SUO
Students' Union
UBC Okanagan

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EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union UBC Okanagan, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Emergency Board of Directors Meeting, October 15, 2026 at 9 am, UNC 105 Boardroom/Zoom

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)	Olivia Lai
Vice President Finance and Administration	Shreya Patnaik
Vice-President Internal	Quinlin Osadczuk
Vice-President Campus Life	Guransh Sandhu
Vice-President External	Naden Qually
Director-at-Large	Oliver Hale
Director-at-Large	Tim Liao
Director-at-Large	Jenna Bierwirth
Director-at-Large	Laisa Pertet
Faculty of Education Representative	Marci Brooks
Faculty of Health & Social Development Representative	Ali Wasti
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative	Liam Wallace
Faculty of Science Representative	Amanda Bolton
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative	Neela Rader

Directors Absent with Regrets

Directors Absent without Regrets	
Faculty of Management Representative	Mansi Sharma
Faculty of Applied Science Representative	Krishansh Dhawan
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)	Peter Idoko
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)	Saami Hafeez

Staff Present

General Manager	Jason Evans
Operational Manager	Micheal Ouellet
Governance Coordinator	Lijie Qiu
Finance Manager	Leanne Smailes

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.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.

ACCESSBILITY NEEDS CHECK

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Motion# 26/10/15.01

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Moved by Liao; Seconded by Wallace.

Be it resolved that SUO Electoral Reform Amendment be added.
Moved by Liao; Seconded by Patnaik.
Amendment carried.

Be it resolved that the Indigenous Student Representative and bylaw changes be moved before the Presentation of Auditor's report.
Moved by Lai; Seconded by Liao.
Amendment Carried.

Carried as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion# 26/10/15.02

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held September 25th, 2026 be adopted.

Moved by Wallace; Seconded by Bolton.

Carried.

4. New Business

4.1 Bylaw Amendment

4.1.1 Indigenous Student Representative

Three approaches to consider

1) Election through an independent external organization

Example: Indigenous student society (ISS) in UBC Vancouver elect their representative to sit on the AMS board of directors. The rep is an indigenous student, and they are elected by the indigenous student community independent from the student union.

2) Election through a resource center/advocacy group under student union

Example: The Native Students' union (NSU, an advocacy group under UVSS) elect their representative at their AGM to sit on the UVSS board of directors. The rep is an indigenous student, and they are elected by the indigenous student community under the student union.

3) Election by all student Members

CCSS(Camosun college student society) & Douglas Students' Union

Indigenous representative is elected by all members of the society. The rep is self-identified indigenous student.

Recommendation:

SUO Indigenous Student Representative- self-identified indigenous UBCO student elected by all Members of SUO.

Proposed bylaw changes:

1. Add the definition of Indigenous Student Representative and add the position to the board of director's structure:

[Bylaw I- Interpretation and Definitions]

Indigenous Peoples of Canada refers inclusively to members of First Nations, status and non-status, treaty and non-treaty Indians, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada in accordance with Section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution.

Indigenous Student Representative shall mean the Director who is an Indigenous UBCO student and is in good standing with the SUO; Indigenous Student Representative shall be a member of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada; and shall be elected by all the Members of the Students Union to represent and advocate for the interests and concerns of Indigenous students on campus.

[Bylaw VII-Board of Directors :2]

d. Indigenous Student Representative

[Bylaw VII] after Section7

Add: Indigenous Student Representative Director position may only be contested by Members who have self-identified as an Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

2. Add Election policy

[Bylaw V Elections & Referenda] after section 6

Add: Candidates seeking election to the position of Indigenous Student Representative shall be required to submit a completed Indigenous self-identification form as part of their nomination package.

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Indigenous Self-Identification Form

1. Do you identify yourself as an Indigenous Peoples of Canada?

Yes/No

2. Do you identify with one of the following:
First Nation
Inuit
Métis
3. Are you status or non-status _____
4. Please identify the Band/ Nation /Community/Settlement/Treaty Area you are affiliate or hold membership _____
****

3. Add Roles & Responsibilities
[Bylaw VIII Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors] after section 3
Add: In addition to their duties as Directors under the Societies Act and these Bylaws, the Indigenous Student Representative shall:
a. Consult regularly with Indigenous students to identify emerging concerns, priorities, and barriers affecting their academic, social, cultural, and financial experiences;
b. Provide the Board with an Indigenous perspective and ensure that the Board of Directors is informed of Indigenous issues, particularly those affecting the university and its Indigenous student community;
c. Conduct the work of the SUO Indigenous Peoples Collective (IPC), undertake outreach to Indigenous students, promote membership and participation, and organize advocacy events, campaigns, and initiatives;
d. Collaborate with other Students' Union representatives and university Indigenous departments on initiatives involving Indigenous students;
e. Work alongside other SUO affiliated organizations on Indigenous Peoples' advocacy;
f. Serve on the Campaigns Committee and regularly assist with the planning and implementation of Students' Union campaigns, events, and initiatives.

Three approaches to the Indigenous Student Representative Election were presented based on community consultation and policy research. The systemic barriers associated with the first two approaches were outlined, along with the rationale for recommending the third approach. The Board of Directors agreed that Indigenous identity information is privileged and that the third approach would establish low-barrier process while encouraging the broader student body to collaborate with and learn from Indigenous student groups.
The Board also discussed whether eligibility for the Indigenous Student Representative position should extend to Indigenous students from Washington State who are members of the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA), given ONA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UBC Okanagan. It was clarified that the MOU primarily supports academic collaboration between ONA and UBCO. The discussion also noted that the term "Indigenous Peoples of Canada," as used by UBCO's Indigenous, Peoples, and Communities (IPC) department, is grounded in the Canadian constitutional framework.

Concerns were also raised regarding the representative's workload.

The board adopted the third approach by unanimous consent.

Motion# 26/10/15.03
Be it resolved that the proposed bylaw changes be adopted.
Moved by Bierwirth; Seconded by Bolton.

Be it resolved that Point C under the Roles and Responsibility be amended as :
c. work in collaboration with the SUO Indigenous Peoples Collective (IPC), to help undertake outreach to Indigenous students, promote membership and participation, and organize advocacy events, campaigns, and initiatives;
Moved by Qually; Seconded by Wallace.
Amendment carried.

Be it resolved that the policy under Election be amended by adding the words " or appointment" after the words "Candidates seeking election", so that the policy reads as:
Candidates seeking election or appointment to the position of Indigenous Student Representative shall be required to submit a completed Indigenous self-identification form as part of their nomination package.

Carried as amended.

4.1.2 Faculty Representative Duties

Motion# 26/10/15.04
Be it resolved that a new policy be added to [Bylaw VIII:3] following Point (b), with all subsequent points renumbered accordingly:
c. make reasonable effort to attend the AGM(s) of the course union(s) within their faculty and report any material barriers to participation to the board if they are unable to attend.
Moved by Osadczuk; Seconded by Liao.

The Board discussed the workload of faculty representatives, noting that the number of course unions varies across faculties and may result in differences in representatives' responsibilities and workload. A member suggested limiting faculty representatives' attendance at course union Annual General Meetings (AGMs) to three meetings. It was also noted that the responsibility for attending course union Annual General Meetings (AGMs) initially fell under the VP Internals' portfolio. It was also required in their regulation that VP Internal or a SUO director attend the course union AGMs. Faculty representatives could coordinate with the VP Internal accordingly to ensure these responsibilities are managed effectively.

Be it resolved that the policy be rephrased as:
c. make reasonable effort to attend the AGM(s) of the course union(s) within their faculty in conjunction with the Vice President Internal and report any material barriers to participation to the board if they are unable to attend.
Moved by Osadczuk; Seconded by Liao.
Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

4.2 Presentation - Auditor's Report

Motion# 26/10/15.05

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved in camera.

Moved by Lai; Seconded by Wallace.

Carried. [10:15 a.m.]

Motion# 26/10/15.06

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved out of camera.

Moved by Qually; Seconded by Osadczuk.

Carried. [10:30 a.m.]

Motion# 26/10/15.07
Be it resolved that the audited financial statements and the Auditor's Report for the 2025/2026 fiscal year be approved as presented.

Moved by Qually; Seconded by Sandhu.

Carried.

4.3 Discussion on the Implementation of the Adopted Resolutions at 2025 SUO AGM(see Appendix B of the Annual General Meeting Minutes 2025 pp.25-28)

Tabled to next board meeting.

4.4 AGM Agenda

Motion# 26/10/15.08

Be it resolved that the AGM Agenda be approved as presented. (see draft of AGM agenda attached.)

Moved by Qually; Seconded by Wallace.

Carried.

4.5 AGM Preparation

Tabled to next board meeting.

4.6 SUO Electoral Reform Amendment

Recommendation
SUO Electoral Reform: All SUO elections starting from the 2027-2028 academic year to use ranked choice voting. More specifically, all SUO elections starting from the 2027-2028 year will utilize Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for all positions where there is one winner and STV with Redistribution of Surplus Votes at a discount for all positions where there are multiple winners. Droop Quota will be used for quota calculation in both instances.
Proposed Bylaw Changes:

1. Add the definition of Acclamation, Droop Quota, Ranked Choice Voting, Instant Runoff Voting, and Single Transferable Vote

[Bylaw I- Interpretation and Definitions]
"Acclamation" refers to winning an elected position by default without an election;
"Droop Quota" refers to a method to determine quotas for ranked choice voting. It is calculated as [v/(w+1)] + 1, where v is the number of valid votes cast (i.e. excluding abstentions and spoiled votes) and w is the number of winners to elect (i.e. the number of seats to fill);
"Election" means an election to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee, including a by-election, as required by the Bylaws;
The above definition is copied directly from the definition of "election" in the SUO Regulation
"Instant Runoff Voting" is a single-winner election system in which each voter casts a single vote in the form of a ranked ballot to determine one winner;
"Ranked Choice Voting" is any voting system where voters cast a single vote in the form of a ranked ballot to determine one or more winner(s);
"Single Transferable Vote" is a multi-winner electoral system in which each voter casts a single vote in the form of a ranked ballot to determine more than one winner;

2. Amending Election Policy

[Bylaw V Elections & Referenda]
After section 5
6.SUO Elections shall use ranked choice voting for all positions in all elections on or after the 2027 – 2028 Academic Year.
Amend Section 19 (part b)
Previous Wording
b. allows the Members to deliberately mark their ballots in a manner that clearly and distinguishably indicates their support for a Candidate or preference with respect to a Referendum

Amended Wording

b. allows the Members to deliberately mark their ballots in a manner that clearly and distinguishably indicates their ranked choices for the Candidate(s) or preference with respect to a Referendum

Amend Section 20 (part d)

Previous wording

d. allow the Members to easily and deliberately select a candidate and cast their vote.

Amended wording

d. allow Members to easily and deliberately rank the candidate(s) by their choosing and cast their vote.

Amend Section 27

Previous Wording

27. A candidate shall be declared elected if they receive the most votes for that position.

Amended Wording

27. In elections, for all positions where only one (1) person is needed to fill the seat, Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) shall be used:

a. On the first round of counting, each candidate shall receive a first preference vote for each vote indicating the candidate as first preference;
b. Should a candidate meet the Droop Quota of first preference votes after any round, the candidate shall be declared elected;
c. If no candidate reached the Droop Quota, then the candidate with the fewest number of first preference votes shall be eliminated from the election of that position. Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, then among these, the candidate with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the candidate with the fewest number of original first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes et cetera. Should a tie still persist, a candidate shall be eliminated by random draw. Multiple candidates are never eliminated simultaneously;
d. When a candidate is eliminated, all first preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's first preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated. All second preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's next preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated, and so on;
e. This procedure of eliminating candidate(s) and redistributing first preference votes shall continue until the winner is elected or there is one candidate remaining in which then the remaining candidate will be elected.

The above section amendment is a direct modification from Simply Voting election explained
After section 27
28. In elections, for all positions where more than one (1) person is needed to fill the seat, STV with Redistribution of Surplus Votes at a discount shall be used:

a. On the first round of counting, each candidate shall receive a first preference vote for each vote indicating the candidate as first preference;
b. Should a candidate meet the Droop Quota of first preference votes after any round, the candidate shall be declared elected. If there are several candidates meeting the Droop Quota the one with the most votes shall be elected. If there is a tie one of those candidates shall be elected by random draw. Multiple candidates are never elected simultaneously;
c. When a candidate is elected by meeting the Droop Quota, the votes for that candidate are discounted and redistributed: All first preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's first preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated. All second preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's next preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated, and so on;
d. If no candidate is elected or further winners are required without any candidate meeting the Droop Quota, then the candidate with the fewest number of first preference votes shall be eliminated from the question. Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, then among these, the candidate with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the candidate with the fewest number of original first preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes et cetera. Should a tie still persist, a candidate shall be eliminated by random draw. Multiple candidates are never eliminated simultaneously;
e. When a candidate is eliminated, all first preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's first preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated. All second preference votes for that candidate shall be replaced by the vote's next preferred candidate that is not yet elected or eliminated, and so on;
f. This procedure of electing and eliminating candidate(s) and redistributing first preference votes shall continue until all winners are elected or the number of candidates left equals the number of winners (this may occur due to exhausted ballots, and those candidates shall be declared elected).

The above section amendment is a direct modification from Simply Voting election explained

After Section 28
29. Notwithstanding Bylaw V:6, Bylaw V:27, Bylaw V:28, if an election occurs for any position where the number of candidate(s) equals or less than the number of person(s) needed to fill the seat, fifty percent (50%) of the votes or more must be in favor of each individual candidate for the individual candidate to be successfully elected to the position. Under no circumstance shall an elected position be elected by acclamation.
To codify our "Yes" and "No" elections for candidates that have no opposition. I couldn't find a bylaw or regulation having it but I might have missed it.
Simply Voting Source: https://help.simplyvoting.com/docs/preferential-voting-methods

Liao explained the rationale for transitioning from the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system to a ranked-choice voting system, highlighting the limitations of FPTP and the benefits of ranked-choice elections.

Motion# 26/10/15.09
Be it resolved that the proposed bylaw changes be adopted and sent to the Electoral Committee for further review and recommendations.
Moved by Lai; Seconded by Rader.
Carried.

5. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.