

# MINUTES

76th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students  
Wednesday, July 24 to Saturday, July 27, 2019

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## OPENING PLENARY – Wednesday, July 24

18:52 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Klassen.

### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Chairperson Klassen acknowledged the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, on which the meeting would take place.

### 2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present

### 3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER AND REVIEW OF PLENARY PROCEDURES

Klassen explained that the plenary was the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting and that a Plenary Speaker was responsible for chairing the plenary sessions. They said the Executive Committee was recommending that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker for the general meeting. They said that Hashemi had a long history of involvement with the Federation, and extensive experience chairing general and board meetings for students' unions and other organisations.

2019/07:01

#### MOTION

Local 1/Local 17

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2019/07:02

#### MOTION

Local 12/Local 15

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2019/07:03

#### MOTION

Local 13/Local 17

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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### 6. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

#### a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Hashemi provided a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order—the system of meeting rules and procedures that the Federation employs for plenary sessions, general meeting committee meetings, and caucus meetings.

#### b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Hashemi said that the Federation strives to create an environment at its general meetings that is free of harassment. He said that Internal Affairs Policy F-2 (b) states that at each general meeting of the Federation a Harassment Grievances Committee is struck and that plenary ratifies its three members. It also states that two members of the Committee are selected by the Women's Caucus, and the third is selected by delegates in Opening Plenary.

Local 13 delegate Jessica Sandy provided an overview of Internal Affairs Policy F-2 (b).

Hashemi reported that the Women's Caucus selected Local 13 delegate Jessica Sandy and Local 6 delegate Telka Pesklevits to serve as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee. He said that the general meeting would now select a third, male member of the Committee.

Local 12 delegate Tashia Kootenayoo nominated Local 12 delegate Michael Gauld. Gauld declined the nomination.

Local 6 delegate Mitchell Gamayo nominated Local 6 delegate Francis Ataiza. Ataiza accepted the nomination.

2019/07:04

#### MOTION

Local 2/Local 4

Be it resolved that Local 6 delegate Telka Pesklevits, Local 13 delegate Jessica Sandy, and Local 6 delegate Francis Ataiza be ratified as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee.

#### CARRIED

#### c. Presentation by the Staff Relations Officer

Chairperson Tanysha Klassen, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, provided a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of Federation employees at general meetings.

### 7. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Hashemi said that an application for prospective membership had been received from the Quest University Students' Association, and that the Executive Committee had reviewed the application and was recommending that it be accepted.

2019/07:05

#### MOTION

Local 12/Local 10

Be it resolved that the Quest University Students' Association's request for prospective membership be approved.

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 8. ADOPTION OF 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2019/07:06

#### MOTION

Local 1/Local 16

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

#### CARRIED

**9. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER**

Executive Director Olson reported that in accordance with Bylaw II, a referendum on membership would be held by the newly accepted prospective members during the 2019-20 membership year. He said that the Executive Committee was recommending Stephen Littlely be appointed Chief Returning Officer for membership referendums that would occur in the 2019-20 year, and noted that Mr. Littlely had acted in this capacity for two prior membership referendums.

**2019/07:07**      **MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Stephen Littlely be appointed Chief Returning Officer for membership referendums that may occur in the 2019-20 membership year.

**CARRIED**

**10. PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS****a. Introduction of Chief Electoral Officer**

Hashemi said that in accordance with Internal Affairs Policy B-3, the Executive Committee had appointed Federation Organiser Jenelle Davies to act as Chief Electoral Officer for all elections to be conducted at the semi-annual general meeting.

**b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures**

Davies provided an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

**c. Striking of Electoral Committee**

Hashemi said that Internal Affairs Policy B-3 states that the Electoral Committee “shall be struck at the opening plenary and shall consist of:

- i. the Chief Electoral Officer; and
- ii. two delegates, not seeking election”.

Hashemi said the two other members of the Committee would be selected at this time.

Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz nominated herself.

Local 17 delegate Eleanor Vannan nominated Local 17 delegate Michel Turcotte. Turcotte accepted the nomination.

**2019/01:08**      **MOTION**  
Local 12/Local 5

Be it resolved that Organiser Jenelle Davies, Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz, and Local 17 delegate Michel Turcotte be ratified as members of the Electoral Committee.

**CARRIED**

**11. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES****a. Striking of General Meeting Committees**

Hashemi said that as per Internal Affairs Policy F-3 the following committees are automatically struck:

- the Campaigns Committee;
- the Finance Committee; and
- the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**b. Adoption of Committee Agendas**

**2019/07:09**      **MOTION**  
Local 6/Local 15

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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**2019/07:10**      **MOTION**  
Local 6/Local 15  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Finance Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**2019/07:11**      **MOTION**  
Local 6/Local 15  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Organisational and Services Development Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 12. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Klassen and Secretary-Treasurer Falk provided an overview of work undertaken by the Executive Committee since the previous semi-annual general meeting.

**2019/07:12**      **MOTION**  
Local 4/Local 6  
Be it resolved that Report of the Executive Committee for 2018-19 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 13. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

#### a. Consideration of Motions Served by Member Local Unions

Hashemi said that the following motions were submitted with due notice for consideration at this meeting, and will require a seconder during opening plenary.

**2019/07:13**      **MOTION**  
Local 15/Local 17

Whereas period poverty is the widespread lack of access to menstrual products due to financial limitations which affects girls, women, trans, and non-binary people in British Columbia who cannot afford menstrual products for themselves or are dependants of people who cannot afford menstrual products; and

Whereas almost one quarter of Canadian female-identified people say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children, and that number increases for young people, including students, who have insecure or limited income; and

Whereas period poverty is a symptom of poverty and, as a result, is likely experienced at a higher rate by single mothers, transgender and non-binary folks, Indigenous communities, people of colour, immigrant communities, youth, housing insecure people, people living with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who are affected by poverty at a disproportionately high rate; and

Whereas people who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience extreme social isolation by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame; and

Whereas people who experience period poverty may use menstrual products for longer than their recommended time, or use unsanitary alternatives like rags or newspaper, placing their health and security at risk; and

Whereas the United Way Period Promise campaign has been working to address the issue of period poverty as experienced by vulnerable people in the Lower Mainland for several years by promoting simple policy change and distributing hundreds of thousands of donated menstrual products to community agencies to make the places where we live, learn, work, and play more accessible to people who menstruate; and

Whereas at its June 2019 meeting the Federation's Executive Committee endorsed the United Way Period Promise campaign and signed the Period Promise Policy Agreement; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation work with member locals to develop tools and strategies in partnership with the United Way Period Promise campaign to apply pressure on local

administrators to provide girls, women, trans individuals and non-binary people who are students and staff access to free menstrual products in a manner that reduces menstrual stigma; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work with the United Way Period Promise campaign to encourage the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to endorse the Period Promise campaign as a means of making post-secondary education more accessible and welcoming to people who menstruate; and

Be it further resolved that member locals who employ staff be encouraged to sign onto the Period Promise Policy Agreement and follow the commitment outlined in the Agreement.

**2019/07:14****MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 12

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:13 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED****2019/07:13****REFERRED****2019/07:15****MOTION**

Local 10/Local 17

Whereas according to the Association of Canadian College and University Ombudspersons, most College and University Ombuds Offices in Canada are founded on the same basic principles, namely: independence, impartiality, confidentiality, the ability to investigate and recommend, the ability to promote change, informality, accessibility, accountability and a commitment to fair treatment and fair process; and

Whereas numerous member locals do not have ombudspersons at their institution; and

Whereas access to the services of an ombudsperson could be beneficial for members; therefore

Be it resolved that the feasibility of a shared ombudsperson for members at institutions who do not currently have access to such services be investigated with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the office of the BC Ombudsperson, or the Association of Canadian College and University Ombudspersons; and

Be it further resolved that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training be approached to investigate whether a provincial ombudsperson dedicated to the public post-secondary sector would be feasible.

**2019/07:16****MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 12

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:15 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED****2019/07:15****REFERRED****2019/07:17****MOTION**

Local 13/Local 17

Whereas the Federation is no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas the Secretary-Treasurer does not represent the Federation or BC students on the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw 12.6 be amended to read:

**12.6 Liaising with Member Local Unions**

The Secretary-Treasurer shall regularly liaise with member local unions.

and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 12 be amended to strike sections four and five; and

Be it further resolved that all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

**2019/07:18****MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 12

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:17 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

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- CARRIED**
- 2019/07:17 REFERRED**
- 2019/07:19 MOTION**  
Local 13/Local 17  
Whereas Federation member local unions are no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore  
Be it resolved that Bylaw 16.10 be amended to read:  
**16.10 Distribution of Federation Materials**  
The local representatives shall ensure distribution of all Federation membership advisories and media releases to their respective local union's board of directors.
- 2019/07:20 MOTION TO REFER**  
Local 6/Local 12  
Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:19 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.
- CARRIED**
- 2019/07:19 REFERRED**
- 2019/07:21 MOTION**  
Local 13/Local 17  
Whereas Federation member local unions are no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore  
Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F Article 8.c.ii be struck.
- 2019/07:22 MOTION TO REFER**  
Local 6/Local 12  
Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:21 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.
- CARRIED**
- 2019/07:21 REFERRED**
- 2019/07:23 MOTION**  
Local 13/Local 17  
Whereas the Disabled Access Fund was created in the 1990s to ensure access to Federation meetings, events, and spaces for all members; and  
Whereas language around accessibility issues has evolved since that time; therefore  
Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section C Article 13 be amended to read:  
**13 Use of the Federation Accessibility Fund**  
The Federation will maintain an accessibility fund to ensure access for members with accessibility needs to all Federation meetings, events, and office spaces.
- 2019/07:24 MOTION TO REFER**  
Local 6/Local 12  
Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:23 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.
- CARRIED**
- 2019/07:23 REFERRED**
- 2019/07:25 MOTION**  
Local 5/Local 17  
Whereas conversion therapy is the pseudo-scientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual interventions; and

Whereas the Canadian Psychological Association, American Medical Association, and British Psychological Society all condemn conversion therapy and state that there is no credible evidence that sexual orientation can be changed; and

Whereas these professional medical bodies warn that conversion therapy practices are actually potentially harmful for vulnerable/marginalized populations, especially children; and

Whereas conversion therapy is currently banned in Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, the City of Vancouver, and dozens of countries around the world; and

Whereas protecting LGBTQ+ children from psychological harm done to them under the auspices of conversion therapy should be an important priority for government to take action on; therefore

Be it resolved that letters be sent to Premier John Horgan, Attorney General David Eby, and Minister of Health Adrian Dix, calling on them to support Bill 218, the “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act”; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send letters to Premier John Horgan, Attorney General David Eby, Health Minister Adrian Dix, and their local MLAs calling on them to support Bill 218, the “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act”.

**2019/07:26**      **MOTION TO REFER**  
 Local 6/Local 12

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:25 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2019/07:25**      **REFERRED**

**b. Consideration of Motions Served by the Executive Committee**

Hashemi said that the following motions were submitted with due notice for consideration at this meeting, and that they would require a mover and seconder during opening plenary.

**2019/07:27**      **MOTION**  
 Local 2/Quest University Students’ Association

Whereas the definitions in the Federation’s bylaws do not adequately differentiate between individual members, member locals, and prospective member locals; and

Whereas changes to definitions are needed to reflect that the Federation exists as an organisation independent of Canadian Federation of Students and no longer relies on, or needs to be congruent with, the national organisation’s bylaws, and

Whereas clear definitions are key to universal access to and interpretation of the Federation’s bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw I be amended to add:

**1.1 Federation**

The “Federation” shall be the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I be amended to add:

**1.3 Member Local Union**

A “member local union” is a grouping of individual full members of the Federation collectively represented in the Federation’s democratic structure by a local union, and whose membership responsibilities are executed by their local union.

**1.4 Prospective Member Local Union**

A “prospective member local union” is a grouping of individual prospective members of the Federation collectively represented in the Federation’s democratic structure by a local union, and whose membership responsibilities are executed by their local union.

Be it further resolved that all sections be renumbered accordingly; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I Section 5, Referendum be amended to read:

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A “referendum” will be taken to mean a general vote of the members of a local union, conducted in accordance with these Bylaws.

2019/07:28

### **MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:27 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

### **CARRIED**

2019/07:27

### **REFERRED**

2019/07:29

### **MOTION**

Local 2/Quest University Students' Association

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) expelled all BC Federation of Students members at their general meeting held June 9, 2018; and

Whereas prior to the expulsion, the Federation served as the BC Component of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services); and

Whereas, as the BC Component, the Federation was structurally integrated with the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) in a variety of ways; and

Whereas one of the ways in which the organisations were functionally integrated was the unified and congruent rules defining membership and the processes for joining and leaving the organisation; and

Whereas changes to the bylaw on membership are needed to reflect that the Federation exists as an organisation independent of the Canadian Federation of Students and no longer relies on, or needs to be congruent with, the national organisation's bylaws,

Whereas at the 74<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation was directed to undertake a review of Bylaw II, with recommendations to be brought to the 76<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II be repealed and replaced with the following:

### **BYLAW II Membership**

#### **2.1 Full Membership**

Full membership is a membership of unlimited duration, and is the standard form of membership in the Federation. Full membership is conferred on individual members of students' unions who are certified as member local unions of the Federation per these Bylaws. Only prospective members shall be eligible for full membership, unless the referendum on the question of membership is held as part of a successful referendum to establish an independent students' union.

#### **2.2 Prospective Membership**

Prospective membership is a membership of limited duration.

- a. A local students' union in British Columbia is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its members, Board of Directors, or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.
- b. Within ninety (90) days of receipt by the Executive Committee of the Federation of an application in writing for prospective membership, the Executive Committee shall consider the application and make a recommendation to the member local unions of the Federation regarding the application.
- c. There shall be a vote of the member local unions of the Federation at the next general meeting on the question of approving a recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding an application for membership. A majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) shall be required to accept the application.

- d. Prospective membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.
- e. A prospective member local union must hold a referendum on full membership in the Federation within one (1) year following its acceptance as a prospective member union.
- f. A local students' union's prospective membership lapses at the corresponding general meeting one (1) year after the general meeting at which prospective membership was granted, or when it is accepted by a general meeting as a full member, whichever comes first.
- g. There shall be a two (2) year waiting period between the expiration of prospective membership status before a subsequent prospective membership application will be accepted, unless waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of plenary at a Federation general meeting.
- h. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum on full membership in the Federation support full membership, full membership will be granted as of the subsequent general meeting, at which point prospective membership shall cease.
- i. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum oppose full membership in the Federation, prospective membership will immediately cease upon acceptance of the referendum results by the Executive Committee.
- j. In the event that a referendum on full membership fails to achieve quorum, prospective membership may be extended by mutual agreement of the Federation and the prospective member union in order that another referendum on full membership may be held, provided that the second referendum is held within the subsequent six (6) months.
- k. In the event that a prospective member local union fails to conduct a referendum on full membership as required by this Bylaw, the Federation shall have the option to either cancel or extend, by majority vote of a general meeting, the prospective membership until a referendum on full membership is conducted.
- l. A prospective member local union shall have full voting rights in Federation general meetings, but shall not be permitted to designate a proxy to vote on its behalf, and shall be entitled to all other rights and benefits accorded a full member local union.
- m. A written application for prospective membership submitted by an eligible local students' union on behalf of their members shall constitute a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of full membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students on behalf of their members should a majority of their members vote in favour of full membership in a referendum held in accordance with these Bylaws.

### **2.3 Membership Fees**

- a. As of January 1, 2016 the full membership fee shall be no less than \$8.76 per semester per individual full member, pro-rated as per the practice of the respective member local union with regard to the levying of its local union fee, and shall increase for students registered in programs or courses commencing on or after September 1 each year by the rate of increase in the national Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.  
  
For member local unions whose members hold full member status prior to January 1, 2016, the previous full membership base fee of no less than \$3.00 per semester, or \$6.00 per academic year, per local union individual member shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the new fee is implemented, which shall be no later than December 31, 2019.
- b. The prospective membership fee is five per cent (5%) of the full membership fee, and assessed on a quarterly basis to the prospective member local union based on an estimate of individual prospective members for the duration of prospective membership. A

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two-thirds (2/3) vote of plenary at a general meeting may waive this fee, in part or in whole.

### **2.4 Process to Certify**

- a. Where a referendum on full membership is held among prospective members, the referendum will be scheduled by the Executive Committee in consultation with the prospective member local union.
- b. Where a referendum on full membership is held among students at a post-secondary institution as part of a process to create an autonomous students' union, the Executive Committee will schedule the referendum in conjunction with the referendum to create the member local union.
- c. The official wording for a referendum on certification shall only include the following:
  - i. "Do you wish to become a member of the British Columbia Federation of Students?" and
  - ii. Such other wording as decided by the Executive Committee.
- d. In order to become official, referendum results must be adopted by the Executive Committee.
- e. Should a vote to certify produce a positive result, there shall be a vote of the member local unions of the Federation at the next general meeting on the question of conferring full membership status on the prospective member local union. A majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) shall be required to confer full membership status and full membership becomes effective upon the passage of this resolution.
- f. A positive referendum and subsequent conference of full membership status shall constitute a binding contract that the local union will sign a membership/fee agreement and collect and remit to the Federation full membership fees for the duration of membership, and that the Federation is willing to provide all the rights and benefits of membership.

### **2.5 Process to Decertify**

- a. Petition
  - i. To begin the process of decertification, a petition calling for a referendum on the question of membership shall be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the individual members of the member local union and delivered to the Executive Committee of the Federation.
  - ii. The petition shall be worded as follows: "We, the undersigned, petition the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Federation of Students to conduct a referendum on the issue of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students."
  - iii. The original, unaltered petition must be delivered in its entirety to the Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer by registered mail. Petitions received that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid.
  - iv. The petition may not contain any words or images, with the exception of those required by Bylaw 2.5.a.ii and those required to indicate which fields a signatory must complete.
  - v. In order to be considered valid, a name on a petition must be reasonably legible, include the proper full name, be accompanied by a valid and corresponding student identification number, and a unique signature.

- vi. An individual member may request that their name be removed from a petition. If the Executive Committee receives such a request in writing before the conclusion of the verification process of the petition, the name must be struck from the petition. The name shall not be included in the total number of names on the petition.
- b. The Executive Committee will have the sole authority to validate the petition in order to determine whether or not the petition described in this Bylaw is in order. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the petition, the Executive Committee will initiate a review of the petition to determine if it is in order and, if it is, will schedule a referendum on the question of membership, according to the requirements of Bylaw 2.6. The member local union is responsible for ensuring that the Executive Committee is provided a full list of individual Federation members at the member local union, inclusive of their full name and student number, directly from the institution's registrar; failure to provide this list will invalidate the petition.
- c. Unless determined otherwise by the Executive Committee, the referendum question shall be: "Are you in favour of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students?"
- d. In order to become official, referendum results must be adopted by the Executive Committee.
- e. Should members vote to decertify and the results are adopted by the Executive Committee, ratification of the vote to decertify shall be put to a majority vote at the next general meeting of the Federation.
- f. For a member local union fulfilling the requirements of Bylaw 2.5 and 2.6, decertification shall take effect upon the ratification of the vote to decertify as outlined in Bylaw 2.5 e.
- g. Should a member local union decertify in accordance with this Bylaw and Bylaw 2.6, it shall remain liable for Federation membership dues owed from the date of membership to the end of the Federation's fiscal year (August 31) in which the decertification vote was held.
- h. The individual members of the Federation collectively belonging to a member local union will have sole authority to initiate a vote on decertification, in accordance with these Bylaws.
- i. In addition to required compliance with Bylaw 2.5 and 2.6, in order for a vote on decertification to proceed, a member local union must remit all outstanding Federation fees not less than six (6) weeks prior to the first day of voting.

## **2.6 Referendum Rules**

The following are the rules and procedures for every referendum on the question of membership:

### **a. Chief Returning Officer**

For each referendum on the question of membership, the Executive Committee shall recommend an individual to serve as the Chief Returning Officer. The Chief Returning Officer's appointment is subject to ratification by a general meeting of the Federation.

The Chief Returning Officer shall oversee the referendum and be responsible for:

- i. establishing the notice requirement for the referendum in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 c and ensuring that notice is posted;
- ii. establishing the campaign period in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 b. i. and Bylaw 2.6 d;
- iii. approving all campaign materials in accordance with Section 2.6 e. and removing campaign materials that have not been approved;

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- iv. deciding the number and location of polling stations;
  - v. setting the hours of voting in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 f. ii;
  - vi. overseeing all aspects of the voting;
  - vii. counting the ballots following the vote; and
  - viii. establishing all other rules and regulations for the vote.
- b. Schedule
- i. For votes to certify, the Executive Committee will schedule the referendum per Bylaw 2.4a and 2.4b. For votes on decertification, the Executive Committee will endeavour to schedule the referendum between sixty (60) and ninety (90) days following its determination that the petition is in order.  
  
The scheduling of the referendum shall be subject to the following conditions:
    - there shall be no fewer than two (2) and no greater than four (4) days of voting; and
    - there shall be no fewer than seven (7) days and no greater than twenty-one (21) days for campaigning, during which classes are in session, immediately preceding and during voting.
  - ii. No referendum on the question of membership may be held between:
    - April 1 and September 15; and
    - December 10 and January 15.
  - iii. No two referendums may be scheduled on the same or overlapping days.
- c. Notice of Vote
- Notice of the vote, that includes the referendum question and voting dates, shall be provided to the individual members of the member local union no less than two (2) weeks prior to the first day of voting.
- d. Campaigning
- i. The member local union, the individual members from the member local union and the Federation shall not engage in any campaigning outside of the campaign period.
  - ii. Only individual members and representatives of the member local union, representatives of the Federation and individual members and representatives of Federation member local unions shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.
  - iii. The campaign period is defined as the days the Executive Committee schedules for campaigning under Bylaw 2.6 b.i, and each and every day on which voting is to occur.
- e. Campaign Materials
- i. Campaign materials shall include all materials developed specifically for the campaign.
  - ii. Materials produced by the Federation that promote campaigns and services of the Federation shall not be considered as campaign materials unless they include specific content about the vote.
  - iii. The Federation website shall not be considered as campaign material unless it includes specific content about the vote.
  - iv. The Federation's annual report, financial statements, research, and submissions to government shall not be considered a campaign material.

- v. Campaign materials shall not be misleading, defamatory, or false. The Chief Returning Officer shall be the sole arbiter of whether materials are misleading, defamatory or false.
- f. Voting and Tabulation
  - i. Voting must be conducted by paper ballot or by a third-party online voting system. Paper ballot voting must be conducted at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Chief Returning Officer, by mail-out ballot. Online voting must be conducted by a third-party system not connected to an institutional voting system, and shall be contracted and paid for by the Federation.

It shall be the responsibility of the voting member local to obtain and provide to the Chief Returning Officer, no later than seven (7) days in advance of the vote, a list of all of the individual members of the Federation eligible to vote. If the voting member local is unable to obtain or provide such a list, voting shall be conducted through a double envelope system, whereby the ballot is placed in an unmarked envelope, which is placed in a second envelope, on which the voter writes their full name and student identification number. After voting ends, the envelopes will be compared to a list of the individual members who are eligible to vote in the referendum. Duplicate ballots and ballots cast by ineligible voters shall be discarded. Once the validity of the votes has been verified, the outer envelopes will then be separated from the unmarked inner envelopes and tabulated.

- ii. There shall be no less than fourteen (14) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days.
  - iii. The member local union and the Federation shall each be permitted to appoint one (1) poll clerk for each polling station. Poll clerks shall not campaign during a referendum on the question of membership.
  - iv. The Federation shall be permitted to appoint one (1) poll scrutineer to oversee the counting of ballots.

g. Quorum

Quorum for any referendum on the question of membership shall be that of the local union or ten percent (10%) of the individual members of the local union, whichever is higher.

h. Appeals

For each referendum on the question of membership, an Appeals Committee shall be appointed to adjudicate any appeals of the referendum results or rulings by the Chief Returning Officer. The Appeals Committee shall be composed of:

- i. one Executive Committee member or a designate appointed by the Federation's Executive Committee;
- ii. two individuals elected at a Federation general meeting who are not members of the Federation's Executive Committee; and
- iii. one individual who is not a member of the Executive Committee, selected by the local union at which a vote on the question of membership is being held.

Members of the Appeals Committee shall not campaign during a referendum on the question of membership.

i. Minimum Period Between Votes on the Question of Membership

In addition to required compliance with these bylaws, and except as provided for in Bylaw 2.2 j, in order for a vote on the question of membership to take place, no vote on the question of membership may have been held at the same local union within the previous

twenty-four (24) months, unless waived by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

### **2.7 Binding Contract**

As outlined in this bylaw and specifically referenced in Bylaws 2.2 m and 2.4 f, the application for full membership and acceptance of that application by a general meeting constitutes a binding contract between the Federation and the member local union for the rights and responsibilities of full membership on behalf of the individual full members at the member local union. This binds the member local union to the collection, regular adjustment, and remittance to the Federation of full membership fees for the duration of membership.

### **2.8 Suspension and Expulsion of Member Local Unions**

- a. A member local union may have their voting privileges suspended, for up to twenty-four months, or be expelled from the Federation by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of a general meeting:
  - i. for a breach of a provision of the British Columbia Federation of Students bylaws;
  - ii. for failure to meet its financial obligations to the Federation; or
  - iii. when a problem of duplicate representation arises.
- b. The process for suspending voting privileges of or expelling a member may be initiated by:
  - i. resolution of the Executive Committee; or
  - ii. a petition signed with more than fifty per cent (50%) of the member local unions served upon an Executive Committee meeting.
- c. Upon the process for suspension of voting privileges or expulsion of a member local being initiated, the Executive Committee shall:
  - i. inform the member local union of such resolution or petition within seven (7) calendar days and a minimum of twenty-eight (28) calendar days before a general meeting where suspension or expulsion will be discussed. Notification shall be by registered mail and shall be considered as received upon receipt by the member local union;
  - ii. include the business on the agenda of the next annual or semi-annual general meeting provided one is scheduled to commence no sooner than four (4) weeks and no later than thirteen (13) weeks following the Executive Committee meeting at which the suspension of voting privileges or expulsion is initiated; or
  - iii. organise a special general meeting to deal with the business, to be scheduled for no sooner than four (4) weeks and no later than thirteen (13) weeks following the Executive Committee meeting at which suspension of voting privileges or expulsion is initiated, notwithstanding Bylaw 3.3b.
- d. A member local union, having had its voting privileges suspended or having been expelled, will have the right to appeal said suspension of voting privileges or expulsion to a subsequent Federation general meeting.

### **2.9 Honourary Members**

Honourary members shall be any person upon whom honourary membership may be conferred by a general meeting of the Federation. Honourary members shall not be required to pay fees, and shall not have a vote at meetings of the Federation.

### **2.10 Cessation of Good-Standing**

A member local union ceases to be in good-standing when it has been suspended under Bylaw 2.8 or when it has withdrawn under Bylaw 2.5.

**2019/07:30 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:29 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED****2019/07:29 REFERRED****2019/07:31 MOTION**

Local 2/Quest University Students' Association

Whereas Internal Affairs Policy Section D, Hiring of Permanent Employees, contains references to the Canadian Federation of Students as well as to outdated names for coalition partners such as the College Institutes Educators' Association (now Federation of Post-Secondary Educators); and

Whereas the existing policy has not been updated or reviewed in sixteen years; and

Whereas the revised collective agreement was negotiated with Federation staff in Winter 2019, and those revisions included updated hiring processes;

Whereas the existing policy contains a number of redundant provisions, unnecessary instructional language, and useless procedural descriptions, and

Whereas at the 74<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation was directed to undertake a review of Internal Affairs Policy Section D, Hiring of Permanent Employees, with recommendations to be brought to the 76<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section D be repealed and replaced with the following:

**SECTION D****Hiring of Permanent Employees****1. Hiring Committees**

The Executive Committee will maintain a Hiring Committee comprised of:

- a. two (2) members of the Executive Committee selected by the Executive Committee; and
- b. two (2) members of the staff union selected by the bargaining unit.

No representative may continue to participate in a hiring process when a family member, as defined in Article 26.05 of the Collective Agreement has submitted an application. In such a case, another representative shall be substituted for the original representative. Conflicts shall be declared by the conflicted party as soon as they become aware of the real or perceived conflict.

**2. Duties of Hiring Committee**

The duties of the Hiring Committee in regards to the hiring process are outlined in Article 37 of the Collective Agreement between the Federation and CUPE 2396.

**3. Posting of New or Vacant Position**

The Hiring Committee shall ensure that the responsibilities of the Executive Committee to post new or vacant positions internally is met prior to serving public notice of a new or vacant position.

The Committee shall ensure that all Federation job postings include the following elements:

- a. a brief job description;
- b. wage level and benefits;
- c. address to where applications/resumes are to be sent;
- d. closing date for applications;
- e. target start date for the job;

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- f. a statement that the position is affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2396, and that the Federation is an equal opportunity employer; and
- g. any other requirements as may be outlined in the Collective Agreement between the Federation and CUPE 2396.

Should the Hiring Committee choose to post the position publicly, public notice shall be sent to the following:

- a. member local unions;
- b. at least one (1) job posting website; and
- c. other organisations as deemed appropriate by the Hiring Committee.

#### **4. Hiring Questions**

The Hiring Committee shall be responsible for developing interview questions for each hiring process, and will review, include, and update past Federation standard interview questions in setting questions for each assigning hiring process.

#### **5. Internal Procedures**

The Hiring Committee will be responsible for establishing its own internal procedures for:

- a. scheduling of meeting and interview times;
- b. developing a long and short list; and
- c. the creation and issuance of notices.

The Employer shall be responsible for making offers of employment and liaising with unsuccessful candidates.

The Hiring Committee shall proceed through the shortlisting, interviewing, selection and recommendation processes as quickly as possible while respecting procedural fairness and competing priorities in order to respect candidates and meet the Employer's responsibility to fill vacant positions.

#### **6. Applicants from Outside of the Greater Vancouver Area**

In the event that the Hiring Committee selects an applicant located outside of the Greater Vancouver Area for an interview, the interview may be conducted by video conference. If an in-person interview is deemed necessary by the Hiring Committee, the Federation shall pay for return travel of the applicant for an in-person interview.

#### **7. Contacting of References**

Members of the Hiring Committee shall contact not less than three (3) references of all final candidates. In conducting reference checks, the Committee shall use a consistent process with consistent questions for each candidate in a hiring process.

#### **8. Reporting of the Hiring Committee**

Following the completion of interviews, the Hiring Committee shall report to the Executive Committee, recommending:

- a. the ratification of the hiring of a particular applicant; or
- b. the re-opening of the hiring process.

The Hiring Committee shall make available to the Executive Committee the resumes of the recommended applicant and the other interviewed applicants should they wish to review them. The recommendation and questions of the Hiring Committee shall also be made available to all Executive Committee members. The aforementioned items shall be deemed confidential to the Executive Committee and members and not publicly released.

**9. Hiring of Directors**

Directors of the Federation who choose to submit an application in response to a job posting shall first resign as a director before being considered for the position. Directors participating in transition work may remain in office for no longer than six (6) months following the expiration of their term. Former directors may be hired by the Federation provided that not less than twelve (12) months has transpired since the end of their term and the proposed start date of the position for which they are applying.

**10. Retention and Destruction of Records**

The Executive Committee shall ensure that hiring records, including official documents and committee notes, are retained for not less than seven (7) years following a hiring process. The Executive Committee will further ensure that hiring records are destroyed following the aforementioned retention period.

2019/07:32

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:31 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

2019/07:31

**REFERRED**

2019/07:33

**MOTION**

Local 2/Quest University Students' Association

Whereas there is a long tradition of informal conversations among elected leaders and local staff about the annual Executive Committee elections to consider who might be interested in seeking election, what members of the Executive Committee may seek re-election, who is able to serve in a full-time elected role, and how to ensure regional, gender, and other forms of diversity among the Federation's elected officers; and

Whereas while these informal conversations have generally been held openly, there has been a history of unequal participation between those with a depth of experience and those newer to the organisation, and as a result, there have been accusations that the Federation's electoral process is undermined by the conversations that occur between locals and their representatives in advance of the general meeting at which members are elected into at large positions; and

Whereas since the Federation's break from Canadian Federation of Students(-Services), the Executive Committee has increasingly sought ways to improve internal functions, respond to long-standing criticisms of the organisation, and explore new ways of operating that would produce a more participatory organisation; and

Whereas some complex membership-based organisations with a diversity of participation and a representative structure employ some form of nominations or search committee to facilitate an accountable discussion of potential nominees in advance of their annual elections; and

Whereas the Federation's current election oversight structure is not in a position to serve the same purpose as a nominations or search committee as it does not exist in advance of a general meeting; and

Whereas searching for possible candidates, outlining the roles and responsibilities of positions, and facilitating conversations with interested parties to ensure that all positions are filled in a way that reflects the diversity of the Federation's membership are not functions that can reasonably be undertaken between the closing of opening plenary and an hour before an election forum, a period of less than 48 hours; and

Whereas the creation of a search committee to fulfill the above noted tasks would enable the Federation to evolve its existing informal structures into a more accountable and transparent process; and

Whereas adopting a search committee as an interim policy would enable members to test the value of the structure, determine whether it enhanced or detracted from the Federation's internal democracy, and whether the provisions contained therein were suitable to the goals for the committee prior to making the policy part of the policy manual in perpetuity; therefore

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Be it resolved that the following Internal Affairs Policy Section P, Candidate Search Committee, be adopted as interim policy:

### **Section P**

#### **Candidate Search Committee**

##### **a. Purpose**

The purpose of the Candidate Search Committee is to ensure that there are sufficient qualified candidates for upcoming vacancies among at large Executive Committee positions. The Committee fulfills this purpose by seeking out willing and eligible individuals who possess the qualifications necessary to aid the Federation in the accomplishment of its objectives, and who are able to execute the duties of the associated position. The existence of the committee recognises that candidate search processes should occur in an open, transparent and accountable manner.

##### **b. Composition**

The Committee will be comprised of three (3) individuals selected by the Executive Committee at the meeting directly preceding the notice period for a general meeting at which an election is expected to take place. The Committee shall be comprised of one Federation staff person and two members of the Executive Committee not seeking election.

##### **c. Principles**

The following principles apply to the Committee and the procedures surrounding its existence:

- i. The existence of the Committee and its recommendations in no way limits democratic participation by other members seeking election, every eligible delegate at a general meeting shall be free to seek election for an available position on the Executive Committee.
- ii. The Committee's work is not an endorsement, but simply a coordination of those interested in running to ensure that each position has at least one candidate;
- iii. The Committee may only encourage potential candidates towards seeking election, and may not dissuade those seeking election from doing so; no person shall take any action to prevent an eligible delegate from running in an election.
- iv. Committee members shall not be eligible to participate on the Electoral Committee, nor shall they be eligible to be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer for the election. Additionally, Committee members shall not assist a candidate in any way while the Committee is struck.
- v. The Committee will endeavor to consider diversity in terms of underrepresented groups, type of institution and region in seeking and encouraging candidates.

##### **d. Duties of the Committee**

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- i. Search out, from among active members (those currently elected or volunteering at a member local union), individuals interested in seeking election in one of the at large positions on the Executive Committee becoming vacant at a coming general meeting;
- ii. Provide information about position roles, responsibilities, expectations, scheduling requirements, and other connected elements of at large duties to potential candidates for election;
- iii. Coordinate among potential candidates to ensure alignment between interested candidates and vacant positions;

- iv. Work to ensure that not less than one qualified candidate is willing to run for each expected vacant position at a coming general meeting; and
- v. Report to the Executive Committee meeting immediately prior to a general meeting on its interactions with potential candidates and recommendations made to candidates on their alignment by position.

**e. Dissolution**

The Committee shall be considered disbanded following the close of nominations at the general meeting for which the Committee was struck.

**2019/07:34 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion-2019/07:33 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2019/07:33 REFERRED**

**14. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Davies made a series of logistical announcements.

**15. RECESS**

**2019/07:35 MOTION TO RECESS**

Local 2/Local 6

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until Saturday, July 27, 2018 at 9:30am.

**CARRIED**

19:57 the meeting recessed.

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Elder Lolly of the Snuneymuxw First Nation welcomed delegates and shared teachings and stories.

### CLOSING PLENARY – Saturday, July 27

#### 1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 Students' Union of UBC Okanagan	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present
Prospective Members–Quest University Students' Association	Present

Quorum was declared to be present.

#### 2. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- 2019/07:36 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 20  
Be it resolved that the 2019-20 budget be adopted.  
**CARRIED**
- 2019/07:37 MOTION**  
Local 6/Local 15  
Be it resolved that \$300,000 be restricted to the Capital Fund.  
**CARRIED**
- 2019/07:38 MOTION**  
Local 12/Local 10  
Be it resolved that the Finance Committee Report be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

#### 3. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

##### a. Proposals to remove references to the Canadian Federation of Students

- 2019/07:17 MOTION**  
Local 13/Local 17  
Whereas the Federation is no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; and  
Whereas the Secretary-Treasurer does not represent the Federation or BC students on the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore  
Be it resolved that Bylaw 12.6 be amended to read:  
**12.6 Liaising with Member Local Unions**  
The Secretary-Treasurer shall regularly liaise with member local unions.  
and  
Be it further resolved that Bylaw 12 be amended to strike sections four and five; and  
Be it further resolved that all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

**CARRIED**

2019/07:19

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 17

Whereas Federation member local unions are no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw 16.10 be amended to read:

**16.10 Distribution of Federation Materials**

The local representatives shall ensure distribution of all Federation membership advisories and media releases to their respective local union's board of directors.

**CARRIED**

2019/07:21

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 17

Whereas Federation member local unions are no longer affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F Article 8.c.ii be struck.

**CARRIED**

**b. Proposal to amend language regarding Disabled Access Fund**

2019/07:23

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 17

Whereas the Disabled Access Fund was created in the 1990s to ensure access to Federation meetings, events, and spaces for all members; and

Whereas language around accessibility issues has evolved since that time; therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section C Article 13 be amended to read:

**13 Use of the Federation Accessibility Fund**

The Federation will maintain an accessibility fund to ensure access for members with accessibility needs to all Federation meetings, events, and office spaces.

**CARRIED**

**c. Proposal to update definitions in Bylaws**

2019/07:27

**MOTION**

Local 2/Quest University Students' Association

Whereas the definitions in the Federation's bylaws do not adequately differentiate between individual members, member locals, and prospective member locals; and

Whereas changes to definitions are needed to reflect that the Federation exists as an organisation independent of Canadian Federation of Students and no longer relies or, or needs to be congruent with, the national organisation's bylaws, and

Whereas clear definitions are key to universal access to and interpretation of the Federation's bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw I be amended to add:

**1.1 Federation**

The "Federation" shall be the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I be amended to add:

**1.3 Member Local Union**

A "member local union" is a grouping of individual full members of the Federation collectively represented in the Federation's democratic structure by a local union, and whose membership responsibilities are executed by their local union.

**1.4 Prospective Member Local Union**

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A “prospective member local union” is a grouping of individual prospective members of the Federation collectively represented in the Federation’s democratic structure a local union, and whose membership responsibilities are executed by their local union.

Be it further resolved that all sections be renumbered accordingly; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I Section 5, Referendum be amended to read:

A “referendum” will be taken to mean a general vote of the members of a local union, conducted in accordance with these Bylaws.

### CARRIED

#### d. Proposal to amend Bylaw regarding membership

2019/07:29

#### MOTION

Local 2/ Quest University Students’ Association

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) expelled all BC Federation of Students members at their general meeting held June 9, 2018; and

Whereas prior to the expulsion, the Federation served as the BC Component of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services); and

Whereas, as the BC Component, the Federation was structurally integrated with the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) in a variety of ways; and

Whereas one of the ways in which the organisations were functionally integrated was the unified and congruent rules defining membership and the processes for joining and leaving the organisation; and

Whereas changes to the bylaw on membership are needed to reflect that the Federation exists as an organisation independent of Canadian Federation of Students and no longer relies or, or needs to be congruent with, the national organisation’s bylaws,

Whereas at the 74<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation was directed to undertake a review of Bylaw II, with recommendations to be brought to the 76<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II be repealed and replaced with the following:

#### BYLAW II Membership

##### 2.1 Full Membership

Full membership is a membership of unlimited duration, and is the standard form of membership in the Federation. Full membership is conferred on individual members of students’ unions who are certified as member local unions of the Federation per these Bylaws. Only prospective members shall be eligible for full membership, unless the referendum on the question of membership is held as part of a successful referendum to establish an independent students’ union.

##### 2.2 Prospective Membership

General Description - Prospective membership is a membership of limited duration.

- a. A local students’ union in British Columbia is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its members, Board of Directors, or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.
- b. Within ninety (90) days of receipt by the Executive Committee of the Federation of an application in writing for prospective membership, the Executive Committee shall consider the application and make a recommendation to the member local unions of the Federation regarding the application.
- c. There shall be a vote of the member local unions of the Federation at the next general meeting on the question of approving a recommendation of the Executive Committee

regarding an application for membership. A majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) shall be required to accept the application.

- d. Prospective membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.
- e. A prospective member union must hold a referendum on full membership in the Federation within one (1) year following its acceptance as a prospective member union.
- f. A local students' union's prospective membership lapses at the corresponding general meeting one (1) year after the general meeting at which prospective membership was granted, or when it is accepted by a general meeting as a full member, whichever comes first.
- g. There shall be a two (2) year waiting period between the expiration of prospective membership status before a subsequent prospective membership application will be accepted, unless waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of plenary at a Federation general meeting.
- h. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum on full membership in the Federation support full membership, full membership will be granted as of the subsequent general meeting, at which point prospective membership shall cease.
- i. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum oppose full membership in the Federation, prospective membership will immediately cease upon acceptance of the referendum results by the Executive Committee.
- j. In the event that a referendum on full membership fails to achieve quorum, prospective membership may be extended by mutual agreement of the Federation and the prospective member local union in order that another referendum on full membership may be held, provided that the second referendum is held within the subsequent six (6) months.
- k. In the event that a prospective member union fails to conduct a referendum on full membership as required by this Bylaw, the Federation shall have the option to either cancel or extend, by majority vote of a general meeting, the prospective membership until a referendum on full membership is conducted.
- l. A prospective member union shall have full voting rights in Federation general meetings, but shall not be permitted to designate a proxy to vote on its behalf, and shall be entitled to all other rights and benefits accorded a full member local union.
- m. A written application for prospective membership submitted by an eligible local students' union on behalf of their members shall constitute a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of full membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students on behalf of their members should a majority of their members vote in favour of full membership in a referendum held in accordance with these Bylaws.

### **2.3 Membership Fees**

- a. As of January 1, 2016 the full membership fee shall be no less than \$8.76 per semester per individual full member, pro-rated as per the practice of the respective member local union with regard to the levying of its local union fee, and shall increase for students registered in programs or courses commencing on or after September 1 each year by the rate of increase in the national Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

For member local unions whose members hold full member status prior to January 1, 2016, the previous full membership base fee of no less than \$3.00 per semester, or \$6.00 per academic year, per local union individual member shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the new fee is implemented, which shall be no later than December 31, 2019.

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- b. The prospective membership fee is five per cent (5%) of the full membership fee, and assessed on a quarterly basis to the prospective member local union based on an estimate of individual prospective members for the duration of prospective membership. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of plenary at a general meeting may waive this fee, in part or in whole.

### **2.4 Process to Certify**

- a. Where a referendum on full membership is held among prospective members, the referendum will be scheduled by the Executive Committee in consultation with the prospective member local union.
- b. Where a referendum on full membership is held among students at a post-secondary institution as part of a process to create an autonomous students' union, the Executive Committee will schedule the referendum in conjunction with the referendum to create the member local union.
- c. The official wording for a referendum on certification shall only include the following:
  - i. "Do you wish to become a member of the British Columbia Federation of Students?"  
and
  - ii. Such other wording as decided by the Executive Committee.
- d. In order to become official, referendum results must be adopted by the Executive Committee.
- e. Should a vote to certify produce a positive result, there shall be a vote of the member local unions of the Federation at the next general meeting on the question of conferring full membership status on the prospective member local union. A majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) shall be required to confer full membership status and full membership becomes effective upon the passage of this resolution.
- f. A positive referendum and subsequent conference of full membership status shall constitute a binding contract that the local union will sign a membership/fee agreement and collect and remit to the Federation full membership fees for the duration of membership, and that the Federation is willing to provide all the rights and benefits of membership.

### **2.5 Process to Decertify**

- a. Petition
  - i. To begin the process of decertification, a petition calling for a referendum on the question of membership shall be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the individual members of the member local union and delivered to the Executive Committee of the Federation.
  - ii. The petition shall be worded as follows: "We, the undersigned, petition the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Federation of Students to conduct a referendum on the issue of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students."
  - iii. The original, unaltered petition must be delivered in its entirety to the Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer by registered mail. Petitions received that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid.
  - iv. The petition may not contain any words or images, with the exception of those required by Bylaw 2.5.a.ii and those required to indicate which fields a signatory must complete.

- v. In order to be considered valid, a name on a petition must be reasonably legible, include the proper full name, be accompanied by a valid and corresponding student identification number, and a unique signature.
- vi. An individual member may request that their name be removed from a petition. If the Executive Committee receives such a request in writing, before the conclusion of the verification process of the petition, the name must be struck from the petition. The name shall not be included in the total number of names on the petition.
- b. The Executive Committee will have the sole authority to validate the petition in order to determine whether or not the petition described in this Bylaw is in order. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the petition, the Executive Committee will initiate a review of the petition to determine if it is in order and, if it is, will schedule a referendum on the question of membership, according to the requirements of Bylaw 2.6. The member local union is responsible for ensuring that the Executive Committee is provided a full list of individual Federation members at the member local union, inclusive of their full name and student number, directly from the institution's registrar; failure to provide this list will invalidate the petition.
- c. Unless determined otherwise by the Executive Committee, the referendum question shall be: "Are you in favour of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students?"
- d. In order to become official, referendum results must be adopted by the Executive Committee.
- e. Should members vote to decertify and the results are adopted by the Executive Committee, ratification of the vote to decertify shall be put to a majority vote at the next general meeting of the Federation.
- f. For a member local union fulfilling the requirements of Bylaw 2.5 and 2.6, decertification shall take effect upon the ratification of the vote to decertify as outlined in Bylaw 2.5 e.
- g. Should a member local union decertify in accordance with this Bylaw and Bylaw 2.6, it shall remain liable for Federation membership dues owed from the date of membership to the end of the Federation's fiscal year (August 31) in which the decertification vote was held.
- h. The individual members of the Federation collectively belonging to a member local union will have sole authority to initiate a vote on decertification, in accordance with these Bylaws.
- i. In addition to required compliance with Bylaw 2.5 and 2.6, in order for a vote on decertification to proceed, a member local union must remit all outstanding Federation fees not less than six (6) weeks prior to the first day of voting.

## **2.6 Referendum Rules**

The following are the rules and procedures for every referendum on the question of membership:

### **a. Chief Returning Officer**

For each referendum on the question of membership, the Executive Committee shall recommend an individual to serve as the Chief Returning Officer. The Chief Returning Officer's appointment is subject to ratification by a general meeting of the Federation.

The Chief Returning Officer shall oversee the referendum and be responsible for:

- i. establishing the notice requirement for the referendum in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 c of this Bylaw and ensuring that notice is posted;

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- ii. establishing the campaign period in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 b. i. and Bylaw 2.6 d;
  - iii. approving all campaign materials in accordance with Section 2.6 e. and removing campaign materials that have not been approved;
  - iv. deciding the number and location of polling stations;
  - v. setting the hours of voting in accordance with Bylaw 2.6 f. ii;
  - vi. overseeing all aspects of the voting;
  - vii. counting the ballots following the vote; and
  - viii. establishing all other rules and regulations for the vote.
- b. Schedule
- i. For votes to certify, the Executive Committee will schedule the referendum per Bylaw 2.4a and 2.4b. For votes on decertification, the Executive Committee will endeavour to schedule the referendum between sixty (60) and ninety (90) days following its determination that the petition is in order.  
  
The scheduling of the referendum shall be subject to the following conditions:
    - there shall be no fewer than two (2) and no greater than four (4) days of voting; and
    - there shall be no fewer than seven (7) days and no greater than twenty-one (21) days for campaigning, during which classes are in session, immediately preceding and during voting.
  - ii. No referendum on the question of membership may be held between:
    - April 1 and September 15; and
    - December 10 and January 15.
  - iii. No two referendums may be scheduled on the same or overlapping days.
- c. Notice of Vote
- Notice of the vote, that includes the referendum question and voting dates, shall be provided to the individual members of the member local union no less than two (2) weeks prior to the first day of voting.
- d. Campaigning
- i. The member local union, the individual members from the member local union and the Federation shall not engage in any campaigning outside of the campaign period.
  - ii. Only individual members and representatives of the member local union, representatives of the Federation and individual members and representatives of Federation member local unions shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.
  - iii. The campaign period is defined as the days the Executive Committee schedules for campaigning under Bylaw 2.6 b.i, and each and every day on which voting is to occur.
- e. Campaign Materials
- i. Campaign materials shall include all materials developed specifically for the campaign.
  - ii. Materials produced by the Federation that promote campaigns and services of the Federation shall not be considered as campaign materials unless they include specific content about the vote.
  - iii. The Federation website shall not be considered as campaign material unless it includes specific content about the vote.

- iv. The Federation's annual report, financial statements, research, and submissions to government shall not be considered a campaign material.
- v. Campaign materials shall not be misleading, defamatory, or false. The Chief Returning Officer shall be the sole arbiter of whether materials are misleading, defamatory or false.
- f. Voting and Tabulation
  - i. Voting must be conducted by paper ballot or by a third-party online voting system. Paper ballot voting must be conducted at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Chief Returning Officer, by mail-out ballot. Online voting must be conducted by a third-party system not connected to an institutional voting system, and shall be contracted and paid for by the Federation.

It shall be the responsibility of the voting member local to obtain and provide to the Chief Returning Officer, no later than seven (7) days in advance of the vote, a list of all of the individual members of the Federation eligible to vote. If the voting member local is unable to obtain or provide such a list, voting shall be conducted through a double envelope system, whereby the ballot is placed in an unmarked envelope, which is placed in a second envelope, on which the voter writes their full name and student identification number. After voting ends, the envelopes will be compared to a list of the individual members who are eligible to vote in the referendum. Duplicate ballots and ballots cast by ineligible voters shall be discarded. Once the validity of the votes has been verified, the outer envelopes will then be separated from the unmarked inner envelopes and tabulated.
  - ii. There shall be no less than fourteen (14) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days.
  - iii. The member local union and the Federation shall each be permitted to appoint one (1) poll clerk for each polling station. Poll clerks shall not campaign during a referendum on the question of membership.
  - iv. The Federation shall be permitted to appoint one (1) poll scrutineer to oversee the counting of ballots.
- g. Quorum

Quorum for any referendum on the question of membership shall be that of the local union or ten percent (10%) of the individual members of the local union, whichever is higher.
- h. Appeals

For each referendum on the question of membership, an Appeals Committee shall be appointed to adjudicate any appeals of the referendum results or rulings by the Chief Returning Officer. The Appeals Committee shall be composed of:

  - i. one Executive Committee member or a designate appointed by the Federation's Executive Committee;
  - ii. two individuals elected at a Federation general meeting who are not members of the Federation's Executive Committee; and
  - iii. one individual who is not a member of the Executive Committee, selected by the local union at which a vote on the question of membership is being held.

Members of the Appeals Committee shall not campaign during a referendum on the question of membership.
- i. Minimum Period Between Votes on the Question of Membership

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In addition to required compliance with these bylaws, and except as provided for in Bylaw 2.2 j, in order for a vote on the question of membership to take place, no vote on the question of membership may have been held at the same local union within the previous twenty-four (24) months, unless waived, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

### **2.7 Binding Contract**

As outlined in this bylaw and specifically referenced in Bylaws 2.2 m and 2.4 f, the application for full membership and acceptance of that application by a general meeting constitutes a binding contract between the Federation and the member local for the rights and responsibilities of full membership on behalf of the individual full members at the member local union. This binds the member local union to the collection, regular adjustment, and remittance to the Federation of full membership fees for the duration of membership.

### **2.8 Suspension and Expulsion of Member Local Unions**

- a. A member local union may have their voting privileges suspended, for up to twenty-four months, or be expelled from the Federation by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of a general meeting:
  - i. for a breach of a provision of the British Columbia Federation of Students bylaws;
  - ii. for failure to meet its financial obligations to the Federation; or
  - iii. when a problem of duplicate representation arises.
- b. The process for suspending voting privileges of or expelling a member may be initiated by:
  - i. resolution of the Executive Committee; or
  - ii. a petition signed with more than fifty per cent (50%) of the member local unions served upon an Executive Committee meeting.
- c. Upon the process for suspension of voting privileges or expulsion of a member local being initiated, the Executive Committee shall:
  - i. inform the member local union of such resolution or petition within seven (7) calendar days and a minimum of twenty-eight (28) calendar days before a general meeting where suspension or expulsion will be discussed. Notification shall be by registered mail and shall be considered as received upon receipt by the member local union;
  - ii. include the business on the agenda of the next annual or semi-annual general meeting provided one is scheduled to commence no sooner than four (4) weeks and no later than thirteen (13) weeks following the Executive Committee meeting at which the suspension of voting privileges or expulsion is initiated; or
  - iii. organise a special general meeting to deal with the business, to be scheduled for no sooner than four (4) weeks and no later than thirteen (13) weeks following the Executive Committee meeting at which suspension of voting privileges or expulsion is initiated, notwithstanding Bylaw 3.3b.
- d. A member local union, having had its voting privileges suspended or having been expelled, will have the right to appeal said suspension of voting privileges or expulsion to a subsequent British Columbia Federation of Students general meeting.

### **2.9 Honourary Members**

Honourary members shall be any person upon whom honourary membership may be conferred by a general meeting of the Federation. Honourary members shall not be required to pay fees, and shall not have a vote at meetings of the Federation.

**2.10 Cessation of Good-Standing**

A member local union ceases to be in good-standing when it has been suspended under Bylaw 2.8 or when it has withdrawn under Bylaw 2.5.

**CARRIED****g. Proposal to update policy on hiring practices**

2019/07:31

**MOTION**

Local 2/ Quest University Students' Association

Whereas Internal Affairs Policy Section D, Hiring of Permanent Employees, contains references to the Canadian Federation of Students as well as to outdated names for coalition partners such as the College Institutes Educators' Association (now Federation of Post-Secondary Educators); and

Whereas the existing policy has not been updated or reviewed in sixteen years; and

Whereas the a revised collective agreement was negotiated with Federation staff in Winter 2019, and those revisions included updated hiring processes;

Whereas the existing policy contains a number of redundant provisions, unnecessary instructional language, and useless procedural descriptions, and

Whereas at the 74<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation was directed to undertake a review of Internal Affairs Policy Section D, Hiring of Permanent Employees, with recommendations to be brought to the 76<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section D be repealed and replaced with the following:

**SECTION D****Hiring of Permanent Employees****1. Hiring Committees**

The Executive Committee will maintain a Hiring Committee comprised of:

- a. two (2) members of the Executive Committee selected by the Executive Committee; and
- b. two (2) members of the staff union by the bargaining unit.

No representative may continue to participate in a hiring process when a family member, as defined in Article 26.05 of the Collective Agreement has submitted an application. In such a case, another representative shall be substituted for the original representative. Conflicts shall be declared by the conflicted party as soon as they become aware of the real or perceived conflict.

**2. Duties of Hiring Committee**

The duties of the Hiring Committee in regards to the hiring process are outlined in Article 37 of the Collective Agreement between the Federation and CUPE 2396.

**3. Posting of New or Vacant Position**

The Hiring Committee shall ensure that the responsibilities of the Executive Committee to post new or vacant positions internally is met prior to serving public notice of a new or vacant position.

The Committee shall ensure that all Federation job postings includes the following elements:

- a. a brief job description;
- b. wage level and benefits;
- c. address to where applications/resumes are to be sent;
- d. closing date for applications;
- e. target start date for the job;

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- f. a statement that the position is affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2396, and that the Federation is an equal opportunity employer; and
- g. any other requirements as may be outlined in the Collective Agreement between the Federation and CUPE 2396.

Should the Hiring Committee choose to post the position publicly, public notice shall be sent to the following:

- a. member local unions;
- b. at least one (1) job posting website; and
- c. other organisations as deemed appropriate by the Hiring Committee.

#### **4. Hiring Questions**

The Hiring Committee shall be responsible for developing interview questions for each hiring process, and will review, include, and update past Federation standard interview questions in setting questions for each assigning hiring process.

#### **5. Internal Procedures**

The Hiring Committee will be responsible for establishing its own internal procedures for:

- a. scheduling of meeting and interview times;
- b. developing a long and short list; and
- c. the creation and issuance of notices.

The Employer shall be responsible for making offers of employment and liaising with unsuccessful candidates.

The Hiring Committee shall proceed through the shortlisting, interviewing, selection and recommendation processes as quickly as possible while respecting procedural fairness and competing priorities in order to respect candidates and meet the Employer's responsibility to fill vacant positions.

#### **6. Applicants from Outside of the Greater Vancouver Area**

In the event that the Hiring Committee selects an applicant located outside of the Greater Vancouver Area for an interview, the interview may be conducted by video conference. If an in-person interview is deemed necessary by the Hiring Committee, the Federation shall pay for return travel of the applicant for an in-person interview.

#### **7. Contacting of References**

Members of the Hiring Committee shall contact not less than three (3) references of all final candidates. In conducting reference checks, the Committee shall use a consistent process with consistent questions for each candidate in a hiring process.

#### **8. Reporting of the Hiring Committee**

Following the completion of interviews, the Hiring Committee shall report to the Executive Committee, recommending:

- a. the ratification of the hiring of a particular applicant; or
- b. the re-opening of the hiring process.

The Hiring Committee shall make available to the Executive Committee the resumes of the recommended applicant and the other interviewed applicants should they wish to review them. The recommendation and questions of the Hiring Committee shall also be made available to all Executive Committee members. The aforementioned items shall be deemed confidential to the Executive Committee and members and not publicly released.

**9. Hiring of Directors**

Directors of the Federation who choose to submit an application in response to a job posting shall first resign as a director before being considered for the position. Directors participating in transition work may remain in office for no longer than six (6) months following the expiration of their term. Former directors may be hired by the Federation provided that not less than twelve (12) months has transpired since the end of their term and the proposed start date of the position for which they are applying.

**10. Retention and Destruction of Records**

The Executive Committee shall ensure that hiring records, including official documents and committee notes, are retained for not less than seven (7) years following a hiring process. The Executive Committee will further ensure that hiring records are destroyed following the aforementioned retention period.

**CARRIED**

**h. Proposal to adopt interim policy**

2019/07:33

**MOTION**

Local 2/ Quest University Students' Association

Whereas there is a long tradition of informal conversations among elected leaders and local staff about the annual Executive Committee elections to consider who might be interested in seeking election, what members of the Executive Committee may seek re-election, who is able to serve in a full-time elected role, and how to ensure regional, gender, and other forms of diversity among the Federation's elected officers; and

Whereas while these informal conversations have generally been held openly, there has been a history of unequal participation between those with a depth of experience and those newer to the organisation, and as a result, there have been accusations that the Federation's electoral process is undermined by the conversations that occur between locals and their representatives in advance of the general meeting at which members are elected into at large positions; and

Whereas since the Federation's break from Canadian Federation of Students(-Services), the Executive Committee has increasingly sought ways to improve internal functions, respond to long-standing criticisms of the organisation, and explore new ways of operating that would produce a more participatory organisation; and

Whereas some complex membership-based organisations with a diversity of participation and a representative structure employ some form of nominations or search committee to facilitate an accountable discussion of potential nominees in advance of their annual elections; and

Whereas the Federation's current election oversight structure is not in a position to serve the same purpose as a nominations or search committee as it does not exist in advance of a general meeting; and

Whereas searching for possible candidates, outlining the roles and responsibilities of positions, and facilitating conversations with interested parties to ensure that all positions are filled in a way that reflects the diversity of the Federation's membership are not functions that can reasonably be undertaken between the closing of opening plenary and an hour before an election forum, a period of less than 48 hours; and

Whereas the creation of a search committee to fulfill the above noted tasks would enable the Federation to evolve its existing informal structures into a more accountable and transparent process; and

Whereas adopting a search committee as an interim policy would enable members to test the value of the structure, determine whether it enhanced or detracted from the Federation's internal democracy, and whether the provisions contained therein were suitable to the goals for the committee prior to making the policy part of the policy manual in perpetuity; therefore

Be it resolved that the following Internal Affairs Policy Section P, Candidate Search Committee, be adopted as interim policy:

**Section P**

**Candidate Search Committee**

**a. Purpose**

The purpose of the Candidate Search Committee is to ensure that there are sufficient qualified candidates for upcoming vacancies among at large Executive Committee positions. The Committee fulfills this purpose by seeking out willing and eligible individuals who possess the qualifications necessary to aid the Federation in the accomplishment of its objectives, and who are able to execute the duties of the associated position. The existence of the committee recognises that candidate search processes should occur in an open, transparent and accountable manner.

**b. Composition**

The Committee will be comprised of three (3) individuals selected by the Executive Committee at the meeting directly preceding the notice period for a general meeting at which an election is expected to take place. The Committee shall be comprised of one Federation staff person and two members of the Executive Committee not seeking election.

**c. Principles**

The following principles apply to the Committee and the procedures surrounding its existence:

- i. The existence of the Committee and its recommendations in no way limits democratic participation by other members seeking election, every eligible delegate at a general meeting shall be free to seek election for an available position on the Executive Committee.
- ii. The Committee's work is not an endorsement, but simply a coordination of those interested in running to ensure that each position has at least one candidate;
- iii. The Committee may only encourage potential candidates towards seeking election, and may not dissuade those seeking election from doing so; no person shall take any action to prevent an eligible delegate from running in an election.
- iv. Committee members shall not be eligible to participate on the Electoral Committee, nor shall they be eligible to be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer for the election. Additionally, Committee members shall not assist a candidate in any way while the Committee is struck.
- v. The Committee will endeavor to consider diversity in terms of underrepresented groups, type of institution and region in seeking and encouraging candidates.

**d. Duties of the Committee**

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- i. Search out, from among active members (those currently elected or volunteering at a member local union), individuals interested in seeking election in one of the at large positions on the Executive Committee becoming vacant at a coming general meeting;
- ii. Provide information about position roles, responsibilities, expectations, scheduling requirements, and other connected elements of at large duties to potential candidates for election;
- iii. Coordinate among potential candidates to ensure alignment between interested candidates and vacant positions;
- iv. Work to ensure that not less than one qualified candidate is willing to run for each expected vacant position at a coming general meeting; and

- v. Report to the Executive Committee meeting immediate prior to a general meeting on its interactions with potential candidates and recommendations made to candidates on their alignment by position.

- e. **Dissolution**

The Committee shall be considered disbanded following the close of nominations at the general meeting for which the Committee was struck.

**CARRIED**

2019/07:39

**MOTION**

Local 20/Local 12

Be it resolved that the Organisational and Services Development Committee Report be adopted.

**CARRIED****4. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT****a. Proposal to Endorse Period Promise Campaign**

2019/07:13

**MOTION**

Local 15/Local 17

Whereas period poverty is the widespread lack of access to menstrual products due to financial limitations which affects girls, women, trans, and non-binary people in British Columbia who cannot afford menstrual products for themselves or are dependents of people who cannot afford menstrual products; and

Whereas almost one quarter of Canadian female-identified people say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children, and that number increases for young people, including students, who have insecure or limited income; and

Whereas period poverty is a symptom of poverty and, as a result, is likely experienced at a higher rate by single mothers, transgender and non-binary folks, Indigenous communities, people of colour, immigrant communities, youth, housing insecure people, people living with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who are affected by poverty at a disproportionately high rate; and

Whereas people who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience extreme social isolation by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame; and

Whereas people who experience period poverty may use menstrual products for longer than their recommended time, or use unsanitary alternatives like rags or newspaper, placing their health and security at risk; and

Whereas the United Way Period Promise campaign has been working to address the issue of period poverty as experienced by vulnerable people in the Lower Mainland for several years by promoting simple policy change and distributing hundreds of thousands of donated menstrual products to community agencies to make the places where we live, learn, work, and play more accessible to people who menstruate; and

Whereas at its June 2019 meeting the Federation's Executive Committee endorsed the United Way Period Promise campaign and signed the Period Promise Policy Agreement; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation work with member locals to develop tools and strategies in partnership with the United Way Period Promise campaign to apply pressure on local administrators to provide girls, women, trans individuals and non-binary people who are students and staff access to free menstrual products in a manner that reduces menstrual stigma; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work with the United Way Period Promise campaign to encourage the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to endorse the Period Promise campaign as a means of making post-secondary education more accessible and welcoming to people who menstruate; and

Be it further resolved that member locals who employ staff be encouraged to sign onto the Period Promise Policy Agreement and follow the commitment outlined in the Agreement.

**CARRIED**

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**b. Proposal to advocate for a provincial ombudsperson for the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**

**2019/07:15**      **MOTION**  
Local 10/Local 17

Whereas according to the Association of Canadian College and University Ombudspersons, most College and University Ombuds Offices in Canada are founded on the same basic principles, namely: independence, impartiality, confidentiality, the ability to investigate and recommend, the ability to promote change, informality, accessibility, accountability and a commitment to fair treatment and fair process; and

Whereas numerous member locals do not have ombudspersons at their institution; and

Whereas access to the services of an ombudsperson could be beneficial for members; therefore

Be it resolved that the feasibility of a shared ombudsperson for members at institutions who do not currently have access to such services be investigated with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the office of the BC Ombudsperson, or the Association of Canadian College and University Ombudspersons; and

Be it further resolved that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training be approached to investigate whether a provincial ombudsperson dedicated to the public post-secondary sector would be feasible.

**2019/07:15**      **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**c. Proposal to support the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act**

**2019/07:25**      **MOTION**  
Local 5/Local 17

Whereas conversion therapy is the pseudo-scientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual interventions; and

Whereas the Canadian Psychological Association, American Medical Association, and British Psychological Society all condemn conversion therapy and state that there is no credible evidence that sexual orientation can be changed; and

Whereas these professional medical bodies warn that conversion therapy practices are actually potentially harmful for vulnerable/marginalized populations, especially children; and

Whereas conversion therapy is currently banned in Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, the City of Vancouver, and dozens of countries around the world; and

Whereas protecting LGBTQ+ children from psychological harm done to them under the auspices of conversion therapy should be an important priority for government to take action on; therefore

Be it resolved that letters be sent to Premier John Horgan, Attorney General David Eby, and Minister of Health Adrian Dix, calling on them to support Bill 218, the "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act"; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send letters to Premier John Horgan, Attorney General David Eby, Health Minister Adrian Dix, and their local MLAs calling on them to support Bill 218, the "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act".

**CARRIED**

**2019/07:40**      **MOTION**  
Local 12/Local 16

Be it resolved that the 2019-20 Campaigns and Government Relations plan be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**2019/07:41**      **MOTION**  
Quest University Students' Association/Local 6

Be it resolved that Campaigns and Government Relations Committee Report be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**5. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 2019/07:42**      **MOTION**  
Local 6/Local 10  
Be it resolved that Brynn Joyce (Local 13) be ratified as Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of the 2019-20 term.  
**CARRIED**
- 2019/07:43**      **MOTION**  
Local 15/Local 4  
Be it resolved that Joshua Cameron (Local 17) be ratified as a member of the referendum appeals committee for the 2019-20 term.  
**CARRIED**
- 2019/07:44**      **MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 13  
Be it resolved that Carissa Wilson (Local 15) be ratified a member of the referendum appeals committee for the 2019-20 term.  
**CARRIED**
- 2019/07:45**      **MOTION**  
Local 20/Local 2  
Be it resolved that the ballots be destroyed.  
**CARRIED**

**6. PRESENTATION OF CAUCUS REPORTS**

Caucus facilitators provided reports on the discussions of the caucuses including Women's, Indigenous Students, Racialised Students, Queer Students, Graduate Students, and Accessibility Caucus.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Winners of the scavenger hunt and caption contest were announced.

**8. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A series of logistical announcements were made.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

- 2019/07:46**      **MOTION**  
Local 12/Prospective Member  
Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn.  
**CARRIED**

10:30 the meeting adjourned.