

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda  
Sunday, August 21, 2022  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
Whistler

- 3.1 Call to Order
- 3.2 Acceptance of the Agenda
- 3.3 Acceptance of the Minutes: 2022-07-18
- 3.4 Reports
  - 3.4.1 Executive Director's Report - *Yael Z.*
- 3.5 New Business
  - 3.5.1 INT-19 Policy Updates - *Yael Z.*
  - 3.5.2 External Policy EXT-6 - *Nolan N.*
- 3.6 Open Forum
- 3.7 Reminders
  - 3.7.1 Next Executive Meeting: 2022-09-12 @ 17:30 in Council Chambers
  - 3.7.2 Next Council Meeting: 2022-09-19 @ 17:30 in Council Chambers
- 3.8 Meeting Adjournment

*Please refer to attached materials.*

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Executives:** Mo Baydoun – Chair, School of Computing and Academic Studies  
Mia Bui – VP Finance and Administration  
Tanya Fuchs – VP Student Experience  
Liam Lauren – President  
Celine Lorient – Chair, School of Health Sciences  
Joshua Luu – Chair, School of Business + Media  
Nolan Nordwall – VP External  
Sally Poon – Chair, Downtown Campus  
Cody Pallin – Chair, School of Transportation, Construction, and the Environment  
Vrishank Prabhu – Chair, School of Energy  
Theo Robson – Chair, Aerospace Technology Campus  
Amanda MacKearney – VP Equity and Sustainability

Ashley Obeck – Marine Campus

**Satellite Councillors:**

**Staff:** Yael Zachs – Executive Director  
Crystal Man – Administrative Coordinator  
Minnu Bennichan – Administrative Coordinator

**3.1 Meeting Called to Order**

The Chair, Liam, calls the meeting to order at 11:08 (12 voting members, including the Chair).

**3.2 Acceptance of the Agenda**

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

*Moved by: Moe Baydoun*

*Seconded by: Joshua Luu*

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

**3.3 Acceptance of the Minutes: 2022-07-18**

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the Council minutes from 2022-07-18 be accepted as distributed.

*Moved by: Nolan Nordwall*

*Seconded by: Mo Baydoun*

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

### **3.4 Reports**

#### **3.4.1 Executive Director's Report**

- See attached.

### **3.5 New Business**

#### **3.5.1 INT-19 Policy Updates**

- See attached.
- Section 2.5 has changed to reflect that the employees with paid benefits and who have taken medical leave for more than (2) years will be responsible for paying the entire cost.
- An outside lawyer for the Student Association suggested the proposed changes to INT-19 Policy.

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the board accept the updated INT-19 policy as presented.

*Moved by: Liam Lauren*

*Seconded by: Nolan Nordwall*

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

#### **3.5.2 External Policy EXT-6**

- See attached.
- This external policy is related to our official partnership with the FSAA. The affiliation is free, and it supports SA's attempts to increase external advocacy.
- This collaboration is also helpful for retaining the Canada Student Grant.

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the proposed external policy "EXT-6 Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA)" be adopted, with a committee review date of May 31, 2025.

*Moved by: Nolan Nordwall*

*Seconded by: Amanda MacKearney*

**7/0/5**

**Carried**

**Discussion:**

- What initiatives will be made to update and maintain communication with the executive team?
  - Under VP External's objective updates, all FSAA-related communications and progress will be updated.
- How do you plan to continue this objective for the upcoming year?
  - The VP External's transition document will contain all the details and contacts for the following year.
  - The Government Relations Strategist will be involved in this collaboration.
- Why are the lower mainland universities not part of the FSAA?
  - Not stipulated.
- What additional advantages come with joining the FSAA? Do they advocate for other objectives? In that case, will the Student Association accept or refuse it?
  - There are many other objectives that might come up in the future and we might seek support if they are in line with the goals of the SA.
- Is there a deadline for joining? Would it be possible to wait to join the Alliance until Council has been formed?
  - There is a strategic planning meeting in two weeks that would be beneficial to attend.
- All the matters associated with the FSAA will be discussed in the next council meeting.
- The FSAA aligns with the values and goals of the SA.

### **3.6 Open Forum**

- BCIT has shown interest in knowing more about the Executive Objectives. The BCIT Board of Governors and BCIT Student Council will receive written updates from the President and the Vice President of Student Experience, respectively.
- How can the Chair of Transportation, Construction, and the Environment learn more about the students who are qualified to cast ballots for his position?
  - The Government Relations Strategist will be more knowledgeable about it.

### **3.7 Reminders**

- 3.7.1 Next Executive Meeting: 2022-09-12 @ 17:30 at Council Changers**
- 3.7.2 Next Council Meeting: 2022-09-19 @ 17:30 at Council Changers**

### **3.8 Meeting Adjournment**

It was moved by Mo Baydoun and seconded by Nolan Nordwall that the meeting be adjourned.

**Unanimous Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45pm.

## DECISION NOTE

August 21, 2022

<b>PREPARED FOR:</b>	BCITSA Executive Board
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Nolan Nordwall and Stewart McGillivray
<b>ISSUE:</b>	Federal Student Advocacy Alliance affiliation

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Committee, on Council's behalf, adopt the proposed External Policy Position "EXT-6 Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA)" in accordance with the requirements found in Bylaw 24.3 and the authorizations provided in Bylaw 6.4 and 6.4(b).

#### MOTION:

*Be it resolved that proposed external policy position "EXT-6 Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA)" be adopted, with a Committee review date of May 31st, 2025.*

(needs 3/4 majority) (notice provided at July 18th, 2022 Executive meeting)

### BACKGROUND

Council has the authority to adopt External Policy Positions ([link](#)), and the Executive Committee holds this power during the summer months. Where involvement with an external coalition, whether student-focused or otherwise, would involve taking an overt or implied position, Bylaw 24 is the appropriate way in which to proceed. The proposed policy EXT-6 serves several purposes at the same time:

- Re-affirms our opposition to planned reductions in the Canada Student Grant (CSG);
- Expresses our desire to be affiliated with FSAA, principally to secure CSG funding; and
- Maintains our autonomy to collaborate with other student groups and conduct external advocacy in accordance with BCITSA priorities and objectives.

The expiration of the increased CSG funding will have a devastating impact on students. Beginning in 2020, the maximum funding available for a student under this program has been \$6,000 per year but this is scheduled to return to \$3,000 next summer, the same rate at which it was set back in 2016. In British Columbia, this represents an annual reduction of \$150 million in federal student aid on an ongoing basis. For this reason, advocacy on this issue was explicitly included in the Association's 2022/23 Annual Objectives ([link](#), page 6 of 7).

Historically, the BCIT Student Association has been reluctant to join large student organizations in which we would not have much of a say. In September 2015, we left the Alliance of BC Students, a coalition we had helped to found, over their fee structure and concerns about their

effectiveness ([link](#)). Similarly, in August 2016, the Executive Board re-confirmed the Association's disinterest in joining CASA, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations ([link](#)). Cost of membership has sometimes also been a factor, with most provincial and federal groups charging between \$6.00 and \$11.40 per year for each full-time-equivalent (FTE) student.

In relation to the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance, the circumstances are considerably different. Founded in 2020, the organization is principally a coalition between the BC Federation of Students (BCFS; founding principles [here](#)) and the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC; mission and vision [here](#)), as well as the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association.

Collectively, they represent almost 300,000 post-secondary students from 33 different schools across Western Canada. Unlike most student organizations, they do not have a standalone membership fee structure of any kind, nor do they have any staff.

In addition to the lack of any financial barrier to participation, their structure is also highly participatory and flexible. If we wish to affiliate with them, as proposed in EXT-6, we vote to do so. If, for any reason, we no longer wish to be affiliated with them, we would vote to amend or repeal EXT-6 — unlike other organizations, no complicated referenda process or additional hoops to jump through. The Student Association would retain ultimate decision-making authority in relation to the conduct of external relations.

Finally, there is the matter of influence and amplification. As a large student association for one of the county's most celebrated polytechnics, the BCITSA has enjoyed moderate success in meeting with federal decision-makers. But we are also part of the broader student movement, and the stakes are much higher than usual with the scheduled reduction in CSG funding levels.

With the FSAA, we can pursue our objectives as part of a larger entity than ourselves, alongside many of Western Canada's premier trades schools like NAIT, SAIT, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. At the FSAA decision-making table, we would be accorded one of the two British Columbia seats and would be intricately involved in setting strategy and priorities. This ensures that we have a say in the direction of the organization, just as we all have a shared stake in the success of our advocacy endeavours. In 2022, this is the right partnership for us to pursue while still keeping our options open in the long term.

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## **DRAFT POLICY “EXT-6 FEDERAL STUDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE”**

<b>Subject:</b> Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA)	<b>Policy Number:</b> EXT-6	<b>Last reviewed:</b> 2022 Aug. 21
<b>Approved by:</b> Council, via the Executive Board	<b>Managed by:</b> Advocacy & Policy Committee	<b>Next review:</b> 2025 May 31

### **Policy Rationale:**

The BCIT Student Association is not currently a member of any provincial or federal student organizations, and this flexibility has generally suited the Association. That being said, many of the movement’s most notable successes have come about through coalitions and sustained advocacy, including the BC Access Grant and the elimination of interest on BC student loans.

The Federal Student Advocacy Alliance ([link](#)), founded in 2020 to represent Western Canadian students, has been an effective partner in advancing and amplifying BCITSA’s policy priorities on federal issues. In particular, their flexible structure and lack of a membership fee have enabled them to build a broad coalition in Western Canada. The coming year will be critical in preventing the expiration of \$1.8 billion in federal student aid.<sup>1</sup> By affiliating with the Alliance, we can confront this challenge as part of a coalition of 340,000 students from 34 schools.

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### **External Policy Position:**

1. The Student Association supports:

- A. Formal affiliation with the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) as the best option for pursuing federal policy objectives such as increased Canada Student Grant (CSG) funding;
- B. The vision, mission, and values of the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance, as outlined on their website and contained in the appendix of this policy;
- C. Maintenance of the CSG funding levels currently in force, which student associations have been urging consistently since the beginning of the pandemic;<sup>2</sup> and
- D. Collaboration, for the purposes of securing increased CSG funding, with all who represent post-secondary students, including the FSAA, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), the Undergraduates of Canadian Research Universities (UCRU), and any other student organizations sharing our objectives.

2. The Student Association opposes:

- A. The current federal policy trajectory, as outlined in Budget 2021, of reducing CSG funding levels by \$1.8 billion beginning in August 2023; and
- B. The federal government’s abandonment of its 2019 commitment to increase the maximum CSG per year from \$3,000 to \$4,200 per student on a permanent basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Page 124, Budget 2021. Government of Canada, April 2021 ([link](#)).

<sup>2</sup> “BCIT Student Association Issues Budget Recommendations.” BCITSA, August 2020 ([link](#)).

## Appendix:

### “A VOICE FOR WESTERN CANADA”

The Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA) is a national coalition of more than 295,000 students at 33 universities, colleges, and institutes in Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan. Together we work to provide Western Canadian students with a unified voice to influence national change.

#### Our Vision

An accessible, resilient, and world-class Canadian post-secondary education system that prioritizes the diverse needs of students today.

#### Our Mission

Empowering Western Canadian students to advance their unique national interests through collaboration, research, and advocacy.

#### Our Values

**Student-led:** The Alliance is led by elected Student Leaders and provides every member the opportunity to be involved in the governance, operations, and day-to-day work.

**Accessible:** The Alliance is open to membership from all student associations and provincial advocacy organizations in Canada, strives to eliminate financial and other barriers to participation, and is easy to join and easy to leave.

**Focused:** The Alliance focuses exclusively on post-secondary student issues and is committed to advancing realistic solutions to these issues.

**Non-partisan:** The Alliance is committed to non-partisanship and strives to work constructively with all politicians and political parties in Canada.

