



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union UBC Okanagan, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Board of Directors Meeting, May 3 at 1 pm 2024, UNC 105

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 Health & Social Development Representative
Faculty of Science Representative
Faculty of Applied Science Representative
Faculty of Education Representative
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative

Danial Asif
Aryan Arora
Abby Newman
Rajat Arora
Saa'im Imran
Mariam Al Barazi
Sheela Mbogo
Aliasgar Sakarwala
Dina Yaghi
Veeru Seethanaboyina (zoom)
Sahar Sowdagar (zoom)
Elnaz Zamanzade
Olivia Lai

Directors Absent

Faculty of Management Representative
Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies Representative
Director-at-Large
College of Graduate Studies Representative
Board of Governors Representative (ex-officio)
Student Senate Caucus Representative (ex-officio)

Riko Otsuka
Amy Wang
Ananya Bhattacharya
Vacant
Vacant
Salman Hafeez (Saami)

Staff Present

General Manager
Governance Coordinator
Well Pub Manager

Jason Evans
Cecily Qiu
Michael Ouellet

Guests

BCFS
BCFS

Michael Gauld
Jessie Niikoi

1. CALL TO ORDER

Asif called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and he welcomed the new board and expressed his appreciation to the board members for attending the meeting.

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

24/05/03.01

R. Arora/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Newman/Imran

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended by adding two Items under New Business:

7.3 UBC Welcomes You Event - Volunteer Sign Up

7.4 BCFS Skills Symposium Delegate Confirmation

Amendment carried.

Al Barazi pointed out the regulation requires the board of directors shall, at the earliest opportunity, ensure sufficient membership of the Finance and Oversight Committees, prior to the appointment of any other committees. She suggested they should change the order of the meeting by moving the Oversight Committee business after the Finance committee and before other committees. Qiu said the committee business order would not affect the priority to ensure sufficient membership of those two committees. They were appointing directors at the first board meeting, and they could not fill all the positions under the Oversight Committee at that meeting as they would still need to appoint a student at large to the committee in order to have a complete membership.

Al Barazi moved to add an agenda item talking about Penticton Trip as it was canceled, and she wanted more insight.

Al Barazi/Mbogo

Be it resolved that 7.5 Penticton Trip be added under New Business.

Newman wanted to confirm the motivation behind it, asking Al Barazi if she was seeking feedback on this orientation or the details of why the trip was canceled. Al Barazi replied that initially they asked for a discussion of canceling the trip at the previous board meeting; however, there was no discussion before the decision was made. She wanted to know the details of why the trip got canceled. Mbogo stated that the initial intention to request a discussion was to

understand the finance situation and the number that was financed for this year so that they could feel more comfortable making choices. However, the trip was canceled without providing enough information.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

24/05/03.02

Newman/R. Arora

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 24th, 2024 be adopted.

Al Barazi asked about the tabled agenda items from the last board meeting. Qiu stated that at the last board meeting they tabled some motions of policy amendments. Considering the new board just started their term, she would leave some time for the board members to read the regulations and bylaws before the discussion of policy amendments. She would add the motions to the future board meeting, possibly the June meeting. Al Barazi also asked about the CRO report. Qiu stated that the CRO was on medical leave right now, and they would have to wait until the CRO returns to work on the CRO report. Once it is completed, she would attach it to the board meeting for approval.

Carried.

4. PRESENTATION

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Executive Committee

5.2 Finance Committee

A. Arora gave an introduction to the Finance Committee regarding what they do and the committee membership.

24/05/03.03

A.Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 24th, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

5.2.1 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- up to two (2) additional directors

Yaghi, Lai and Mbogo nominated themselves and provided their motivations. A secret ballot vote was administered by Niikoi from BCFS.

24/05/03.04

A. Arora/Al Barazi

Be it resolved that Dina Yaghi and Olivia Lai be appointed to the Finance Committee.

Carried.

5.3 Policy Committee

5.3.1 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- at least two (2) additional directors

R. Arora introduced the Policy Committee. Seven directors nominated themselves.

24/05/03.05

R. Arora/ Sakarwala

Be it resolved that the following seven (7) directors be appointed to the Policy Committee:

Amy Wang; Mariam Al Al Barazi; Veeru Seethanaboyina, Elnaz Zamanzade; Sahar Sowdagar; Abby Newman; Sheela Mbogo.

Carried.

5.4 Campus Life Committee

5.4.1 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- at least three (3) additional directors

Imran introduced the Campus Life Committee, and expressed his high expectation on the directors who would sit on his committee. He would like to see them attend every single event, helping organize and execute the event. Six directors nominated themselves.

24/05/03.06

Imran/Newman

Be it resolved that the following six (6) directors be appointed to the Campus Life Committee:

Veeru Seethanaboyina; Aliasgar Sakarwala; Aryan Arora; Danial Asif; Abby Newman; Sheela Mbogo.

Carried.

5.5 Campaigns Committee

5.5.1 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- at least two (2) additional directors

Newman introduced the committee, campaigns activities from last year, and her initiatives

this year. Five directors nominated themselves.

24/05/03.07

Newman/Sakarwala

Be it resolved that the following five (5) directors be appointed to the Campaigns Committee:

Ananya Bhattacharya; Sheela Mbogo; Aliasgar Sakarwala; Olivia Lai; Veeru Seethanaboyina.

Carried.

5.6 Graduate Student Committee

5.7 Oversight Committee

5.7.1 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- up to three (3) non-executive directors

Asif introduced the Oversight Committee, its mandate and its responsibilities. Al Barazi, Yaghi, Seethanaboyina, Bhattacharya, Sakarwala nominated themselves. Four directors except Bhattacharya provided their motivations. A secret ballot vote was administered by Niikoi from BCFS.

24/05/03.08

Newman/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Seethanaboyina, Yaghi and Sakarwala be appointed to the Oversight Committee.

Carried.

5.8 Media Fund Committee

5.8.1 Striking the ad hoc Media Fund Committee

Asif stated that it was an ad hoc committee and only active on an as-needed basis. However, they would strike the committee and add the membership, so during the summer, they could meet as needed. Asif stated that the committee was responsible for allocating funding to Phoenix Newspaper. He mentioned that the funding was collected as the media fund fee from students. Evans added that the funding could be used for any student media, not limited to Phoenix only. Amy Wang nominated herself to sit on the committee.

24/05/03.09

Imran/A. Arora

Be it resolved that the ad hoc Media Fund Committee be struck for the 2024-2025 SUO Board.

Carried.

5.8.2 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- one (1) director

24/05/03.10

Mbogo/Lai

Be it resolved that Amy Wang be appointed to the Media Fund Committee.

Carried.

5.9 Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee**5.9.1 Striking the ad hoc Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee**

A.Arora stated that the committee had added a new mandate to oversee the club activities. He also introduced the process of funding approval and relevant regulations. Evans added that the committee could request information from clubs to make sure their activities align with the SUO regulations. Al Barazi nominated herself to sit on the committee.

24/05/03.11

A. Arora/ R. Arora

Be it resolved that the ad hoc Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee be struck for the 2024-2025 SUO Board.

Carried.

5.9.2 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- one (1) Director at Large

24/05/03.12

Mbogo/Sakarwala

Be it resolved that Mariam Al Al Barazi be appointed to the Student Association Funding and Clubs Oversight Committee.

Carried.

5.10 Disciplinary Committee**5.10.1 Striking the ad hoc Disciplinary Committee**

Asif stated that the committee is responsible for the complaints against any of the directors and would investigate allegations. He introduced the membership of the committee. A. Arora asked about the difference between the oversight committee and disciplinary committee. Asif replied that the oversight committee oversees the Executives while the disciplinary committee is for all directors. Yaghi asked about its membership regarding the chair of the oversight committee. Asif replied that the chair of the oversight committee would be decided at their first oversight committee meeting.

24/05/03.13

Asif/Newman

Be it resolved that the ad hoc Disciplinary Committee be struck for the 2024-2025 SUO Board.
Carried.

5.10.2 Calls for nominations from the Board of Directors for:

- two (2) additional directors

A. Arora wondered if they should leave some vacancy for the directors absent from the meeting. Qiu stated the directors who were absent could still choose to sit on the committees which have no limit on the number. If they wait till the next meeting to fill out the membership, some committees may not be able to function right away during the summer. Newman added that when she was appointed as a faculty representative last year, she was offered the open positions only. Besides, the directors who were absent had the opportunities to email their preferred committees, just like what Bhattacharya did. Mbogo, Al Barazi and Lai motivated themselves.

24/05/03.14

R. Arora/Mbogo

Be it resolved that Olivia Lai and Mariam Al Al Barazi be appointed to the Disciplinary Committee.

Carried.

6. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

6.1 Senate

6.2 Board of Governors

6.3 Other University Committees

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 BCFS Executive Committee Appointment

Asif thanked BCFS for their training and support and introduced a common practice of appointing their VP External to the BCFS executive committee. Niikoi from BCFS stated that at their executive meetings, executives would receive reports from different institutions including all their activities and campaigns. She would like Newman to share the information from the BCFS executive meetings with other directors.

24/05/03.15

Yaghi/R. Arora

Be it resolved that VP External, Abby Newman, be appointed to the BCFS Executive Committee. Carried.

7.2 Upcoming Meeting Times

Asif stated that he would send the directors the doodle poll to ask for their availability so as to schedule the board meeting for the summer. Meetings in the summer would be online to accommodate directors who were not in town. He would email directors requesting agenda items. Starting from September, the meeting would be in-person. Qiu stated that she usually sends the agenda three days prior to the meeting. If any director has an agenda item after the agenda is distributed, they could amend the agenda at the board meeting; however, she preferred communication in advance. Yaghi asked if communication would be sent via SUO emails. Asif replied that emails would be sent through SUO emails, and text messages would be sent through Team. Al Barazi suggested a fixed meeting schedule after September for the reason of consistency and membership would also have the consistent information of the board meeting. Considering the exam schedule, which was not known at the beginning of the term, R. Arora disagreed to have a fixed date for the board meeting. Mbogo stated that in September course and exam calendar was released, and if some directors could not attend the regular meeting due to the exam schedule, they could accommodate their need. Yaghi indicated she preferred a set day so the meeting could be their priority during the month. Asif was also in favor of a fixed time for the board meeting; however, he noted that if most directors could not make it that month, he could reschedule a meeting. Sakarwala suggested that they decide the date one month in advance. A. Arora stated that sometimes they could not foresee the assignment and exam schedule, and he would think it more convenient to schedule the meeting ten days in advance. R. Arora stated that the schedule should be determined based on the quorum. Asif stated that he could send the doodle poll for two consecutive meetings. Imran stated that he understood the importance of accessibility to the board meeting notice for students, and he recommended the notice of the board meeting be published on their social media to make the board meeting accessible to students and the board. Evans stated that once they know their calendar, they could send a timetable of regular meetings that works for most directors. This could maintain consistency. If situation changes, they could inform the president to reschedule a meeting. Asif would try multiple doodle polls during the summer, hoping to figure out the best solution for the directors and students.

7.3 UBC Welcomes You Event-Volunteer Sign Up

Newman stated that the event would be held by UBCO on May 11 between 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on campus. SUO would have a table during the event. And she was seeking about four volunteers from the board to help with the SUO table. The commitment time for volunteers would be 11 am to 1:30 pm. She would prepare the materials for the tabling. Sakarwala and Yaghi volunteered to table at the event. Asif encouraged directors to text Newman if they are available.

7.4 BCFS Skills Symposium delegate Confirmation

Newman stated the BCFS Skills would be held between May 23 to May 26 in Maple Ridge. Travel would be arranged for them and there would be no other financial expense. It would be a good opportunity to expand the leadership skill and connect with other student leaders from other universities. Lai, Al Barazi, Bhattacharya, Imran and Sowdagar showed their interest. Asif added that it would be like the orientation but in a much larger scale and he encouraged directors to join the event.

7.5 Penticton Trip

Al Barazi asked about how everyone felt about the decision from the previous board to cancel the Penticton Trip. She stated that a Phoenix article talked about an allocation of \$23,000 in the SUO budget to the trainings in 2023, which included the orientation training. She had sent an email on behalf of 7 incoming directors to ask for a discussion at the previous board meeting regarding whether the money allocated was reasonable. As the Penticton trip was cancelled, she was seeking more details of the decision and the remainder of that budget. She also wanted to know how the current board felt as the decision was taken away from them.

Evans stated that the previous board initially planned to have a roundtable meeting with the current board to decide if they should cancel the Penticton Trip; however, the executives were not able to make it due to their busy exam schedule, and they had to make a decision by that week considering the penalty for cancellation. Evans had presented an option to hold the training on campus and made a re-arrangement for the orientation; and Ouellet persuaded the hotel to exempt their penalty. Evans stated that the most expensive cost was to invite those professionals to give the training, and food cost came as the second. Evans explained that he did not have the exact number for the training last year and stated that the expense would be approximately \$17,000. He explained what this expense covered. Compared with other institutions, he did not think the number was significant.

Mbogo expressed her concern on the budget as she said the number Evans gave was different from the one in their email communication. She also thought it concerning that during their email communication, they were not asked if they need accommodation during the training as some of them were moving out in the summer. She stated that the Phoenix was under the SUO and the numbers they published were from the SUO, so she thought the previous board may not collaborate well with them and communication was an issue. Evans

asked about which email Mbogo was talking about. She replied that the email was sent to the previous President asking about the training budget and cc'd the General Manager. Evans explained that the orientation budget was from the budget of the previous board rather than the current board, and the training budget would cover two board trainings for the year. He provided more details about the training budget for staff and the board. He recommended that Mbogo talk with the Finance Manager for exact numbers and cost.

[Lai and Sakarwala left the meeting at 2:46 p.m.]

Imran stated that he understood the reason behind the Phoenix article. He pointed out the SUO does not fund the Phoenix but oversees the fund that was collected by UBCO from students. He also pointed out the budget line is a different concept from the actual cost. They may spend way less money than they budgeted. He valued the orientation which provided necessary training for them to get ready for the position. He stated that it would be worthwhile to spend \$23,000 to train them to manage millions of dollars. As a common practice, all other institutions provide orientations for the new board. If they had had the training in Penticton, they would have had much time after 4 pm to socialize and bond with each other. In his mind, the Penticton trip could have its value in team building. Yaghi stated that this orientation provided what the Penticton Trip could provide. If team building was a key value of the orientation, they could organize other activities. For her, they represent students. If students have problem with them staying at the hotel to have the orientation, she would not like to do that. Ouellet stated that a lot of effort and time were spent on the orientation planning, which the directors did not see. He stated that Evans and he himself worked very carefully with the budget. He saw students were happy and engaging during the Penticton trip in the past and they benefited from the engagement. He also mentioned that when they ran the election, the orientation information was included in the election package. It was their obligation to attend the orientation. Asif encouraged the directors to look forward and they would definitely work on some team building activities in the future.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.