

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

Alliance canadienne des associations étudiantes

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Wednesday, July 20th, 2012 (9:00am AST)

Mount Allison University, Sackville New Brunswick

Tweedie Hall

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair, Stephen Middleton

2. Roll Call

Present (25)

Acadia Students' Union (**ASU**)

Dalhousie Student Union (**DSU**)

La Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes du centre universitaire du Moncton
(**FÉÉCUM**)

Red River College Students' Association (**RRCSA**)

McMaster University Students' Union (**MSU**)

Saint Mary's University Student Association (**SMUSA**)

St. Francis Xavier Students' Union (**St.FXSU**)

Students Association of Mount Royal University (**SAMRU**)

University of Alberta Students' Union (**UASU**)

University of Calgary Students' Union (**UCSU**)

University of New Brunswick Student Union (Fredericton) (**UNBSUF**)

University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario (**USCUWO**)

Wilfred Laurier University Students' Union (**WLUSU**)

University of Lethbridge Students' Union (**ULSU**)

Brock University Students' Union (**BUSU**)

University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society (**UFVSU**)

University of British Columbia Vancouver Alma Mater Society (**UBCVAMS**)

Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association (**AUGSA**)

Graduate Student Society at UBC Vancouver (**GSSUBC**)

Graduate Student Association at the University of Waterloo (**GSAUW**)

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association (**SAITSA**)

University of New Brunswick Students' Representative Council (Saint John) (**UNBSRC**)

Mount Allison Students' Administrative Council (**MASAC**)

3. Call for Proxy

The National Director noted that any proxies should be emailed to casand@casa.ca and they will be forwarded on to the Chair.

4. Appointment of Recording Secretary

BIRT Katharina Stobbs appointed as Recording Secretary for the duration of plenary at the July 2012 Policy and Strategy Conference.

Moved: MASAC

Seconded: BUSU

Motion carried by general consent

5. Amendments to the Agenda

- Motion added to the agenda

Motion carried by general consent

6. Reports

Board Chair

Chair sent regrets. Wished to communicate his appreciation for the time and energy members and delegates put into their work last year. Chair is confident that the organization is moving forward in a positive way. Highlighted that it is the membership which motivates the organization, and urged the members to not lose sight of the fact that there is still much work to be done. The Chair also wished to acknowledge the work of the Graduate Council for pushing the board to explore issues and increase membership on the graduate front.

Secretary

Absent. No report has been submitted by the secretary. The National Director noted that one of the challenges of the end of the year, is to collect final reports from those who are moving on.

Treasurer

The full report of the Treasurer can be found on the [CASA website](#). He highlighted that the organization is financially sound, with a healthy year-end surplus.

National Director

The past year was noted to be a 'good' one, with positive changes being made. A number of challenges have been addressed and, with a more open attitude to conversation with members, the organization has a more positive outlook. The ND noted that the organization

continues to strive towards making education better, accessible and affordable for students. He expressed his hope that the sessions at the conference would help delegates to see that. He also noted his desire to work with colleges and polytechnics to increase their representation as has been done with graduate students.

There were a number of items which had been brought to the attention of the Board for discussion and to later report on. One such issue was that of national transition. Home Office reviewed various options. The organization is wary of having delegates away from their constituents on campus for too long a period of time. It was recommended that there be one national transition that will also act as the policy and strategy conference. It is recommended that it be held in Ottawa, providing more access to MP's, speakers and resources.

The National Director commented on difficulty of communication between the Board of Directors. He noted that Facebook appears to be a rapid way of communicating information between board members, though not for official business.

The Director then spoke of partner relations. He noted, whilst the relationship is not perfect, it is important to keep it going. All recognize that both sides can improve on the current relationship and that there are new executives for the coming year. He noted that if there were any suggestions as to how to make the relationship between partners and the organization more positive, the director is always open to suggestions.

Currently, the Home Office is struggling to bridge the gap between on-campus transitions of executives. Delegates were reminded that CASA does have a "*business*" function and for auditing purposes, it must be ensured that there are no bad debt lines incurred by a lack of communication between campuses and the office. For the second year in a row, there were no receipts found to be missing during the auditing procedures. This year, a new firm was used (KPMG). The office has also taken the opportunity to hire two new members of staff; Vivien Bartlett and Michael MacDonald.

The 2011/12 year has been an active one in terms of government relations. Representatives attended over 115 lobby meetings this year, and it was highlighted that very few organizations can 'pull off' so many meetings, especially in November in such little a period of time. During meetings with public office holders, Senator Don Meredith invited CASA to help create a National Youth Strategy. CASA's recognition as lobbyists is continuing to grow and following conference, CASA will engage in pre budget submissions.

The National Director spoke of public relations and communication and more specifically, about the hope to encourage communication related to media matters. Rather than sending bulletins, which have proven to be unsuccessful, a wider distribution of notifications and information will be sent to MPs. Anyone who is interested in writing for said publications should contact the National Director. A further project, dubbed QP (Questions and Prints) will be an event that will takes place three times per year, providing the opportunity for roundtable discussion with MPs.

The office has been working with Mount Allison University to organize the conference and facilitate delegate transition. It is hoped that a CASA textbook will be published and released each year, initially in English, with a French version being released at a later date. The lag between the two is due to the \$10,000 translation cost. However, the Board is committed to

making the textbook available in both official languages. The office is also currently compiling a history of the student movement to highlight why student movements in Canada succeed and fail and to help provide more context around the work you do.

Policy and research officers are busy working through transitions. The main focus will turn to committee and research that is required for advocacy work. Any issues that delegates feel should be explored should be suggested to the research team.

Questions

Q: Usually both the outgoing and incoming delegates come from each institution. With the two conferences being supplied, should both still come.

A: There is still value in bringing both delegates. If institutions are financially able, they are encouraged to still bring both.

Q: How often does CASA plan on updating the textbook, considering that policies change frequently.

A: Textbooks will only be printed for primary and secondary delegates. After initial print, any minor translations can be made internally.

Q: Some of the sustainable policies are out of date. How are they recorded?

A: A database of policies is kept by a diligent policy officer. Policies are available to all and as issues arise, will be selected and updated.

Q: Concern regarding the turn around of executive reports.

A: There is a two week turn around period for executive reports. The aim is to make individuals as aware as possible about deadlines. The nature of the organization means that sometimes there are delays.

Q: Due to time differences, it is sometimes difficult to call the Home Office during their office hours. Could office hours be altered to accommodate schools on the west coast?

A: If there is a feeling that schools are not getting full value out of their membership in terms of contact, restructuring can be organized.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee:

Chair absent. National Director spoke briefly and noted that the meeting of the membership has been sparse towards the end of the year.

Graduate Council:

Off to a good start. New, engaged people have joined the committee. Will be meeting later in the day to elect a chair and vice-chair.

Ad-Hoc Committee to review Policy F05:

Contentious issue that has been debated and researched for months. Committee met for three hours this week. Committee will present a motion to the membership.

7. Motions Rising from Reports

BIRT the updated budget be approved as presented.

Mover: Treasurer

Second: Director-at-Large, Pat Joyce.

Motion carried.

One abstention

BIRT the Policy Statement “Open Access to Scholarly Publications” be adopted. Mover: AUGSA. Second: UW-GSA. Motion carried unanimously.

BIRT the General Assembly rescind Policy F05 (Replacing Education Tax Credits with a system of Upfront Grants)

Mover: UW-GSA.

Second: SAMRA.

Motion fails.

Fails to gain 50% + 1 and 2/3rds majority.

Discussion: Delegates vocalized their hesitancy at rescinding a policy without adequate research and evidence that it would be the most appropriate course of action. The committee was praised for their professional conduct on a heated issue.

BIRT the General Assembly strike the Ad Hoc Committee on Tax Credits and Grants based on terms of reference provided by the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Policy F05.

Mover: Treasurer.

Second: BUSU.

Motion carried.

BI(F)RT that **BUSU, UBC GSS, UPEI, AUGSA, SAIT** and **UASU** be appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Tax Credits and Grants.

Motion carried unanimously.

BIFRT **UW-GSA** be appointed as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee of Tax Credits and Grants.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Motions Arising from Membership

[8.1] BIRT the draft Operational Procedure: National Advocacy Committee be adopted as submitted.

Mover: Treasurer.

Secunder: ASU.

Motion carried unanimously.

[8.2] BIRT the priorities identified by the policy development framework process be adopted as the priorities of CASA for the 2012-2013 year.

Mover: Treasurer.

Secunder: Pat Joyce, Director-at-Large.

Motion carried with one abstention.

[8.3] BIRT CASA suspend policy F05 until the 2013 Policy and Strategy Meeting.

Mover: UASU

Amendment: To suspend until National Transition.

Mover: SAITSU.

Secunder: UdeM

Amendment to the amendment: To suspend until **Lobbycon**.

Mover: UASU.

Secunder: UW-GSA.

Motion amended.

BIRT CASA suspend policy F05 until **Lobbycon** 2013.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition.

[8.4] BIRT amend the terms of reference of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Tax Credits and Grants so that it is shown they will reports their findings at Lobbycon 2013.

Mover: UW-GSU.

Secunder: Treasurer.

Motion carried

9. Board Appointments

It was determined by the membership that each candidate for the positions will be given 2

minutes introductions followed by a brief question and answer phase. If there is completion for a position the ballot will be *priority* if there is no completion the ballot will be a Y/N.

[9.1]BIRT Pat Joyce be appointed as Board chair for a term ending upon the election of their successor.

Mover: Treasurer.

Secunder: UPEI.

Motion carried.

[9.2]BIRT Brady Schnell be appointed as Treasurer for a term ending upon the election of their successor.

Mover: DSU.

Secunder: STUSU.

Motion carried.

[9.3]BIRT Amanda Nielsen be appointed as Secretary for a term ending upon the election of a successor.

Mover: STUSU.

Secunder: UWFS.

Motion carried.

[9.4]BIRT Matthew Armstrong, Jared Perry, Mike Makahnouck and Petros Kusmu (4) be appointed as at-large members of the Board.

Mover: UPEISU.

Secunder: ASU.

Motion carried with one abstention

10. Committee Creation

[10.1]BIRT an ad-hoc National Advocacy Team be struck consisting of seven members, for the purposes of assisting in the government relations of the organization.

Mover: ASU.

Secunder: BUSU.

Motion carried.

[10.2]BIRT an ad-hoc Strategic Planning committee be struck, consisting of the Board Chair, who shall be voting chair, and five members, for the purposes of advising on the strategic plan of the organization.

Mover: DSU.
Second: UW-FES.

Motion carried.

[10.3]BIRT an ad-hoc Committee to Review the Bylaws be struck, consisting of the Secretary, who shall be voting chair, and five delegates from full member associations, for the purposes of reviewing the bylaws of the organization.

Mover: UCSU.
Second: ULSU.

Motion carried.

[10.4]BIRT an ad-hoc committee with unlimited membership to develop specific policy regarding colleges and polytechnics be struck and provide updates as required.

Mover: SAMRU.
Second: RRSU.

Motion carried.

11. Committee Appointments

It was noted after committee appointments that in the flurry of nomination sign up Associate Members were appointed as committee members – this is in contradiction to terms of references for said committees. Such members have been removed from the committee membership list as voting members, but are always welcome to call in.

[11.1]BIRT John Hoben, Adam Garcia, Lisa Barrett, Kat LaFortune, Joelle Martin, ~~Daniel Vvan der Kroon~~ and Huzaiifa (7), who are delegates representing full members with no full member represented twice, be appointed as permanent members of the Policy Committee.

Mover: MASAC.
Second: MRSA.

Motion carried.

[11.2]BIRT Steve Nichols, Connie Lin, Raphael Jacob, Danielle MacDonald, Kyle Power, Andrew Martel and Alysha Li (7) be appointed as members of the National Advocacy Team.

Mover: WLUSU.
Second: STUSU.

Motion carried.

[11.3]BIRT Samantha Estaesta, ~~Carlos Vidal~~, Alex Driscoll, Arde Burke and Nick Head-Peterson (5) be appointed as members of the Strategic Planning committee.

Mover: WLUSU.

Seconder: STUSU.

Motion carried.

[11.4]BIRT Armis Escher, Sean McGilly, Amanda Nielsen, Steven Nichols and Alex Driscoll (5), who are delegates representing full members, be appointed as members of the Committee to Review the Bylaws.

Mover: ASU.

Seconder: UWFEDS.

Motion carried.

12. Other Business

BIRT the University of British Columbia be recommended to the Board of Directors as the campus for the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by acclamation.

13. Motion to Adjourn

BIRT the meeting of the CASA membership at the 2012 Policy and Strategy Conference be concluded.

Mover: SMUSA

Seconded: STFXSU

Motioned Carried.
