



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union UBC Okanagan, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students  
Board of Directors Meeting, February 28, 2025 at 4 PM, UNC334

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### Directors Present

President (meeting chair)  
Vice President Finance and Administration  
Vice-President External  
Vice-President Internal  
Vice-President Campus Life  
Director-at-Large  
Director-at-Large  
Director-at-Large  
Faculty of Education Representative  
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative  
Faculty of Science Representative  
Faculty of Management Representative  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative  
College of Graduate Studies Representative  
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)

Danial Asif  
Aryan Arora  
Abby Newman  
Rajat Arora  
Saa'im Imran  
Sheela Mbogo  
Aliasgar Sakarwala  
Mariam Al Barazi  
Elnaz Zamanzade  
Ali Wasti  
Aman Waseem  
Riko Otsuka  
Olivia Lai  
Mhamoda Moli  
Salman Hafeez (Saami)

### Directors Absent

Director-at-Large  
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative  
Faculty of Applied Science Representative  
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)

Ananya Bhattacharya  
Amy Wang  
Sahar Sowdagar  
Isabella Bravo

### Staff Present

General Manager  
Governance Coordinator

Jason Evans  
Cecily Qiu

**1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:14 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**

25/02/28.01

Otsuka/Mbogo

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Al Barazi/Waseem

Be It resolved that a discussion about Tax Clinic be added to the agenda.

Amendment carried.

Asif/Al Barazi

Be It resolved that a discussion about a letter to support the trans athlete be added to the agenda.

Amendment carried.

**Carried as amended.**

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

25//02/28.02

Waseem/Otsuka

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25//02/28.03

Zamanzade/Moli

Be it resolved that the minutes of the emergency meeting held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Dermatology Club**

Student representatives presented the background, aim and events of their club. They answered the questions from the board regarding how the club could afford the product under limited funding and what resources they would use.

### **4.2 International Student Association**

Student representatives presented the background, purpose and mission of their club as well as the events they planned. They confirmed that the club is for underrepresented cultures, and they would like to collaborate with other cultural clubs. They answered the questions regarding how they prioritize their events under limited funding. Directors recommended that they collaborate with other clubs, SUO VP Campus life and GEO office in the university.

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Executive Committee**

25/02/28.04

Asif/Wasti

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.05

Asif/Mbogo

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.06

Asif/Moli

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

### **5.2 Finance Committee**

25/02/28.07

A.Arora/R.Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

\* The chair will send the minutes to the board in a separate email/document due to technical issues.

A.Arora could not open the document due to technical issues.

A.Arora/Otsuka

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes be tabled for the next meeting.

**Carried. Tabled.**

### 5.3 Policy Committee

### 5.4 Campus Life Committee

25/02/28.08

Imran/Otsuka

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried as amended.** Abby noted that she was tabling at that time and was excused from the meeting.

### 5.5 Campaigns Committee

25/02/28.09

Newman/Wasti

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

### 5.6 Graduate Student Committee

25/02/28.10

Moli/Zamanzade

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.11

Moli/Newman

Be it resolved that the December GSC SAL honoraria be disbursed as follows:

GSC December			
Sr. No	Name of SAL	Amount (\$)	Note
1	Rohit Dandamodi	0	
2	Dina Khrabshesh	50	
3	Fatima Canales	0	
4	Nibirh Jawad	50	
5	Satabdi Das	0	
6	Yazdanmehr Gordanpour	50	
7	Hammad Ahmad	50	
8	Omang Baheti	50	
9	Ghulam Hussain	50	

**Carried.**

### **5.7 Oversight Committee**

Newman called a point of order as the previous board meeting tabled the December meeting minutes of the oversight committee to this board meeting. Sakarwala explained that he was very sick last week so that he was not able to meet the deadline to submit the minutes.

### **5.8 Student Association Oversight Club Committee**

25/02/28.12

R.Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

### **5.9 Electoral Committee**

25/02/28.13

A.Arora/Moli

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.14

Moli/Zamanzade

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.15

Moli/Mbogo

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.16

A.Arora/Moli

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 be adopted.

**Carried.**

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

### **6.1 Senate**

### **6.2 Board of Governors**

### **6.3 Other University Committees**

[Lai entered at 4:55 p.m.]

Al Barazi provided updates regarding the OER committee.

Al Barazi also called a point of order as the previous board meeting they tabled a letter against the tuition increase. Newman would discuss the topic at her campaigns committee meeting and bring it back to the next board meeting.

Newman provided updates regarding food security committee and the Golden Apple Award.

25/02/28.17

Newman/Waseem

Be it resolved that Rajat Arora be appointed to UBC Learning Spaces Subcommittee (1 year term).

Newman explained that the message was initially sent to her and R. Arora, but she was graduating this year.

**Carried.** Imran abstained.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Establishment of the SUO Resource Center Review Committee (Ad-hoc Committee)**

25/02/28.18

Newman/Otsuka

Be it resolved that the SUO Resource Center Review Committee Terms of Reference be adopted as attached; and be it further resolved that the SUO Resource Center Review Committee be struck.

Newman explained that the establishment of the committee was a response to the resolution adopted at the last AGM regarding the Resource Center. Directors had a discussion whether they should include all representatives of the five resource centers in the committee rather than two of them. Meanwhile, some directors showed concerns on the quorum of the meeting if they decide to make it a large committee.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.19

Newman/Moli

Be it resolved that Mariam al Barazi be appointed to the SUO Resource Center Review Committee.

**Carried.**

### **7.2 Establishment of Student Associations Strategic Committee (Ad-hoc**

**Committee)**

25/02/28.20

R. Arora/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the SUO Student Associations Strategic Committee Terms of Reference be adopted as presented; and be it further resolved that the Student Associations Strategic Committee be struck.

R. Arora explained that it was a response to the resolution adopted at the AGM. The structure of the committee was set up at the AGM.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.21

R. Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that VP Internal (R. Arora for this term) be appointed to the Student Associations Strategic Committee.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.22

Lai/Otsuka

Be it resolved that Aman Waseem and Olivia Lai be appointed to the Student Associations Strategic Committee.

Five directors nominated themselves and the board conducted ballot voting.

**Carried.****7.3 Student Association Ratification**

25/02/28.23

R.Arora/A.Arora

Be it resolved that Dermatology Club be ratified.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.24

Mbogo/Al Barazi

Be it resolved that International Student Association be ratified.

**Carried.**

Due to limited time and limited funding available, before the ratification, the board decided to hear all the information about those clubs and directors' thoughts or concerns on those potential clubs.

[Al Barazi left at 5:58 p.m.]

[Evans left the discussion and returned at the end of the meeting.]

25/02/28.25

R.Arora/Waseem

Be it resolved that Pickleball Club be ratified.

Directors showed concerns about space to hold the pickleball events. Also, the gym on campus had been providing pickleball events.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.26

Newman/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Okanagan Conservative Club be ratified.

Newman and some other directors voted in favor of the ratification, considering Kelowna was a conservative region and they would like to see debates from all parties. Newman also updated that they had a Young Liberal club, therefore, to be inclusive, they shall ratify the conservative club. Some directors were against its ratification due to concerns that the black student community and LGBTQ+ community would feel hurt by some political view the club would be associated with. Mbogo opposed the ratification of the club. Some directors suggested they should have a neutral stance towards politics. They asked the status of the Liberal club, and were told that the club did not attend the SUO orientation. They were not aware of the activities of the club.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.27

R. Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Backcountry Squatters be ratified.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.28

R.

Be it resolved that Baking Club be ratified.

Arora/Lai



Directors showed concerns on space booking for the club events. There is no baking space to be booked on campus. If the club sells self-made food, it may go against the university policy regarding food safety. They suggested that R. Arora direct them to the Picnic.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.29

R. Arora/Wasti

Be it resolved that Football watching Student Association be ratified.

Directors believed that it could be a Well Pub event.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.30

R.Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Jack. Org Student Association be ratified.

Directors got confused with the status of this student association. This club attended the Expo for student associations and held events in the past. They may already exist or a similar club may exist under SUO.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.31

R. Arora/Wasti

Be it resolved that Biological sciences Course Union be ratified.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.32

R. Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Kelowna Ismaili Student Association be ratified.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.33

R. Arora/Newman

Be it resolved that Game Development Club be ratified.

Some directors thought this club was similar to the coding club and computer science course union. Some thought it was irrelevant and believed the club could also apply for the UBC fundings.

**Carried.**

25/02/28.34

R. Arora/Waseem

Be it resolved that Okanagan Student Golf Club be ratified.

Directors showed concerns about the limited time (usually summer) the club could organize golfing event.

**Failed.**

25/02/28.35

R.Arora/Waseem

Be it resolved that Philosophy Course Union be ratified.

**Carried.**

## **8. DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Yes Campaign Tabling**

The executive urged the directors to volunteer for the Yes Campaign as it was a duty of the board of directors. Hafeez asked about the opt out process. Asif replied that the conversation with UBC regarding the opt out process had already started.

### **8.2 Tax Clinic**

Evans updated that the tax clinic would open the following week with 13 volunteers and 2 coordinators, hoping to serve more than 2000 students. Training from CRA was done. Al Barazi had negotiated additional space with the university to host the tax clinic during the peak time (April). The board applauded for her contribution.

### **8.3 A letter to Support Trans Athletes**

Newman provided the context for the letter.

25/02/28.36

Asif/Newman

Be it resolved that the letter be approved as presented (see attachment).

**Carried.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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## Students' Union Okanagan of UBC Stands in Solidarity with Trans Athletes: A Call for Accountability and Inclusivity in PACWEST

The Students' Union Okanagan of UBC represents students from all types of nationalities, gender identities, sexualities, etc and we are proud to stand alongside fellow student unions in BC to show our support for trans athletes and the broader 2SLGBTQIA+ community in light of recent developments in the Pacific Western Athletic Association (PACWEST). Following an investigation into a transphobic incident during the October 2024 women's basketball game between Columbia Bible College (CBC) and the VIU Mariners, PACWEST took the necessary step of suspending the CBC women's basketball head coach. While this disciplinary action marked progress toward addressing discrimination in sports, subsequent events have raised new concerns.

In the aftermath of the suspension, the CBC team launched a public campaign and the coach has taken legal action to overturn the suspension. These moves threaten to undermine the essential steps taken to combat discrimination and could send a disheartening message to trans athletes and their allies throughout PACWEST.

The SUO believes that sports should be a safe and inclusive space for everyone, regardless of gender identity. Trans athletes deserve the right to participate fully and equitably without fear of harassment or exclusion. We have seen firsthand the impact that discrimination can have on individuals and communities. It is for this reason that we are speaking out - because standing by silently is not an option.

When incidents like this arise, accountability is not just about responding to the moment; it's about setting a standard for the future. Attempts to reverse disciplinary action not only put the safety of athletes at risk but also undermine trust in the systems designed to protect them. This is a pivotal moment for PACWEST to demonstrate leadership and reaffirm its commitment to inclusivity, fairness, and safety for all athletes.

We call on PACWEST to:

- **Stand firm against external pressures** to reinstate the suspended coach, prioritizing the safety and well-being of all athletes.
- **Reaffirm your commitment** to creating and maintaining a safe, equitable, and inclusive sports environment for everyone.
- **Call on the CBC Bearcats** to publicly commit to fair and safe play by clearly stating that harassment, discrimination, and hate have no place in their organization and that they will fully respect and uphold eligibility rules for trans athletes.
- **Implement comprehensive safety planning practices** to protect the well-being of all athletes, with specific measures to ensure the inclusion and safety of trans athletes.

Discrimination has no place in sports - or anywhere. Leadership means standing with marginalized communities, taking decisive action, and ensuring that every athlete is treated with dignity and respect. We urge PACWEST to seize this opportunity to lead by example and show that inclusivity is not just a policy but a fundamental value.

The Students' Union Okanagan is committed to supporting trans athletes across the PACWEST Conference. We will continue to advocate for environments where every player feels safe, supported, and seen.

In solidarity,

Students' Union Okanagan Board of Directors