

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Students' Union Building

### 1) Meeting Called to Order

4:00PM

#### PRESENT

Brian Chiduuro	President
Amber Storvold	Vice President External
Gagandeep Singh	Vice President Internal
Oluwafemi Akinsanpe	Vice President Finance
Sierra Rae	Women's Representative
James-Dean Aleck	Aboriginal Representative
Chandan Sehgal	International Students' Representative
Caitlin Orteza	LGBTQ Representative
Yash Thakker	Graduate Students' Representative
Tatiana Gilbert	Director-at-Large
Cole Hickson	Director-at-Large
Laura Santamaria	Director-at-Large

#### REGRETS

Gunveet Singh	Director-at-Large
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#### ABSENT

#### STAFF

Nathan Lane	Executive Director
Alex McLellan	University Governance Coordinator
Natalie Reisle	Communications Coordinator
Dylan Robinson	Equity Coordinator
Leif Douglass	Campaigns Coordinator
Parth Patel	Entertainment Coordinator

### 2) Approval of the Agenda

2.1) MOTION  
*STORVOLD/SANTAMARIA*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors adopt the agenda as presented  
**CARRIED**

### 3) Approval of the Minutes

#### 3.1) MOTION

*ALECK/ORTEZA*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors adopt the minutes from the June 14, 2016 Board of Directors meeting

**CARRIED**

### 4) Correspondence

FOR ACTION

FOR INFORMATION

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-057 The Canadian Society for the Study of Education Annual Conference

Reisle reported that she will investigate the significant discrepancy between the projected and actual accommodation expense and report to the Board.

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-093 Industry Field Trip

Reisle reported that there were no actual travel expenses and an over expenditure on accommodation because accommodation was more than expected, and, to compensate, the Faculty covered the travel costs.

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-100 Innovations in Chemistry Towards Sustainable Urban Living

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-103 Enactus Canada National Exposition

Reisle reported that the reported total expenses are significantly less than the receipts submitted. This is likely due to a clerical error and Reisle will investigate.

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-104 Elizabeth Fry: Shining a Light on Violence

Conference Grant Report 2015-CG-110 Canadian Botanical Conference

Reisle reported that the Board awarded a grant at half the amount of the maximum eligibility for four attendees. Four students attended regardless.

### 5) Presentations

TRUSU Grants Application 2015-GE-035 Derivatives Demystified (Alex Prins)

Prins was not in attendance to present the request for a grant.

### 6) Committee Progress Reports

Campaigns Committee (Leif Douglass)

Douglass presented the 2016/17 Campaigns Plan.

The first objective is to run a campaign regarding university funding. TRU is underfunded by the provincial government compared to other universities in BC by about \$1,200 per student or \$9.5 million overall each year. This has impacts

on the quality of the experience at TRU from Library funding to student services to class sizes. The campaign will begin the Fall semester to build campus community support. This will lead to building a coalition with TRU, the TRU Faculty Association, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees local representing staff on campus to make a united request of government.

The second objective addresses tuition fees. This is an issue on which government is intransigent, political parties have been silent, and the public is ambivalent. To address this, the committee will focus on educating stakeholders about the impact of high fees. In the Fall semester, there will be a public presentation. In the Winter semester, the committee will host a documentary film night regarding financing post-secondary education.

The third objective is for student participation in the municipal budget consultation. The city budget impacts students on issues including transit, parks, housing, etc. Student participation will be encouraged and facilitated through outreach, an orientation, and transportation to and from the consultation event.

The fourth objective is to support the BC Federation of Labour in its "Fight for \$15" to raise the minimum wage. Many students work for minimum wage and it has not increased at the rate of expenses such as rent or tuition fees. The committee will spend three days in each semester collecting petition signatures in support of the campaign.

The fifth objective addresses student financial aid and will seek to make student grants a key provincial election issue. British Columbia is the only province in Canada without a system of need-based student grants, and momentum across the country to build and improve these systems – i.e. Ontario, New Brunswick, and the federal government – creates pressure for change. Public opinion polling also shows that the local community supports a student grants system. In the Fall semester the committee will meet with provincial political parties to lobby for better student financial aid policies and presentation to provincial budget consultation. In the Winter semester, the committee will host two visual demonstrations to raise awareness of the issue. This will be closely related to the seventh objective. To increase the effectiveness of this campaign, the committee will propose that it be included in the provincial campaign plan of the BC Federation of Students during its annual general meeting.

The sixth objective is to participate in the federal budget consultation. While the details of that process are not yet available, the committee plans to prepare a submission regarding Registered Education Savings Plans and related tax measures and grants. These programs cost the federal government enormous sums and recent data confirms that it largely benefits students and families with higher incomes who would likely participate in post-secondary education regardless. The committee would propose to reinvest that expenditure to have greater impact on access to post-secondary education for middle and lower income students and families.

The seventh objective is to facilitate student participation in the provincial election. This initiative will be launched February or March. The committee will provide students with information on parties and candidates and logistical information on how to vote. This will include an event for students to meet local candidates, and a grading of parties' post-secondary education platforms.

#### Services Committee (Oluwafemi Akinsanpe)

Akinsanpe reported that the committee has met once since the last Board meeting. The committee has had a discussion about almost all of the Union's services and expects to present its annual plan at the next Board meeting.

#### Entertainment Committee (Parth Patel)

Patel reported that the committee has met three times since the last Board meeting. It has now drafted actions and to complement its objectives and goals, and has begun discussion on potential key performance indicators. The committee expects to present its annual plan at the next Board meeting.

#### Equity Committee (Dylan Robinson)

Robinson presented the 2016/17 Equity Plan. The Plan is designed to support the Union's goal that everyone on campus is treated with dignity and respect. It addresses new areas of equity, and sets out more focused and fine-tuned events and campaigns.

The first objective to raise awareness of and celebrate successes in overcoming the structural and systemic oppression of Aboriginal people in society will be addressed by a Storyteller's Gala. The issue this year will be Aboriginal youth in care. More and more Aboriginal youth are being taken from their families and communities and put in government care. This has led to individual deaths as well as widespread loss of culture and languages. The event will be hosted on November 17, 2016.

The second objective to raise awareness of and celebrate successes in overcoming the structural and systemic oppression of an international marginalized community in society will be addressed through participation in International Days. An event will be held to raise awareness of the Islamic faith by facilitating campus community members to meet with Muslim individuals.

The third objective to raise awareness of and celebrate successes in overcoming the structural and systemic oppression of LGBTQ people in society will be addressed by the fifth annual Pride Parade. The Parade will allow LGBTQ folks to become visible in a community where they may often be or feel invisible.

The fourth objective to raise awareness of and celebrate successes in overcoming the structural and systemic oppression of Women in society will be address by an International Women's Day event. The event will focus on discrimination against women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, and will profile prominent women in those fields.

The fifth objective to raise awareness of and celebrate successes in overcoming the structural and systemic oppression of the poor and working class in society will be addressed on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by hosting a lecture on tax fairness. Picking up on the release of the Panama Papers, the lecture will explore tax avoidance and evasion by the wealthy and its impact on the middle and working classes in terms of increased tax burden and declining public services. Participants will be provided with opportunities to take action.

The sixth objective will address a campus equity issue by having TRU review its forms to be more inclusive of trans people. Currently, forms often do not allow trans persons to indicate their true identities, which is harmful to those persons and provides poor demographic data for the university.

The seventh objective will address a campus equity issue by having TRU implement cooperative education program for graduate and post-baccalaureate students. Currently, those students are excluded from these programs, putting them at a distinct disadvantage in the labour market following graduation.

The eighth objective is to support the Amnesty International Refugees Welcome campaign for faster family reunification. This will be addressed in September while Syrian refugee crisis continues.

The ninth objective is to support the BC Federation of Students campaign to have the federal government uphold its commitment to lift the cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program to ensure that Aboriginal people can access post-secondary education as guaranteed by treaty and constitutional rights. The program has not been funded to an adequate level for over a decade.

#### Policy Committee (Nathan Lane)

Lane reported that the committee last met on June 23, and finalized a list of operational policies to address. For operational policies, the committee plans to address committee membership and selection, grants, and clubs. For issue policies, the committee plans to address career education, university budgeting, student financial aid, and post-secondary education funding. These reflect much of the work that other committee's are planning to undertake.

#### Executive Committee (Nathan Lane)

Lane reported that the Executive attended a lunch with the university senior administration on June 23. Chiduro reported that the lunch consisted by a general discussion of issues the Union plans to address. University administration met Student Caucus issues with hesitation.

## 7) Institutional Student Representation Reports

#### Student Caucus (Alex McLellan)

McLellan reported that the Student Caucus Steering Committee has met twice since the last Board meeting. It developed actions for its projects to improve

campus food service, to reduce textbook costs, and to hold TRU accountable to the recommendations from the Student Budget Consultation.

At its next meeting the committee will consider timelines for those projects as well as the actions and timelines for the programmatic work of student representative recruitment and support and hosting the Student Budget Consultation next spring. Finally, it will consider key performance indicators for the plan, and expects to present that plan at the next Board meeting.

The Student Caucus has also adopted a new approach to long-standing issues with student appeals. Students at TRU have the right to appeal on a number of grounds in order to provide individual students a means to seek redress when wronged and to provide an ultimate guarantee of accountability in the university. Appeals are supposed to be heard by a hearing panel consisting of the Registrar as Chair, two students, and two faculty members by way of a quasi-judicial process. Despite this importance, expected standards, and efforts by the Union over two years to raise concerns, TRU has failed to create a consistent or principled system to manage and hear appeals. TRU has committed to revise the student appeals policy, but has yet to start that work and, in the meantime, appeal hearings have continued with problematic practices. Because TRU is not treating reform of appeals with the appropriate urgency, the Student Caucus has resolved to abstain from appointing student representatives to appeal hearings until TRU can demonstrate that reforms that establish credibility and integrity in appeals are underway. This is intended to: no longer lend the Union's credibility to an unfair system; create incentive to address the issue by shifting an administrative burden to the Registrar's Office; and free Student Caucus resources currently supporting representatives on individual appeals to focus on fixing the system.

**8) Canadian Federation of Students Report**

**9) Finance Report**

Financial Statement – April 2016 (Nathan Lane)

Financial Statement – May 2016 (Nathan Lane)

Lane reported that, as the fiscal year approaches its end, an issue of structural imbalance between the Unrestricted Funds and Capital Funds is becoming clear and will need to be addressed by the Board.

In the Unrestricted Fund, revenues are on track and summer membership dues have yet to be received. After remaining expenditures and provisions for replacement and recovery are considered, the fund is expected to have a \$100,000 to \$150,000 surplus at the close of the fiscal year.

In the Capital Fund, revenue is on target, and summer fees and remaining provisions for replacement and recovery have yet to be received. However, expenditures, including recent unforeseen expenditures, are greater than

expected. As a result, the fund is expected to have a \$100,000 deficit at the close of the fiscal year.

The best-case scenario is that a sufficient transfer could be made from the Unrestricted Fund to the Capital Fund at end of fiscal year to leave both in surplus. The worst-case scenario is that deficit in the Capital Fund is greater than the surplus in the Unrestricted Fund and there would have to be a deficit in one or the other. Importantly, the Union's assets and fund opening balances more than compensate for any deficit. This would not be a matter of financial stability, but rather of choosing how to present the positions of the funds.

## 10) Staff Report

Communications Report – June 20, 2016 (Natalie Reisle)

Reisle reported that the weeks of May 30 and June 20 had increased website hits and Facebook reach. This was driven by the Movie Night survey and the Common Grounds job openings, respectively. Twitter engagement did not experience the same increases because these were student issues and the Union's Twitter followers are mostly faculty and community. The Twitter posts with the greatest engagement both featured photos, for the public polling presentation and the introduction of Graduate Students' Representative Thakker.

A Newsletter sent on May 30 featured the Movie Night survey, the public opinion polling presentation, and information about opting in to the UPASS. The drop in recipients between the April and May newsletters was due to annual list maintenance. The May newsletter not only had a strong open rate, but unique opens were comparable to those in April despite the drop in recipients.

In comparison to this time last year, Facebook reach is steady, Twitter engagement is down significantly, and website traffic is up significantly.

TRUSU Grants Report – June 24, 2016 (Natalie Reisle)

Reisle reported that there have been no updates since the last Board meeting.

## 11) Old Business

## 12) New Business

- 12.1) MOTION – ADOPTION OF 2016/17 CAMPAIGNS PLAN  
*THAKKER/HICKSON*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors adopt the 2016/17 Campaigns Plan as presented  
**CARRIED**

- 12.2) MOTION – ADOPTION OF 2016/17 EQUITY PLAN  
*SINGH, GAGANDEEP/RAE*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors adopt the 2016/17 Equity Plan as presented  
**CARRIED**

- 12.3) MOTION – LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
*THAKKER/GILBERT*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors approve a Leave of Absence of Women's Representative Sierra Rae for the 2016 Fall Semester

**CARRIED**

- 12.4) MOTION – HONORARIA REPORT  
*STORVOLD/SEHGAL*

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors receive the Honoraria Report for the period of June 01, 2016 – June 15, 2016

**CARRIED**

**13) Meeting Time**

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 – 4:00PM

**14) Notices of Motion**

**15) In Camera Section (if needed)**

**16) Adjournment**

- 16.1) MOTION  
*THAKKER/ORTEZA*

Be it resolved that this meeting be adjourned

**CARRIED**