

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Students' Union Okanagan of UBC, Local 12 British Columbia Federation of Students
Executive Committee Meeting, November 28 at 2 pm, UNC133C

Directors Present

President (meeting chair)

Vice President Finance and Administration

Vice-President External

Vice-President Internal

Vice-President Campus Life

Danial Asif

Aryan Arora

Abby Newman

Rajat Arora

Saaim Imran

Directors Absent

Staff Present

General Manager

Governance Coordinator

Jason Evans

Cecily Qiu

1. CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:03 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

24/11/28.01

R.Arora/Newman

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Newman/A.Arora

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended by adding Presentation of a letter for Environmental Chemistry students.

Amendment carried.

Carried as amended.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

24/11/28.02

Newman/Imran

Be it resolved that the minutes of meeting held on November 21st, 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 SUO Building

Asif introduced the proposal to Imran as the other executives were at the Building Steering Committee meeting. He introduced the types of space, the funding options and the process to hold the referendum. Asif cleared some questions from Imran.

5. LETTER PRESENTATION

Newman introduced the context of the letter, stating that the Environmental Chemistry program may be discontinued due to the low enrollment and the retirement of some top professors. Students in the program were upset and asked for the support of the Student Union. Newman and Students' Advocate had talked with the students and their course union and thought about ways to support them. As it was time-sensitive, Newman drafted this letter to show strong support from the SUO for the continuation of the Environmental Chemistry Program at UBCO.

24/11/28.03

Asif/R. Arora

Be it resolved that the presented letter be approved.

Carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

November 28, 2024

Strong Support for the Continuation of the Environmental Chemistry Program at UBC Okanagan

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Students' Union Okanagan, we are writing to express our strong support for the continuation of the Environmental Chemistry program at UBC Okanagan. As an organization dedicated to representing the diverse interests of students, we aim to amplify our members' voices by emphasizing the importance of this program in shaping the future of not only our campus but also the broader community.

The Environmental Chemistry program plays a vital role in preparing students to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our planet today, including climate change, pollution, and sustainable resource management. Through experiential learning opportunities such as co-op placements, research initiatives, and student leadership, the program offers students a distinctive learning environment that extends beyond traditional classroom instruction. Additionally, the opportunity to connect with peers pursuing similar career paths fosters a sense of community that makes this program truly exceptional.

Our members have expressed deep concerns about the potential discontinuation of this program, as it directly impacts the academic and career aspirations of both current and prospective students. The Environmental Chemistry program is not only a cornerstone of UBC Okanagan's commitment to sustainability but also aligns with the growing demand for professionals in fields such as environmental science, green chemistry, and policy development. Eliminating this program would significantly limit opportunities for students eager to contribute meaningfully to these critical global efforts.

Moreover, the Environmental Chemistry Course Union cultivates a strong sense of community and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration on campus. By uniting students, faculty, and staff from diverse academic backgrounds, the course union creates a supportive environment to address environmental challenges in innovative and engaging ways.

We respectfully urge the department to reconsider any plans to discontinue the Environmental Chemistry program and instead invest in its growth and development. Such an investment would ensure that the Faculty of Science continues to provide a forward-looking educational environment that equips students for impactful careers.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support of our students.

Sincerely,

The SUO Executive Committee