

Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, November 30th, 2020
7:30 PM –9:30 PM
Microsoft Teams (online)

10.1 Call to Order

10.2 Acceptance of the Agenda

10.3 Acceptance of the Minutes: 2020-11-16

10.4 Old Business

10.4.1 Executive Updates

- *Executive team*

10.5 New Business

10.5.1 Student Affordability External Policy Proposal

- *Claire M.*

10.6 Open Forum

10.7 Reminders

10.7.1 Council Meeting: 2020-12-14 @ 17:30 on Microsoft Teams

10.8 Meeting Adjournment

Please refer to attached materials.

Council Meeting
Monday, November 30th, 2020
Minutes

- Executives:** Clinton Fernandes – Chair, Downtown Campus
 Yasmin Gardy – VP Equity & Sustainability
 Sean Green – Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies
 Sungwoo Kim – Chair, School of Energy
 Charles Abraham Mah – Chair, School of Business
 Claire McCallum – VP External
 Matthew Miller – VP Student Experience
 Mina Ariana – Interim Chair, Schools of Transportation, Construction, & the Environment
 Skye Nguyen – VP Finance & Administration
 Richard Park – Chair, Aerospace Campus
 Hunter Sones – President
- Staff:** Caroline Gagnon – Executive Director
 Crystal Man – Administrative Coordinator
- Satellite Councillors:** Ashley Obeck – Marine Campus
- Councillors:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Navin Basran | Jenna Kim |
| Eileen Bui | Brianne Lee |
| Robert Chamberland | Jasmine Lee |
| Karel Chanivecky Garcia | Baldeep Litt |
| Maria Davis | Elisha Loh |
| Paramveer Dhaliwal | Ryan Lounds |
| Ian Ertzinger | Queenta Ngoe |
| Tanya Fuchs | Yasmeen Pomeroy |
| Khadija Glover | Bethan Pugh |
| Ruby Hsu | Felix Ruttan |
| Alyssa Ilich | Jeremy Shepherd |
| Supreet Jhudge | Rajdeep Singh |
| Hoang Khoa | Nikita Zaitsev |
- Regrets:** David Britskey
 Alina Ivanets
 Takeshi Keber
 Danny Zaporozan – Chair, School of Health Sciences

10.1 Meeting Called to Order

The Chair, Hunter, calls the meeting to order at 19:51 (38 voting members, including Chair).

10.2 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion:

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Matthew Miller

Seconded by: Sungwoo Kim

Unanimous

Carried

10.3 Acceptance of the Minutes

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Council minutes from 2020-11-02 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Skye Nguyen

Seconded by: Yasmin Gardy

Unanimous

Carried

10.4 Old Business

10.4.1 Executive Updates

- As submitted.
- Charles: Working with BCIT on improving online learning experience and supports.

Discussion:

- What are some initial thoughts and suggestions for topics that Council can bring to students?
 - The issue is how teachers engage with learning supports.
 - Council can ask how students would like their teachers to teach online.
- Is it possible for Councillors to assist with this for experience?
 - The Chair of the School of Business is happy to offer regular updates and forward the recommendations of Council, and will ask if Councillors can be invited to meetings.
- Would gathering recommendations be done through Councillors, or would separate Set Rep meetings be held?
 - Recommendations will be gathered during Set Rep meetings for the School of Business, which will be held in the first few weeks of January and later in the term.
 - Council can also talk to students and come up with recommendations.

- Common themes will be determined and presented.
- The Association has limited influence on how instructors teach due to the collective bargaining agreement.
- Claire: Drafted an external stakeholder brochure document that will be used for lobbying by future VP Externals and is soliciting feedback from the Marketing department.
- Matthew: Clubs for Community program ends tonight. He and the VP Equity and Sustainability met with a member of the BCIT Counselling Services team and will work with them in the coming months to improve student access to counselling.
- Skye: Completed preparations for the Annual General Meeting. The Finance and Bylaw Committees have completed their work this term. Her main objective next term will be to improve the Executive transition process.
- Hunter: Watson Advisors have completed internal stakeholder interviews with the Executive board and specific staff. The next step is to complete the list of candidates across Canada.

10.5 New Business

10.5.1 Student Affordability External Policy Proposal

- See attached.
- The Advocacy department identified eight policy positions by examining previous policy stances and the work of other student unions.
- Student affordability was identified as a priority. This policy will inform the membership and other student unions of where the Association stands.

Motion:

Be it resolved that Policy Number Ext-1 be accepted and adopted by Council.

Moved by: Claire McCallum

Seconded by: Matthew Miller

Amendment to the Motion:

Be it resolved that the phrasing "as tuition fees are intended to represent the full extent of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education" be stricken from section ii) c) of the proposed policy.

Moved by: Hunter Sones

Seconded by: Eileen Bui

Discussion:

- Could this amendment be explained?
 - The last half of the sentence in item ii. c. contradicts the first half of the sentence.
- Do they really contradict each other? What does the VP External think of this?
 - The intention behind this stance is to state what the Association believes is truly affordable tuition for students. The cost of living expenses should not be included when it comes to tuition, just the amount given to BCIT.
 - It would weaken our stance on how we perceive tuition and so she would like to see more clarification.
- It does not make sense as the cost of education would include ancillary fees, as they are mandatory. That said, living expenses are necessary during education, so it could arguably be considered part of the cost of education.
- It can be argued that tuition fees do not represent the full extent, since there are fees for textbooks.
 - This was based on the stance of the University of Alberta, which neared stances that the Association has made in the past.
 - It was an element brought up by the Advocacy and Policy committee. The committee members thought that the Association should have a stronger stance on this to convey to the membership.
- Perhaps “full extent” does not entirely cover textbook costs, but the sentiment has not changed.

Motion:

Be it resolved that this item be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Yasmin Gardy

Seconded by: Charles Mah

Discussion:

- This item should be voted on tonight, as tabling items delays future meetings.
- Feedback has been solicited from the board and the policy has gone through several revisions by staff.
- A new perspective has been brought up and more time to consider would be appreciated.
- This item should be resolved tonight if possible.

Motion:

Be it resolved that this item be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Yasmin Gardy

Seconded by: Charles Mah

16/16/1

Failed

Amendment to the Motion:

Be it resolved that the phrasing "as tuition fees are intended to represent the full extent of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education" be stricken from section ii) c) of the proposed policy.

Moved by: Hunter Sones

Seconded by: Eileen Bui

Discussion:

- The cost of education would necessarily include ancillary fees, as they are mandatory.
- The verbiage could be tweaked to say that "tuition fees are intended to represent the vast majority" rather than the "full extent".

Amendment to the Amendment to the Motion:

Be it resolved that the amendment be changed to read:

Be it resolved that the phrasing "as tuition fees are intended to represent the full extent of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education" be changed to "as tuition fees are intended to represent the vast majority of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education".

Moved by: Alyssa Ilich

Seconded by: Felix Ruttan

Discussion:

- Can the VP External comment on this amendment?
 - The motion preserves the same intentions as the prior sentiment and would help prevent a contradiction.

Amendment to the Motion:

Be it resolved that the phrasing "as tuition fees are intended to represent the full extent of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education" be changed to "as tuition fees are intended to represent the vast majority of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education".

Moved by: Hunter Sones

Seconded by: Eileen Bui

Discussion:

- This amendment makes the statement no longer make any sense as tuition should be the most expensive cost.
 - It would still make sense, as it would be true.
- More time is required to understand the new wording.

Motion:

Be it resolved that this item be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Yasmin Gardy

Seconded by: Felix Ruttan

Discussion:

- When does this need to be accomplished? The new wording is more effective and clearer but recognize the need for others to have more time to fully understand the changes.
 - The goal was to pass this policy before the end of the December.
- This motion is close to being passed, and amendments can be made later. There was adequate time given to read the rest of the text of the policy.
- It is clear that there is some resistance to passing this motion, so there should be more time given to fully understand it and to figure out what the amendment should be.

Motion:

Be it resolved that this item be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Yasmin Gardy

Seconded by: Felix Ruttan

18/10/2

Carried

10.6 Open Forum

- How would Council propose a fall reading break to BCIT? Many institutions already have it, and others are proposing it. There are numerous articles that show the benefit on mental health for students.
 - Contact the President with proposed dates for a reading break and he can bring it up with Lisa Collins.
 - The VP Equity and Sustainability is working on this file and would like to be involved in the discussion.
- Two cleaners for BCIT Housing have tested positive for COVID-19 within two weeks. How can this issue be addressed?
 - BCIT is aware of this issue and dealing with it as best they can.

- The safety process for Housing has been reviewed by many stakeholders and the health authority. Regular cleaning helps people remain safe, and the limited contact with students and protective equipment worn reduces the risk significantly.
 - There is greater certainty of safety if everyone follows process but there is no guarantee for safety unless someone is in total isolation.
 - Nothing will change if the Association approaches BCIT, as their process has been thoroughly reviewed.
 - There was a positive case in the Association and process was followed. No one else has contracted COVID-19 as a result of this case.
- The cleaners are only wearing surgical masks. Better safety equipment could be used.
 - The health authority has stated that a surgical mask is effective, so BCIT will continue to follow this recommendation unless informed otherwise.
 - Another student living in Housing does not believe that process is being followed.
 - If students feel that the process is not being enforced, it is definitely worth bringing up to BCIT. The President will make note of this.
 - A few meetings ago, it was brought to the attention of Council that there was a need for more female washrooms in SW9. The President has worked with Lisa Collins on resolving this issue, and that building now has more accessibility for gender-neutral washrooms.
 - A reminder to the Executives that the attendance requirements for Executive meetings have changed.

10.7 Reminders

10.7.1 Council Meeting: 2020-12-14 @ 19:30 on Microsoft Teams

10.8 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Charles Mah and seconded by Rajdeep Singh that the meeting be adjourned.

Unanimous Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 21:18.

Objective Updates - Nov 30, 2020

Name	Position	#	Objective	Objective Update	Next Steps
Hunter Sones	President	1	Hire BCITSA's new Executive Director by March 1st, 2021	Met with Watson Advisors as part of the firm's initial information gathering phase. I, along with many other members of the organization, provided information to Bard - Watson's project lead - to help narrow the candidate search.	
		2	Facilitate the transition of BCITSA's newly hired Executive Director into their role by May 10th, 2021	Reviewed a set of balanced KPIs provided by Caroline Gagnon that will be used to bench mark the performance of BCITSA's next Executive Director. Included in these KPIs were: 360 Analysis, Childcare Services, Restart of Operations, and an Employee Satisfaction Review	
Skye Nguyen	VP Finance & Administration	1	Develop a centralized information storage system and automated administration process for Executives team	No update. The info hub has been used.	Pending the next step (security set up) until Winter term
		2	Prepare transition documents that include all annual procedures of councillor appointments, AGM preparations, etc	Brainstorming with Stewart, Crystal	Collaborate with the President and staff, start drafting at the beginning of winter term
Matthew Miller	VP Student Experience	1	Advocate for student access to mental health services at the institute level as well as explore alternatives external to BCIT in order to improve the availability of counselling services	Presented the data to BCIT's counselling team and Student Wellness department on November 30th.	Collaborate with BCIT's Student Wellness department to implement changes to the current counsellor availability.
		2	Effectively promote and manage the Fall 2020 Clubs for Community program	Program concluded on November 30th.	Review individual and overall club participation and make event funding recommendations to the Clubs Committee.
Yasmin Gardy	VP Equity & Sustainability	1	Based on the 17 UN Sustainability Goals relevant to students, map each goal by defining values and strategic course to provide guidance for successors.		
		2	Action response following the racism and discrimination events globally. Working with Advocacy and Human Resources to ensure BCITSA environment is of equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion.		
Claire McCallum	VP External	1	Build a VP External Communications plan to help future VP Externals navigate the lobbying role, while helping to foster new and ongoing relationships between Elected Officials and the BCITSA	Draft External Stakeholder Brochure Completed. To be used for the purpose of lobbying elected officials in 2021.	Work with MarComms to create the final copy of the brochure.
		2	Continue to push that all BCIT students should be granted access to affordable public transit by working towards the goal that BCIT part-time students are deemed eligible for the U-Pass BC Program		
		3	Assist in the hiring of a new BCITSA Executive Director		
		1	Develop KPIs for the services offered by the SA	learned last KPI development software and more about how to select data to track.	the final exam and final project are both due next week. after that i should be ready to try to come up with a preliminary list of recommended datasets to track and get ahead of them from the relevant managers

Charles Mah	Chair, School of Business	2	Assess effectiveness and ways to improve student value in the DRC	CHANGING this objective to be more impactful to students this year. working with Leslie Major (next term's online learning fellow) to assess tools and techniques for online learning.	MODIFY this objective to reflect this change. meet with leslie and James Rout to discuss student submitted documentation concerning online school
		3	Assemble a part-time studies committee to help address the needs of part time studies students.	heard from many people and have a better understanding of what is at stake. contributions of note: PTS students do have access to most services EXCEPT bus pass and health services. also it may be more feasible to develop a "working group" to focus council attention before we try to make a standing committee. we want to be able to hold this committee over the summer but handovers are hard for students in the summer	get more information about WORKING GROUPS and how they differ from committees and gauge council commitment to this kind of enterprise. also see how we intend to manage that over the summer given that many members will have moved on or graduated

Sungwoo Kim	Chair, School of Energy	1	Provide interaction/bonding opportunities for SoE students during the pandemic school year to build lasting and helpful relationships with peers	Proposed an outline and timeline to Set Reps, got a lot of feedback from discussion.	Need to tweak some details with Trina and Crystal, then propose an updated outline back to them. Speak with Wafe and marketing team to get marketing material ready for January
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Sean Green	Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies	1	Improve communication and training within the CST Set Rep program		
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Danny Zaporozan	Chair, School of Health Science	1	Increase awareness and enrollment into current BCITSA programs through BCITSA YouTube Channel		
		2	Implementation of Student Refugee Program*		
		3	Increase set rep engagement through an initiative that challenges set reps to make life at BCIT 1% better		

Mina Ariana	Interim Chair, Schools of Transportation, Construction & Environment	1	n/a		
		2	n/a		

Clint Fernandes	Chair, Downtown Campus	1	Change gendered signage (washrooms, etc) to be inclusive	Lisa Collins is investigating what efforts (if any) have already been made on this.	
		2	TBA		
		3	TBA		

Richard Park	Chair, Aerospace Campus	1	Improve test scheduling during COVID-19 and provide guidelines for a pandemic situation	Provide advertisement about the SA services they can get on ATC	
		2	Improve mentorship program on ATC campus	Open up public spaces, especially library, on ATC	
		3	Brainstorm and plan for an event for interaction between different engineering field students	Promote instructors about importance of SA group and set-reps so that they can advertise to the students.	

Student Leader Reports					
Name	Position	Report			Optional - Other Notes
Ashley Obeck	BMC Satellite Councillor				
TBD	AIC Satellite Councillor				

Committee Reports

Committee	Report by		Optional - Other Notes
Finance	Skye Nguyen	Met on November 25, reviewed financial statement for the fiscal year 2019-2020.	
Student Spaces	Rebekah Muntelwit		
Bylaw	Skye Nguyen	Met on November 24 and approved Bylaw proposals.	
Advocacy & Policy	Claire McCallum	Completed the feedback collection on the Student Affordability and Needs Based Grants External Policies, recieved approval from AdPoCo members to submit to Council. Council can expect to see the policies in Nov. 30th's meeting (today) and Dec 14th's meeting.	
Clubs	Matthew Miller		
Board of Governors	Hunter Sones		
Education Council	Matthew Miller	Provided the SA report on November 25th.	
Alumni Board	Claire McCallum		
Sustainability	Yasmin Gardy		

Subject: Student Affordability	Policy No: Ext-1	Last Reviewed:
Approved by:	Managed By:	Next Review:

SUMMARY

Policy Statement

Since 2005, the average cost of domestic undergraduate tuition has increased by 28%.ⁱ Although policies such as the cap on fee increases -to a maximum of 2%- have been in place since 2005,ⁱⁱ students still face financial barriers to a post-secondary education. The 2% cap was implemented after a period where tuition was deregulated leading to increased costs to students. Moving BC from one of the provinces with the most affordable tuition to one of the most expensive.

There is also a relationship between increased tuition and decreasing government funding. Between 2000 and 2016, the proportion of provincial funding decreased by 24% in BC.ⁱⁱⁱ To compensate for this discrepancy, institutions across BC have been reliant on international, domestic, and ancillary fees to make up the difference. Government should seek to transition institutions away from dependence on fees and increase operating grants to ensure that funding shortfalls are not downloaded to students. Additional policies continue to be necessary to ensure ancillary fees are not used to circumvent tuition increases (either by the addition of new fees or increase of existing fees).

In addition to tuition, students face added cost pressures from rent, transportation, and groceries. These pressures are also exacerbated by the increasing cost of living in Metro Vancouver. To fund both their education and cost of living, student’s rely on student loans. In 2015, 54% of graduating students with a bachelors had a median debt of \$28,000 on graduation.^{iv} While the loans are helpful in the short run, they represent another cost that affects the affordability of education as students will often accrue interest on their loans.

Policy

- i. The Association Supports:
 - a. A review of the provincial governments funding model for public post-secondary institutions, with the objective of increasing institutional operating grants and maintaining annual increases above rate of inflation in order to restore and increase the share of government funding.
 - b. That the institution adopt a consultation policy and process that works with the Student Association and its membership on areas of financial accessibility such as student fee increases, and services.
 - c. Every effort by the Province and post-secondary institutions to limit annual tuition increases, especially amidst challenging economic circumstances.
 - d. BC government to enact a policy framework, similar to the existing Tuition Limit Policy, which would regulate the maximum rate of annual increase in tuition for international students and would, ideally, provide predictability over the length of a student’s program of study.
 - e. That the cost of student debt should not simply be “manageable,” but must be truly affordable, and that the interest rate on the BC component of student loans must continue to be 0% to achieve this.
- ii. The Association Opposes:
 - a. Post-secondary institutions further increasing costs on students by charging new or burdensome mandatory fees.
 - b. Any actions that would directly or indirectly weaken the intent of the existing Tuition Limit Policy.

- c. Any mandatory ancillary fees which no longer serve a rational purpose for being separate from tuition, as tuition fees are intended to represent the full extent of a student's contribution towards the cost of their education.

i

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710004501&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2006+%2F+2007&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2019+%2F+2020&referencePeriods=20060101%2C20190101>

ii <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/tuition-limit-policy#:~:text=Government%20has%20taken%20action%20to,Professional%20programs>.

iii Statistics Canada (2019). Table 477-0058 - Financial information of universities and degree-granting colleges, revenues by type of funds, annual (dollars), (accessed: June 20, 2019)

iv <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710003601>