



EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union UBC Okanagan, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, September 11, 2025 at 6 PM, UNC105

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)	Peter Idoko
Vice President Finance and Administration	Rajat Arora
Vice-President External	Olivia Lai
Vice-President Internal	Shreya Patnaik
Vice-President Campus Life	Ashley Kyei-Badu
Director-at-Large	Aaditya Golash
Director-at-Large	Saadia Awais
Director-at-Large	Naden Qually
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative	Ali Wasti
Faculty of Science Representative	Yasmine Trabelsi
Faculty of Management Representative	Tejas Bhatia
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Quinlin Osadczuk
Faculty of Applied Science Representative	Donald Onyewuchi-Ohiri
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	Kiki Akinlade
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Ghulam Hussain
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	

Directors Absent With Regrets

Director-at-Large	Jessica Goel
Faculty of Education Representative	Elnaz Zamanzade

Directors Absent Without Regrets

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Governance Coordinator	Lijie (Cecily) Qiu

Guests

GSA Executives
Engineering Society Executives

1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:08 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

25/09/11.01

Qually/Awais

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Patnaik/Golash

Be it resolved that a discussion regarding the Engineering Society be added.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 AGM

25/09/11.02

Idoko/Qually

Be it resolved that 2025 SUO AGM be held on Thursday, November 27th at 4 p.m. at UNC 200 (Ballroom).

Carried.

3.2 By-Election

25/09/11.03

Osadczuk/Qually

Be it resolved that 2025 SUO By-Election schedule and All-Candidates Meeting date be approved as follows:

- Nomination period: September 15th 8:00 a.m. PST – September 28th 11:59 p.m. PST
- All Candidates Meeting: September 29th at 2 p.m. PST
- Campaigning period: October 1st 8:00 a.m. PST- October 10th 11:59 p.m. PST
- Voting period: October 8th 8:00 a.m. PST – October 10th 11:59 p.m. PST
- Results Due: October 15th

Note: In-person campaigns are suspended during the voting period.

Hussain/Osadcuk

Be it the resolved that the voting period be extended, starting from October 7th 8:00 a.m. PST to October 10th 11:59 p.m. PST, so that the 2025 SUO By-Election Schedule and All-Candidates Meeting date will be:

- **Nomination period: September 15th 8:00 a.m. PST – September 28th 11:59 p.m. PST**
- **All Candidates Meeting: September 29th at 2 p.m. PST**
- **Campaigning period: October 1st 8:00 a.m. PST- October 10th 11:59 p.m. PST**
- **Voting period: October 7th 8:00 a.m. PST – October 10th 11:59 p.m. PST**
- **Results Due: October 15th**

Note: In-person campaigns are suspended during the voting period.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3.3 Referendum questions

1) Referendum Question 1_ GSA

Are you in favour of graduate students, effective January 1, 2026, becoming members of the Graduate Students' Association at the Okanagan Campus ("GSA"), and no longer being regular members of the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan ("SUO"), subject to the following terms:

The SUO will cease collecting the current SUO Operating Fee of \$9.70/credit (full-time student equivalent \$174.60/year) from graduate students.

The GSA will begin collecting a GSA Operating Fee equivalent to the current SUO Operating Fee from graduate students (\$9.70/credit or full-time student equivalent \$174.60/year).

As members of the GSA, graduate students will hold affiliate membership status with the SUO.

The SUO and GSA will ensure that graduate students continue to have uninterrupted access to the SUO Health and Dental insurance programs and the UPass. There will be no changes to the method of calculation of the existing Health/Dental and UPass fees.

As affiliate members of SUO, graduate students will have access to Health/Dental and UPass services offered by SUO. As affiliate members of SUO, graduate students will not be entitled to any other SUO services (including but not limited to SUO-organized events, SUO Pantry, SUO Student Association Support, Student Advocate Office, SUO Resource Centres) unless the GSA

and SUO agree that SUO will provide any or some of these services to GSA members under contract. The GSA will make best efforts to provide similar services if the GSA and the SUO fail to reach an agreement on the provision of these services under contract. Graduate Students will no longer participate in the governance of the SUO.

There will be no other changes to the fees paid by graduate students and the total fees currently paid by the graduate students will not increase. Any future fee adjustments, if required, would follow the GSA bylaw requirements.

25/09/11.04

Awais/Hussain

Be it resolved that the referendum question regarding the GSA be approved.

The directors asked the GSA executives about their plans for supporting graduate students, specifically regarding food security (particularly pantry services), club services (particularly cultural and religious clubs), and the use of funding.

Scarlett, the GSA President, responded that they intended to contract with the SUO for certain prioritized services, such as Pantry. She acknowledged that the needs of graduate students differ from those of undergraduates and emphasized that GSA funding would be directed toward initiatives that specifically address graduate student needs.

Osadczuk/Awais

Be it resolved that a note regarding CPI be added to the referendum question, which reads: The GSA Operating Fee will be adjusted annually by the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (CPI), so the referendum question reads:

Are you in favour of graduate students, effective January 1, 2026, becoming members of the Graduate Students' Association at the Okanagan Campus ("GSA"), and no longer being regular members of the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan ("SUO"), subject to the following terms:

The SUO will cease collecting the current SUO Operating Fee of \$9.70/credit (full-time student equivalent \$174.60/year) from graduate students.

The GSA will begin collecting a GSA Operating Fee equivalent to the current SUO Operating Fee from graduate students (\$9.70/credit or full-time student equivalent \$174.60/year).

As members of the GSA, graduate students will hold affiliate membership status with the SUO.

The SUO and GSA will ensure that graduate students continue to have uninterrupted access to the SUO Health and Dental insurance programs and the UPass. There will be no changes to the method of calculation of the existing Health/Dental and UPass fees.

As affiliate members of SUO, graduate students will have access to Health/Dental and UPass services offered by SUO. As affiliate members of SUO, graduate students will not be entitled to any other SUO services (including but not limited to SUO-organized events, SUO Pantry, SUO Student Association Support, Student Advocate Office, SUO Resource Centres) unless the GSA and SUO agree that SUO will provide any or some of these services to GSA members under contract. The GSA will make best efforts to provide similar services if the GSA and the SUO fail to reach an agreement on the provision of these services under contract. Graduate Students will no longer participate in the governance of the SUO.

There will be no other changes to the fees paid by graduate students and the total fees currently paid by the graduate students will not increase. Any future fee adjustments, if required, would follow the GSA bylaw requirements.

The GSA Operating Fee will be adjusted annually by the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Amendment carried.
Carried as amended.

2) Referendum Question 2_ Increase of U-Pass Fee

Are you in favor of increasing the mandatory U-Pass fee (from the former \$70 per student per term, with students paying \$63 and the University of British Columbia providing a 10% subsidy of \$7) to \$80 per student per term, with students paying \$72 and the University of British Columbia providing a 10% subsidy of \$8, effective September 1, 2026?

- **Yes**
- **No**

Note: Should the "No" side prevail in the referendum, the City of Kelowna may exercise its right under Article 13.3 of the U-Pass Agreement to terminate the U-Pass. Such termination, if it takes place, shall be effective September 1, 2026.

25/09/11.05

Qually/Arora

Be it resolved that the referendum question regarding the increase of the U-Pass Fee be approved.

Carried.

[Lai left at 7:01 p.m.]

25/09/11.06

Qually/Awais

Be it resolved that the SUO Board of Directors adopt the Yes-Campaign to encourage students about Yes for the referendum question regarding the U-Pass.

Carried.

3) Discussion

Referendum Question 3_Change of SUO Membership Fee Structure

Idoko motivated that the current membership fee structure was credit-based, meaning part-time and full-time students pay different fees. However, all students received the same services and benefits from the SUO, regardless of their course load. Additionally, the credit-based system increases administrative work for the UBC. Based on this, a proposal was made to change the membership fee structure from a credit-based fee to a flat fee model. The Electoral Committee reviewed the proposal and sought directions from the Board regarding the fee structure for summer terms, given the restrictions on the number of credits students can take during this period. Directors explored the possible fee structures for summer terms with most leaning toward maintaining a credit-based system for the summer terms. Idoko would consult AMS to gather more information about their fee structure for reference.

[Awais left at 7:18 p.m.]

4. DISCUSSION ABOUT ENGINEERING SOCIETY

President of Engineering Society requested approval from the Board to appoint a current council member to the executive position of VP Finance without holding an election. This request was made in light of an emergency situation following the resignation of their VP Internal. The current VP Finance took over the responsibilities and position of VP Internal, and as the VP Finance is the signing authority for reimbursements, the role needs to be filled promptly. In response, Idoko clarified that while a temporary appointment to the executive position is permitted, an election must still be held to officially fill the vacancy, as this is required by the democratic process. Evans further emphasized that executive roles cannot simply be reshuffled; an executive may take over the duties of a vacant position temporarily but cannot permanently change roles without an election. He confirmed that an interim appointment is allowed until a by-election is conducted. Qiu also noted that even for an interim appointment, the opportunity must be open to all eligible members. Appointing a council member directly without a fair process could lead to a conflict of interest. Onyewuchi-Ohiri, serving as their faculty representative, requested additional details about the situation and expressed willingness to support the society as needed.

Additionally, the President of the Engineering Society inquired whether they could run the election independently, without involving the SUO, to expedite the process. Evans confirmed that

while they have the authority to manage their own election, they are still required to use the SUO voting system. He also stated that if any complaints are submitted regarding the election process, the SUO Board retains the right to intervene in the election. Idoko would have further discussion with them after consulting Membership Outreach.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.