

# Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

Alliance canadienne des associations étudiantes

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Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (10:30am AST)

Saint Mary's University, Halifax Nova Scotia

Loyola Conference Hall, Saint Mary's University Students Association

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**\*NOTE:** The Opening Plenary minutes from the AGM 2012 have not been received from the Secretary of the Board of Directors – thus the minutes are not available. The agenda for opening plenary can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/a/casa.ca/agsm2012/plenary> . To rectify this issue and ensure that this gap does not happen again, CASA will ensure all plenary meetings are now recorded for audio.

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair quoted Joseph Howe on education in Canada, and called to order the Closing Plenary of CASA.

## 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 (**UFVUSU**)

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**)

SAIT Students' Association (**SAITSA**)

Kwantlen Student association (**KSA**)

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

**Tardy**

University of Prince Edward Island Student Union (**UPEISU**) (*Arrived at 10:40am*)

Mount Allison University Students' Administrative Council (**MASU**) (*Arrived at 10:40am*)

St. Thomas University Students' Union (**STUSU**) (*Arrived at 10:46am*)

**3. Adoption of the New Agenda.**

**BIRT** The general assembly adopt the renewed agenda, with amended resolutions as discussed by the Chair of the Board.

**Motion carried by general consent.**

**BIRT** The general assembly adopt the renewed agenda, with amended items as discussed by the Chair.

**Motion carried by general consent.**

**BIRT** The general assembly adopted the renewed agenda, with added resolutions as discussed by Chair of the Board.

**Motion carried by general consent.**

**BIRT** The words draft, framework, and draft as appearing in 17: c1.

Waterloo explained that the document is not a draft as it was previously accepted.

UBC discussed their understanding that it would be edited, therefore they considered it a draft.

The Chair asked to not discuss the actual item now, during the agenda adoption.

**Mover:** Waterloo

**Seconder:** Alberta

**Motion:** Tabled

**BIRT** The agenda be adopted as amended in the previous resolutions.

**Mover:** Red River

**Seconder** Frasier Valley

**Motion:** Carried

The Chair discussed protocol for members during today's discussion. He asked if there were questions; there were none.

**4. Appointment of the Plenary Chair**

**BIRT Norman Kearney** be appointed as Plenary Chair for the duration of plenary at the March 2012 Annual General Meeting.

**Mover:** Acadia

**Second:** St. FX

**Motion:** Carried

## **5: Officer Reports**

### a. Board Chair

The Chair thanked everyone for the work they did this year for CASA. He spoke positively about the organization and the future of CASA with strategic framework and policy and strategy.

### b. Secretary

The Secretary explained he attended the Board calls, as well as as other meetings. He explained that some work missed due to on-campus elections. He is looking forward to helping train his successor. Any questions or comments are welcome.

### c. Treasurer

The Treasurer discussed the operating budget for the year. A surplus will be anticipated for conferences, and it will be transferred to the travel assistance program. Generally, the operating budget for the year will be under budget. This was due to unexpected revenues through member dues, as well as a staff position being vacant for a period of time this year.

### d. National Director

The National Director discussed the Home Office report and urged members to review it online. Communications, elections, lobbying, site visits were discussed as highlights of the year. He discussed the Board retreat and the benefits to that throughout the year. He explained that there is a better understanding of what the Board should do, and this has been beneficial for the year. They have connected with other groups in the country to partner with on collaborations. Home Office operations are doing well, as the Treasurer has highlighted. There will be a new Policy and Research Officer being posted when the staff returns to Home Office. An external communications group was hired in lieu of the Communications position moving towards a second Policy and Research Officer. The lease of the office space of Home Office will be ending and possibilities will be entertained about moving the offices. The National Director is looking forward to future policy, government relations, and general operations of CASA. He has seen satisfactory work so far.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### a. Policy Committee

The Chair asked to thank all of the CASA delegates and those on the committee. Special thanks to Alex Loughheed for his work with policy.

b. Graduate Council

The Chair recognized CAGS as a great partner for the year. The Graduate Council will be working over the summer, so consultation or comments are encouraged the committee. The Chair notes that there is a very promising year ahead.

c. Ad-hoc Bylaws Committee

The Chair explained that they are waiting for information from legal counsel. They were able to meet once regarding bylaws about the National Director. One bylaw was altered wording to explain special resolutions for bylaw changes. There are no concrete changes, simply wording. The Chair encouraged questions or comments.

d. Ad-hoc Long Term Strategic Plan Working Group

The Chair explained that she did not have much to add after discussions this week. She looks forward to hearing discussion a resolution later today. She thanks all the feedback over the course of the year.

e. Ad-hoc National Lobbying Team

The Chair thanked Robert LeForte for his support in this committee. They were very successful in their lobbying efforts over the course of the year. The Chair feels that this is something that should continue to take place annually. The Chair, Jeremy McEllroy – previous chair until February, Luke Speers for satellite lobbying efforts.

f. Ad-hoc Member Relations Working Group

The Chair thanks all members of the committee. The group was found very valuable and consider it a worthy endeavour to continue with as a recommendation. The Chair requests that members refer to the report for further recommendations.

**BIRT** The Chair requested that the rules be suspended to adopt the budget.

**Mover:** SMUSA

**Secunder:** Acadia

**Motion:** Carried

## **7. Motions Rising from Reports**

a. Board of Directors

**BIRT** Mr. Luke Speers be appointed as Treasurer for a limited term expiring at the next meeting of the members.

**Mover:** Acadia  
**Seconder:** Calgary  
**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 1 Abstain: 0**

The Treasurer of the Board discussed his resignation and why he is intending on resigning. This was due to a potential conflict of interest in future employment, and to avoid any potential issue it would be best to step down.

**BIRT** The resolution be amended to add the words, “provided that the new Treasurer will assume office after the Plenary Meeting’s adjournment.”

**Mover:** Acadia  
**Seconder:** Moncton  
**Motion:** Carried

The Chair asked for nominations.

Laurier nominated Luke Speers.

**BIRT** Nominations close for the position of Treasurer of the Board.

**Mover:** Western  
**Seconder:** SMUSA  
**Motion:** Carried

Mr. Speers spoke to the members about his interest and experience that speaks to being Treasurer and asked for their votes.

There was a brief discussion regarding voting protocol.

There was an election for Mr. Luke Speers to be the Treasurer of the Board.

There was a brief recess.

**BIRT** the Board of Directors will prepare a job description/posting for the position of Board Chair.

**BIFRT** the Board will prepare an evaluation metric for the purposes of a Board Chair performance review.

**BIFRT** the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations allocate a maximum Honorarium of \$1200.00 for the Chair of the Board to be paid upon transitioning their successor, provided that this resolution will not come into effect until such time as the bylaws are suitably amended.

**BIFRT** the Board will prepare a performance review of the Chair to be ratified by the general assembly and the Honorarium amount will be subject to the results of the review.

**Mover:** Chris Saulnier

**Seconder:** Ghislain LeBlanc **Motion:** Carried

**Yes:** 21 **No:** 3 **Abstain:** UWGSA

The Board Chair spoke to the resolution about accountability regarding the honoraria. He looks forward to discussion and hopes it is approved. He referred to a broader review of how student leaders are attained and how we can make involvement more attainable.

Mr. LeBlanc had nothing to add.

SAITSA wanted to confirm that the changes have the proviso regarding bylaw changes necessary for the resolution. This was confirmed by the Chair.

SMUSA asked for the timeframe for changing the bylaws. He asked if this would take place before transition period.

The Chair of the By-Laws Committee explained that provisionally approved bylaws are currently in place. No substantial changes have been made, only through wording. He did not feel that the bylaws will change for this transition.

The National Director generally agreed with the Chair of the By-Laws Committee. There will be about a year to implement the changes.

STUSU supports the motion. They highlighted the governance issues that are taking place. He noted that the Board Chair takes on an immense amount of work at CASA. He commends the current Chair on his job done this year. STUSU urges that CASA moves towards a model where the Chair is not an official delegate of a school to ensure availability for the position.

DSU asked for clarification to the last piece of the resolution. They asked if the honorary amount would be changed. They asked for the mover or seconder to clarify.

The Chair noted that there may a conflict of the wording. This was clarified with a friendly amendment.

UBCV is concerned about the amount of the honorarium and discussion that would take place regarding the variable amount.

The Treasurer explained that there are performance guidelines that would dictate the amount of the honorarium.

**BIRT** The question be called on the following resolution regarding the amendment.

**Mover:** GSSUBC  
**Seconded:** UNBF **Motion:** Carried  
**Yes:** 23 **No:** 1 **Abstain:** 0

**BIRT** The resolution be amended to add “a maximum of \$1200.00 Honorarium” to clarify the amount of funding provided to the Chair.

**Motion:** DSU  
**Seconded:** Chris Saulnier  
**Motion:** Carried

SAMRU asked what review means, and if it would be clarified in their position.

The Chair explained that the metric, in the resolution, will be created to evaluating the performance of the Chair.

Acadia asked for clarification regarding the voting on the resolution.

UBCG supports the motion. There was a question regarding the amount of the Honoraria, and asked if CASA could afford a larger honoraria.

The Treasurer affirmed the possibility.

**BIRT** The resolution be amended to change the amount of the honoraria of \$1200.00 be changed to \$5000.00.

**Mover:** GSSUBC  
**Seconder:** AUGSA  
**Motion:** Failed

**Yes:** 6 **No:** 17 **Abstain:** McMaster, UWGSA

UNBSU disagrees. The main motivation should not be economically, but rather the position itself. They were concerned about where the research was for the amount.

The Treasurer explained that there is a wide range of honoraria for positions, but urged the assembly to evaluate the amount to the best of their ability.

SAMRU felt that the sum of money was too large based on the position being volunteer.

AUGSA referred to STUSU’s comments regarding having a non-delegate being the Chair. In that case, a larger honoraria would be appropriate, as they are not paid through their student association.

SMUSA was concerned about having an honoraria without a job description first. The remuneration should be based on the activities brought to the Board in the job description.

Acadia is hesitant to commit to a large honoraria without the job description.

The Treasurer requested to clarify that there is a job description already exists in its current state.

DSU mentioned that over and above a certain amount is no longer an honorarium, rather a salary or wage. She requested if that is a financial rule within CASA.

Mount A spoke explaining that he had received an honorarium of 12000.00 in the past for his position.

Mr. Saulnier spoke to the logistics of honorariums versus wages and salaries.

A secondary delegate researched honorariums for Board of Directors members and urged further research before setting an amount.

**BIRT** an amendment to strike the first resolution clause and any wording incorporating the honoraria for the Char of the Board.

**Mover:** SMUSA

**Secunder:** UWGSA

**Motion:** Failed

**Yes: 7 No: 18 Abstain: 0**

SMUSA explained that a clear job description should implemented before attaching an amount to the position.

SAMRU asked if the travel costs are covered for the Chair.

The National Director explained that for conferences, they aren't. Other travel is.

UWFED suggested that due to institutional memory of CASA, they should have an amount in the resolution, and it can change later.

Acadia agrees with the current amendment to strike the honorarium. He refers to his volunteer position as the Chair of the Board of ANSSA. He agrees with STUSU that the position should not be held by a CASA delegate.

The Chair asked if a friendly amendment can be confirmed to remove all wording regarding the honoraria. This had no contention.

Alberta speaks in favour of the amendment.

MSU asked the Board for the rationale to introducing an honorarium.

The Treasurer finds it bizarre to establishing a Board Review process for the Chair without compensation. It is considered an incentive and an accountability measure.



The Chair refers to the amount paid to be after transition, in June or July when the individual is volunteering on their own time, outside of their student union or association position. This is a way to ensure more effective governance.

**BIRT** The assembly will recess for a one hour lunch.

**Mover:** Mount Allison

**Seconder:** SMUSA

**Motion:** Carried

Roll Call was administered following the lunch time recess.

**All were present.**

**Whereas** the Board of Directors would like to create a more clear and defined outline of what Directors of the Corporation are responsible for, and would like to create a direct accountability mechanism with the membership and the Board.

**BIRT** The general assembly approve a Board Member Agreement as presented and today amended to exist between the Directors and the membership that this agreement is to be signed between future Directors of the corporation.

**Mover:** Chris Saulnier

**Seconder:** Pat Joyce

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstain: UWGSA**

STUSU asked regarding section two, regarding supervision by CASA and the National Director. He felt that the Board and the members should be supervising the Chair.

**BIRT** The policy include the wording that, "The members of the Board of Directors must be bondable."

**Mover:** AUGSA

**Seconder:** DSU

**Motion:** Tabled

**BIRT** The policy include the wording that, "The Treasurer of the Board of Directors must be bondable."

**Mover:** AUGSA

**Seconder:** DSU

**Motion:** Tabled

AUGSA explained that this is financially prudent. DSU agreed.

St. FX asked if that is something already done. The National Director explained that they don't.

SAMRU suggested that it might be too difficult and pose legal problems.

SAITSA suggested a friendly amendment to extending the motion to all Board members.

Western asked for clarification from SAMRU about legal issues.

SAMRU explained the legalities with regards to removable of individuals from positions can pose problems.

AUGSA asked for two motions, one for the Treasurer and one for the rest of the Board.

The Treasurer asked for clarification for the term bondable. The Chair clarified with a definition.

The Treasurer agreed that this is financially prudent and is interested in the motion passing.

UBCV asked what the cost would be to bond the Treasurer or the entire Board.

The Chair clarified that the cost is the premium paid in the insurance, and this is likely not to be affected.

The Treasurer suggested you can also ask for a criminal background check which is minimal cost.

St. FX suggested tabling it until Policy and Strategy considering the Board will not be compiled until then.

Western asked if it would be criminal checks or bondability.

AUGSA suggested to have both if the membership felt it would be easier.

SAMRU strongly suggested pursuing legal advice on the matter. Bondability can give a false sense of security or exclude persons for unintentional reasons – for example international students.

SAITSA noted that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the appropriate background checks are done for the Board of Directors.

**BIRT** Refer consideration for the current issues of bondability of the Board of Directors of CASA, including a legal review, and a report at the Policy and Strategy meeting.

**Mover:** SMUSA

**Secunder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 23 No: 2 Abstain: 0**

St. FX asked how this would be implemented in the bylaws.

The National Director considered considering bondability in the motion would address this question.

Clarification was made to the order of the motion.

**BIRT** To amend the MOA to strike the words “The National Director” from Section 2, Supervision.

**Mover:** Alberta

**Seconder:** STUSU

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 13 No: 10 Abstain: BUSU**

Alberta discussed that the motion is to clarify that the ultimate responsibilities of each Board member is to the general assembly. It would leave the general assembly as the ultimate governing body.

STUSU agreed.

SMUSA expressed concern that the Chair and the National Director are generally very active. This change would remove the Board in general from having responsibilities, which would do them a disservice.

The Treasurer further explained the wording expresses supervision and not authority over the individuals.

Acadia agrees and considers the Chair more involved than the general assembly.

Alberta does not find the ND or the Chair to carrying out their duties or supervision. He considers three bodies have policy giving authority makes them weaker. He would rather see one have the authority.

SMUSA asked for a response from the National Director.

The National Director explained that he understood the spirit of the motion in legislative power. He does not consider it appropriate for the National Director to be prescriptive to the Board, though that is his understanding. He did not see this as a change to operations.

**BIRT** To amend the amendment to keep “Chair of the Board,” but continue to strike “National Director,” from the previous resolution.

**Mover:** Laurier

**Seconder:** Acadia

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 23 No: 2 Abstain: 0**

Laurier considers the role of Chair is to ensuring that the ND completes their role. If it is not in policy, it is very difficult to ensure. It is difficult for general assembly to hold people accountable if they only meet three times a year. It is to ensure the tasks are complete, not to mandate them.

Acadia agrees.

**BIRT** The questions are separated from bondability of the Treasurer and the rest of the Board.

**Mover:** AUGSA

**Second:** GSS UBCV

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 13 No: 8 Abstain:** Laurier, UNB Saint John

**BIRT** CASA, as a part of its Chair job description review, review implementing a mechanism which compensates the home institution of the Chair on a level which is appropriate with the job description review.

**Mover:** Laurier

**Second:** USCUWO

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 19 No: 5 Abstain: 0**

The Chair discussed the suspension of the rules in order to discuss the motion.

Laurier explained that this resolution would allow for clarity on the accountability of the position. It is asking for information to determine an appropriate mechanism for compensation with ratification at a later date from the assembly.

USCUWO agrees with his colleague regarding clear directions of what is expected of the Chair.

MTA asked for clarification for the position's

Laurier explained that this is not necessarily the case, only in

It is not the intention of the mover to preclude non-elected representatives from student unions from becoming Board Chair.

**BIRT** a suspension of the rules be instated to present the preceding motion.

**Mover:** Laurier

**Second:** USCUWO

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 18 No: 5 Abstain: 0**

**BIRT** The line from C1, "and their successor is elected," be stricken from the document.

**Mover:** UW FEDS

**Secunder:** Frasier Valley

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 24 No: 1 Abstain: 0**

UW FEDS explained that this clarifies the divisions of position through successors and predecessors.

GSS UBCV asked to replace the motion to be discussed next. He explained that there was notification of intent the previous day.

The Chair consulted Roberts Rules of Order. He asked the assembly if there was consent.

There was objection.

**BIRT** There is a suspension of rules to discuss the proposed alternative resolution.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** UWGSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 17 No: 8 Abstain: 0**

Acadia requested a point of information regarding whether or not this was an item to reconsider from the previous assembly meeting.

The Chair explained that this was not the case.

**Whereas** the Board of Directors sees an opportunity to streamline transition efforts and make valuable inroads with provincial organizations and to improve and enhance the quality of our transitions by centralizing this effort into one transition conference.

**BIRT** a centralized national transition conference be held for 2013.

**BIRFT** the smaller member schools shall be given preference for travel funding for this event as a means of offsetting the cost of a centralized national transition conference.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** UWGSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 20 No: 5 (Alberta wishes to be noted) Abstain: 0**

**BIRT** The Question be called on the main motion.

**Mover:** STUSU

**Secunder:** SAITSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 20 No: 5 Abstain: 0**

UBCV explained that the costs are not necessarily higher, as that school has found out. There are resources to be accessed in Ottawa that are useful for CASA and member schools. The intention is not to provide a barrier for smaller schools. He suggests having a larger travel fund to not prevent schools from attending. The intention is not for the current year.

Laurier asked if this was possible for this year.

The National Director explained that it would be possible, but leniency would be required from member schools. The work is done every year for three regions. The Director notes the travel fund as a resource for students by other schools. It hasn't been donated to from schools, but any surplus from conference fees go to the fund to ensure existence.

UNBF stated that the Atlantic schools are smaller with smaller budgets. Transitions in the region allow for less airfare and less fees to travel. UNBF asked who is eligible to qualify as a "small school" for the travel fund.

The ND explained that any school can access the fund. The intent was for smaller schools upon creation.

SAITSA suggested doing it on the East Coast to directly impact the current financial issues.

UNBSRC explained that they do not have the funds to do a National Transition as a small school. They will not be supporting it.

**BIRT** To amend the motion as stated to replace "2013" to "2012-2013" transition.

**Mover:** Laurier

**Secunder: UWGSA Motion:** Failed

**Yes: 10 No: 15 Abstain: 0**

Laurier explained that cost barriers are there no matter when. The discussion should be had now.

UWGSA agrees.

UBCV explained that their membership would be comfortable with a motion if the National Transition would be held in the Atlantic Region.

UPEI explained that if the National Transition weren't held in the Atlantic Region, they would not have the budget to travel.

UWFED asked what the range of cost would be associated with having smaller schools travel further.

UNBSRC explained that they have a very small budget without much room to shift. They would have to cut from elsewhere to make it viable, and it currently is not.

UWFED asked the ND if it would be less expensive or more expensive to have one National Transition.

The ND explained it would be much less expensive. He cited travel costs for staff members. From an organizational perspective, it would be cheaper.

UFVSUS reminded the membership that small schools are only on the East Coast. Their budget would be altered greatly if it was held on the East Coast. They would prefer more preparation and consideration for the next year.

Calgary explained that if the one National Transition went ahead, they would ask their council to donate funding for smaller schools to attend.

Western requested of the ND to have reduced travel cost funds from staff to be put in the travel fund for other delegates.

BUSU reiterated the point from Western to transfer funds from staff travel to allow delegates to attend. BUSU suggested that they may be able to put funds forward as well.

Mt. A would rather no see this move forward for this year.

Acadia reminded the assembly that not all the questions are answerable at the current time. Therefore, they should explore the costs and benefits for the transition conferencing.

Mr. Saulnier suggests to the membership vote against the amendment in respect for budgeting that it should be done for the following year, not the current.

SMUSA expressed their disappointment discussing the same issue as previously discussed at other meetings. He considered it not valuing time.

AUGSA is supportive of a national transition. They would prefer to do it this year, rather than next. They are willing to put money forward for other schools as well.

**BIRT** The question be called on the main motion.

**Mover:** Alberta

**Seconder:** STUSU.

**Motion:** Carried

**BIRT** There will be a five minute recess.

**Mover:** MTA

**Secunder:** STUSU

**Motion:** Carried

Roll Call conducted. All present.

**Whereas** the 2013 transition will be a national transition.

**BIRT** the membership direct the Home Office to review and explore potential costs associated with the transition to be presented at the 2012 Policy and Strategy for final approval and consideration of the 2012-2013 membership.

**Mover:** Chris Saulnier

**Secunder:** Luke Speers **Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

SMUSA expressed concern about the finances and logistics.

Acadia agreed and wanted the Board to consider cost sharing possibilities and reporting to the membership about the topic.

**BIRT** To amend the motion \_\_\_\_\_. (Ask norman)

**Mover:** GSS-UBCV

**Secunder:** Chris Saulnier

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

UBC agrees that time should be taken to research the single transition conference. They need a sound understanding of the financial implications of the conference for all schools.

The Chair asked about the timing of the conference.

Mr. Saulnier assured the assembly that costs will be looked into from the previous motion, regardless of the amendment or the motion.

**BIRT** The “Whereas” clause be amended to read only, “The 2013 transition will be a national transition.”

**Mover:** Mt. A

**Secunder:** Saulnier

**Motion:** Adopted by general consent

Mount Allison no longer sees the relevance of the Whereas motion as it stands.



Mr. Saulnier agrees.

**Whereas** The Board has reviewed the performance of the National Director and is very satisfied with his performance and is confident that the National Director can continue greatly to the organization.

**BIRT** the term of Zachary Dayler be extended by another year.

**Mover:** Saulnier

**Seconder:** Moncton

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

Saulnier expressed that this would be in the best interest of the organization.

Moncton agreed.

b. Graduate Council

**Whereas** the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations supports the Right to Research Coalition's "Student Statement on The Right to Research."

**BIRT** The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations apply for membership in the Right to Research Coalition.

**BIFRT** the Policy Committee, in coordination with the Graduate Council, investigate the creation of a political policy on Open Access, in accordance with the Student Statement on The Right to Research.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Seconder:** AUGSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

UBCV expressed personal interest in Open Access and research as an organization. They explained that while this is a graduate student issue, it affects all students – not only graduate students. It will benefit all students.

AUGSA explained that it is free to join the organization. To leave the organization, you have to send an email. They don't feel that students should be denied access to information due to their institution's inability to afford it. They feel this is a positive step.

The ND asked if CASA would be asked to make steps to contribute to the organization. There was also a question to if CASA would be supporting by proxy of the organization.

UBCV assured the assembly that they did not consider this to be a problem.

AUGSA explained that Grad Council will be working on policy toward open access information. This would also give Grad Council the opportunity to be on the Right to Research Board and other advantages.

UWFED explained that Right to Research asks researchers to publish in Open Access venues. This may pose problems for student researchers. They do not consider this enough of an issue to vote against the motion.

Alberta fully supports the motion. They asked about the rationale of having a policy before joining the organization, or vice versa.

AUGSA responded explaining that the policy will be more in depth than that of Right to Research, and contribute to the field. The commitment level by joining is minimal.

**BIRT** Policy F10 (Eliminating Monster Scholarships) be repealed.

**Mover:** UBCGSS

**Seconder:** AUGSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

UBCGSS explained the Council was under the impression that Vanier scholarships were not fully endowed, when they were. They do not wish to lobby on this topic of stipulations, and wish to remove it from policy.

AUGSA agrees.

The ND noted that the size of the grants is of concern for students. They asked if there was a balance to be struck to address students' problems.

UBCGSS explained that these awards are comparable to the Millennium or Rhodes scholarships. The issue is that there are more deserving tri-council applicants than there are scholarships. They feel that the funds should be raised to an appropriate level, rather than redistributing the funds provided currently.

c. Ad-Hoc Strategic Plan Working Group

**BIRT** the draft Long Term Strategic Plan be approved as presented.

**BIFRT** the Operational Procedure 10 – Strategic Planning be approved as presented.

**Mover:** Waterloo

**Seconder:** Alberta

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

The Chair clarified regarding the wording of the motion.

Alberta is in favour of the motion. It is the best presented motion this year. It is very well researched in their opinion.

Mr. Saulnier thanked the committee for the work they had done on the document.

**BIRT** to amend the previous resolution – ask.

The Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group explained the intentions of the amendment.

**Mover:** Waterloo

**Secunder:** Alberta

**Motion:** Adopted by general consent

d. Ad-Hoc Budget Committee

**Whereas** the membership directed the Treasurer to report on how full-time equivalent (FTE) is calculated by this conference;

**Whereas** an adjustment to the definition of FTE would result in a change of the overall revenues of CASA without an amendment to the cost per FTE, and this is undesirable;

**BIRT** the amendments to Operational Procedure 2 – Membership Fees be approved as presented, and come into effect as of the 2013-1014 fiscal year be submitted prior to final plenary in the 2012 year;

**BIFRT** all requests for an altered FTE be in the 2013-2014 fiscal year be submitted prior to final plenary in the 2012 year;

**BIFRT** with this motion, twelve months' notice is given that fees may change at a rate about CCPI.

**Mover:** LeBlanc

**Secunder:** SMUSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

The Treasurer made note that there was a presentation about the fee structure for the coming years. This would be a change from previously compounded. The treasurer explained that it is the recommendation as the best scenario after research conducted. He explained that this is

with the understanding that there is the option to repeal if absolutely necessary. This simplifies the process and helps ensure accountability.

SMUSA agrees and supports the motion based on information previously given during the conference.

**BIRT** that the budget be adopted as presented.

**Mover:** Leblanc

**Second:** Lethbridge

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

The Treasurer explained that the budget was presented previously at the conference. It is an interim budget until the Policy and Strategy conference where it will be amended as needed.

Lethbridge agrees.

Moncton left the room and requested to be in abstention of the next vote.

**BIRT** KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**Mover:** Saulnier

**Second:** Saint John

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 23 No: 1 Abstain: 1 (Moncton)**

The ND explained that the Treasurer leaving for the vote was due to his future employment with the company. He was in no way involved in the soliciting of the bids. Conflict of interest is not an issue.

Saint John agrees.

STUSU asked for the justification on changing auditors. He was previously given the example that was given about it being good financial practice. It is increased in the budget line and the member wanted to clarify this.

The ND explained that there will most likely be an adjustment to lower the line in the budget. They did not know the foreseeable cost and budgeted generously due to this fact. It is responsible to change auditors by times.

Calgary asked how many auditors were looked at.

The ND requested a quote from four different companies. They were larger companies. Three responded and they made a decision.

SMUSA asked if there was a previous conversation about switching companies.

The ND explained that it had come up in his previous term, but the auditors were already approved.

e. Policy Committee and Graduate Council

**BIRT** an Ad-Hoc Committee to Review Policy F05 (Replacing Education Related Tax Credits with a System of Up-Front Grants) composed four members, including a non-voting chair, be struck and report with either a specific amendment to F05 or a recommendation to leave it unchanged by the 2012 Policy and Strategy Conference.

UBCV explained that due to the controversy of who the policy affects, it would be beneficial to have a committee be struck to look at the needs of all constituents. This could be brought back to CASA with better insight into how to help students in this regard.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Seconder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 24 No: 1 Abstain: 0**

**BIRT** the word Lobbying conference be replaced with Policy and Strategy conference.

**Motion carried by consent**

**BIRT** to amend the wording to read, “report with either a specific amendment to F05 or a recommendation to leave it unchanged by”.

**Motion carried by consent**

**BIFRT** all advocacy efforts on policy F05 be suspended until such a report is delivered.

UBCV explained that they feel that suspension is in the best interest of CASA. They do not feel that this would be providing a disservice to lobbying efforts.

Alberta explained that there is a policy from tax credits to grants. They wish to adhere to that.

STUSU considers the policy to be adequate as it is. Opening a discussion and suspension biases the proceedings of the committee.

BUSU speaks in favour of the motion. CASA is representative of graduate students as well as undergraduate students. It must be further explored.

Mt. A speaks as policy chair, and feels that a more in depth conversation must be had. They are respectful of Alberta’s comments.

Alberta explained that having a suspension is not the best option. It prevents outcomes decided upon for the committee.

UBCV explained that he felt the policy is in the spirit of compromise. The policy may have up front grants, but takes away division.

Mt. A suggested that a blank slate would be most appropriate to begin discussing the issue.

STUSU explained that suspending the policy precludes the intent of the committee.

UNBSU explained that they felt that the policy should not be suspended.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried

A brief recess was called for individuals moving the motion to collaborate on what they were doing – a roll Call Vote on the matter was then conducted

**Acadia y**

**Athabasca y**

**Brock y**

**Dal y**

**Waterloo g y**

**Moncton y**

**MSU y**

**Mt a y**

**Red River y**

**SMU n**

**Saitsa y**

**St. FX y**

**St. Thomas n**

**Mount r y**

**Western n**

**Alberta n**

**Calgary y**

**Lethbridge n**

**UNBF n**

**UNBSJ n**

**PEI y**

**Frasier y**

**Waterloo abstain**

**Laurier n**

**UBCGSS y**

**BIRT** the assembly has received the report of vote from the voting calculator.

**Mover:** BUSU

**Seconder:** Frasier

**Motion:** Carried by general consent

**BIFRT** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ - be appointed to the Ad-Hoc Committee.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Seconder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried by general consent

DSU nominates Matt Armstrong from SAITSA, Jamie Paris from UBCV, Farid Iskandar from Alberta, and Joelle Martin from Moncton. All accept with the stipulation that Mr. Iskandar will be transferring his role to his successor.

Laurier nominates Hogeveen Rutter. He withdrew his nomination.

SAITSA wishes rename their nomination of Mr. Armstrong to SAITSA.

It was requested Mr. Saeed be replaced with the

It was requested that Mr. Iskandar's nomination be replaced with Alberta.

Ms. Martin requested her nomination to be altered to her member association, Moncton.

Mr. Saeed was nominated by McMaster.

UBCV explained that the timeline asked for a straw poll for members of the committee to be leaving in the spring.

The Chair explained that straw polls are usually only conducted in Committee of the Whole.

Alberta asked if schools could be nominated instead of individuals for the committee.

The Chair explained that this would be a procedural change.

**BIRT** The nominations for committee members be closed.

**Mover:** MSU

**Seconder:** SMUSA

**Motion:** Carried by general consent

**BIRT** the assembly reconsider nominations from the assembly for the committee.

**Mover:** BUSU

**Secunder:** SAITSA

**Motion:** Carried by general consent

SAITSA nominates UW-FEDS, and is accepted.

Nominations close – SAITSA, Mnt A, consent

UBCGSS asked about electing a chair for the committee.

**BIRT** there be another position on the committee to accommodate for the interest by members, increasing the number from five to six.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

UWFEDS explained that having an even number was beneficial.

UBCV wanted their concerns about the balance between undergraduate and graduate students on the committee be reflected.

**BIRT** the assembly have a five minute recess.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried by general consent

**BIRT** Members be able to nominate member associations rather than individuals for the committee.

**Mover:** Alberta

**Secunder:** SMUSA

**Motion:** Carried

**Yes: 16 No: 6 Abstain: UBCGSS**

AUGSA asked if there was policy regarding this issue.

The Chair explained that the by-laws did not reflect that.

STUSU noted that the primary and secondary delegates were established by the member schools, and this could be established for the committee's nominations.

Mr. Saulnier spoke against the motion due to time issues and having new members that do not have knowledge or experience about the topic.



UWFEDS explained that he sees this as a responsibility to complete the duties of the committee.

UBCV likes the structure, but there should not be a barrier on the number of people in the meetings of the committee. He asked if the graduating nominees be non-voting members on the committee. This would ensure the committee's balance.

Alberta explained that the formulation of the committee was intended to have a diverse membership; having both sides of the debate represented on the committee. They would like to speak in favour to the amendment so it would have diversity of the issues on the committee.

Director at Large expressed concern that the election seems engineered, rather than naturally occurring at the assembly. They would speak against the motion because of this point.

Mr. MacMillan suggested that it might be a good representation of the schools as many do not have returning delegates next year.

**BIFRT** Mr. Makahnouk (non-voting) be appointed as its chair.

**Mover:** UBCV

**Secunder:** Calgary

**Motion:** Carried

Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstain: 1

The Chair opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Paris was nominated, but declined.

Mr. Makahnouk was nominated by DSU and accepted.

**BIRT** Nominations close for chair.

**Mover:** Mt. A

**Secunder:** Fraiser Valley

**Motion:** Carried by Consent

Mr. Makahnouk noted as an intended abstention

f. Policy Committee

**BIRT** draft Policy A33 (Ensuring CSLP Limits Rise with the Needs of Students) be adopted as presented.

**Mover:** AUGSA,

**Seconded:** Mt. A,

**Carried by consent**

AUGSA explained that this ensures that student loans are compatible with student needs, and therefore it is a good policy for CASA.

MTA explained that this comes from the policy committee, and special thanks from the member from UW-FEDS.

## **8. Motions Rising from the Membership**

**BIRT** To have an election to replace vacancy on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Paris was nominated and accepted.

Ms. Martin was nominated and accepted.

**BIRT** Nominations close for the position of Board of Director.

**Moved:** Mt. A,  
**Seconded:** MSU  
**Carried by consent**

**BIRT** The terms of the election have two minutes for comments from the nominees, ten minutes for question period, and secret balloted vote.

**Moved:** Mt. A,  
**Seconded:** UNBSRC,  
**Carried by Consent**

**BIRT** The assembly recess for two minutes.

**Moved:** Moncton,  
**Seconded:** UNBSRC,  
**Carried by Consent**

Ms. Martin presented her speech for Board of Director. She noted her skills in communication, her interest in CASA, and her status as a returning delegate next year. She encouraged questions from the assembly.

Mr. Paris presented his speech for Board of Director. He commended the other nominee. He noted that his backgrounds in philosophy, English, communications, and conflict resolution as benefits for his candidacy. He suggested that he was centrist, and this could be advantageous.

Alberta asked for clarification toward asking questions to either candidates or one.

It was decided to ask both candidates the questions.

Alberta asked about recruitment from other schools.

Ms. Martin noted her interest in recruiting French schools, colleges, and other universities.

Mr. Paris explained that if we are a good organization, then recruitment will follow. He thought that CASA must be positive, and focus on why schools join and stay, rather than leave.

The secret ballot was conducted. Ms. Martin was the winning candidate.

The Chair thanked both candidates.

**BIRT** The ballots from the election will be destroyed.

**Mover:** SMUSA,  
**Seconded:** SAITSA,  
**Carried by Consent**

**BIRT** The ballots from Opening Plenary for the election of a Board of Directors member will be destroyed.

**Mover:** Mt. A  
**Seconded:** DSU  
**Carried by Consent**

## 19. Other Business

### a. Recommendation to the Board

**BIRT** \_\_\_\_\_ be recommended to the Board of Directors as the campus for the 2012 Policy and Strategy Conference.

**Mover:** Frasier V  
**Seconded:** Lethbridge

Nominations are open for bids.

Mount Allison nominated its own campus.

Alberta nominated its own campus.

**BIRT** Close nominations for bids.

**Mover:** Calgary,  
**Seconded:** SMUSA,  
**Carried by Consent**

The Chair will relax the Roberts Rules for presentations.

A vote was conducted for which bid will host Planning and Strategy.

Alberta: 9, Mt. A: 13, Abstain: 0

The National Director made comments to thank the members for their work and effort during the conference. He was thankful for the efficiency of Plenary. There was an award given by Mr. LeForte and Mr. Lawheed to the member with the most tweets on Twitter. Ms. Martin won the prize. There was also an award for Student Lobbyist of the Year given to Natalie Coburn. Special thanks was given to the Chair for his time and efforts.

**The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:37pm.**