.21

Mehendiratta/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the PPE Course Union be changed to a student association; Be it further resolved that the PPE be renamed the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Student Association.

Desjarlais stated that the PPE Course Union did not have enough members to make a course union based on the current regulation. If they become a club, they could have more members from outside of their faculty. This would be a way for them to maintain the membership and avoid course union election. Mehendiratta provided more background of the PPE faculty.

Carried.

## **7.2 2024 Ombuds SUO-UBCO Agreement**

The 2024 Ombuds SUO-UBCO Agreement was approved outside of a board meeting. On Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>, President Desjarlais sent an urgent email to all the board of directors requesting their approval of the 2024 Ombuds SUO-UBCO Agreement. Ten (10) directors, namely R. Arora, Hora, A. Arora, Mayhew, Halpin, Donaldson, Karnwal, Gnanasivam, Madaan and Mehendiratta, replied in writing in favor of the agreement. The consent emails from the board of directors were attached to the agenda.

Desjarlais provided some background on the Ombuds office. The Ombuds office is an independent and conflict resolution body. The Student Union covered 40% of their wage while the university covered 60%. The agreement was renewed and there was a slight increase on the contribution due to inflation. After negotiation, the role of the ombuds person as an advisor to the student advocate at SUO was added to their job description. Desjarlais also mentioned that they signed the agreement for three years with a two-year freeze on the contribution if the board renews the agreement after three years. Last, Desjarlais stated that any contract greater than \$25,000 would need to be approved by the board of directors.

## **7.3 Picnic MOU**

24/04/08.22

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the Picnic MOU be signed for \$30,000 for the 2024-2025 Academic Year as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Desjarlais provided some context for the previous Picnic MOU, which was a 3-year commitment on the collaboration between SUO and university with a focus on the student food security. Halpin asked about the contribution from the SUO last year. Desjarlais and Gnanasivam confirmed that last two years they contributed \$60,000 per semester, and the year before Picnic opened, they contributed \$180,000 to renovate the space. Considering the importance of service Picnic provided and the beneficial impact it brought to the students, Halpin and Donaldson would like to discuss the possibility of increasing the budget for Picnic. Gnanasivam pointed out that the number of \$30,000 was within the range of recommended contribution by the University. The reason why they chose a lower end and a shorter term was that they did not want to lock in a large amount of budget for the future incoming board as they may come up with many good student initiatives. And the next board of directors could make their own decision on the contribution and the MOU term when they renew the contract. Karnwal stated that lower contribution does not mean less support. They need to re-evaluate the role of the Student Union in this partnership as they saw support to this project from the University in the past three years. With this lower amount, the Student Union may have more budget to

empower other student initiatives. Halpin stated that Picnic covered a wide range of services/resources other than the food security.

Halpin/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the motion be amended by striking the number of “\$30,000” and inserting the number of “\$50,000”.

Desjarlais stated that the \$30,000 was the minimum contribution recommended by the University. He advocated for more contribution as he thought this was a critical service, and he would like to see much money to be spent on what is important to students. He stated that they contributed \$120,000 this year to Picnic, and they were not restricted in the budget, and they were still running non deficit. He thought \$50,000 is a fair amount of contribution. Gnanasivam mentioned that the University explicitly stated that they were fine with \$30,000 to continue the operation. Also, Gnanasivam mentioned they saw many great initiatives coming this year, such as Smart Meals, and he did not want to impede future initiatives by taking the budget away from the next board. Nothing would stop the next board to contribute more to the contract. Desjarlais would like to continue the partnership in writing on a formal level at a larger amount. He did not see any restriction on the budget and initiatives, and did not see an executive would create a program of \$100,000 that would solve the gaps that Picnic was filling. Karnwal stated that if he had had no budget restriction, he would have created a \$100,000 program this year. Meanwhile, he stated that he had kept tracking the Picnic program as an advocate for food security. He believed that there were some communication issues. During those years, the Student Union had done their due diligence to advocate for students’ need on food security. Since the University had allocated fundings for the picnic for the next three years, he did not see any benefit of increasing the contribution. Gnanasivam stated any amount restricted by the contract would not be available for the next board, and they should not speculate what the next board is or is not capable to do.

Failed.

The original motion carried.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Application Process for Graduate Student Representative and Students at Large**

24/04/08.23

Desai/Donaldson

Be it resolved that the SUO place a call for College of Graduate Student Representative applicants from the Membership to sit on the SUO Board of Directors.

- ❖ College of Graduate Student Representative one (1) director
- Carried.

24/04/08.24

Hora/Mayhew

Be it resolved that the SUO place a call for Student-at-Large (SAL) applicants from the Membership to sit on the Oversight Committee, Policy Committee, Campus Life Committee, Campaigns Committee, and Graduate Student Committee.

- ❖ Oversight Committee one (1) SAL
- ❖ Policy Committee at least one (1) SAL
- ❖ Campus Life Committee three (3) to nine (9) SAL including one graduate student
- ❖ Campaigns Committee up to five (5) SAL including one graduate student
- ❖ Graduate Student Committee nine (9) SAL

Carried.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.