

MINUTES

34th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia
Thursday, January 14 to Sunday, January 17, 2016

OPENING PLENARY – Thursday, January 14

19:49 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Simka Marshall.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Marshall acknowledged the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation.

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	Absent
Local 73 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 61 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Prospective Member – Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present

Marshall declared quorum to be present.

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 chairs general meeting plenary sessions. She said that the Executive Committee was recommending that Amanda Aziz be ratified as the Plenary Speaker. She said that Aziz had a long history in elected roles in the Federation, and had chaired Federation general meetings on previous occasions.

2016/01:001 MOTION

Local 53/Local 72

Be it resolved that Amanda Aziz be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 34th annual general meeting.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2016/01:002 MOTION

Local 33/Local 04

Be it resolved that the agenda for the plenary be adopted.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2016/01:003 MOTION

Local 18/Local 13

Be it resolved that the agenda for the general meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

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6. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Aziz 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 additional rules and procedures established by standing resolution.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Aziz said that the Federation strives to create an environment at its general meetings that is free of harassment. She 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.” She said that the Committee shall be comprised of two women and one man. She noted that two of the members shall be selected by Women's Caucus and the third shall be selected by plenary.

Women Students' Liaison Ruab Waraich provided a brief overview of the anti-harassment policy of the Federation.

Aziz reported that Women's Caucus selected Local 18 delegate Tracy Ho and Local 61 delegate Connie Graham to serve as members of the Harassment Grievance Committee. She said that the general meeting would now select a third, male member of the Committee.

Local 18 delegate Ho nominated Local 18 delegate Aran Armutlu.

Armutlu accepted the nomination.

2015/01:004 **MOTION**
Local 53/Local 73

Be it resolved that Local 61 delegate Connie Graham, Local 18 delegate Tracy Ho, and Local 18 delegate Aran Armutlu be ratified as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee.

CARRIED

c. Presentation by the Staff Relations Officer

BC Representative on the National Executive Jenelle Davies, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, made 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 68th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2016/01:005 **MOTION**
Local 33/Local 72

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 68th semi-annual general meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

8. PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

a. Introduction of Chief Electoral Officer

Aziz explained that Research and Communications Officer Steven Beasley had been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for the elections to be conducted at the general meeting.

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

Beasley provided an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

c. Striking of Electoral Committee

Aziz explained that the two members of the Electoral Committee would be selected as per Internal Affairs Policy B-3.

A Local 75 delegate nominated Local 75 delegate Michel Turcotte. Turcotte accepted the nomination.

A Local 53 delegate nominated Local 53 delegate Brianne Berchowitz. Berchowitz accepted the nomination.

Local 13 delegate nominated Local 13 delegate Nathan Geddes. Geddes accepted the nomination.

Local 66 delegate Reilly Walker nominated himself.

A secret ballot vote was conducted. Berchowitz and Turcotte received the majority of votes.

2016/01:006 MOTION

Local 53/Local 72

Be it resolved that Local 53 delegate Brianne Berchowitz and Local 75 delegate Michel Turcotte be ratified as members of the Electoral Committee.

CARRIED

9. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An overview of work undertaken since the previous general meeting was provided.

2016/01:007 MOTION

Local 61/Local 13

Be it resolved that the report of the Executive Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

2016/01:008 MOTION

Local 18/Local 13

Be it resolved that Stephen Littley LLB be ratified as the Chief Returning Officer.

CARRIED

10. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES

a. Striking of General Meeting Committees

Aziz announced that as per Internal Affairs Policy F-2 the following committees are automatically struck:

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

b. Adoption of Committee Agendas

2016/01:009 MOTION

Local 73/Local 75

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns Committee, Finance Committee, Organisational and Services Development Committee, and Policy Review and Development Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

Aziz said that the following motions were submitted with due notice for consideration at this meeting and that some would require a seconder.

2016/01:010 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 73/Local 04

Whereas students began working together through the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1966 as the Assembly of British Columbia Students, later known as the British Columbia Student Federation;

Whereas the British Columbia Student Federation changed its name to Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1981 based on the principles of provincial and national congruency that were key to the development of the Canadian Federation of Students;

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Whereas the progressive coalition that once led the Canadian Federation of Students has been irreparably betrayed by forces outside British Columbia and there exists little benefit to maintaining congruency or a unified identity between the provincial and national entities;

Whereas British Columbia student solidarity has proven to be a valuable and powerful tool for progress in the province; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, a. be repealed;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, c. be amended to read:

- c. The official wording for a referendum on certification shall only include the following:
 - i. “Do you wish to become a member of the British Columbia Federation of Students?” and
 - ii. Such other wording as decided by the Executive Committee.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, d. be amended to read:

- d. A written application for full membership submitted by an eligible local students' union shall constitute a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of full membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, g. be amended to read:

- g. Full membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, h. be amended to read:

- h. The full membership fee for each member local union shall be no less than \$8.76 per semester, or \$17.52 per academic year, per local union individual member.

Be it further resolved that the description in Bylaw II, 2.2 be amended to read:

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

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.2, a. be amended to read:

- a. A local students' union in British Columbia is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its members, executive, council or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.2, d. be amended to read:

- d. Prospective membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.3, a. i. be amended to read:

- i. for a breach of a provision of the British Columbia Federation of Students bylaws;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.3, e. be amended to read:

- e. A member local union, having had its voting privileges suspended or having been expelled, will have the right to appeal said suspension of voting privileges or expulsion to a subsequent British Columbia Federation of Students general meeting.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.4, a. ii. be amended to read:

- ii. The petition shall be worded as follows: “We, the undersigned, petition the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Federation of Students to conduct a referendum on the issue of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.”

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.4, a. iii. be amended to read:

- iii. The original, unaltered petition must be delivered in its entirety to the Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer, by registered mail. Petitions received that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.8 be repealed.

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:010 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/01:010****REFERRED****2016/01:012****MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 73/Local 04

Whereas congruency with the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services has in recent years been imperfect; and

Whereas the inclusion of member local unions that are not directly affiliated with the national organisations would eliminate congruency; and

Whereas each member local union may vote for the six positions on the Executive Committee that are elected at general meetings, but current bylaws stipulated that one of these positions (Secretary-Treasurer) is also the representative of British Columbia on the board of directors of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw XII, clause 2 be repealed.

2016/01:013**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:012 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/01:012****REFERRED****2016/01:014****MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, POLICY**

Local 73/Local 04

Whereas students began working together through the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1966 as the Assembly of British Columbia Students, later known as the British Columbia Student Federation;

Whereas the British Columbia Student Federation changed its name to Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1981 based on the principles of provincial and national congruency that were key to the development of the Canadian Federation of Students;

Whereas the actions of the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) have caused the organisation to fall into disrepute;

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students may change its name in the near future to avoid the ill will associated with its name;

Whereas British Columbia student solidarity has proven to be a valuable and powerful tool for progress in the province; therefore,

Be it resolved that the name be changed to British Columbia Federation of Students; and,

Be it further resolved that that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy be amended to reflect that the organisation has changed its name to British Columbia Federation of Students.

2016/01:015**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:014 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/01:014****REFERRED****2016/01:016****MOTION**

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas the Federation has supported campaigns against date-rape and other sexualised violence, as such violence is a barrier to education and otherwise an affront to humanity;

Whereas *Let's Get Consensual* is a local campaign against the prevalence of rape culture and sexualized violence on campuses organized by the University of Victoria, the University of Victoria Student Society, and the Anti-Violence Project (University of Victoria);

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Whereas the Federation lacks a robust campaign vehicle to express active and ongoing support for the elimination of rape culture; therefore,

Be it resolved that the *Let's Get Consensual* campaign be endorsed; and

Be it resolved that materials for the *Let's Get Consensual* be developed.

2016/01:017 MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:016 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:016 REFERRED

2016/01:018 MOTION

Local 72/Local 33

Whereas as a nation-wide, voluntary organization, the Canadian Mental Health Association, promotes the mental health of all and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness;

Whereas in partnership with the University of Victoria, the CMHA runs *Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses*, a province-wide Community of Practice—a group of people who share the common goal of promoting campus mental health and reducing risky substance use; therefore,

Be it resolved that the CMHA be contacted in effort to find avenues through which common ground and common goals can be ascertained, and work undertaken to improve the mental health of students.

2016/01:019 MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:018 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:018 REFERRED

2016/01:020 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas academic freedom, in which each group within a campus community is ensured unmolested participation in the education system, is a central moral and social component of quality post-secondary education;

Whereas increasing tuition fees, high student debt, faculty restrictions, and other forces on the post-secondary education system limit academic freedom; therefore,

Be it resolved that Issues Policy, Education Issues, Section A be amended to include:

14. Academic Freedom

Preamble

Academic freedom is the belief that the freedom of inquiry by faculty members is essential to the mission of the academy as well as the principles of academia, and that scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment.

Modern post-secondary education brings together many with sophisticated and/or complex beliefs, understandings, and values. Academic freedom includes the freedom to participate in post-secondary education that is free of overt political influence.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- academic freedom: the right to teach, learn, study, and publish free of orthodoxy or threat of reprisal and discrimination;

- the freedom of instructors and professors to choose educational materials for classes and programs, as long as those materials are sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the curriculum per the Education Council, Senate, or other governing academic body; and,
- limiting non-core required courses and the proliferation of flexible and diverse elective components.

2016/01:021 MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:020 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/01:020 REFERRED****2016/01:022 MOTION**

Local 15/Local 33

Whereas course and program evaluations are used differently at BC post-secondary institutions, with some institutions facilitating evaluations of course and program evaluations for every course, each time it is offered, and other institutions not offering course evaluation in any form;

Whereas course and program evaluations provide an important venue for students to provide feedback on course and program content, course and program delivery models, and instructor teaching style;

Whereas faculty have been hesitant to support expanded course and program evaluation due to concerns that the results of evaluations will be used against faculty members in disciplinary processes;

Be it resolved that Education Issues Policy, Section F be amended to add:

12. Course and Program Evaluations**Preamble**

Course and program evaluations provide an important venue for students to provide feedback on course and program content, course and program delivery models, and instructor teaching style. Course and program evaluations are also a vital means to provide direct student input into academic and program planning.

Policy

The Federation supports the right of students to participate in course and program evaluations conducted among each cohort of a respective course or program. The Federation supports the use of course and program evaluation data to inform changes to course and program content; provide constructive feedback to instructors and professors on teaching style; and inform the academic and program planning at each respective institution.

The Federation opposes the use of course and program evaluation data in by institutions as part a disciplinary action against a faculty member.

2016/01:023 MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:022 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED**2016/01:022 REFERRED****2016/01:024 MOTION**

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas Bill-C51, the Anti-Terrorism Act, that received Royal Assent in May 2015 threatens the right to freedom of speech, and protection of privacy from people living in Canada; and

Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act gave far-reaching powers to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Minister of Public Safety, with minimal oversight, or democratic accountability, including the ability to 'preventatively' detain or restrict without due process; and

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Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act also allows for information sharing, even sensitive and personal information like health and income tax information, between seventeen government agencies; and

Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act has garnered widespread oppositions from the public, legal scholars, and social justice advocates as well as Members of Parliament including Jean Chretien, Joe Clark, John Turner, Paul Martin, five former Supreme Court of Canada justices, the privacy Commissioner and many legal experts who appeared at the Public Safety Committee; and

Whereas Prime Minister Trudeau has stated that once elected, would strike a parliamentary oversight committee to review “the legislative, regulatory, policy and administrative framework for national security and intelligence in Canada, and activities of federal departments and agencies in relation to intelligence and national security”; therefore

Be it resolved that Open Media’s “Kill Bill C-51” campaign be endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to sign Open Media’s letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling on government to release a position statement on the Bill and to go through proper public consultation processes before tabling legislative changes.

2016/01:025

MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:024 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:024

REFERRED

2016/01:026

MOTION

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas the titles of the Aboriginal Students’ Liaison and Women Students’ Liaison use out-dated language; and

Whereas most students’ unions with similar positions use the term “representative”; therefore

Be it resolved that the title of the Aboriginal Students’ Liaison be changed to Aboriginal Students’ Representative; and

Be it further resolved that the title of the Women Students’ Liaison be changed to Women Students’ Representative; and

Be it further resolved that all references to the Aboriginal Students’ Liaison and Women Students’ Liaison be changed accordingly.

2016/01:027

MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:026 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:026

REFERRED

2016/01:028

MOTION

Local 04/Local 33

Whereas in 2012 two sawmill explosions took place in British Columbia killing four workers and seriously injuring others; and

Whereas the workers complained about the accumulation of flammable wood dust; and

Whereas WorkSafeBC declared the accident preventable, but today no one has been charged with criminal negligence for the killings; and

Whereas the United Steelworkers union and the British Columbia Federation of Labour have engaged in a campaign calling for a public inquiry into the killings (information available at: nquiry-usw.nationbuilder.com); therefore,

Be it resolved that the demand for a public inquiry, compelling WorkSafeBC, the owners of the sawmills, and other involved to testify, be endorsed and otherwise supported.

2016/01:029

MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:028 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:028

REFERRED

2016/01:030

MOTION

Local 04/Local 33

Whereas displacement is a difficult and troubling event in the lives of those forced to leave their homeland;

Whereas the Government of Canada has committed to bring 25,000 refugees from the United States of America-instigated conflict in Syria to Canada, some of whom have already arrived;

Whereas the successful integration of a whole community of new Canadians will require community support and popular demand for resources to be allocated for refugee support;

Whereas *#WelcomeOnBoard* is an initiative started by the University of Victoria Students' Society to get transit stakeholders in Canada to offer free transit to new refugees;

Whereas the University of Victoria Students Society has requested support for *#WelcomeOnBoard* from the Federation and each member local union; therefore,

Be it resolved that the *#WelcomeOnBoard* campaign be endorsed; and,

Be it resolved that materials for the *#WelcomeOnBoard* campaign be developed.

2016/01:031

MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:030 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:030

REFERRED

2016/01:032

MOTION

Local 04/Local 33

Whereas the 68th semi-annual general meeting resolved to censure the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services);

Whereas the 68th semi-annual general meeting resolved send a list of conditions to the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) that outline the minimum requirement for British Columbia students to participate in the national organisation;

Whereas the National Executive has ignored this communication; therefore,

Be it resolved that a common strategy for ensuring students in British Columbia are no longer members of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) be developed and implemented.

2016/01:033

MOTION TO REFER

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:032 be referred to the Organizational and Service Development Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:032

REFERRED

2016/01:034

MOTION

Local 66/Local 33

Whereas during the 2015 federal election campaign Justin Trudeau opposed Enbridge Inc.'s Northern Gateway project, as it threatened the ecology of the British Columbian coast; and

Whereas upon becoming Prime Minister, Trudeau has begun "formalizing" a ban on oil tankers along British Columbian's north coast; and

Whereas Prime Minister Trudeau has also promised to overhaul Canada's environmental assessment process and reassess Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline

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Be it resolved that the Federation send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau calling on a legislative ban on tankers along the British Columbia North coast, as well as an overhaul of the environmental assessment process; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encourage to sign Sierra Club BC's open letter to the Prime Minister at www.sierraclub.bc.ca/take-action-centre/tanker-ban-climate-test; and

Be it further resolved that the Sierra Club BC be contacted to collaborate on future initiatives.

2016/01:035 **MOTION TO REFER**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:034 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:034 **REFERRED**

2016/01:036 **MOTION**

Local 73/Local 33

Whereas general meetings are a point of contact for student activists in British Columbia to converge, share ideas, and prepare for collective action in the months ahead;

Whereas similar groups, including labour organisations and social movements, organise gatherings with the intention of inducing spontaneous social movement through proximity of interested or active community members and coalition partners;

Whereas post-secondary education in British Columbia has undergone significant changes during the last fifteen years, meaning a single generation ago the system functioned much differently, leading to vastly different perceptions of education between age groups;

Whereas broad community support would benefit the struggle for universally accessible public post-secondary education; therefore,

Be it resolved that a conference, assembly, or other such convergence be organised to bring together member local unions, non-member students' unions, coalition partners, and others for the purpose of broadening support for universally accessible public post-secondary education; and

Be it further resolved that coalition partners be contacted to provide financial and political support for the conference, up to and including full partnership in the endeavour.

2016/01:037 **MOTION TO REFER**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:036 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:036 **REFERRED**

2016/01:038 **MOTION**

Local 73/Local 33

Whereas children in the care of government programs are statistically at greater risk for social malaise;

Whereas children in the care of government programs are often from personal or family backgrounds of marginalization;

Whereas Robert Plecas, former deputy minister at the Ministry of Children and Family Development, recently prepared a report suggesting, "Currently, the child welfare system does not have a rigorous performance appraisal system in place, and does not define what good practice and good performance are in terms of expectations for outputs or outcomes";

Whereas Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond, an independent representative for children and youth, said of the situation, "Independent oversight of B.C.'s child welfare system remains a necessity";

Whereas the British Columbia Government and Service Employees Union has challenged government through its Choose Children campaign to improve funding for support workers, siting that frontline workers can't get to children when they most urgently need help, workers are buried under massive caseloads, and severe staffing shortages; therefore,

Be it resolved that the British Columbia Government and Services Employees Union *Choose Children* campaign be endorsed.

2016/01:039 MOTION TO REFER
Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:038 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2016/01:038 REFERRED

12. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A series of logistical announcements were made.

13. RECESS

2016/01:040 MOTION TO RECESS
Local 18/Prospective Members- Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until 10:00 on Sunday, January 17, 2016.

CARRIED

20:45 the meeting recessed.

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CLOSING PLENARY – Sunday, January 17, 2016

10:16 the meeting was called to order by Plenary Speaker Aziz.

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

Aziz declared quorum to be present.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2016/01:041 MOTION

Local 61/Local 73

Be it resolved that the 2014-15 audited financial statements be approved.

CARRIED

2016/01:042 MOTION

Local 18/Local 61

Be it resolved that Tompkins, Wozny, Miller and Co. be appointed as the auditor for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

CARRIED

2016/01:043 MOTION

Local 53/Local 73

Be it resolved that the revised 2015-16 budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2016/01:044 MOTION

Local 75/Local 13

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

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Proposal to Adopt Policy on Academic Freedom

2016/01:020 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas academic freedom, in which each group within a campus community is ensured unmolested participation in the education system, is a central moral and social component of quality post-secondary education; and

Whereas increasing tuition fees, high student debt, faculty restrictions, and other forces on the post-secondary education system limit academic freedom; therefore,

Be it resolved that Issues Policy, Education Issues, Section A be amended to include:

14. Academic Freedom

Preamble

Academic freedom is the belief that the freedom of inquiry by faculty members is essential to the mission of the academy as well as the principles of academia, and that scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment.

Modern post-secondary education brings together many with sophisticated and/or complex beliefs, understandings, and values. Academic freedom includes the freedom to participate in post-secondary education that is free of overt political influence.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- academic freedom: the right to teach, learn, study, and publish free of orthodoxy or threat of reprisal and discrimination;
- the freedom of instructors and professors to choose educational materials for classes and programs, as long as those materials are sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the curriculum per the Education Council, Senate, or other governing academic body; and
- limiting non-core required courses and the proliferation of flexible and diverse elective components.

2016/01:045 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 33/Local 18

Be it resolved that the first clause of the preamble in Motion-2016/01:020 be amended to read:

“Academic freedom is the belief that the freedom of inquiry by faculty members and students is essential to the mission of the academy as well as the principles of academia, and that scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment.”

CARRIED

2016/01:020 CARRIED AS AMENDED

b. Proposal to Adopt Policy on Students’ Right to Course Evaluations

2016/01:22 MOTION
Local 15/Local 33

Whereas course and program evaluations are used differently at BC post-secondary institutions, with some institutions facilitating evaluations of course and program evaluations for every course, each time it is offered, and other institutions not offering course evaluation in any form;

Whereas course and program evaluations provide an important venue for students to provide feedback on course and program content, course and program delivery models, and instructor teaching style; and

Whereas faculty have been hesitant to support expanded course and program evaluation due to concerns that the results of evaluations will be used against faculty members in disciplinary processes; therefore

Be it resolved that Education Issues Policy, Section F be amended to add:

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12. Course and Program Evaluations

Preamble

Course and program evaluations provide an important venue for students to provide feedback on course and program content, course and program delivery models, and instructor teaching style. Course and program evaluations are also a vital means to provide direct student input into academic and program planning.

Policy

The Federation supports the right of students to participate in course and program evaluations conducted among each cohort of a respective course or program. The Federation supports the use of course and program evaluation data to inform changes to course and program content; provide constructive feedback to instructors and professors on teaching style; and inform the academic and program planning at each respective institution.

The Federation opposes the use of course and program evaluation data by institutions as part of a disciplinary action against a faculty member.

CARRIED

2016/01:046

MOTION

Prospective Members- Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society/Local 61

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 to Amend Bylaw II on Membership

2015/08:010

MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 73/Local 04

Whereas students began working together through the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1966 as the Assembly of British Columbia Students, later known as the British Columbia Student Federation;

Whereas the British Columbia Student Federation changed its name to Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1981 based on the principles of provincial and national congruency that were key to the development of the Canadian Federation of Students;

Whereas the progressive coalition that once led the Canadian Federation of Students has been irreparably betrayed by forces outside British Columbia and there exists little benefit to maintaining congruency or a unified identity between the provincial and national entities; and

Whereas British Columbia student solidarity has proven to be a valuable and powerful tool for progress in the province; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, a. be repealed;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, c. be amended to read:

c. The official wording for a referendum on certification shall only include the following:

- i. "Do you wish to become a member of the British Columbia Federation of Students?" and
- ii. Such other wording as decided by the Executive Committee.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, d. be amended to read:

- d. A written application for full membership submitted by an eligible local students' union shall constitute a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of full membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, g. be amended to read:

- g. Full membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, h. be amended to read:

- h. The full membership fee for each member local union shall be no less than \$8.76 per semester, or \$17.52 per academic year, per local union individual member.

Be it further resolved that the description in Bylaw II, 2.2 be amended to read:

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

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.2, a. be amended to read:

- a. A local students' union in British Columbia is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its members, executive, council or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.2, d. be amended to read:

- d. Prospective membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by the plenary of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.3, a. i. be amended to read:

- i. for a breach of a provision of the British Columbia Federation of Students bylaws;

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.3, e. be amended to read:

- e. A member local union, having had its voting privileges suspended or having been expelled, will have the right to appeal said suspension of voting privileges or expulsion to a subsequent British Columbia Federation of Students general meeting.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.4, a. ii. be amended to read:

- ii. The petition shall be worded as follows: "We, the undersigned, petition the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Federation of Students to conduct a referendum on the issue of continued membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students."

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.4, a. iii. be amended to read:

- iii. The original, unaltered petition must be delivered in its entirety to the Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer, by registered mail. Petitions received that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.8 be repealed.

2016/01:047

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 73/Local 53

Be it resolved that the fifth clause in Motion-2016/01:010 be amended to read:

"Be it further resolved that Bylaw II, 2.1, h. be amended to read:

- h. As of January 1, 2016 the full membership fee for each member local union shall be no less than \$8.76 per semester per local union individual member, pro-rated as per the practice of the member local union with regard to the levying of its local union fee.

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

CARRIED

2016/01:010

CARRIED AS AMENDED

b. Proposal to Amend Bylaw XII

2016/01:012

MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 73/Local 04

Whereas congruency with the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services has in recent years been imperfect; and

Whereas the inclusion of member local unions that are not directly affiliated with the national organisations would eliminate congruency; and

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Whereas each member local union may vote for the six positions on the Executive Committee that are elected at general meetings, but current bylaws stipulated that one of these positions (Secretary-Treasurer) is also the representative of British Columbia on the board of directors of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services; therefore,

Be it resolved that Bylaw XII, clause 2 be repealed.

2016/01:048 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 73/Local 53

Be it resolved that Motion-2016/01:012 be amended to include:

“Be it further resolved that the repeal of Bylaw XII, clause 2 come into effect at the commencement of the next general meeting.”

CARRIED

2016/01:012 CARRIED AS AMENDED

c. Proposal to Change the Name of the Organization

2016/01:014 MOTION
Local 73/Local 04

Whereas students began working together through the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1966 as the Assembly of British Columbia Students, later known as the British Columbia Student Federation;

Whereas the British Columbia Student Federation changed its name to Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia in 1981 based on the principles of provincial and national congruency that were key to the development of the Canadian Federation of Students;

Whereas the actions of the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) have caused the organisation to fall into disrepute;

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students may change its name in the near future to avoid the ill will associated with its name; and

Whereas British Columbia student solidarity has proven to be a valuable and powerful tool for progress in the province; therefore,

Be it resolved that the name be changed to British Columbia Federation of Students; and,

Be it further resolved that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy be amended to reflect that the organisation has changed its name to British Columbia Federation of Students.

CARRIED (UNANIMOUSLY)

d. Proposal to Change the Title of the Aboriginal Students' Liaison & Women Students' Liaison

2016/01:026 MOTION
Local 61/Local 33

Whereas the titles of the Aboriginal Students' Liaison and Women Students' Liaison use outdated language; and

Whereas most students' unions with similar positions use the term “representative”; therefore

Be it resolved that the title of the Aboriginal Students' Liaison be changed to Aboriginal Students' Representative; and

Be it further resolved that the title of the Women Students' Liaison be changed to Women Students' Representative; and

Be it further resolved that all references to the Aboriginal Students' Liaison and Women Students' Liaison be changed accordingly.

CARRIED

e. Proposal to Develop a Strategy to Separate from Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)

2016/01:032 MOTION
Local 04/Local 33

Whereas the 68th semi-annual general meeting resolved to censure the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services);

Whereas the 68th semi-annual general meeting resolved to send a list of conditions to the National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) that outline the minimum requirement for British Columbia students to participate in the national organisation; and

Whereas the National Executive has ignored this communication; therefore,

Be it resolved that a common strategy for ensuring students in British Columbia are no longer members of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) be developed and implemented.

CARRIED

2016/01:049

MOTION

Local 66/Local 53

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

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Proposal to Endorse the *Let's Get Consensual* Campaign

2016/01:016

MOTION

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas the Federation has supported campaigns against date-rape and other sexualised violence, as such violence is a barrier to education and otherwise an affront to humanity;

Whereas *Let's Get Consensual* is a local campaign against the prevalence of rape culture and sexualized violence on campuses organized by the University of Victoria, the University of Victoria Student Society, and the Anti-Violence Project (University of Victoria);

Whereas the Federation lacks a robust campaign vehicle to express active and ongoing support for the elimination of rape culture; therefore,

Be it resolved that the *Let's Get Consensual* campaign be endorsed; and,

Be it resolved that materials for the *Let's Get Consensual* be developed.

CARRIED

b. Proposal to Undertake Campaigns Work on Student Mental Health

2016/01:018

MOTION

Local 72/Local 33

Whereas as a nation-wide, voluntary organization, the Canadian Mental Health Association, promotes the mental health of all and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness;

Whereas in partnership with the University of Victoria, the CMHA runs *Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses*, a province-wide Community of Practice—a group of people who share the common goal of promoting campus mental health and reducing risky substance use; therefore,

Be it resolved that the CMHA be contacted in effort to find avenues through which common ground and common goals can be ascertained, and work undertaken to improve the mental health of students.

CARRIED

c. Proposal to Campaign for Amendments to Bill C-51

2016/01:024

MOTION

Local 61/Local 33

Whereas Bill-C51, the Anti-Terrorism Act, that received Royal Assent in May 2015 threatens the right to freedom of speech, and protection of privacy from people living in Canada; and

Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act gave far-reaching powers to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Minister of Public Safety, with minimal oversight, or democratic accountability, including the ability to 'preventatively' detain or restrict without due process; and

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Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act also allows for information sharing, even sensitive and personal information like health and income tax information, between seventeen government agencies; and

Whereas the Anti-Terrorism Act has garnered widespread oppositions from the public, legal scholars, and social justice advocates as well as Members of Parliament including Jean Chretien, Joe Clark, John Turner, Paul Martin, five former Supreme Court of Canada justices, the privacy Commissioner and many legal experts who appeared at the Public Safety Committee; and

Whereas Prime Minister Trudeau has stated that once elected, would strike a parliamentary oversight committee to review “the legislative, regulatory, policy and administrative framework for national security and intelligence in Canada, and activities of federal departments and agencies in relation to intelligence and national security”; therefore

Be it resolved that Open Media’s “Kill Bill C-51” campaign be endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to sign Open Media’s letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling on government to release a position statement on the Bill and to go through proper public consultation processes before tabling legislative changes.

CARRIED

d. Proposal to Call for a Public Inquiry into Death of Sawmill Workers

2016/01:028 MOTION

Local 04/Local 33

Whereas in 2012 two sawmill explosions took place in British Columbia killing four workers and seriously injuring others; and

Whereas the workers complained about the accumulation of flammable wood dust; and

Whereas WorkSafeBC declared the accident preventable, but today no one has been charged with criminal negligence for the killings; and

Whereas the United Steelworkers union and the British Columbia Federation of Labour have engaged in a campaign calling for a public inquiry into the killings (information available at: nquiry-usw.nationbuilder.com); therefore,

Be it resolved that the demand for a public inquiry, compelling WorkSafeBC, the owners of the sawmills, and other involved to testify, be endorsed and otherwise supported.

CARRIED

e. Proposal to Endorse the #WelcomeOnBoard Campaign

2016/01:030 MOTION

Local 04/Local 33

Whereas displacement is a difficult and troubling event in the lives of those forced to leave their homeland;

Whereas the Government of Canada has committed to bring 25,000 refugees from the United States of America-instigated conflict in Syria to Canada, some of whom have already arrived;

Whereas the successful integration of a whole community of new Canadians will require community support and popular demand for resources to be allocated for refugee support;

Whereas *#WelcomeOnBoard* is an initiative started by the University of Victoria Students’ Society to get transit stakeholders in Canada to offer free transit to new refugees;

Whereas the University of Victoria Students Society has requested support for *#WelcomeOnBoard* from the Federation and each member local union; therefore,

Be it resolved that the *#WelcomeOnBoard* campaign be endorsed; and,

Be it resolved that materials for the *#WelcomeOnBoard* campaign be developed.

CARRIED

f. Proposal to Oppose the Twinning of Kinder Morgan’s Transmountain Pipeline

2016/01:034 MOTION

Local 66/Local 33

Whereas during the 2015 federal election campaign Justin Trudeau opposed Enbridge Inc.’s Northern Gateway project, as it threatened the ecology of the British Columbian coast; and

Whereas upon becoming Prime Minister, Trudeau has begun “formalizing” a ban on oil tankers along British Columbia’s north coast; and

Whereas Prime Minister Trudeau has also promised to overhaul Canada’s environmental assessment process and reassess Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain pipeline

Be it resolved that the Federation send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau calling on a legislative ban on tankers along the British Columbia North coast, as well as an overhaul of the environmental assessment process; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encourage to sign Sierra Club BC's open letter to the Prime Minister at www.sierraclub.bc.ca/take-action-centre/tanker-ban-climate-test; and

Be it further resolved that the Sierra Club BC be contacted to collaborate on future initiatives.

CARRIED

g. Proposal to Organize a Conference Universally Accessible Public Post-Secondary Education

2016/01:036 MOTION

Local 73/Local 33

Whereas general meetings are a point of contact for student activists in British Columbia to converge, share ideas, and prepare for collective action in the months ahead;

Whereas similar groups, including labour organisations and social movements, organise gatherings with the intention of inducing spontaneous social movement through proximity of interested or active community members and coalition partners;

Whereas post-secondary education in British Columbia has undergone significant changes during the last fifteen years, meaning a single generation ago the system functioned much differently, leading to vastly different perceptions of education between age groups; and

Whereas broad community support would benefit the struggle for universally accessible public post-secondary education; therefore,

Be it resolved that a conference, assembly, or other such convergence be organised to bring together member local unions, non-member students’ unions, coalition partners, and others for the purpose of broadening support for universally accessible public post-secondary education; and

Be it further resolved that coalition partners be contacted to provide financial and political support for the conference, up to and including full partnership in the endeavor.

CARRIED

h. Proposal to Endorse the BCGEU “Choose Children” Campaign

2016/01:038 MOTION

Local 73/Local 33

Whereas children in the care of government programs are statistically at greater risk for social malaise;

Whereas children in the care of government programs are often from personal or family backgrounds of marginalization;

Whereas Robert Plecas, former deputy minister at the Ministry of Children and Family Development, recently prepared a report suggesting, "Currently, the child welfare system does not have a rigorous performance appraisal system in place, and does not define what good practice and good performance are in terms of expectations for outputs or outcomes";

Whereas Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond, an independent representative for children and youth, said of the situation, "Independent oversight of B.C.'s child welfare system remains a necessity"; and

Whereas the British Columbia Government and Service Employees Union has challenged government through its Choose Children campaign to improve funding for support workers, siting that frontline workers can't get to children when they most urgently need help, workers are buried under massive caseloads, and severe staffing shortages; therefore,

Be it resolved that the British Columbia Government and Services Employees Union *Choose Children* campaign be endorsed.

CARRIED

2016/01:050 MOTION

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Local 66/Local 75

Be it resolved that the report of the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2016/01:051

MOTION

Local 61/Local 33

Be it resolved that Alia Hijaab Ebayed (Local 33) be ratified as Women Students' Representative for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:052

MOTION

Local 75/Local 66

Be it resolved that Shayli Robinson (Local 75) be ratified as Aboriginal Students' Representative for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:053

MOTION

Local 72/Local 73

Be it resolved that Sydney Sullivan (Local 61) be ratified as Services Coordinator for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:054

MOTION

Local 33/Prospective Members- Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society

Be it resolved that Morgan Rogers (Local 53) be ratified as Campaigns Coordinator for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:055

MOTION

Local 66/Local 13

Be it resolved that Simka Marshall (Local 75) be ratified as Chairperson for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:056

MOTION

Local 73/Local 66

Be it resolved that Jenelle Davies (Local 04) be ratified as Secretary-Treasurer for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

2016/01:057

MOTION

Local 61/Local 18

Be it resolved that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION OF CAUCUS REPORTS

Caucus facilitators provided reports on the discussions of the caucuses.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

9. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A series of logistical announcements were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT

2016/01:058 MOTION

Local 73/Local 33

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

10:59 the meeting adjourned.