

MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

OPENING PLENARY – Thursday, August 11

19:13 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Simka Marshall.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Local 61 Aboriginal Students' Representative Caleb Rosenthal brought greetings and acknowledged the **traditional territory of the Snuneymeux First Nation, on which the meeting would take place.**

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 03 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Absent
Local 75 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 18 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 33 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 26 Kwantlen Student Association	Absent
Local 13 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 72 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 66 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 53 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 86 College of the Rockies Students' Association	Absent
Local 04 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 15 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 73 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 61 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Prospective Members Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Absent

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.

2016/08:001 MOTION

Local 73/Local 13

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 70th semi-annual general meeting.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2016/08:002 MOTION

Local 53/Local 66

Be it resolved that the agenda for the opening plenary of the 70th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2016/08:003 MOTION

Local 18/Local 73

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 70th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

PAGE 2—MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

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 18 delegate Tracy Ho nominated Local 18 delegate Aran Armutlu. Armutlu accepted the nomination.

Local 75 delegate Carlos Rubio nominated himself.

Local 13 delegate Puneeta Gulati 13 nominated Local 13 delegate Ken Solonas. Solonas accepted the nomination.

Local 75 delegate Anthony Pica nominated Local 61 delegate Caleb Rosenthal. Rosenthal accepted the nomination.

A secret ballot vote was conducted.

2016/08:004

MOTION

Local 73/Local 4

Be it resolved that Local 18 delegate Aran Armutlu, Local 53 delegate Brianne Berchowitz, and Local 75 delegate Rachael Grant be ratified as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:005

MOTION

Local 72/Local 15

Be it resolved that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

c. Presentation by the Staff Relations Officer

Secretary-Treasurer Jenelle Davies, 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. ADOPTION OF 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2016/08:006

MOTION

Local 4/Local 61

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

8. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES

a. Striking of General Meeting Committees

Hashemi said that as per Internal Affairs Policy F-2 the following committee are 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

- 2016/08:007 MOTION**
Local 53/Local 73
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2016/08:008 MOTION**
Local 53/Local 73
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Finance Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2016/08:009 MOTION**
Local 53/Local 73
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Organisational and Services Development Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2016/08:010 MOTION**
Local 53/Local 73
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Policy Review and Development Committee be adopted.
CARRIED

9. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marshall and Davies provided an overview of work undertaken since the previous general meeting.

- 2016/08:011 MOTION**
Local 61/Local 72
Be it resolved that the report of the Executive Committee be ratified.
CARRIED
- 2016/08:012 MOTION TO POSTPONE**
Local 53/Local 66
Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:011 be postponed to Closing Plenary.
CARRIED
- 2016/08:011 POSTPONED**

10. CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Marshall reported that on March 2 and 3, 2016 a referendum on membership in the Federation had been held amongst graduate students at the University of Northern British Columbia. She said that the graduate students had voted in favour of full membership in the Federation.

- 2016/08:0013 MOTION**
Local 13/Local 18
Be it resolved that the Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society be ratified as full members of the British Columbia Federation of Students.
CARRIED

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

Hashemi said that the following motions had been submitted with due notice for consideration at the meeting and that some required a seconder during opening plenary.

PAGE 4–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

2016/08:014

MOTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the timing of the semi-annual general meeting, traditionally held in mid-August, does not leave sufficient time to implement decisions of the membership in time for the beginning of the fall semester;

Whereas welcome events commonly begin on member local campuses in mid-August, and the events or their preparation commonly overlap with the traditional dates for the general meeting;

Whereas the semi-annual general meeting is commonly held at a member local campus and makes use of campus residences for accommodation;

Whereas the availability of campus spaces and housing is greater earlier in the summer than in mid-August;

Whereas summer travel in British Columbia is far busier on Thursdays and Sundays than on Wednesdays and Saturdays;

Whereas scheduling the general meeting to include more weekdays will improve the availability of speakers for the meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that the 72nd Semi-annual General Meeting be held between July 15 and July 31, 2016; and,

Be it resolved that the 72nd Semi-annual General Meeting begin on a Wednesday and conclude on a Saturday.

2016/08:015

MOTION TO REFER

Local 61/Local 73

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:014 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:014

REFERRED

2016/08:016

MOTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation's skills development weekend is held in May or June each year and its scheduling is designed to recognize that a number of BC member local unions have local elections in the spring;

Whereas six member locals hold their annual general elections in the fall, and additional locals hold by-elections in the fall;

Whereas directors elected in the fall can serve a majority of their terms before receiving the skills development content provided by the Federation;

Whereas members have recently expressed support an appreciation for skills development workshops held at general meetings in place of traditional issues-based sessions;

Whereas the Federation's structure of two general meetings per year enable the organization to focus one meeting on skills development and another meeting on issues;

Be it resolved that workshops, panels and speakers at the 35th Annual General Meeting focus on skills development.

2016/08:017

MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:016 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:016

REFERRED

2016/08:018 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTION

Local 18/ Local 4

Whereas the Federation's skills development weekend has traditionally been free of charge for twelve participants from every member local union;

Whereas the Federation developed a complex system that enables charge backs for those participants who fail to attend the majority of sessions and requires a deposit of \$250 per participant along with registration;

Whereas costs to host the Skills Development Weekend continue to increase and relate to a desire to improve the quality of workshops, a goal of improving the facilities at which the Weekend is held; and the increasing logistical requirements of participant travel and food needs;

Whereas Skills Development is a valuable service that offsets local director education and orientation initiatives and thereby saves member locals significant resources;

Whereas there is a vast disparity between the number of participants sent by member local unions and the 100% subsidization of up to 12 participants constitutes a significant allocation of resources;

Whereas the 100% subsidization of up to 12 participants is a far greater allocation of subsidization that ascribed to Federation general meetings;

Whereas the organization should regularly review its financial priorities with the goal of achieving a balance between services for students' unions and directors, such as the Skills Development Weekend, and services and advocacy for individual members who directly contribute membership fees: therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 15, Skills Development Weekend, Section 3 be amended to read:

3. FEES

Participation in the Skills Development Weekend shall be subsidized on the following basis:

Each member local union shall be entitled to send one participant to the Skills Development Weekend free of any participant fee;

Member local unions sending up to six participants to the Skills Development Weekend shall pay a per-participant fee of \$100 for participants two through six;

Member local unions sending more than six participants but less than twelve participants shall pay \$500 for the first six participants and a per-participant fee of \$150 for participants seven through twelve;

Member local unions sending more than twelve participants shall pay \$1,400 for the first twelve participants and a cost recovery rate per-participant over twelve; and

Member local unions with an annual budget of \$150,000 or less shall receive an additional small member local subsidy of 50% the rates outlined above.

2016/08:019 MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:018 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/08:018 REFERRED****2016/08:020 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation has historically distributed a press review to member local unions and this practice dates back to before the Internet was invented;

Whereas the press review information is now readily available to all member local unions online, and can be searched or sent to locals automatically in real time using functions like 'Google Alerts';

PAGE 6–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Whereas the compilation of the press review is both a timely exercise and an enormous waste of paper: therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section A, Distribution of Documents, be amended to delete Section 5.

2016/08:021 MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:020 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:020 REFERRED

2016/08:022 MOTION TO REPEAL POLICY

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation, since its participation in Canadian Federation of Students in 1981, has organized its interaction with the national organization collectively;

Whereas the Internal Policy Section J outlines the Federation's position on several key internal issues dating back to 1994;

Whereas the Federation's position on all of these issues has been altered by the actions of the National Executive and the related lack of democracy, lack of financial accountability and corrupt behaviour that has come to characterize the management of the national organizations by the National Executive and their political supporters within Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario;

Whereas the content of this policy is at odds with recent directives passed by the membership and structural changes made to the organization in the past twelve months: therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section J, Stance on National Issues, be repealed;

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be directed to present a replacement policy for consideration by the membership at the 35th Annual General Meeting.

2016/08:023 MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:022 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:022 REFERRED

2016/08:024 MOTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas youth from the "care system" do not have access to the same level of family resources as many other students from traditional or even non-traditional family structures;

Whereas the 2013 BC Baccalaureate Graduate Student Survey shows that 51% of respondents listed their friends and family one of the top two sources of funding for their education;

Whereas most young adults in BC can count on financial support, relationships and family connections to help them get a good start in life, which is not the case for those from the "care system";

Whereas due to the cut off from "support" at 19, youth aging out of foster care too often end up homeless, don't finish high school, and have no one to turn to in their 20's;

Be it resolved that the Fostering Change Campaign be endorsed;

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the Minister of Children and Families calling on the BC government to enact the three recommendations of the campaign's Write the Future Initiative;

Be it further resolved that the immediate elimination of tuition fees for former and current youth in care be sought from the government of BC in the form of a tuition waiver or grant; and

Be it resolved that the campaign organizers be encouraged to amend their list of demands to add that those from the “care system” be provided four years of free full-time post-secondary study in any program of their choosing.

2016/08:025 **MOTION TO REFER**
Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:024 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:024 **REFERRED**

2016/08:026 **MOTION**
Local 61/Local 4

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; therefore

Be it resolved that a user agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. be investigated.

2016/08:027 **MOTION TO REFER**
Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:026 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:026 **REFERRED**

2016/08:028 **MOTION**
Local 61/Local 4

Whereas Indigenous peoples face unique barriers to access post-secondary education; and

Whereas Indigenous students are amongst the most marginalized members of any students' union; and

Whereas Indigenous students are typically under-represented on students' union boards or as volunteers; and

Whereas the best way to create a strategy to reach out to Indigenous members is to speak with them directly; therefore

Be it resolved that a conference for Indigenous students be held in the fall 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the conference discuss topics such as Truth and Reconciliation and post-secondary education related issues with a goal of empowering Indigenous members to become more involved in their students' union and aiding the inclusiveness of the Federation's campaigns; and

Be it further resolved that a participant fee of no more than \$500 be set for the conference, with one participant from each member local being fully-subsidized; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send up to five Indigenous participants.

PAGE 8–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

2016/08:029 MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:028 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:028 REFERRED

2016/08:030 MOTION

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas the Federation's bylaw on membership has been developed over time in collaboration with the national organizations; and

Whereas the common form of certification is through the process of prospective member local status, in which members seeking to affiliate can acquire a trial membership prior to a vote on certification;

Whereas it is possible for members to join the organization without first seeking prospective membership; and

Whereas the regulations covering certification outside the process of prospective membership lean heavily on the national organization's bylaws, and the regulations on certification in the Federation's bylaws are minimal; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw II be reviewed with the goal of improving regulations for certification.

2016/08:031 MOTION TO REFER

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:030 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:030 REFERRED

2016/08:032 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas graduate students face unique funding challenges due to the independent nature of their education and the vast array of costs associated with graduate research; and,

Whereas institutional funding for graduate students in BC is minimal, with many students forced to self-fund their research; and,

Whereas this lack of funding is coupled with high fees for those who have completed their graduate coursework but not yet completed their research, a period of time known as post-residency; and,

Whereas the cost of graduate education in the post-residency phase is minimal, especially in BC where there is nearly no funding being provided by institutions to most post-residency graduate students; therefore,

Be it resolved the following Education Issues Policy be adopted:

SECTION M

GRADUATE EDUCATION

1. Post Residency Fees and Institutional Graduate Funding

Preamble

Graduate students in British Columbia have considerably fewer opportunities for graduate funding than students in other provinces. To make matters worse, high post-residency fees exacerbate the lack of affordable graduate education in BC and negatively impact access to programs, completion rates, and the ability of graduate students to fully engage in the research and scholarship at their institution. The high cost of BC's graduate programs, including the unfair and unjustifiable post-residency fees, combine with the inadequate institutional funding for students to force low- and middle-income BC graduate applicants to seek admission to graduate programs outside the province.

Policy

The Federation supports the reduction and eventual elimination of continuing fees for post-residence graduate students.

The Federation supports the provision of institutional graduate funding to students in all graduate programs with a research component to both support excellence in scholarship among graduate students, and to reduce the barriers faced by those from low- and middle-income background in accessing graduate level education.

2016/08:033**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:032 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/08:032****REFERRED****2016/08:034****MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas graduate students are commonly also employed in some capacity at their institutions of study; and

Whereas student employees often face employment environments without job security, fair compensation, appropriate oversight, or necessary training; and,

Whereas student employees are often supervised by a faculty member or other academic leader with whom they have an additional non-employment relationship;

Whereas these conditions constitute precarious employment; therefore,

Be it resolved the following Education Issues Policy, Section D Employment, be amended to add:

7. Teaching, Research and Graduate Assistants**Preamble**

Students regularly work in underpaid academic positions within their institutions of study and these jobs exist without job security, fair compensation, appropriate oversight, or necessary training. Additionally, student assistant positions are often overseen by a faculty member or department supervisor with whom the employed student has an academic relationship, thus creating a conflict should a workplace issue arise. Unionization of student assistant positions creates a fair working environment and ensure that student employee's workplace rights are respected, that the compensation is reasonable and equal between employees doing the same work, and that appropriate oversight is applied to employees.

Policy

The Federation supports student workers' rights to unionize and bargain collectively for their work in teaching, marking, research, and graduate assistantships at post-secondary institutions. The Federation further supports and encourages post-secondary institutions to bargain, in good faith, collective agreements with student employee union representatives to entrench job security rights, fair working conditions, and other such fundamental workplace rights.

2016/08:035**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:034 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/08:034****REFERRED****2016/08:036****MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTION**

Local 75/Local 4

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

PAGE 10–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

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.

2016/08:037 MOTION TO REFER
Local 13/Local 33

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:036 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:036 REFERRED

b. Consideration of Motions Served by the Executive Committee with Due Notice

2016/08:038 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS
Local 13/Local 75

Whereas in order to be eligible for membership in the BC Federation of Students, a local students' union must be locally and democratically controlled; and

Whereas a local students' union must also be autonomous from other organizations including the administration of a post-secondary institution; and

Whereas the individual students at the College of the Rockies voted to join the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1996; and

Whereas Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union was an active participant in the organization until 1999; and

Whereas in or around 1999 Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union began to experience internal turmoil; and

Whereas as a result of the internal turmoil the administration of the College inserted itself into the internal affairs of the Union, transforming it into a social organization; and

Whereas the Federation attempted over the years to assist College of the Rockies students in the establishment of an autonomous union; and

Whereas these attempts have failed due, in part, to the interference of the College and the absence of any institutional memory within the transformed organization; and

Whereas the organization as it now stands fails to meet the most basic criteria of membership; and

Whereas the situation is unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future; therefore,

Be it resolved that the organization, formerly known as the College of the Rockies Students' Union, be struck from the membership rolls;

Be it further resolved that any all references to the College of the Rockies and the College of the Rockies Students' Union be removed from all applicable bylaws, policies, and standing resolutions; and

Be it further resolved that any bylaws, policies, and standing resolutions so affected be renumbered accordingly.

2016/08:039 MOTION TO REFER

Local 66/Local 15

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:038 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/08:038 REFERRED****2016/08:040 MOTION TO ADOPT STANDING RESOLUTION**

Local 13/Local 75

Whereas member local unions have historically been numbered based on certification with the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas several BC member locals have indicated an interest in showcasing their affiliation with the BC Federation of Students; and

Whereas local number allocation has been based the order in which a member local union joined the organization, irrespective of their current membership status; therefore,

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be created:

Standing Resolution xx**Member Local Union Numbers**

Each member local union shall be given a unique local number to showcase affiliation with the Federation. In the instance that a members of a local union choose to decertify, the local number shall remain vacant until such time that members of the local recertify with the Federation.

The following is a listing of past and current member local unions and their respective local numbers:

- 01 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan
- 02 Selkirk College Students' Union
- 03 Capilano Students' Union
- 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union
- 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
- 06 Douglas Students' Union
- 07 Langara Students' Union
- 08 Simon Fraser Student Society
- 09 Kwantlen Student Association
- 10 Emily Carr Students' Union
- 11 University of Victoria Students' Society
- 12 Okanagan College Students' Union
- 13 Native Education Centre Student Association
- 14 Vancouver Island University Students' Union
- 15 Northwest Community College Students' Union
- 16 North Island Students' Union
- 17 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
- 18 Camosun College Student Society
- 19 College of the Rockies Students' Association
- 20 University of Victoria Graduate Students' Union
- 21 Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society

2016/08:041 MOTION TO REFER

Local 53/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:040 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

PAGE 12–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

2016/08:040 REFERRED

2016/08:042 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 13/Local 75

Whereas member local unions have historically been numbered based on certification with the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas several BC member locals have indicated an interest in showcasing their affiliation with the BC Federation of Students; and

Whereas the internal structures of the BC Federation of Students should properly reflect the participation of member local unions in respect to their status with the Federation, rather than their status with the affiliated national organizations; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw V Section 2 be amended to read:

The Executive Committee will be composed of:

- Aboriginal Students' Representative
- Campaigns Coordinator
- Chairperson
- Representative–Local 1 Members
- Representative–Local 2 Members
- Representative–Local 4 Members
- Representative–Local 5 Members
- Representative–Local 6 Members
- Representative–Local 9 Members
- Representative–Local 10 Members
- Representative–Local 12 Members
- Representative–Local 14 Members
- Representative–Local 15 Members
- Representative–Local 16 Members
- Representative–Local 17 Members
- Representative–Local 18 Members
- Representative–Local 21 Members
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Services Coordinator
- Women Students' Representative

2016/08:043 MOTION TO REFER

Local 4/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:042 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/08:042 REFERRED

12. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Olson made a series of logistical announcements.

13. RECESS

2016/08:044 MOTION TO RECESS

Local 73/Local 13

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until 10:30 on Sunday, August 14.

CARRIED

20:43 the meeting recessed.

CLOSING PLENARY – Sunday, August 14

10:14 the meeting was called to order by Plenary Speaker Hashemi.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 03 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Absent
Local 75 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 18 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 33 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 26 Kwantlen Student Association	Absent
Local 13 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 72 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 66 Northwest Community College Students' Union	Present
Local 53 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 86 College of the Rockies Students' Association	Absent
Local 04 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 15 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 73 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 61 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Prospective Member – Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society	Present

Hashemi declared quorum to be present.

2. ITEMS TABLED FROM OPENING PLENARY

2016/08:045 MOTION

Local 61/Local 72

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee Report be adopted.

It was noted that the final element of the second appendix had been distributed following the workshop on Recent History of the Student Movement.

2016/08:045 CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2016/08:046 MOTION

Local 53/Local 18

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

CARRIED

2016/08:047 MOTION

Local 61/Local 33

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

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Proposal to Create Policy on Post-Residency Fees

2016/08:032 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas graduate students face unique funding challenges due to the independent nature of their education and the vast array of costs associated with graduate research; and,

Whereas institutional funding for graduate students in BC is minimal, with many students forced to self-fund their research; and,

PAGE 14–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Whereas this lack of funding is coupled with high fees for those who have completed their graduate coursework but not yet completed their research, a period of time known as post-residency; and,

Whereas the cost of graduate education in the post-residency phase is minimal, especially in BC where there is nearly no funding being provided by institutions to most post-residency graduate students; therefore,

Be it resolved the following Education Issues Policy be adopted:

SECTION M

GRADUATE EDUCATION

1. Post Residency Fees and Institutional Graduate Funding

Preamble

Graduate students in British Columbia have considerably fewer opportunities for graduate funding than students in other provinces. To make matters worse, high post-residency fees exacerbate the lack of affordable graduate education in BC and negatively impact access to programs, completion rates, and the ability of graduate students to fully engage in the research and scholarship at their institution. The high cost of BC's graduate programs, including the unfair and unjustifiable post-residency fees, combine with the inadequate institutional funding for students to force low- and middle-income BC graduate applicants to seek admission to graduate programs outside the province.

Policy

The Federation supports the reduction and eventual elimination of continuing fees for post-residence graduate students.

The Federation supports the provision of institutional graduate funding to students in all graduate programs with a research component to both support excellence in scholarship among graduate students, and to reduce the barriers faced by those from low- and middle-income background in accessing graduate level education.

2016/08:048

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 15/Local 53

Be it resolved that the preamble in Motion-2016/08:032 be amended to read:

"Preamble

Graduate students in British Columbia have considerably fewer opportunities for graduate funding than students in other provinces. To make matters worse, high post-residency fees exacerbate the lack of affordable graduate education in BC and negatively impact access to programs, completion rates, and the ability of graduate students to fully engage in the research and scholarship at their institution. The high cost of BC's graduate programs, including the unfair and unjustifiable post-residency fees, combined with inadequate institutional funding for students, force low- and middle-income BC graduate applicants to seek admission to graduate programs outside the province."

CARRIED

2016/08:032

CARRIED AS AMENDED

b. Proposal to Create Policy on Teaching, Research and Graduate Assistants

2015/08:034

MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas graduate students are commonly also employed in some capacity at their institutions of study; and

Whereas student employees often face employment environments without job security, fair compensation, appropriate oversight, or necessary training; and,

Whereas student employees are often supervised by a faculty member or other academic leader with whom they have an additional non-employment relationship;

Whereas these conditions constitute precarious employment; therefore,

Be it resolved the following Education Issues Policy, Section D Employment, be amended to add:

7. Teaching, Research and Graduate Assistants**Preamble**

Students regularly work in underpaid academic positions within their institutions of study and these jobs exist without job security, fair compensation, appropriate oversight, or necessary training. Additionally, student assistant positions are often overseen by a faculty member or department supervisor with whom the employed student has an academic relationship, thus creating a conflict should a workplace issue arise. Unionization of student assistant positions creates a fair working environment and ensure that student employee's workplace rights are respected, that the compensation is reasonable and equal between employees doing the same work, and that appropriate oversight is applied to employees.

Policy

The Federation supports student workers' rights to unionize and bargain collectively for their work in teaching, marking, research, and graduate assistantships at post-secondary institutions. The Federation further supports and encourages post-secondary institutions to bargain, in good faith, collective agreements with student employee union representatives to entrench job security rights, fair working conditions, and other such fundamental workplace rights.

2016/08:049 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 75/Local53

Be it resolved that "ensure" be changed to "ensures" in Motion-2016/08:034.

CARRIED

2015/08:034 CARRIED AS AMENDED

c. Proposal to Review Policy on Sexism and Harassment

2016/08:050 MOTION
Local 15/72

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy Section H Sexism and Harassment in the Learning Environment be reviewed with consideration of Bill 23 - Sexual Violence and Misconduct Act and Ending Violence Association of BC's Campus Sexual Violence: Guidelines for a Comprehensive Response.

2016/08:051 MOTION
Local 13/Local 73

Be it resolved that the Report of the Policy Review and Development Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**a. Proposal Regarding Timing of General Meeting**

2016/08:014 MOTION
Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the timing of the semi-annual general meeting, traditionally held in mid-August, does not leave sufficient time to implement decisions of the membership in time for the beginning of the fall semester;

Whereas welcome events commonly begin on member local campuses in mid-August, and the events or their preparation commonly overlap with the traditional dates for the general meeting;

Whereas the semi-annual general meeting is commonly held at a member local campus and makes use of campus residences for accommodation;

Whereas the availability of campus spaces and housing is greater earlier in the summer than in mid-August;

Whereas summer travel in British Columbia is far busier on Thursdays and Sundays than on Wednesdays and Saturdays;

PAGE 16–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Whereas scheduling the general meeting to include more weekdays will improve the availability of speakers for the meeting; therefore

Be it resolved that the 72nd Semi-annual General Meeting be held between July 15 and July 31, 2017; and,

Be it resolved that the 72nd Semi-annual General Meeting begin on a Wednesday and conclude on a Saturday.

CARRIED

b. Proposal Regarding General Meeting Agendas

2016/08:016 MOTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation's skills development weekend is held in May or June each year and its scheduling is designed to recognize that a number of BC member local unions have local elections in the spring;

Whereas six member locals hold their annual general elections in the fall, and additional locals hold by-elections in the fall;

Whereas directors elected in the fall can serve a majority of their terms before receiving the skills development content provided by the Federation;

Whereas members have recently expressed support an appreciation for skills development workshops held at general meetings in place of traditional issues-based sessions;

Whereas the Federation's structure of two general meetings per year enable the organization to focus one meeting on skills development and another meeting on issues;

Be it resolved that workshops, panels and speakers at the 35th Annual General Meeting focus on skills development.

CARRIED

c. Proposal Regarding Participation at Skills Development Weekends

2016/08:018 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation's skills development weekend has traditionally been free of charge for twelve participants from every member local union;

Whereas the Federation developed a complex system that enables charge backs for those participants who fail to attend the majority of sessions and requires a deposit of \$250 per participant along with registration;

Whereas costs to host the Skills Development Weekend continue to increase and relate to a desire to improve the quality of workshops, a goal of improving the facilities at which the Weekend is held; and the increasing logistical requirements of participant travel and food needs;

Whereas Skills Development is a valuable service that offsets local director education and orientation initiatives and thereby saves member locals significant resources;

Whereas there is a vast disparity between the number of participants sent by member local unions and the 100% subsidization of up to 12 participants constitutions a significant allocation of resources;

Whereas the 100% subsidization of up to 12 participants is a far greater allocation of subsidization that ascribed to Federation general meetings;

Whereas the organization should regularly review its financial priorities with the goal of achieving a balance between services for students' unions and directors, such as the Skills Development Weekend, and services and advocacy for individual members who directly contribute membership fees: therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 15, Skills Development Weekend, Section 3 be amended to read:

3. FEES

Participation in the Skills Development Weekend shall be subsidized on the following basis:

Each member local union shall be entitled to send one participant to the Skills Development Weekend free of any participant fee;

Member local unions sending up to six participants to the Skills Development Weekend shall pay a per-participant fee of \$100 for participants two through six;

Member local unions sending more than six participants but less than twelve participants shall pay \$500 for the first six participants and a per-participant fee of \$150 for participants seven through twelve;

Member local unions sending more than twelve participants shall pay \$1,400 for the first twelve participants and a cost recovery rate per-participant over twelve; and

Member local unions with an annual budget of \$150,000 or less shall receive an additional small member local subsidy of 50% the rates outlined above.

2016/08:052 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 18/Local 75

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:18 be amended to read:

“3. FEES

Participation in the Skills Development Weekend shall be subsidized on the following basis:

Each member local union shall be entitled to send one participant to the Skills Development Weekend free of any participant fee;

Member local unions sending up to twelve participants to the Skills Development Weekend shall pay a per-participant fee of \$100 for participants two through twelve;

Member local unions sending more than twelve participants shall pay \$1,100 for the first twelve participants and a cost recovery rate per-participant over twelve; and

Member local unions with an annual budget of \$150,000 or less shall receive an additional small member local subsidy of 50% the rates outlined above.”

CARRIED

2016/08:018 CARRIED AS AMENDED

d. Proposal Regarding Distribution of Documents

2016/08:020 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY
Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation has historically distributed a press review to member local unions and this practice dates back to before the Internet was invented;

Whereas the press review information is now readily available to all member local unions online, and can be searched or sent to locals automatically in real time using functions like ‘Google Alerts’;

Whereas the compilation of the press review is both a timely exercise and an enormous waste of paper: therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section A, Distribution of Documents, be amended to delete Section 5.

CARRIED

e. Proposal to Repeal Internal Affairs Policy J

2016/08:022 MOTION TO REPEAL POLICY
Local 18/Local 4

Whereas the Federation, since its participation in Canadian Federation of Students in 1981, has organized its interaction with the national organization collectively;

Whereas the Internal Policy Section J outlines the Federation’s position on several key internal issues dating back to 1994;

PAGE 18–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Whereas the Federation's position on all of these issues has been altered by the actions of the National Executive and the related lack of democracy, lack of financial accountability and corrupt behaviour that has come to characterize the management of the national organizations by the National Executive and their political supporters within Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario;

Whereas the content of this policy is at odds with recent directives passed by the membership and structural changes made to the organization in the past twelve months: therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section J, Stance on National Issues, be repealed;

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be directed to present a replacement policy for consideration by the membership at the 35th Annual General Meeting.

2016/08:053 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 73/Local 18

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:022 be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section J, Stance on National Issues, be repealed.”

CARRIED

2016/08:022 CARRIED AS AMENDED

f. Proposal to Investigate User Agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc.

2016/08:026 MOTION
Local 61/Local 4

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; therefore

Be it resolved that a user agreement with OOHLALA Mobile Inc. be investigated.

CARRIED

g. Proposal to Review Certification Process

2015/08:030 MOTION
Local 61/Local 4

Whereas the Federation's bylaw on membership has been developed over time in collaboration with the national organizations; and

Whereas the common form of certification is through the process of prospective member local status, in which members seeking to affiliate can acquire a trial membership prior to a vote on certification;

Whereas it is possible for members to join the organization without first seeking prospective membership; and

Whereas the regulations covering certification outside the process of prospective membership lean heavily on the national organization's bylaws, and the regulations on certification in the Federation's bylaws are minimal; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw II be reviewed with the goal of improving regulations for certification.

CARRIED

h. Proposal Regarding Delegate Subsidies**2016/08:036 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTION**

Local 75/Local 4

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.

2016/08:054 MOTION TO REFER

Local 61/Local 73

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:036 be referred to the Executive Committee.

CARRIED**2016/08:036 REFERRED****i. Proposal to Strike College of the Rockies Students' Association from the Records****2016/08:038 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas in order to be eligible for membership in the BC Federation of Students, a local students' union must be locally and democratically controlled; and

Whereas a local students' union must also be autonomous from other organizations including the administration of a post-secondary institution; and

Whereas the individual students at the College of the Rockies voted to join the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1996; and

Whereas Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union was an active participant in the organization until 1999; and

Whereas in or around 1999 Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union began to experience internal turmoil; and

Whereas as a result of the internal turmoil the administration of the College inserted itself into the internal affairs of the Union, transforming it into a social organization; and

Whereas the Federation attempted over the years to assist College of the Rockies students in the establishment of an autonomous union; and

Whereas these attempts have failed due, in part, to the interference of the College and the absence of any institutional memory within the transformed organization; and

Whereas the organization as it now stands fails to meet the most basic criteria of membership; and

Whereas the situation is unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future; therefore,

PAGE 20–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Be it resolved that the organization, formerly known as the College of the Rockies Students' Union, be struck from the membership rolls;

Be it further resolved that any all references to the College of the Rockies and the College of the Rockies Students' Union be removed from all applicable bylaws, policies, and standing resolutions; and

Be it further resolved that any bylaws, policies, and standing resolutions so affected be renumbered accordingly.

CARRIED

j. Proposal to Create Standing Resolution for Local Numbers

2016/08:040 MOTION TO ADOPT STANDING RESOLUTION

Local 13/Local 75

Whereas member local unions have historically been numbered based on certification with the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas several BC member locals have indicated an interest in showcasing their affiliation with the BC Federation of Students; and

Whereas local number allocation has been based the order in which a member local union joined the organization, irrespective of their current membership status; therefore,

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be created:

Standing Resolution 16

Member Local Union Numbers

Each member local union shall be given a unique local number to showcase affiliation with the Federation. In the instance that a members of a local union choose to decertify, the local number shall remain vacant until such time that members of the local recertify with the Federation.

The following is a listing of past and current member local unions and their respective local numbers:

- 01 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan
- 02 Selkirk College Students' Union
- 03 Capilano Students' Union
- 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union
- 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
- 06 Douglas Students' Union
- 07 Langara Students' Union
- 08 Simon Fraser Student Society
- 09 Kwantlen Student Association
- 10 Emily Carr Students' Union
- 11 University of Victoria Students' Society
- 12 Okanagan College Students' Union
- 13 Native Education Centre Student Association
- 14 Vancouver Island University Students' Union
- 15 Northwest Community College Students' Union
- 16 North Island Students' Union
- 17 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
- 18 Camosun College Student Society
- 19 College of the Rockies Students' Association
- 20 University of Victoria Graduate Students' Union
- 21 Northern British Columbia Graduate Students'

2016/08:055 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 75/Local 18

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:040 be amended to remove “13 Native Education Centre Student Association” and that the subsequent member locals be renumbered accordingly.

CARRIED

2016/08:056 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 73/Local 53

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:040 be amended as follows:

- Local 1 Okanagan College Students’ Union Local 1; and
- Local 12 UBC Students’ Union Okanagan.

CARRIED

2016/08:040 CARRIED AS AMENDED

k. Proposal to Amend Representative Local Numbers

2016/08:042 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS
Local 13/Local 75

Whereas member local unions have historically been numbered based on certification with the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas several BC member locals have indicated an interest in showcasing their affiliation with the BC Federation of Students; and

Whereas the internal structures of the BC Federation of Students should properly reflect the participation of member local unions in respect to their status with the Federation, rather than their status with the affiliated national organizations; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw V Section 2 be amended to read:

The Executive Committee will be composed of:

- Aboriginal Students’ Representative
- Campaigns Coordinator
- Chairperson
- Representative–Local 1 Members
- Representative–Local 2 Members
- Representative–Local 4 Members
- Representative–Local 5 Members
- Representative–Local 6 Members
- Representative–Local 9 Members
- Representative–Local 10 Members
- Representative–Local 12 Members
- Representative–Local 14 Members
- Representative–Local 15 Members
- Representative–Local 16 Members
- Representative–Local 17 Members
- Representative–Local 18 Members
- Representative–Local 21 Members
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Services Coordinator
- Women Students’ Representative

PAGE 22–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

2016/08:057 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 73/Local 53

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:42 be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that Bylaw V Section 2 be amended to read:

The Executive Committee will be composed of:

- Aboriginal Students' Representative
- Campaigns Coordinator
- Chairperson
- Representative–Local 1 Members
- Representative–Local 2 Members
- Representative–Local 4 Members
- Representative–Local 5 Members
- Representative–Local 6 Members
- Representative–Local 9 Members
- Representative–Local 10 Members
- Representative–Local 12 Members
- Representative–Local 13 Members
- Representative–Local 14 Members
- Representative–Local 15 Members
- Representative–Local 16 Members
- Representative–Local 17 Members
- Representative–Local 20 Members
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Services Coordinator
- Women Students' Representative”

CARRIED

2016/08:042 CARRIED AS AMENDED

2016/08:058 MOTION

Local 72/Local 18

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

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Proposal to Endorse the “Fostering Change” Campaign

2016/08:024 MOTION

Local 18/Local 4

Whereas youth from the “care system” do not have access to the same level of family resources as many other students from traditional or even non-traditional family structures;

Whereas the 2013 BC Baccalaureate Graduate Student Survey shows that 51% of respondents listed their friends and family one of the top two sources of funding for their education;

Whereas most young adults in BC can count on financial support, relationships and family connections to help them get a good start in life, which is not the case for those from the “care system”;

Whereas due to the cut off from “support” at 19, youth aging out of foster care too often end up homeless, don’t finish high school, and have no one to turn to in their 20’s;

Be it resolved that the Fostering Change Campaign be endorsed;

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the Minister of Children and Families calling on the BC government to enact the three recommendations of the campaign’s Write the Future Initiative;

Be it further resolved that the immediate elimination of tuition fees for former and current youth in care be sought from the government of BC in the form of a tuition waiver or grant; and

Be it resolved that the campaign organizers be encouraged to amend their list of demands to add that those from the “care system” be provided four years of free full-time post-secondary study in any program of their choosing.

CARRIED

b. Proposal to Host Indigenous Students’ Conference

2016/08:028

MOTION

Local 61/Local 4

Whereas Indigenous peoples face unique barriers to access post-secondary education; and

Whereas Indigenous students are amongst the most marginalized members of any students’ union; and

Whereas Indigenous students are typically under-represented on students’ union boards or as volunteers; and

Whereas the best way to create a strategy to reach out to Indigenous members is to speak with them directly; therefore

Be it resolved that a conference for Indigenous students be held in the fall 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the conference discuss topics such as Truth and Reconciliation and post-secondary education related issues with a goal of empowering Indigenous members to become more involved in their students’ union and aiding the inclusiveness of the Federation’s campaigns; and

Be it further resolved that a participant fee of no more than \$500 be set for the conference, with one participant from each member local being fully-subsidized; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send up to five Indigenous participants.

2016/08:059

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 66/Local 53

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/08:028 be amended to include:

“Be it resolved that member locals with a budget of less than \$150,000 shall receive an additional small member local subsidy of 50% of the rates outlined above.”

CARRIED

2016/08:028

CARRIED AS AMENDED

2016/08:060

MOTION

Local 75/Local 13

Be it resolved that the 2016-17 Campaigns and Government Relations Plan be adopted.

CARRIED

2016/08:061

MOTION

Local 15/Local 73

Whereas the means by which students currently access financial aid in British Columbia is overwhelmingly interest-based loans;

Whereas RESP’s, loan remission programs, and tax credits are ineffective and inefficient in addressing the issues associated with increased debt loads such as: equitable participation, higher graduation rates, and full transition into the workforce;

PAGE 24–MINUTES

70th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, August 11 to Sunday, August 14, 2016

Whereas the data surrounding needs-based grants clearly show it to be a superior form of financial aid in accomplishing the provincial mandate of higher education;

Whereas the political climate leading up to the 2017 election provides significant opportunity to raise the issue of a provincial system of comprehensive needs-based grants;

Be it resolved that each member local be encouraged to include in their Provincial Budget Submission to the select standing committee on finance and government services a call for the elimination of RESP's, loan remission programs, and education tax credits and the creation of a comprehensive needs-based grants system;

Be it further resolved that each member local be encouraged to engage in no less than two campus outreach initiatives to educate members on the issue of student financial aid and comprehensive needs-based grants;

Be it further resolved that each member local be encouraged to reach out to their local MLA's and each nominated candidate of the major BC political parties to call for the elimination of RESPs, loan remission programs, and education tax credits and the creation of a comprehensive needs-based grants system;

Be it further resolved that each member local be encouraged to take up a minimum of one media initiative calling on the provincial government to eliminate RESP's, loan remission programs, and education tax credits, and create a provincial system of comprehensive needs-based grants.

CARRIED

2016/08:062

MOTION

Local 13/Local 33

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

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.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davies made a series of logistical announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

2016/08:063

MOTION

Local 72/Local 15

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

11:02 the meeting adjourned.