

MINUTES

For the Executive Committee Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, June 12, 2020 • Videoconference

13:06 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Klassen. Attendance was as follows:

Executive Members Present

Chairperson.....	Tanysha Klassen
Indigenous Students' Representative	Cody Isaac
Representative–Local 01 Members	Jennifer Gullins
Representative–Local 04 Members	Harmanjit Singh
Representative–Local 06 Members	Eric Sundmark
Representative–Local 12 Members	Taylor Dotto
Representative–Local 15 Members	Mary Rickinson
Representative–Local 16 Members	Mandy Wan
Representative–Local 17 Members	Quinn Cunningham
Representative–Local 20 Members	Abby Dooks
Representative–Prospective Member Local	Haby Ka
Secretary-Treasurer	Michael Gauld
Services Coordinator.....	McKenzie Hutchison
Women Students' Representative.....	Melissa Chirino

Executive Members Absent

Campaigns Coordinator	Ali Poostizadeh
Representative–Local 02 Members	Samson Boyer
Representative–Local 05 Members	Kole Lawrence
Representative–Local 14 Members	Fawn Wightman
Representative–Local 21 Members	Harman Bhandal

Executive Members Vacant

Representative–Local 10 Members
Representative–Local 13 Members

Staff Present

Executive Director.....	Michael Olson
Local Staff–Local 01.....	Brianne Berchowitz
Local Staff–Local 02.....	Dave Westmacott
Local Staff–Local 04.....	Amy Barry
Local Staff–Local 06.....	Andrew Dalton
Local Staff–Local 10.....	Lori MacDonald
Local Staff–Local 12.....	Sarah Furgason
Local Staff–Local 15.....	Carissa Wilson
Local Staff–Local 16.....	Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Local Staff–Local 17.....	Michel Turcotte
Local Staff–Local 20.....	Alden Chow
Local Staff–Local 21.....	Brynn Joyce
Organiser	Jenelle Davies
Organiser–Services.....	Jill Adams

Others Present

Member–Local 10 Stephanie Schneider

Klassen acknowledged that they were chairing the meeting on the unceded territory of the Qayqayt First Nation, and asked that participants think about and acknowledge the Nation on whose territory they work and live.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2020/06:01

MOTION

Gullins/Wan

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

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2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

a. Receipt of Resignations of Members

Klassen reported that they were not in receipt of any resignations.

b. Acceptance of New Executive Committee Members

Klassen reported that a letter had been received from Local 10 stating that Stephanie Schneider had been appointed by the Local as the Local Members' Representative, and that the letter was in conformity with Bylaw 6.4 and Standing Resolution 1.

2020/06:02 MOTION
Hutchison/Cunningham

Be it resolved that Stephanie Schneider be accepted as the Local 10 Members' Representative.

CARRIED

Klassen reported that a letter had been received from Local 13 stating that Irma Khan had been appointed by the Local as the Local Members' Representative, and that the letter was in conformity with Bylaw 6.4 and Standing Resolution 1.

2020/06:03 MOTION
Chirino/Isaac

Be it resolved that Irma Khan be accepted as the Local 13 Members' Representative.

CARRIED

Klassen reported that a letter had been received from Local 16 stating that Mandy Wan had been re-appointed by the Local as the Local Members' Representative, and that the letter was in conformity with Bylaw 6.4 and Standing Resolution 1.

2020/06:04 MOTION
Sundmark/Schneider

Be it resolved that Mandy Wan be accepted as the Local 16 Members' Representative.

CARRIED

3. REVIEW OF FEDERATION MEETINGS

78th Semi-Annual General Meeting

Klassen reported that the 78th Semi-Annual General Meeting was scheduled for July 15, 2020 via videoconference. The Executive Committee discussed preparation for the meeting.

a. Update on Organising To-Date

Gauld provided an update on organising undertaken to-date for the meeting.

b. Motions for Consideration

Olson provided an overview of motions proposed for the Executive Committee to serve to the upcoming general meeting.

13:31 Campaigns Coordinator Poostizadeh, Representative–Local 2 Members Boyer, and Representative–Local 21 Members Bhandal entered the meeting.

2020/06:05 MOTION
Gullins/Boyer

Be it resolved that the following motions be served for consideration at the 78th Semi-Annual General Meeting.

N01 MOTION

Whereas the Federation's structures have evolved over time to address the needs of delegates or groups of students at a given point in time; and

Whereas the Federation's existing general meeting structures inhibit the participation of delegates by ignoring the intersectionality of identities and the nature of local directors roles and campaigns or service delivery; and

Whereas the concurrent system of committee meetings limits delegates participation to only one aspect of the Federation's work, thereby denying them important educational opportunities; and

Whereas at the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting delegates expressed a desire for a dialogue about new structures to better allow for participation; and

Whereas at its September meeting the Executive Committee struck a sub-committee to review general meeting structures and propose changes to address the identified issues and meet identified goals; and

Whereas a revised structure was introduced on a trial basis at the 38th Annual General Meeting; and

Whereas delegates and members of the Executive Committee reported that the trial structure addressed the issues and achieved the desired goals for the Federation's general meetings; and

Whereas the permanent implementation of the trial structure requires amendments to bylaws, policies, and standing resolutions; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw III Section 5 be amended to add:

- iv. deadline for the submission of Open Session Proposals

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI Section 1 be amended to read:

6.1 Election of At-Large Positions

The At-Large positions of the Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot vote of the plenary at the annual general meeting.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI Section 5 be amended to read:

6.5 By-elections for At-Large Positions

A by-election shall be held at each general meeting to fill all vacancies for at-large positions that were created should an at-large member of the Executive Committee fail to fulfill their term of office.

By-elections shall be done by a secret ballot vote of the plenary at a general meeting.

The term of office for an at-large Executive Committee member selected in a by-election shall be as per the schedule set out in Bylaw 5.3 – Term of Office.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI Sections 2 and 3 be repealed, and subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw XV Sections 2 and 3 be repealed, and subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw XVII be repealed, and subsequent Bylaws renumbered accordingly.

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 8 be repealed, and subsequent Standing Resolutions renumbered accordingly.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F, Subsection 2.b. paragraph 1 be amended to read:

At each general meeting of the Federation, plenary shall strike a Harassment Grievances Committee and ratify its members. The Committee shall be comprised of three delegates, no more than one of whom shall identify as a man.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F, Article 3 be amended to read:

3. Committees at General Meetings

- a. At each annual and semi-annual general meeting, the opening plenary will strike:

- i. the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
 - ii. the Finance Committee;
 - iii. the Organisational Development Committee; and
 - iv. the Services Committee.
- b. Voting at general meeting committees shall be by member local.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F be amended to add the following Article, with subsequent Articles renumbered accordingly:

5. Open Sessions at General Meetings

The Executive Committee will strive to include three Open Sessions at the annual and semi-annual general meetings. The purpose of the Open Sessions is to provide space for discussion or education on topics related to equity-seeking groups.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F be amended to add the following Article, with subsequent Articles renumbered accordingly:

6. Caucuses at General Meetings

At each annual general meeting and semi-annual general meeting, an Indigenous Students' Caucus will be struck.

- a. The purpose of the Indigenous Students' Caucus shall be:
 - i. to promote the principles and purposes of the Federation;
 - ii. to provide a mechanism for Indigenous students in British Columbia to meet and discuss issues concerning Indigenous students;
 - iii. to further the rights of Indigenous students; and
 - iv. to facilitate communication between Indigenous student organisations and other student groups.
- b. The Indigenous Students' Caucus shall be composed of any Indigenous, First Nations, or Métis delegates and Executive Committee members of the Federation. Invited Indigenous, First Nations, or Métis guests and observers to Federation meetings may participate without vote in meetings of the Caucus.
- c. The meetings of the Indigenous Students' Caucus shall be chaired by the Indigenous Students' Representative.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F, Article 8 be amended to read:

8. Terms of Reference for General Meeting Committees

The terms of reference for standing general meeting committees shall be as follows:

- a. Campaigns and Government Relations Committee shall:
 - i. assess the previous campaign(s) of the Federation;
 - ii. identify and recommend to the final plenary issues which the Federation should address for the next six (6) to ten (10) months;
 - iii. formulate a plan for addressing the identified issues; and
 - iv. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Federation's Issues Policies submitted by member locals or developed by the Executive Committee.
- b. Finance Committee shall:
 - i. develop a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year for submission to the final plenary of the semi-annual general meeting; and

- ii. assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and/or purchases, including donations.
- c. Organisational Development Committee shall:
 - i. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on the structure of the Federation, including but not limited to the Executive Committee and general meetings and other conferences;
 - ii. review the development of Federation “profile” amongst member local unions; and
 - iii. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Resolutions, and Internal Affairs Policy.
- d. Services Committee shall:
 - i. review current services provided by the Federation;
 - ii. review potential new services and updates or alternatives to existing services;
 - iii. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on services-related proposals submitted by member locals or developed by the Executive Committee.
- e. Harassment Grievance Committee shall:
 - i. address harassment including, but not limited to, that on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, gender orientation, age, mental or physical ability, marital status, sexual orientation, political belief, socio-economic background, or conviction of a criminal offence (systematically discriminated against groups);
 - ii. follow the procedures listed under Section F, Article 2; and
 - iii. make recommendations to the final plenary.

Be it further resolved Internal Affairs Policy Section F be amended to add the following Article, with subsequent Articles renumbered accordingly:

11. Terms of Reference for General Meeting Open Sessions

The terms of reference for general meeting open sessions will be as follows:

- a. inform and facilitate discussion on current issues and events impacting Federation members; and
- b. be facilitated by delegates attending the general meeting.

N02

MOTION

Whereas the Federation held a certification referendum amongst students at the Quest University from March 17 to 18, 2020; and

Whereas the certification referendum resulted in 96% of voters indicating support for membership in the Federation; and

Whereas members of member local unions have a representative on the Federation’s Executive Committee; therefore

Be it resolved that the Quest Students’ Union be ratified as a member local union with full membership in the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 12 be amended to add:

22 Quest University Students’ Union

and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw V Section 5.2 be amended to add:

Representative–Local 22 Members

N03

MOTION

Whereas at the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting delegates adopted Internal Affairs Policy Section P, Candidate Search Committee, as interim policy to be used in a trial capacity for the elections held during the 38th Annual General Meeting; and

Whereas based on feedback from candidates and members of the Committee the process worked as intended; therefore

Be it resolved that the following be adopted as Internal Affairs Policy Section G:

Candidate Search Committee

1. Purpose

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

2. Committee Composition

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

3. Principles

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

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

4. Principles

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

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

5. Dissolution

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

Be it further resolved that the subsequent Sections be renumbered accordingly.

2020/06:05 MOTION

4. REVIEW OF CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

a. Public Opinion Polling

Klassen and Local 21 staff Joyce provided an overview of the results of the Federation's recent public opinion polling.

b. BC Budget Consultations

Olson provided an update on the BC Budget 2021 consultation process.

2020/06:06 MOTION
Cunningham/Chirino

Be it resolved that the meeting recess for ten minutes.

CARRIED

14:14 the meeting recessed.

14:25 the meeting reconvened.

c. Preparation for 2020-21 Campaigns and Government Relations Plan

Klassen and Davies provided an overview of preparations for the development of the 2020-21 Campaigns and Government Relations Plan.

5. REVIEW OF FEDERATION SERVICES

a. Student Discount Program

i. Program Development

Adams provided an update on the payment module for non-members to access the app, and on promotional materials and social media strategy.

ii. Discount Solicitation

Adams provided an update on the number of discounts available on the app.

b. Members' Handbook and Dayplanner

Adams provided a report on preparations for the 2020-21 production.

c. Membership Development Products

Adams provided a report on the status of the summer bulk purchase.

6. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

a. Appointment of Signing Officers

2020/06:07 MOTION
Sundmark/Isaac

Be it resolved that Michael Gauld be appointed as a signing officer.

CARRIED

b. Federation Website

Davies reported on the progress of the Federation's website redevelopment.

7. REVIEW OF FEDERATION FINANCES

Review of 2019-20 Revenue and Expenditures

Olson provided an overview of the 9-month actuals of the Federation's 2019-20 revenue and expenses.

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15:45 Indigenous Students' Representative Isaac and Representative–Local 21 Members Bhandal left the meeting.

8. RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

a. Report of the Chairperson

2020/06:08 MOTION

Wan/Dooks

Be it resolved that the report of Chairperson Klassen for the period November 30, 2019 to June 5, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

b. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

2020/06:09 MOTION

Cunningham/Gullins

Be it resolved that the report of outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Joyce for the period November 30, 2019 to June 5, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

2020/06:10 MOTION

Cunningham/Sundmark

Be it resolved that the report of Secretary-Treasurer Gauld for the period April 27 to June 5, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

9. COVID-19 UPDATES

Davies reported on COVID–19 meetings that had been held for local staff and directors through the reporting period. She stated that if there were topics of interest regarding the pandemic for future meetings she could be contacted to make arrangements.

10. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2020/06:11 MOTION

Sundmark/Poostizadeh

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held April 30, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

2020/06:12 MOTION

Sundmark/Poostizadeh

Be it resolved that the minutes of the meeting held June 8, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

11. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Klassen reported that the next Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for September 25 to 27, 2020, and noted that planning was underway to have the meeting held in-person pending the status of the pandemic.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

2020/06:13

MOTION

Wan/Chirino

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

16:10 the meeting adjourned.

* Denotes in-camera