

# MINUTES

35th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students  
Thursday, January 12 to Sunday, January 15, 2017

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## OPENING PLENARY – Thursday, January 12

19:23 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Simka Marshall.

### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Aboriginal Students' Representative Shayli Robinson brought greetings and acknowledged the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation, on which the meeting would take place.

### 2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 09 Kwantlen Student Association	Absent
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present

Quorum was declared to have been achieved.

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

Marshall 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. She said the Executive Committee was recommending that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker for the plenary. She 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.

#### 2017/01:001 MOTION

Local 6/Local 4

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 35th annual general meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

#### 2017/01:002 MOTION

Local 13/Local 4

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for 35th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

#### 2017/01:003 MOTION

Local 17/Local 6

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 35th 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—and the additional rules and procedures established by standing resolution.

#### 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-1 (b) states “at each general meeting of the Federation, plenary shall strike a harassment grievances committee and ratify its members.” He said that the Committee shall be comprised of two women and one man and that two of the members shall be selected by Women’s Caucus and the third shall be selected by plenary.

Local 6 delegate Tracy Ho provided an overview of Internal Affairs Policy F-1 (b).

Local 17 delegate Anthony Pica nominated Local 17 delegate Wyatt Matthews. Matthews accepted the nomination.

#### 2017/01:004 MOTION

Local 16/Local 1

Be it resolved that Local 6 delegate Tracy Ho, Local 5 delegate Caitlin Orteza, and Local 17 delegate Wyatt Matthews be ratified as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee.

**CARRIED**

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

Secretary-Treasurer Jenelle Davies, who served 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. ADOPTION OF 70th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

#### 2017/01:005 MOTION

Local 17/Local 13

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 70th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 8. 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 Executive Officer Michael Olson to act as Chief Returning Officer for all elections to be conducted at the annual general meeting.

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

Olson provided an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

#### c. Striking of Electoral Committee

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

- i. the Chief Returning 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 Samantha Wall nominated Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz. Berchowitz accepted the nomination.

Local 20 delegate Trina Johnson nominated Local 20 delegate Wendell Schwab. Schwab accepted the nomination.

Local 17 delegate Wyatt Matthews nominated Local 17 delegate Melanie Winter. Winter accepted the nomination.

Local 17 delegate Wyatt Matthews nominated Local 17 delegate Anthony Pica. Pica declined the nomination.

Local 15 delegate Sheldon Falk nominated Local 15 delegate Jessica Sandy. Sandy accepted the nomination.

A secret ballot vote was conducted and Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz and Local 15 delegate Jessica Sandy were elected.

- 2017/01:006 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 15  
Be it resolved that Executive Officer Michael Olson, Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz, and Local 15 delegate Jessica Sandy be ratified as members of the Electoral Committee.  
**CARRIED**
- 2017/01:007 MOTION**  
Local 13/Local 6  
Be it resolved that the ballots be destroyed.  
**CARRIED**

## **9. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Marshall and Davies provided a presentation on work undertaken by the Executive Committee since the previous general meeting.

## **10. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES**

### **a. Striking of General Meeting Committees**

Hashemi said that as per Internal Affairs Policy F-2 the following committee were automatically struck:

- the Campaigns Committee;
- the Finance Committee;
- the Organizational and Services Development Committee; and
- the Policy Review and Development Committee.

### **b. Adoption of Committee Agendas**

- 2017/01:008 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 4  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns Committee be adopted.  
**CARRIED**
- 2017/01:009 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 4  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Finance Committee be adopted.  
**CARRIED**
- 2017/01:010 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 4  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Organisational and Services Development Committee be adopted.  
**CARRIED**
- 2017/01:011 MOTION**  
Local 2/Local 4  
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Policy Review and Development Committee be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

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### 11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

#### a. Motions Referred to the Executive Committee by the Previous General Meeting

##### 2016/08:036 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTION

Local 17/Local 2

Whereas there is a reasonable limitation on the number of subsidised delegates that a member local may send to a general meeting; and

Whereas member locals to from time to time have members serving a “at large” members of the executive committee; and

Whereas the current delegate fee structure does anticipate that a member local may wish to send an “at large” executive member as a delegate in order to provide them a fuller and more inclusive meeting experience; and

Whereas a member local may end up paying an unsubsidised delegate fee in order to send an “at large” member of the executive committee; and

Whereas the meeting participation costs for an “at large” executive committee member would be fully covered by the Federation if that individual were not a delegate; and

Whereas member locals should be encouraged to send “at large members” of the executive committee as delegates; therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 8, be amended to read as follows:

- b. Member local unions shall be permitted to send up to six (6) delegates, including the delegate wholly subsidised by the Federation, to BC general meetings at the subsidised cost. Additional delegates may be sent at full cost recovery. Notwithstanding the above limitation, the Aboriginal Student's Liaison, Women Student's Liaison, Campaigns Coordinator, and Services Coordinator may be sent as delegates by member local unions at the subsidised cost.

**DEFEATED**

**ABSTENTION: LOCAL 17**

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

Hashemi said that the following motions had been submitted by the Executive Committee for consideration at the meeting, and that they would require a mover and seconder.

##### 2017/01:012 MOTION TO CREATE INTERNAL POLICY

Local 17/Local 6

Whereas the 2016 annual general meeting amended Bylaw XII to remove the clause that directed that the Secretary-Treasurer was also the British Columbia Component Representative on the National Executive;

Whereas this change necessitates the separate election of the British Columbia Component Representative of the National Executive;

Whereas the election of provincial component representatives on the National Executive can occur at such times as established in the statutes of the respective provincial component, or at a meeting of the component member local student associations convened by the National Executive at the semi-annual national general meeting;

Whereas the British Columbia Component representative has long been elected at the British Columbia annual general meeting in January;

Whereas the level of British Columbia member local union participation in the British Columbia annual general meeting is higher than the participation in recent national general meetings; therefore:

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted as Internal Affairs Policy, Section C:

**ELECTION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS AND CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS-SERVICES NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

**1. Timing of Election**

The election of the British Columbia Component Representative on the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services shall occur concurrently the Executive Committee elections held at each annual general meeting. A by-election for the position of British Columbia Representative may occur at either the annual general meeting or semi-annual general meeting as may be required to fulfill partial terms.

**2. Election Procedure**

The procedure and notice requirements for the election of the British Columbia Representatives shall be those described in Internal Policy Section B, Election Procedure.

**3. Voting Rights**

Voting shall be restricted to those member local unions that are member local associations of the Canadian Federation of Students and/or Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

**4. Communication of Election Result**

The result of the election shall be communicated to the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services by email to each and every member of the National Executive, and by registered mail to the legal address of the organizations. This communication shall occur no later than three weeks in advance of the national general meeting at which the selection of the BC member local associations is to be presented for ratification.

Be it further resolved that the subsequent sections of the Internal Affairs Policy be renumbered accordingly.

**2017/01:013**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 17/Local 6

Be it resolved that the first clause of Motion 2017/01:012 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted as Internal Affairs Policy, Section C, effective immediately upon adoption of this motion:

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:012**

**CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2017/01:014**

**MOTION**

Local 17/Local 2

Whereas OOHLALA Mobile Inc. is the provider of a campus mobile application that enables digital interaction amongst members, and a platform for service provision for member local unions; and

Whereas the mobile app is currently available to member locals of the Canadian Federation of Students for free by virtue of an agreement between the CFS and OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; and

Whereas the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students has made it clear that it intends to review and eliminate its agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; and

Whereas the app is a valuable outreach tool for member locals and the Federation to promote services and campaigns; and

Whereas several member local unions in BC have invested resources and time to make the app popular and well-used on campuses; and

Whereas the 68<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting directed the Executive Committee to investigate options for a user agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. and the Executive Committee has reached reasonable terms with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; therefore

Be it resolved that a two-year user agreement be signed with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.

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**2017/01:015      MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:014 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:014      REFERRED**

**c. Consideration of Motions Served with Due Notice**

Hashemi said that the following motions had been submitted with due notice for consideration at the meeting.

**2017/01:016      MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas as part of the 2016 BC Budget, the provincial government increased the monthly benefits for people with disabilities by \$77 per month but removed the transit benefit received by people on disabilities benefits;

Whereas as a result of the changes in the 2016 BC Budget, people on disabilities would need to pay more than \$650 per year for transit access, an increase of \$605 per year (14 times the previous rate);

Whereas benefit rates for people with disabilities had been frozen for nine years prior to 2016, and with the additional transit costs taken into account, the 2016 increase only amounts to a net of \$25 per month;

Whereas during given the lack of cost of living increases to the disability benefit rates during the nine-year rate freeze, the increase in rates should have been in excess of \$100 per month just to keep pace with inflation;

Whereas, having increased only \$120 between 2001 and 2016, the pre-2016 BC disability benefit rates were among the lowest in Canada;

Whereas the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, of which the Federation is a member, has undertaken a campaign to “Raise the Rates” with specific demands to improve the lives of people with disabilities; and

Whereas the morals and character of a civilization should not be judged by how it treats the richest and most well-connected members of society, but how it treats those most in need of help and assistance; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation call on the BC government to reverse its implementation of a \$52 per month bus pass fee for people with disabilities, to restore the \$45 per year annual people with disabilities bus pass, and to raise the people with disabilities monthly benefit to \$1,200 to reflect increases in the cost of living.

**2017/01:017      MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:016 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:016      REFERRED**

**2017/01:018      MOTION**

Local 6/ Local 1

Whereas as Indigenous student participation in BC general meetings has slowly declined in the past several years;

Whereas it is up to Member Local Unions to determine their delegations composition for general meetings;

Whereas the recent Indigenous Students’ Conference was successful at drawing together Indigenous leaders from among the membership to discuss and develop ideas on how to move the Federation’s advocacy on Indigenous education forward;

Whereas it is not financial sustainable to have such conferences every year;

Whereas, the Federation already has an Indigenous Students' Caucus as a component of general meetings, which meet twice per year;

Whereas the Indigenous Students' Caucus was more active in years past when there were more Indigenous delegates at general meetings; and

Whereas the Federation's work on Indigenous issues, as well as the space provided for young Indigenous leaders to gather and discuss, is a valuable contribution to the principles of reconciliation, and the restoration of social, political and economic agency of Indigenous peoples in Canada; therefore

Be it resolved that Member Local Unions be encouraged to send Indigenous members of their local boards or campus Indigenous student groups as delegates to general meetings; and

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee consider ways to incorporate more time for the Indigenous Students' Caucus to meet at general meetings, including in either a pre-general meeting or post-general meeting time slot.

**2017/01:019****MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:018 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED****2017/01:018****REFERRED****2017/01:020****MOTION**

Local 6/ Local 1

Whereas the Federation currently has multiple Standing Resolutions dealing with reimbursements of some kind;

Whereas each of these Standing Resolutions are short and simple, and deal only with one type of reimbursement;

Whereas it both aids in readability and saves paper to combine these Standing Resolutions into one;

Whereas per diem rates have not been increased in five years and food costs have increased in that time; therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 5 be amended to read:

**STANDING RESOLUTION 5****Reimbursement Rates****1. Per Diems**

- a. The following per diem shall be paid to Executive Committee members attending an entire, day-long Executive Committee meeting:
  - \$25.00 for those members living within the meeting area;
  - \$45.00 for those members traveling from outside the meeting area.
- b. When attending 'out-of-town' meetings or events on behalf of the Federation, members shall be paid a per diem of \$45.00 for each full day of the meeting or event unless meals were provided.
- c. When travelling to attend a meeting or event on behalf of the Federation, members shall be paid \$45.00 for each day spent travelling pro-rated for partial days.

**2. Use of Private Vehicles**

Federation members using private vehicles for travel on behalf of the Federation shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.40 per kilometer for fuel and insurance costs.

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**3. Cellular Telephone Expenses**

Full-time, at-large members of the Executive Committee shall be reimbursed for the cost of a reasonable cellular telephone plan, including associated domestic long- distance charges, upon presentation of an invoice or bill. Total reimbursement shall be capped at \$125 per month, per at-large member.

**4. Rate Review**

Every five years the Executive Committee will review the rates outlined herein against changes in the costs of these items and in consideration of inflation, and recommend changes in rates to a general meeting as deemed necessary.

**2017/01:021**

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:020 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:020**

**REFERRED**

**2017/01:022**

**MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students ceased doing useful or successful campaign work in 2014;

Whereas attempts at campaign work by Canadian Federation of Students since 2014 have not been focused on education issues;

Whereas the only recent example of campaign work by Canadian Federation of Students on education issues was the failed day of action on November 2, which loosely called for 'free education' without quality research;

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has historically been a source of strength on education issues, particularly those related to student aid;

Whereas the current National Executive and staff of Canadian Federation of Students has displayed neither the inclination nor ability to conduct research on issues related to student aid nationally, or assemble a meaningful campaign to improve Canada's system of student financial assistance;

Whereas BC member rely on the Canada student loans and grant programs to afford their education; therefore

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee develop a long-term plan to enable the Federation to become an expert in the Canada student loan and grant programs; and

Be it further resolved that the plan include one or more campaign proposals on key elements of the federal programs that need improvement.

**2017/01:023**

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:022 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:022**

**REFERRED**

**2017/01:024**

**MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas the federal government provides funding in each province for the provision of English As-a-Second Language (ESL) training for new Canadians;

Whereas, unlike cost-recovery models offered to international students, this ESL funding is provided to new Canadians, landed immigrants and other residents free of charge or at a subsidized rate;

Whereas in 2013, the federal government under Stephen Harper cancelled the delivery agreement in BC that saw the ESL funding channelled to public institutions;

Whereas this change resulted in the implementation of fees for ESL training at BC colleges and universities, and a decline in enrolment as potential students followed the federal funding to private agencies and training companies;

Whereas the Federation believes in public delivery of public education, and believes that ESL students are better education in the BC public system due to the additional services and course options available, as well as the enhanced ability to stream ESL learning into other programs;

Whereas the funding for ESL in BC still exists, and that the only change required is an administrative one to the delivery model; therefore

Be it resolved that provincially coordinated federal lobby weeks be organized for the summer of 2017;

Be it resolved that meetings with BC Members of Parliament be coordinated to occur in their constituencies with the goal of seeking the restoration of ESL funding to the public system of colleges and universities in BC;

Be it further resolved that these meetings be coordinated to occur in common weeks during summer 2017, and that members of the office collective participate in lobby meeting with member local unions;

Be it further resolved that a backgrounder document be produced to support the requested change.

**2017/01:025 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:024 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:024 REFERRED**

**2017/01:026 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas we the students stand in solidarity with Standing Rock and recognize the colonial violence against Indigenous peoples;

Whereas we the students support the right of all nations to self-determination and the right to protect their lands and hold the State accountable to upholding existing treaty agreements;

Whereas we the students stand behind the fight by Native Water Protectors and Water Warriors, recognizing that the pipeline was diverted to protect one cities water and rerouted to cross near the Sioux Nation; therefore,

Be it resolved that the termination of the 1172 mile Dakota Access Pipeline plan, which violates the Fort Laramie Treaties signed in 1852 and 1868 by the United States of America and bands of the Sioux and other tribes, be supported;

Be it further resolved that a letter be sent to United States of America President Barack Obama and President-Elect Donald Trump expressing support for the right of the Standing Rock Sioux to self-determination.

**2017/01:027 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:026 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:026 REFERRED**

**2017/01:028 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas we the students stand in support of the Sinixt Nation and their existence both in Canada and the United States of America;

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Whereas we the students acknowledge the existence of the Sinixt Nation despite it unilaterally being deemed extinct by the Government of Canada;

Whereas the people of the Sinixt Nation have the right to hunt on their traditional Territory despite International borders and policies put in place to contradict Treaty agreements;

Whereas we the students support the knowledge keepers of the Sinixt Nation in honouring the protocols and traditions of their territory; therefore,

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the Government of Canada acknowledging the existence of the Sinixt Nation north of the 49th Parallel.

**2017/01:029 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:028 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:028 REFERRED**

**2017/01:030 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs has launched Coast Protectors, a pledge to support First Nations' struggle for self-determination in the establishment of energy projects on their territory;

Whereas Indigenous Peoples have consistently and repeatedly rejected the Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project, including the arrest of UBCIC President, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip on Burnaby Mountain in November 2014;

Whereas Federal approval is a violation of inherent Indigenous Title and Rights, and a violation of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' Coast Protectors campaign against the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion be endorsed;

Be it further resolved that member local unions be encouraged to circulate the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' Coast Protectors pledge.

**2017/01:031 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:030 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:030 REFERRED**

**2017/01:032 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas member local unions rely on the research produced by the Federation to engage in meaningful dialogue with government about access to education;

Whereas many of the staple markers for access to education have not been explored by Federation researchers for several years; therefore,

Be it resolved that up to date fact sheets on tuition fees and student debt be created and presented no later than the next general meeting.

**2017/01:033 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:032 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:032 REFERRED**

**2017/01:034**

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 1

Whereas members of multiple member local unions in British Columbia are seeking a referendum on the question of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and/or the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS/CFS-Services); and

Whereas the bylaws of the CFS/CFS-Services prescribe power to the common National Executive over members in the referendum process on the basis that the National Executive will fairly and honestly follow the bylaws in navigating the process; and

Whereas the National Executive since 2014 has failed to uphold the bylaws on numerous occasions including in relation to questions of membership; and

Whereas member local unions in British Columbia do not have equal access to financial resources to engage in legal battles with the CFS/CFS-Services if the National Executive conducts itself in an arbitrary manner; therefore

Be it resolved that a legal defense fund with an initial deposit of \$100,000 be created to help defray legal costs of BC member local unions with smaller budgets that may arise from exercising their rights under the CFS/CFS-Services bylaws; and

Be it further resolved that terms of reference for the administration and use of the fund be developed by the Executive Committee.

**2017/01:035**

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:034 be referred to the Finance Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:034**

**REFERRED**

**2017/01:036**

**MOTION**

Local 5/Local 1

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program is a critical means for providing support to Aboriginal post secondary students; and

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program has been capped at 2% growth annually since 1996; and

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program funded 18.3% fewer students in 2016 than it did in 1997; and

Whereas the Liberal Party of Canada pledged during the 2015 federal election campaign to invest \$50 million in additional annual funding to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program; and

Whereas since being elected, the Liberal government has made no such commitment; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federal Liberal Government be called on to honour its election promise and ensure that its commitment to invest \$50 million into the Post-Secondary Student Support Program be reflected in the 2017-2018 federal budget.

**2017/01:037**

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 2/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:036 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:036**

**REFERRED**

**12. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marshall made a series of logistical announcements.

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**13. RECESS**

**2017/01:038 MOTION TO RECESS**  
Local 10/Local 15

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until 10:30 on Sunday, January 15.

**CARRIED**

21:00 the meeting recessed.

**CLOSING PLENARY – Sunday, January 15**

10:46 the meeting was called to order by Plenary Speaker Hashemi.

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

Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 09 Kwantlen Student Association	Absent
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present

Hashemi declared quorum to be present.

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

**a. Proposal to Create Legal Defence Fund**

**2017/01:034**

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 1

Whereas members of multiple member local unions in British Columbia are seeking a referendum on the question of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and/or the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS/CFS-Services); and

Whereas the bylaws of the CFS/CFS-Services prescribe power to the common National Executive over members in the referendum process on the basis that the National Executive will fairly and honestly follow the bylaws in navigating the process; and

Whereas the National Executive since 2014 has failed to uphold the bylaws on numerous occasions including in relation to questions of membership; and

Whereas member local unions in British Columbia do not have equal access to financial resources to engage in legal battles with the CFS/CFS-Services if the National Executive conducts itself in an arbitrary manner; therefore

Be it resolved that a legal defense fund with an initial deposit of \$100,000 be created to help defray legal costs of BC member local unions with smaller budgets that may arise from exercising their rights under the CFS/CFS-Services bylaws; and

Be it further resolved that terms of reference for the administration and use of the fund be developed by the Executive Committee.

**2017/01:039**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 05/Local 20

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:034 be amended to remove the words "with smaller budgets".

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:040**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 20/Local 05

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:034 be amended to add:

"Be it further resolved that the development of a general legal defense fund be investigated."

**CARRIED**

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**2017/01:034 CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**b. Motions Developed by the Committee**

**2017/01:041 MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that the 2015-16 audited financial statements be approved.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:042 MOTION**

Local 20/Local 5

Be it resolved that Tompkins, Wozny, Miller and Co. be appointed as the auditor for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:043 MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Be it resolved that the revised 2016-17 budget be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:044 MOTION**

Local 13/Local 17

Be it resolved that the Report of the Finance Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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

**a. Proposal to Engage in User Agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.**

**2017/01:014 MOTION**

Local 17/Local 2

Whereas OOHLALA Mobile Inc. is the provider of a campus mobile application that enables digital interaction amongst members, and a platform for service provision for member local unions; and

Whereas the mobile app is currently available to member locals of the Canadian Federation of Students for free by virtue of an agreement between the CFS and OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; and

Whereas the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students has made it clear that it intends to review and eliminate its agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; and

Whereas the app is a valuable outreach tool for member locals and the Federation to promote services and campaigns; and

Whereas several member local unions in BC have invested resources and time to make the app popular and well-used on campuses; and

Whereas the 68th Semi-Annual General Meeting directed the Executive Committee to investigate options for a user agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. and the Executive Committee has reached reasonable terms with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.; therefore

Be it resolved that a two-year user agreement be signed with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.

**CARRIED**

**b. Proposal to Increase Indigenous Delegates at General Meetings**

**2017/01:018 MOTION**

Local 6/ Local 1

Whereas as Indigenous student participation in BC general meetings has slowly declined in the past several years;

Whereas it is up to Member Local Unions to determine their delegations composition for general meetings;

Whereas the recent Indigenous Students' Conference was successful at drawing together Indigenous leaders from among the membership to discuss and develop ideas on how to move the Federation's advocacy on Indigenous education forward;

Whereas it is not financial sustainable to have such conferences every year;

Whereas, the Federation already has an Indigenous Students' Caucus as a component of general meetings, which meet twice per year;

Whereas the Indigenous Students' Caucus was more active in years past when there were more Indigenous delegates at general meetings; and

Whereas the Federation's work on Indigenous issues, as well as the space provided for young Indigenous leaders to gather and discuss, is a valuable contribution to the principles of reconciliation, and the restoration of social, political and economic agency of Indigenous peoples in Canada; therefore

Be it resolved that Member Local Unions be encouraged to send Indigenous members of their local boards or campus Indigenous student groups as delegates to general meetings; and

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee consider ways to incorporate more time for the Indigenous Students' Caucus to meet at general meetings, including in either a pre-general meeting or post-general meeting time slot.

**CARRIED**

**c. Proposal to Amend Standing Resolution**

**2017/01:020 MOTION**

Local 6/ Local 1

Whereas the Federation currently has multiple Standing Resolutions dealing with reimbursements of some kind;

Whereas each of these Standing Resolutions are short and simple, and deal only with one type of reimbursement;

Whereas it both aids in readability and saves paper to combine these Standing Resolutions into one;

Whereas per diem rates have not been increased in five years and food costs have increased in that time; therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 5 be amended to read:

**STANDING RESOLUTION 5**

**Reimbursement Rates**

**1. Per Diems**

- a. The following per diem shall be paid to Executive Committee members attending an entire, day-long Executive Committee meeting:
  - \$25.00 for those members living within the meeting area;
  - \$45.00 for those members traveling from outside the meeting area.
- b. When attending 'out-of-town' meetings or events on behalf of the Federation, members shall be paid a per diem of \$45.00 for each full day of the meeting or event unless meals were provided.
- c. When travelling to attend a meeting or event on behalf of the Federation, members shall be paid \$45.00 for each day spent travelling pro-rated for partial days.

**2. Use of Private Vehicles**

Federation members using private vehicles for travel on behalf of the Federation shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.40 per kilometer for fuel and insurance costs.

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**3. Cellular Telephone Expenses**

Full-time, at-large members of the Executive Committee shall be reimbursed for the cost of a reasonable cellular telephone plan, including associated domestic long- distance charges, upon presentation of an invoice or bill. Total reimbursement shall be capped at \$125 per month, per at-large member.

**4. Rate Review**

Every five years the Executive Committee will review the rates outlined herein against changes in the costs of these items and in consideration of inflation, and recommend changes in rates to a general meeting as deemed necessary.

**2017/01:045 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 13/ Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2017/01:020 be amended to add:

“Be it further resolved that Standing Resolutions 6 and 7 be struck and the subsequent standing resolutions be renumbered accordingly.”

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:020 CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**2017/01:046 MOTION**

Local 15/Local 6

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

**CARRIED**

**4. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**a. Proposal to Support Raise the Rates Campaign**

**2017/01:016 MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas as part of the 2016 BC Budget, the provincial government increased the monthly benefits for people with disabilities by \$77 per month but removed the transit benefit received by people on disabilities benefits;

Whereas as a result of the changes in the 2016 BC Budget, people on disabilities would need to pay more than \$650 per year for transit access, an increase of \$605 per year (14 times the previous rate);

Whereas benefit rates for people with disabilities had been frozen for nine years prior to 2016, and with the additional transit costs taken into account, the 2016 increase only amounts to a net of \$25 per month;

Whereas during given the lack of cost of living increases to the disability benefit rates during the nine-year rate freeze, the increase in rates should have been in excess of \$100 per month just to keep pace with inflation;

Whereas, having increased only \$120 between 2001 and 2016, the pre-2016 BC disability benefit rates were among the lowest in Canada;

Whereas the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, of which the Federation is a member, has undertaken a campaign to “Raise the Rates” with specific demands to improve the lives of people with disabilities; and

Whereas the morals and character of a civilization should not be judged by how it treats the richest and most well-connected members of society, but how it treats those most in need of help and assistance; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation call on the BC government to reverse its implementation of a \$52 per month bus pass fee for people with disabilities, to restore the \$45 per year annual people with disabilities bus pass, and to raise the people with disabilities monthly benefit to \$1,200 to reflect increases in the cost of living.

**CARRIED****b. Proposal to Compile Research on Canada Student Loan Program**

2017/01:022

**MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students ceased doing useful or successful campaign work in 2014;

Whereas attempts at campaign work by Canadian Federation of Students since 2014 have not been focused on education issues;

Whereas the only recent example of campaign work by Canadian Federation of Students on education issues was the failed day of action on November 2, which loosely called for 'free education' without quality research;

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has historically been a source of strength on education issues, particularly those related to student aid;

Whereas the current National Executive and staff of Canadian Federation of Students has displayed neither the inclination nor ability to conduct research on issues related to student aid nationally, or assemble a meaningful campaign to improve Canada's system of student financial assistance;

Whereas BC member rely on the Canada student loans and grant programs to afford their education; therefore

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee develop a long-term plan to enable the Federation to become an expert in the Canada student loan and grant programs; and

Be it further resolved that the plan include one or more campaign proposals on key elements of the federal programs that need improvement.

**CARRIED****c. Proposal to Coordinate Federal Lobby Week**

2017/01:024

**MOTION**

Local 6/Local 1

Whereas the federal government provides funding in each province for the provision of English As-a-Second Language (ESL) training for new Canadians;

Whereas, unlike cost-recovery models offered to international students, this ESL funding is provided to new Canadians, landed immigrants and other residents free of charge or at a subsidized rate;

Whereas in 2013, the federal government under Stephen Harper cancelled the delivery agreement in BC that saw the ESL funding channeled to public institutions;

Whereas this change resulted in the implementation of fees for ESL training at BC colleges and universities, and a decline in enrolment as potential students followed the federal funding to private agencies and training companies;

Whereas the Federation believes in public delivery of public education, and believes that ESL students are better education in the BC public system due to the additional services and course options available, as well as the enhanced ability to stream ESL learning into other programs;

Whereas the funding for ESL in BC still exists, and that the only change required is an administrative one to the delivery model; therefore

Be it resolved that provincially coordinated federal lobby weeks be organized for the summer of 2017;

Be it resolved that meetings with BC Members of Parliament be coordinated to occur in their constituencies with the goal of seeking the restoration of ESL funding to the public system of colleges and universities in BC;

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Be it further resolved that these meetings be coordinated to occur in common weeks during summer 2017, and that members of the office collective participate in lobby meeting with member local unions;

Be it further resolved that a backgrounder document be produced to support the requested change.

**CARRIED**

**d. Proposal to Support Standing Rock**

**2017/01:026 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas we the students stand in solidarity with Standing Rock and recognize the colonial violence against Indigenous peoples;

Whereas we the students support the right of all nations to self-determination and the right to protect their lands and hold the State accountable to upholding existing treaty agreements;

Whereas we the students stand behind the fight by Native Water Protectors and Water Warriors, recognizing that the pipeline was diverted to protect one cities water and rerouted to cross near the Sioux Nation; therefore,

Be it resolved that the termination of the 1172 mile Dakota Access Pipeline plan, which violates the Fort Laramie Treaties signed in 1852 and 1868 by the United States of America and bands of the Sioux and other tribes, be supported;

Be it further resolved that a letter be sent to United States of America President Barack Obama and President-Elect Donald Trump expressing support for the right of the Standing Rock Sioux to self-determination.

**2017/01:047 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 6/Local 14

Be it resolved that Motion 2017/01:026 be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the termination of the 1172 mile Dakota Access Pipeline plan, which violates the Fort Laramie Treaties signed in 1852 and 1868 by the United States of America and bands of the Sioux and other tribes, be supported;

Be it further resolved that a letter be sent to be sent to United States of America President Barack Obama and President-Elect Donald Trump expressing support for the right of the Standing Rock Sioux to self-determination; and

Be it further resolved that a letter of support be sent to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation.”

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:026 CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**e. Proposal to Support the Sinixt Nation**

**2017/01:028 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas we the students stand in support of the Sinixt Nation and their existence both in Canada and the United States of America;

Whereas we the students acknowledge the existence of the Sinixt Nation despite it unilaterally being deemed extinct by the Government of Canada;

Whereas the people of the Sinixt Nation have the right to hunt on their traditional Territory despite International borders and policies put in place to contradict Treaty agreements;

Whereas we the students support the knowledge keepers of the Sinixt Nation in honouring the protocols and traditions of their territory; therefore,

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the Government of Canada acknowledging the existence of the Sinixt Nation north of the 49th Parallel.

**CARRIED**

**f. Proposal to Endorse Coast Protectors Campaign****2017/01:030 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs has launched Coast Protectors, a pledge to support First Nations' struggle for self-determination in the establishment of energy projects on their territory;

Whereas Indigenous Peoples have consistently and repeatedly rejected the Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project, including the arrest of UBCIC President, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip on Burnaby Mountain in November 2014;

Whereas Federal approval is a violation of inherent Indigenous Title and Rights, and a violation of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' Coast Protectors campaign against the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion be endorsed;

Be it further resolved that member local unions be encouraged to circulate the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' Coast Protectors pledge.

**CARRIED****g. Proposal to Conduct Research on Tuition Fees and Student Debt****2017/01:032 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 1

Whereas member local unions rely on the research produced by the Federation to engage in meaningful dialogue with government about access to education;

Whereas many of the staple markers for access to education have not been explored by Federation researchers for several years; therefore,

Be it resolved that up to date fact sheets on tuition fees and student debt be created and presented no later than the next general meeting.

**CARRIED****h. Proposal to Lobby the Federal Government on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program****2017/01:036 MOTION**

Local 5/Local 1

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program is a critical means for providing support to Aboriginal post secondary students; and

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program has been capped at 2% growth annually since 1996; and

Whereas the Post-Secondary Student Support Program funded 18.3% fewer students in 2016 than it did in 1997; and

Whereas the Liberal Party of Canada pledged during the 2015 federal election campaign to invest \$50 million in additional annual funding to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program; and

Whereas since being elected, the Liberal government has made no such commitment; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federal Liberal Government be called on to honour its election promise and ensure that its commitment to invest \$50 million into the Post-Secondary Student Support Program be reflected in the 2017-2018 federal budget.

**2017/01:048 MOTION**

Local 2/Local 4

Be it resolved that the Report of the Campaigns Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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**2017/01:049      MOTION TO RECESS**

Local 6/Local 15

Be it resolved that the meeting recess for 5 minutes.

**CARRIED**

11:16    the meeting recessed.

11:25    the meeting reconvened.

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

**2017/01:050      MOTION**

Local 6/Local 17

Be it resolved that Morgan Rogers (Local 1) be ratified as Women Students' Representative for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:051      MOTION**

Local 4/Local 2

Be it resolved that Ken Solonas (Local 4) be ratified as Aboriginal Students' Representative for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:052      MOTION**

Local 12/Local 20

Be it resolved that Sydney Sullivan (Local 13) be ratified as Services Coordinator for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:053      MOTION**

Local 10/Local 5

Be it resolved that Aran Armutlu (Local 6) be ratified as Campaigns Coordinator for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:054      MOTION**

Local 17/Local 20

Be it resolved that Simka Marshall (Local 17) be ratified as Chairperson for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:055      MOTION**

Local 5/Local 12

Be it resolved that Phoebe Lo Patigdas (Local 13) be ratified as Secretary-Treasurer for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**2017/01:056      MOTION**

Local 12/Local 6

Be it resolved that Jenelle Davies (Local 2) be ratified as BC Representative on the National Executive for the 2017-18 term.

**CARRIED**

**ABSTENTION: LOCAL 20**

**2017/01:057      MOTION**

Local 10/Local 15

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 Aboriginal Students, Racialised Students, Queer Students, Graduate Students and Students with Disabilities and/or Special Needs.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**8. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Davies and Marshall made a series of logistical announcements.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**2017/01:058      MOTION TO ADJOURN**  
Local 17/Local 10

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

11:27    the meeting adjourned.