

MINUTES

39th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2021

09:09 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Klassen.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

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

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Coast Mountain Students' Union	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Present
Local 21 Justice Institute Students' Union	Present
Local 22 Quest University Students' Association	Present

Quorum was declared to have been achieved.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

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

2021/01:01

MOTION

Local 6/Local 21

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 39th Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2021/01:02

MOTION

Local 21/Local 13

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for the 39th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2021/01:03

MOTION

Local 16/Local 6

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for the 39th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

PAGE 2–MINUTES

39th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2021

6. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

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

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Hashemi said that the Federation strives to create an environment at its general meetings that is free of harassment. Internal Affairs Policy F-2 (b) states that at each general meeting of the Federation a Harassment Grievances Committee is struck and that plenary ratifies its three members.

Secretary-Treasurer Gauld provided an overview of Internal Affairs Policy F-2 (b).

Local 6 delegate Melissa Chirino nominated Local 21 delegate Brynn Joyce. Joyce accepted the nomination.

Local 21 delegate Praveen Sivakumar nominated Local 16 delegate Phoebe Lo Patigdas. Patigdas accepted the nomination.

Local 16 delegate Kayle Tabuzo nominated Local 6 delegate Tracy Ho. Ho accepted the nomination.

2021/01:04 MOTION

Local 21/Local 6

Be it resolved that Local 6 delegate Tracy Ho, Local 16 delegate Phoebe Lo Patigdas, and Local 21 delegate Brynn Joyce be ratified as members of the Harassment Grievances Committee.

CARRIED

c. Presentation by the Staff Relations Officer

Chairperson Klassen, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, provided a brief overview 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 78th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2021/01:05 MOTION

Local 2/Local 10

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 78th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

8. PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

a. Introduction of Chief Electoral Officer

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

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

Organiser Davies provided an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

c. Striking of Electoral Committee

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

- i. the Chief Returning Officer; and
- ii. two delegates, not seeking election".

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

Local 17 delegate Michel Turcotte nominated Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz. Berchowitz accepted the nomination.

Local 1 delegate Brianne Berchowitz nominated Local 17 delegate Michel Turcotte. Turcotte accepted the nomination.

- 2021/01:06 MOTION**
Local 13/Local 1
Be it resolved that Organiser Davies, Local 1 delegate Berchowitz, and Local 17 delegate Turcotte be ratified as members of the Electoral Committee.
CARRIED

9. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES

a. Striking of General Meeting Committees

- 2021/01:07 MOTION**
Local 10/Local 21
Be it resolved that a Campaigns and Government Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Organisational Development Committee, and Services Committee be struck.
CARRIED

b. Adoption of Committee and Forum Agendas

- 2021/01:08 MOTION**
Local 12/Local 17
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2021/01:09 MOTION**
Local 12/Local 17
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Finance Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2021/01:10 MOTION**
Local 12/Local 17
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Organisational Development Committee be adopted.
CARRIED
- 2021/01:11 MOTION**
Local 12/Local 17
Be it resolved that the agenda for the Services Committee be adopted.
CARRIED

10. PRESENTATION OF UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members of the Executive Committee gave a presentation on work undertaken by the Executive Committee since the previous General Meeting.

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

a. Consideration of Motions Served by Member Local Unions

The following motions were submitted with due notice for consideration at this meeting. They will require a seconder during opening plenary.

- 2021/01:12 MOTION**
Local 6/Local 17
Whereas housing is one of the greatest financial stressors for students in British Columbia; and
Whereas students in British Columbia face discrimination while attempting to secure housing, particularly international students who are often victims of predatory landlords; and

PAGE 4–MINUTES

39th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2021

Whereas many member locals are at institutions with limited or inadequate student housing, and in some cases with no on-campus housing; and

Whereas there is a lack of student housing statistics in BC with which to conduct informed advocacy; and

Whereas the Quebec-based non-profit UTILE, which is dedicated to the development of affordable student housing, is conducting a national student housing survey in 2021 called FLASH 2021; and

Whereas the FLASH 2021 survey aims to fill the gap in student housing data by collecting information from over 200,000 students from institutions across the country to support student housing advocacy; and

Whereas upon the conclusion of the survey UTILE will produce province or region-specific reports using the data set from only that region; and

Whereas a local-area (e.g. city) report will be produced upon request at a cost of \$3,000, and a provincial report will be produced upon request at a cost of \$10,000;

Whereas access to high-quality data would enable the Federation and member locals to more effectively advocate for members; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to participate in the FLASH 2021 survey by circulating it to their members; and

Be it further resolved that a provincial report based on the British Columbia data be procured from UTILE upon the completion of the FLASH 2021 survey.

2021/01:13

MOTION TO REFER

Local 16/Local 17

Be it resolved that Motion 2021/01:12 be referred to Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2021/01:12

REFERRED

2021/01:14

MOTION

Local 2/Local 10

Whereas Post-Graduate Work Permits (PGWPs) are non-renewable, and the ability for international students to work in their specified fields has been drastically hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic, with unemployment rate doubling, and the hiring slowdown more prominent in National Occupation Classification (NOC) 0, A and B jobs, than in lower wage jobs; and

Whereas PGWPs require 1560 hours full-time work in a NOC 0, A or B job for one employer during a continuous one-year period, which has been made impossible for many international students by the COVID-19 pandemic and provincial health directives in response to it; and

Whereas Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) does not currently grant any leniency for timing during which people must meet these eligibility requirements; and

Whereas, if not addressed, these circumstances would combine to cause many international students' ineligibility to proceed with their applications for Permanent Residence (PR); and

Whereas, upon expiry of their PGWP, students are required to depart from Canada; and

Whereas there have been no announcements from provincial or federal leaders discussing these issues facing PGWP holders; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Federation investigate and research how issues related to the Post Graduate Work Permits affect current and former students in BC; and

Be it further resolved that member locals are encouraged to create spaces for dialogue with their memberships in order to gain an insight into the issues affecting international students at a local level as well as gather information for use in advocating for their rights.

2021/01:15

MOTION TO REFER

Local 15/Local 17

Be it resolved that Motion 2021/01:14 be referred to Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2021/01:14

REFERRED

12. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A welcome video from Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training Anne Kang was played for delegates.

Chairperson Klassen made logistical announcements.

13. RECESS

2021/01:16 MOTION

Local 1/Local 21

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until 13:00 on Sunday, January 17.

CARRIED

10:22 the meeting recessed.

CLOSING PLENARY – Sunday, January 19, 2020

13:00 the meeting was called to order by Plenary Speaker Hashemi.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 Students' Union of UBC Okanagan	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Coast Mountain Students' Union	Absent
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society	Absent
Local 21 Justice Institute Students' Union	Present
Local 22 Quest University Students' Association	Absent

Quorum was declared to have been achieved.

2. ELECTION OF AT-LARGE POSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2021/01:17 MOTION

Local 4 /Local 12

Be it resolved that Quinn Cunningham (Local 17) be ratified as the Campaigns Coordinator for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:18 MOTION

Local 2/Local 15

Be it resolved that Melissa Chirino (Local 6) be ratified as the Chairperson for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:19 MOTION

Local 16/Local 1

Be it resolved that Tashia Kootenayoo (Local 12) be ratified as the Indigenous Students' Representative for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:20 MOTION

PAGE 6–MINUTES

39th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2021

Local 13/Local 21

Be it resolved that Michael Gauld (Local 12) be ratified as the Secretary-Treasurer for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:21

MOTION

Local 6/Local 10

Be it resolved that Jennifer Gullins (Local 1) be ratified as the Services Coordinator for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:22

MOTION

Local 17/Local 12

Be it resolved that Haby Ka (Local 22) be ratified as the Women Students' Representative for the 2021-22 term.

CARRIED

2021/01:23

MOTION

Local 2/Local 21

Be it resolved that the Electoral Committee Report be adopted.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' CAUCUS REPORT

Indigenous Students' Representative Cody Isaac reported on the discussions of the Caucus at the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2021/01:24

MOTION

Local 6/Local 2

Be it resolved that the 2019-20 audited financial statements be approved.

CARRIED

2021/01:25

MOTION

Local 12/Local 2

Be it resolved that Tompkins Wozny LLP be appointed as the auditor for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

CARRIED

2021/01:26

MOTION

Local 12/Local 21

Be it resolved that the 2020-21 revised budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2021/01:27

MOTION

Local 10/Local 1

Be it resolved that the Finance Committee Report be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

A verbal report of the undertakings of the Organisational Development Committee was provided.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

A verbal report of the undertakings of the Services Committee was presented.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Proposal to Participate in UTILE Housing Survey

2021/01:12**MOTION**

Local 6/Local 17

Whereas housing is one of the greatest financial stressors for students in British Columbia; and

Whereas students in British Columbia face discrimination while attempting to secure housing, particularly international students who are often victims of predatory landlords; and

Whereas many member locals are at institutions with limited or inadequate student housing, and in some cases with no on-campus housing; and

Whereas there is a lack of student housing statistics in BC with which to conduct informed advocacy; and

Whereas the Quebec-based non-profit UTILE, which is dedicated to the development of affordable student housing, is conducting a national student housing survey in 2021 called FLASH 2021; and

Whereas the FLASH 2021 survey aims to fill the gap in student housing data by collecting information from over 200,000 students from institutions across the country to support student housing advocacy; and

Whereas upon the conclusion of the survey UTILE will produce province or region-specific reports using the data set from only that region; and

Whereas a local-area (e.g. city) report will be produced upon request at a cost of \$3,000, and a provincial report will be produced upon request at a cost of \$10,000;

Whereas access to high-quality data would enable the Federation and member locals to more effectively advocate for members; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to participate in the FLASH 2021 survey by circulating it to their members; and

Be it further resolved that a provincial report based on the British Columbia data be procured from UTILE upon the completion of the FLASH 2021 survey.

CARRIED**b. Proposal to Research COVID–19 Related Impacts on Post-Graduation Work Permit Program****2021/01:14****MOTION**

Local 2/Local 10

Whereas the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWPP) provides international students with an opportunity to gain work experience in their field of study in Canada for a period of one to three years after graduation, depending on the length of their educational program; and

Whereas PGWPs are a once-in-a-lifetime, non-renewable permit, and are a necessary step for international students wishing to gain permanent resident status in Canada; and

Whereas PGWPs require 1,560 hours full-time work in specified fields for one employer during a continuous one-year period; and

Whereas the economic slowdown resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic has resulted in a condensed labour market, thereby reducing the ability for international students to access or keep jobs in their fields while in Canada with a PGWP; and

Whereas despite the barriers caused by the COVID–19 pandemic, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is not granting leniency for timing during which people must meet the eligibility requirements; and

Whereas upon expiry of their PGWP students are required to depart from Canada; and

Whereas the lack of leniency on the part of IRCC is obstructing many international students from continuing with their applications for permanent residency, instead forcing them to leave the country; and

Whereas the BC and federal governments have not indicated any action on issues facing PGWP holders; therefore

Be it resolved that research be undertaken on the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program participants; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship calling for appropriate changes and/or exceptions to the Post-Graduation Work Permit

PAGE 8–MINUTES

39th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Friday, January 15 to Sunday, January 17, 2021

Program for those program participants who are negatively affected by the COVID–19 pandemic and economic downturn.

Be it further resolved that locals be encouraged to engage in information-gathering initiatives amongst international student members to assist with advocating for their post-graduation rights.

CARRIED

2021/01:28

MOTION

Local 15/Local 16

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

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

9. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Klassen provided closing remarks and logistical announcements.

10. ADJOURNMENT

2021/01:29

MOTION

Local 4/Local 2

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

13:40 The meeting adjourned.