

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Executive Committee Meeting, January 28th, 2026 at 12:30 pm, UNC105

Executives Present

President (meeting chair)

Peter Idoko

Vice President Finance and Administration

Rajat Arora

Vice-President Internal

Shreya Patnaik

Vice-President External

Olivia Lai

Vice-President Campus Life

Ashley Kyei-Badu

Executives Absent

Staff Present

General Manager

Jason Evans

Operational Manager

Mike Ouellet

Governance Coordinator

Lijie Qiu

Guest

GSA President

Scarlett MacPherson

1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:37 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

26/01/28.01

Patnaik/Arora

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Idoko/Patnaik

Be it resolved that Student Career Development Fee be added.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Yasmine's Month Report Approval

26/01/28.02

Idoko/Arora

Be it resolved that the report approval be tabled for the next meeting.

Carried. Tabled.

3.2 Opt-Out Process

Evans presented the opt-out process to the executives for feedback. He would submit it to the UBC enrollment for approval before he brings it back to the board for approval. Executives approved the opt out document.

3.3 Emotional Intelligence Training

Idoko coordinated the EI Training for the executives, and it was scheduled for February 13th at 12:30 pm during next Executive meeting.

3.4 Pantry Concerns

Ouellet expressed concerns about the potential misuse of the pantry due to its zero-barrier access. In one instance, it was reported that an individual cleared out the pantry and loaded the food into their car. In another case, a student visited the pantry twice in one day—once in the morning and again in the afternoon—filling their backpack and additional bags without considering other students who might need access. Evans stated that this behavior is not a concern unless it becomes a trend.

3.5 Student Career Development Fee

MacPherson stated that GSA and SUO were invited to give a presentation to show their endorsement to the proposed student career development and experience student fee in an hour. The GSA decided to take an opposing stance towards this proposed fee after their board meeting. She explained that based on the document and their follow up emails asking for more information, they could not justify this cost to their members. They can not support this implementation of the proposed fee as the structure seems lack of meaningful oversight and decision-making authority for students. She also emphasized that \$375 per year per student is a big financial burden for graduate students particularly in the current context of high inflation and high unemployment rate. Additionally, she pointed out that in the document, fully funded PhD was not eligible for the service while required to pay the fee. She clarified that GSA had never given them any endorsement before and that the absence of complaints during the consultation meeting held December 19th did not constitute student endorsement. GSA would request for a clear concrete plan demonstrating how the fee directly benefit graduate students and how the benefit would be distributed adequately across student population. They would like to collaborate with the career office over the upcoming year to cooperate students' feedback, develop more transparent governance structure and develop a detailed counsel plan as to how the funds would be used to deliver clear and measurable benefits. She wanted SUO executives be aware of this situation. Idoko expressed that the service would benefit more undergraduate students than graduate students. Based on his conversations with the career office, he pointed out some benefits: 1. increase UBC staff compacity, including career development staff and co-op staff 2. Current data shows the service help increase the employment rate of UBCO students. 3. It could potentially fund some career service which may be cut off due to the funding restraints. Idoko believed the fee was comparatively less than those in other universities, though he agreed that greater clarity was needed.

Macpherson responded that the document did not specify they would hire more career specialists or fund the global pathway program. It broadly referenced that they would increase access to early career planning resources. She stated that it was not a good deal for graduate students, and she questioned whether undergraduate students may receive 3.75 million worth of value per year.

Arora stated that the career office should consult the broader student body rather than only the two student unions. While he acknowledged potential benefits, he believed the university should absorb the cost rather than placing the financial burden on students. Patnaik echoed this concern, noting that tuition increases were already a major concern for students. Kyei-Badu also opposed the fee, citing the lack of a solid implementation plan. Lai similarly opposed the university shifting the cost onto students. Idoko clarified that while he was not opposed to the proposed fee itself, his primary concern was how the university would implement

it, particularly since the final decision was not within their authority. Arora stated that even if they had no decision power over the fee, they as student representatives have the responsibility to stand up and voice student concerns.

3.6 In-Camera (Contract-Legal)

26/01/28.03

Idoko/Kyei-Badu

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved in-camera.

Carried. [1:28 p.m.] MacPherson and Qiu left the meeting.

Meeting was moved ex-camera at 1:40 p.m.

26/01/28.04

Patnaik/Kyei-Badu

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee authorizes the General Manager to proceed with the Receptionist / Service Assistant recruitment as presented.

Carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.