



EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union UBC Okanagan, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, November 7, 2025 at 5 PM, UNC133/Zoom

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)	Peter Idoko
Vice President Finance and Administration	Rajat Arora
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
Director-at-Large	Jessica Goel
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative	Ali Wasti
Faculty of Management Representative	Tejas Bhatia
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Quinlin Osadczuk
Faculty of Applied Science Representative	Donald Onywuchi-Ohiri
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	Kiki Akinlade
Faculty of Education Representative	Vacant
College of Graduate Studies Representative	Scarlett MacPherson
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Vacant
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Saami Hafeez

Directors Absent With Regrets

Vice-President External	Olivia Lai
Faculty of Science Representative	Yasmine Trabelsi

Directors Absent Without Regrets

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Governance Coordinator	Lijie Qiu

1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:04 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

25/11/07.01

Golash/Qually

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Appointment of Directors and Student at Large

25/11/07.02

Patnaik/Osadcuk

Be it resolved that Scarlett MacPherson be appointed as College of Graduate Students Representative for a two-month Term, covering the months of November and December 2025. (Special resolution)

Carried.

25/11/07.03

Awais/Golash

Be it resolved that Ghulam Hussain be appointed as Student at Large to the Graduate Student Committee.

Carried.

25/11/07.04

MacPherson/Kyei-Badu

Be it resolved that Kevin Dong be appointed as Student at Large to the Campaigns committee.

Carried.

3.2 Bylaw Amendments (Special Resolution)

#1 Adjustment of the SUO By-Election Timeline

Background: The SUO relies on student enrollment data provided by UBC to conduct elections and verify candidate eligibility. Since UBC's enrollment process concludes in late September, the finalized student data is often not available until the end of September, which impacts the SUO's

ability to administer the By-Election effectively within the current timeframe of September 15 to October 15. It is recommended that the By-Election period be adjusted to October 1 to October 31 to better align with the availability of updated student data and provide sufficient time for the Electoral Committee to prepare and manage the election process.

Proposed Amendment:

- **Bylaw VII:19**

Current wording:

19. If vacancies among the voting Director positions have arisen on the Board of Directors, whether or not the vacancies have been filled by appointment, a By- Election shall be held between **September 15th and October 15th**, of such calendar year, to fill the vacancies by election. With respect to the Faculty Representative positions, only Members enrolled in the constituency of the particular Faculty Representative shall be entitled to vote in connection with the election of that position.

Proposed wording:

19. If vacancies among the voting Director positions have arisen on the Board of Directors, whether or not the vacancies have been filled by appointment, a By- Election shall be held between **October 1st and October 31st**, of such calendar year, to fill the vacancies by election. With respect to the Faculty Representative positions, only Members enrolled in the constituency of the particular Faculty Representative shall be entitled to vote in connection with the election of that position.

Motion:

25/11/07.05

Qually/Awais

Be it resolved that the Board approve the proposed revision to the SUO Bylaws to amend the by-election timeline from September 15–October 15 to October 1–October 31.

Carried.

#2 Addition of Indigenous Representative to the Board of Directors

Background: Over the years, the SUO boards have recognized the importance of increasing Indigenous representation within the organization and have been working toward the creation of an Indigenous Representative position. The revision to the SUO Bylaws is recommended to include the Indigenous Representative Director position.

Proposed amendments:

- **Bylaw VII:2-Board of Directors**

Add the position: “**d. One (1) Indigenous Representative**”

- **Bylaw VIII-Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors**

Add a new section specifying the purpose and responsibilities of the Indigenous Representation role, eligibility criteria, the appointment process and the term of office. The section reads as follows:

Indigenous Representative

7. Purpose

The Indigenous Representative shall serve as the voice of Indigenous students within the Students' Union Okanagan of UBC and shall contribute to ensuring that Indigenous perspectives, priorities, and concerns are appropriately reflected in the deliberations, decisions, and policies of the Board of Directors.

8. Eligibility

To be eligible for appointment, the Indigenous Representative must:

- a. Be a current member of the Students' Union Okanagan in good standing; and
- b. Self-identify as Indigenous, including First Nations, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.

9. Appointment Process

a. The Indigenous Representative shall be appointed on an annual basis through a transparent and respectful process, consistent with the values of the Students' Union Okanagan.

b. The Students' Union Okanagan shall issue a call for expressions of interest to all self-identified Indigenous students who are members in good standing.

c. A Selection Panel shall review all expressions of interest and recommend one (1) candidate for appointment to the Board of Directors.

d. The Selection Panel shall be comprised of the following members:

- The SUO President, or their designate;
- The SUO Vice-President Internal;
- One (1) Non-Executive Director;
- The SUO Governance Coordinator (non-voting); and
- One (1) representative from the Indigenous Resource Centre or such other Indigenous advisor as the Board may determine appropriate.

e. Selection process shall start from January. The appointment of the Indigenous Representative shall be ratified by a resolution of the Board of Directors in March.

f. The current Board of Directors shall conduct the appointment process for the incoming Board term.

10. Term of Office

The Indigenous Representative shall serve for a term commencing on **May 1** and concluding on **April 30** of the following year.

11. Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

a. The Indigenous Representative shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and shall be subject to, and entitled to, all rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities applicable to Directors as set out in **Bylaw VIII Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors**.

b. In addition to the general duties of Directors, the Indigenous Representative shall:

- (i). Advocate on behalf of Indigenous students;
- (ii). Promote initiatives that advance reconciliation, inclusion, and cultural awareness within the Students' Union Okanagan; and

- (iii). Strengthen relationships between the Students' Union Okanagan, the Indigenous Resource Centre, Indigenous Programs & Services, and Indigenous communities.
- (iv). Serve on at least one (1) committee of the board;
- (v). Attend and assist with Students' Union events and engagement activities and submit a written report at the end of each term to the Board of Directors summarizing their interactions with students.

12. Vacancy

In the event that the Indigenous Representative seat becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term, the Board of Directors shall initiate a new appointment process in accordance with clause 9 of this Section.

Motion:

25/11/07.06

Golash/Kyei-Badu

Be it resolved that the Board approve the proposed revisions to the SUO Bylaws to include the Indigenous Representative position as outlined above.

Qually/Awais

Be it resolved that following amendments be added:

Section 9 (d): the president be appointed as the chair, so that it reads “**The SUO President, or their designate (chair)**”;

Section 9 (e): “the resolution” be amended to “a special resolution”, so that it reads “**e. Selection process shall start from January. The appointment of the Indigenous Representative shall be ratified by a special resolution of the Board of Directors in March.**”

Qiu explained that appointing the president as chair of the selection panel would allow them to organize the meetings and supervise the selection process. She also noted that changing the director appointment motion from an ordinary resolution to a special resolution would bring it in line with their bylaw.

Amendment carried.

Directors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using an appointment process instead of an election to fill a director position. It was noted that the SUO has no access to student Indigenous status as the information was highly protected by the UBC. Some directors raised questions about the procedure and criteria to be used in the selection process, and they were concerned that it might not properly reflect a democratic approach. Directors also noted that there had been no consultation with Indigenous student groups, and they emphasized the need to ensure that Indigenous students are comfortable with how they are represented. The original motion failed. The board recommended they bring back this proposal to Policy committee for further consultation with Indigenous groups.

Qually/Osadczuk

Be it resolved that the proposed bylaw change be referred to the Policy committee for consultation with Indigenous groups on the best action regarding the Indigenous representation moving forward.

Carried. The proposal was referred to the Policy Committee.

#3 Change in Membership and Governance Structure-Graduate students being Associate Members.

Background: In October 2025, graduate students at UBC Okanagan approved a referendum to transfer their representation from the Students' Union Okanagan (SUO) to the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). As a result, effective January 1, 2026, graduate students will no longer be regular members of the SUO. Instead, they will hold Associate Member status to receive limited services from the SUO; and will no longer participate in the governance of the SUO. Accordingly, revisions to the SUO Bylaws are recommended to reflect this transition in both membership classification and governance representation.

Proposed amendments:

BYLAW I – INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

- Insert the following as Bylaw I: 2(a) and renumber the subsequent sections:

a. **"Associate Member" shall mean those persons who satisfy the requirements set out under BYLAW II, Clause 3;**

Rationale: Add definition of "Associate Member" to provide greater clarity with respect to the fact that "Associate Member" is a class of membership with distinct rights and obligations.

- Insert the following before Bylaw I:2(o) the definition of "Member" and renumber the subsequent sections:

p. **"Graduate Students' Association" shall mean a separate student organization, approved by a referendum of graduate students at the University, which represents the interests of and provides services to Associate Members who are graduate students at the University;**

Rationale: Add definition of "Graduate Students' Association" to confirm that it is a separate student organization approved by the referendum.

- Change the wording of the original Bylaw I: 2(o)

Current wording:

o. "Member" shall mean those persons who satisfy the requirements set out under BYLAW II;

Proposed wording:

q. "Member" shall mean those persons who satisfy the requirements set out under BYLAW II, Clause 2;

Rationale: Add " Clause 2" because the specific Clause needs to be set out, given that Bylaw II now includes multiple classes of members.

- Change the wording of the original Bylaw I:2(bb)

Current wording:

bb. "Students' Union" shall mean the Student Union of the University UBC Okanagan;

Proposed wording:

dd. **"Students' Union" shall mean the Student Union of the University;**

Rationale: University is a defined term already, which means the Okanagan campus of the University of British Columbia.

BYLAW II – MEMBERSHIP

- Insert the following as Bylaw II:1 and renumber the subsequent sections:

1. The Students' Union shall consist of Members and Associate Members.

Rationale: Add this Clause to clarify that both Associate Members and Members are part of the SUO, but constitute two distinct classes of members. Graduate students will have a limited level of participation in the SUO, and therefore the term "Members" as it is used in the Bylaws will exclude "Associate Members".

- Change the wording of the original Bylaw II:1

Current wording:

1 The Members of the Students' Union shall be any student currently registered in at least one credit course at the University who has been assessed the Students' Union's Fees for the current University semester.

Proposed wording:

2. Members of the Students' Union shall be any student currently registered in at least one credit course at the University who has been assessed the **Students' Union Fees** for the current University semester.

Rationale: Change the language to mirror the language of "Students' Union Fees in Bylaw III Clause 3, and to clarify that this is distinct from any fees that Associate Members would pay.

- Insert the following as Bylaw II:3

3. Associate Members of the Students' Union shall be any graduate student currently registered in at least one credit course at the University who has been assessed the Associate Member Fees for the current University semester.

- Associate Members shall not vote in Students' Unions elections, Referenda or general meetings; propose Resolutions at general or Board of Directors meetings; and run for or hold a position on the Board of Directors.
- Associate Members shall not be included in a calculation of the number of individuals required for quorum or the number of votes required for a Referendum to be acted upon.
- Associate Members shall be entitled to the following Students' Union services: U-PASS; and the health and dental plan provided by Students' Union.

d. Associate Members shall not have access to any services of the Students' Union except as stipulated in BYLAW II, Clause 3, Part c and such other services as may be further agreed to by the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association.

e. Associate Members shall be required to pay to the Students' Union the Associate Members' Fees provided for in BYLAW III, Clause 4.

Rationale: These provisions set out the rights and obligations of Associate Members.

- Insert the following as Bylaw II:4 and remove Bylaw III:10

4. A Member who fails to pay Students' Union Fees when due shall cease to be in good standing and shall not be entitled to:

- vote at a General Meeting;
- vote in a Referendum;
- vote in an Election;
- run for a position on the Board of Directors; or
- hold a position on the Board of Directors.

Rationale: The Societies Act provides that the Bylaw must set out the conditions under which members may cease to be in good standing. The section was moved from Bylaw III Membership Fees to Bylaw II Membership as "good standing" is a more general category that may not always relate to Membership Fees.

- Change the wording of the original Bylaw II:2

Current wording:

2. Membership in the Students' Union shall cease six (6) months after the end of the last semester in which a Member has registered in at least one (1) credit course at the University.

Proposed Wording:

5. Membership in the Students' Union shall cease six (6) months after the end of the last semester in which a Member **or Associate Member** has registered in at least one (1) credit course at the University.

Rationale: reflect different classes of members.

BYLAW III – MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Change the wording of Bylaw III:3 and remove Bylaw III:11

Current wording:

"Students' Union Fees" shall mean fees collected by the Students' Union from the Members, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following fees:

- general programs and services fees provided by the Students' Union;
- U-PASS fees;
- the health and dental plan provided by the University;
- the media fund;
- a library levy; and

f. any other fee or levy approved by the Members in a Referendum but does not include Faculty Fees or fees payable to a provincial or national organization.

Proposed wording:

"Students' Union Fees" shall mean fees **assessed and** collected by the Students' Union from the Members **in accordance with these Bylaws**, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following fees:

- a. general programs and services fees provided by the Students' Union;
- b. U-PASS fees;
- c. **fees for** the health and dental plan provided by the **Students' Union**;
- d. the media fund;
- e. a library levy;
- f. **Fieldhouse Recreation facility levy**; and
- g. any other fee or levy approved by the Members in a Referendum but does not include Faculty Fees or fees payable to a provincial or national organization.

Rationale: for clarity.

- Insert the following as Bylaw III:4, and renumber the subsequent sections:

4. "Associate Members' Fees" shall mean fees assessed and collected by the Student's Union from Associate Members in accordance with these Bylaws, which shall consist of the following fees:

- a. U-PASS fees;
- b. **fees for** the health and dental plan provided by the Students' Union;
- c. the media fund;
- d. a library levy;
- e. **Fieldhouse Recreation facility levy**; and
- f. **Any other fee or levy approved to be paid to the Students' Union by the Associate Members in a referendum of the Graduate Students' Association.**

Rationale: set out the same structure for Associate Members Fees as Students' Union Fees. Please note that it does not include the general program/operating fees of the Students' Union.

- Insert the following as Bylaw III:6, and renumber the subsequent sections:

6. **All Associate Members shall be assessed and pay Associate Members' Fees in accordance with these Bylaws.**

- Change the wording of the original Bylaw III:5-9

Current wording:

5. Where the Students' Union is a member of a provincial or national organization, the Students' Union shall collect in trust, on behalf of the Members, and remit the membership fee as set by such organization from time to time.

6. The Students' Union Fees may be set or adjusted from time to time by Referendum, provided sufficient notice has been given in accordance with BYLAW VI . For further clarity and subject to BYLAW III below, "adjustment" shall mean any increase to the Students' Union Fees.
7. With the exception of fees associated with the U-PASS, the Students' Union Fees, the Faculty Fees and any fees collected by the Students' Union for a provincial or national organization may be adjusted on an annual basis in accordance with the CPI Index.
8. Students' Union Fees and any other fees collected by the Students' Union from the Members shall be posted on the website of the Students' Union.
9. The Students' Union shall refund Students' Union Fees to any Member who withdraws from the University within twenty-one (21) days of registration.

Proposed wording:

7. Where the Students' Union is a member of a provincial or national organization, the Students' Union shall collect in trust, on behalf of the Members, and remit the membership fee **to the Members** as set by such organization from time to time.
8. Students' Union Fees may be set or adjusted from time to time by Referendum, provided sufficient notice has been given in accordance with BYLAW VI . For further clarity and subject to BYLAW III, **Clause 9** below, "adjustment" shall mean any increase to the Students' Union Fees.
9. With the exception of fees associated with the U-PASS, the Students' Union Fees, **the Associate Members' Fees**, the Faculty Fees and any fees collected by the Students' Union for a provincial or national organization may be adjusted on an annual basis in accordance with the CPI Index.
10. Students' Union Fees and any other fees collected by the Students' Union from the Members, **including Associate Members' Fees collected by Associate Members**, shall be posted on the website of the Students' Union.
11. The Students' Union shall refund Students' Union Fees **or Associate Members' Fees** to any Member **or Associate Member** who withdraws from the University within twenty-one (21) days of registration.

Rationale: reflect the Association Members' Fees set out by the Bylaw.

BYLAW VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Change the wording of Bylaw VII:2(c) " eight (8) faculty Representatives as follows" to seven (7) faculty representatives as follows" and remove " viii. one(1) Faculty Representative from the College of Graduate Studies":

2. The voting members of the Board of Directors shall be composed of the following:
 - a. five (5) Executive Committee Directors;
 - b. four (4) Director-at-Large Directors; and
 - c. **seven (7)** Faculty Representatives as follows:
viii. one (1) Faculty Representative from the College of Graduate Studies.

Rationale: Graduate students will no longer participate in the governance of the SUO.

BYLAW VIII – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Insert the following as Bylaw VIII:1(m) and renumber the subsequent sections:
1. The management, administration, and control of the property, revenue, business, and affairs of the Students' Union are vested in the Board of Directors. Pursuant to the foregoing, the Board of Directors:

m. may approve an agreement with the Graduate Students Association for the provision of services to Associate Members; and

Rationale: confirm that an agreement with the GSA for the provision of services is authorized, and that the power to approve such as agreement lies with the SUO Board of Directors.

- Remove Bylaw VIII:3 (e) and renumber subsequent sections; and remove the words "excluding the Graduate Student Representative" from Bylaw VIII:3 (f):
3. In addition to their duties as Directors under the Societies Act and these Bylaws, the Faculty Representatives shall:
e. submit a written report at the end of each term to the Board of Directors summarizing their interactions with graduate students in their faculty;
e. submit a written report at the end of each term to the Board of Directors summarizing their interactions with undergraduate students in their faculty, **excluding the Graduate Student Representative.**

- Remove the words "BC Okanagan" from Bylaw VIII:5
5. The Senate Student Representative shall be a liaison between the Board of Directors and the University's **BC Okanagan** Senate.

Rationale: University is a defined term already, which means the Okanagan campus of the University of British Columbia.

BYLAW IX- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Change the wording of Bylaw IX:3(o)

Current wording:

- 3. The Executive Committee shall:

o. coordinate and engage in, or delegate the authority to coordinate and engage in, negotiations with third parties on contractual matters; and

Proposed wording:

- 3. The Executive Committee shall:

o. coordinate and engage in, or delegate the authority to coordinate and engage in, negotiations with third parties on contractual matters, **including but not limited to the negotiation of an agreement with the Graduate Students' Association for provision of services to Associate Members; and**

Rationale: confirm that negotiation of an agreement with the GSA and negotiation with respect to the administration of that agreement lie with the Executive Committee.

BYLAW X – INDIVIDUAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

- Insert the following as Bylaw X: 1(j) and renumber the subsequent sections:

1. The President shall:

j. in coordination with the Vice-President Internal, be responsible for relations of the Students' Union with the Graduate Student Association;

Rationale: confirm that the President will be primarily responsible for relations with the new Graduate Students Association.

- Change the wording of Bylaw X: 2(c)

Current wording:

2. The Vice-President Internal shall:

c. generally, oversee and coordinate the provision of services to the Members;

Proposed wording:

2. The Vice-President Internal shall:

c. generally, oversee and coordinate the provision of services to **Members and Associate Members**;

BYLAW XVI – RECORDS

- Change the wording of Bylaw XVI:2

Current wording:

2. Subject to the provisions of the Societies Act, the documents of the Students' Union including, without limitation, the minutes of each meeting of Directors, copies of consent resolutions of the Directors, and accounting records for each of the Students' Union's financial years including a record of each transaction materially affecting the financial position of the Students' Union, shall be made available or otherwise open to inspection by any Member of the Students' Union.

Proposed wording:

2. Subject to the provisions of the Societies Act, the documents of the Students' Union including, without limitation, the minutes of each meeting of Directors, copies of consent resolutions of the Directors, and accounting records for each of the Students' Union's financial years including a record of each transaction materially affecting the financial position of the Students' Union, shall be made available or otherwise open to inspection by any Member **or Associate Member** of the Students' Union.

Rationale: all classes of members may inspect records of a Society as Per the Societies Act.

BYLAW XVIII – COMMITTEES

- Remove Bylaw XVIII:4 (f):

4. The following committees shall be standing committees of the Students' Union:

~~f. a Graduate Student Committee that shall be responsible for providing the Board of Directors with recommendations on various internal and external affairs based on graduate student input.~~

Rationale: Graduate students will no longer participate in the governance of the SUO.

Motion:

25/11/07.07

Awais/Onyewuchi-Ohiri

Be it resolved that the Board approve the proposed revisions to the SUO Bylaws to reflect the transition of graduate students from regular members of the SUO to Associate Members, effective January 1, 2026.

Carried.

MacPherson raised a concern regarding the proposed bylaw II:3(a), which indicated that graduate students would have no voting rights in SUO referenda. She noted that the graduate students would still receive U-Pass and Health & Dental services, and therefore they should be consulted if a referendum concerns either of those services. She added that GSA bylaw requires them to hold their own referenda on the U-Pass and Health & Dental plan. She raised a question what should happen if a GSA referendum result contradicts the SUO's referendum result. Qiu noted that the referendum previously adopted by the graduate students clearly stated that they would no longer participate in the SUO governance; and that referenda, elections, AGMs and the board meeting are considered governance events. Evans clarified that in conversations with graduate students about the GSA fee referendum, it was explained that the SUO would have direct control over the Health & Dental plan and U-Pass service, with the consultation and collaboration with graduate students. However, the U-Pass and Health & Dental fee increase is not under the control of the SUO. He gave an example of the potential U-Pass fee increase. If the city notifies the SUO of the U-Pass fee increase, the SUO would have no control of how much it increases. The SUO either accepts it or loses the U-Pass. Idoko suggested a non-voting position for Associate Members on the board. Evans recommended the board develop a consultation framework to ensure graduate student voices are heard either through regulations or MOUs. MacPherson requested an agreement that requires the SUO board consult with Associate Members on the services impacting them. Regarding the consultation, Patnaik noted that the proposed Bylaw X changes assign responsibility for SUO-GSA relations development to the president and the VP Internal, which indicated they would have regular meetings for consultation.

3.3 AGM Agenda Adoption

25/11/07.08

Qually/Osadcuk

Be it resolved the AGM Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Qiu noted that this year an agenda item was added regarding a report on implementation of resolutions adopted at 2024 AGM and that the report would be presented by the Executive Team, mainly the president, VP Internal and VP External.

MacPherson noted that at this AGM, the GSA would stand with the SUO and vote against the petition resolutions that were tabled from the 2024 AGM, as those were not fair to the SUO or the GSA. She noted that those two resolutions were drafted before their conversations with the SUO. Considering the recently adopted referendum, she acknowledged the significant efforts the SUO had made to ensure the graduate students were treated fairly.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.