

Executives: Joshua Luu – VP, Student Experience
 Jimmy Wang – VP, External
 Shelby Woida – VP, Equity and Sustainability
 Matthew Puyat – Chair, Downtown Campus
 Abdul Aziz Ansari – Chair, School of Transportation, Construction, & the Environment
 Justin Saint – Chair, School of Computing and Academic Studies
 Mia Bui – VP, Finance and Administration
 Vrishank Prabhu – Chair, School of Energy
 Daniel Wong – Chair, Specialized Transport Campuses
 Simran Anand – Chair, Business + Media
 Charlene Steeves – Chair, School of Health Sciences

Staff: Margarita Gaidasheva – Executive Assistant
 Roland Gagel – Director of Finance, Interim Executive Director

Councillors:	Alexander Bridgeman	Fiona Wong	Parisa Saqib
	Andrea Martin	Will Ondrik	Quoc "Minh" Nguyen
	Aruzhan Basbulat	Kyla Cruz	Dennis Phan
	Cora-Lynn Bell	Daniel Mah	Fahad Ahmed Doza
	Su Yamin Tun	Xavier Delaney	Monika Monika
	Andrea Obnamia	Jadon Matthias	Jasmine Yang
	Bobby Davidson	Ho Yin Cheng (Pedro)	Jaspreet Bhuller
	Morgan Peltier	Megan Jewell	Kobie Smith
	Andrew Pham	Owen Rains	

Guests: Christopher Yan, Lawyer, Lawson Lundell
 Sameer Ismail, Elections Specialist

Regrets: Elaine Huang, Muhannad Ahmad, Edward John Gatchalian, Matt Kilpatrick

19.1 Meeting called to Order

Joshua calls the meeting to order at 5:45 pm (36 voting members of the Council).

19.2 Territory Acknowledgement

Kobe Smith read the territory acknowledgement.

19.3 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion:
 To amend the agenda and make the ratification of the 2024 Election item an information note only.

First: Joshua L. Second: Aruzhan B.

Yes: 29 No: 0 Abstain: 2 Carried

Ratification is for entirety of the process, should wait until next council meeting.

Cora believes there's poor information in the impeachment motion, it's inaccurate

- Haven't gone through appropriate channels to handle the situation
- Must be rooted in fact and have clear evidence
- Not reasonable to discuss this now, need better quality of information

Mathew agrees that concerns are valid

Jimmy says "false claims"

Q: Why is this motion brought up this week, why not before? Just seems like retaliation.

- Exec board has been busy with events and exec objectives
- Search committee busy as well; Now that it's sorted – have more time/energy for this

Votes of non-confidence are up to council, not the sole purview of the Executive Board

Behavioral issues should be handled through HR, and other means

- This was brought to P&C; their only suggestion was that execs ask Jimmy to stop yelling at them. So, not very helpful.
- The exec board members all tried to talk to him, while sticking to confidentiality rules

Cora Motions to strike the 19.7.2 motion of non-confidence vote in the VP External

Seconded by:

Yes: 9 No: 23 Abstain: 2 Motion failed, so the item stays

Chris, lawyer, elaborates on the exec board and council relationship

- P&C refer the issue back to the board
- The issue was presented at the lower levels, but HR doesn't have the power to discipline the board members
- Procedures are set to allow this

Q: Did P&C ever reach out to Jimmy?

- No. Jimmy didn't receive anything from P&C

Chris reminds people to not ask questions directly to the person

- Ok to make (personal) statements, but not ask questions, at this time
- Ok to direct questions to the CHAIR, who can then decide

Daniel thinks to not vote, and just strike the motion

- Email chains are not accurate enough evidence

Councillors agree that the lengthy email chains need to stop, it's tiring to read through them

- There's a deadline to submit documents to council – 48 hours before the meeting
- The emails were sent after the 48-hour deadline

Virshank feels it's important to talk about it

- Would like to talk about this today and just finalize this

Pedro encourages to think about if the information presented is true or correct

Motion to accept the agenda as distributed

First: Joshua L.

Second: Owen R.

Yes: 30 No: 4 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

19.4 Acceptance of the Minutes: March 25, 2024

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Council Meeting minutes from March 25, 2024 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Joshua L.

Seconded by: Xavier D.

Yes: 32 No: 2 Abstain: 0

Carried

19.5 Reports

19.5.1 Executive Director's Report

As submitted

Roland elaborates on Student Fees – budget will be met

Reminds that SA can set the fees, but the budget is based on enrolment.

Q: How do we find out how many enrolled?

- BCIT doesn't provide numbers – they just send money
- They don't have a solid number, because the enrollment is kind of ongoing for a few months

19.5.2 Executives' Update

As submitted

Mia talks about the success of Tax Clinic, more dates coming up

Simran updates about off-campus housing website

- Encourages councillors to take a look and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement

19.6 Old Business – None

19.7 New Business

19.7.1 Information Note on 2024 Elections

Guest speaker Sameer Ismail presents an update

- Thanks members of the elections committee
- Poles closed last Friday
- Previous year - different system was used, this year - “Simply Voting” - harder to quantify
- Last year the Referendum was during same time as voting, drives participation higher
- VP Equity & Sustainability position – fewer people interested

Q: Mia asked about any complaints, what happens, what could be the outcome?

- Subject of the complaint receives details and given opportunity to respond. May request a hearing. The loser can appeal

Q: What type of complaints are we dealing with? Procedural?

- Violation of bylaws, etc. more details next week

Aru Q: What is SA doing to get people to vote more? How can students get engaged? Maybe SA should promote it more?

- Comment that student union is separate from the institution
- Will be helpful to connect marketing with returning council for ongoing conversations

Owen Q: Maybe incentive will help, like “BCIT teacher feedback survey – enter to win gift card?”

- Voting has stricter rules than feedback surveys
- Hard to comment on the feasibility of it right now

19.7.2 Vote of non-confidence regarding the VP External, Jimmy Wang

Matthew mentioned these concerns are supported by 8 members of the exec board

- Apologizes for speaking on behalf of council and apologizes for incorrectly stating that a former employee improperly obtained documents.
- Jimmy has been asked to conduct himself more professionally,

Vrishank believes the board needs to be able to collaborate to be affective, right now it’s not happening in a healthy manner.

- Toxic environment causes anxiety to a lot of execs
- Could not re-establish working relationships
- Agrees that the impeachment was bad timing
- Opinion that Internal policies have been violated
 - o HR doesn’t have power to discipline exec board members
 - o Executives were encouraged to follow policies, which lead to impeachment motion
- Majority of the board could not resolve their issues with Jimmy

Q: Would this motion affect Jimmy’s running for presidency in 2024-2025?

- No, it’s a matter of the VP External role 2023-2024 only



Q: Is this decision for impeachment personal or professional?

- Not a healthy personal relationship, which impacts perception of character
- On a professional level – various reasons

Q: When does the new president start?

- June 1, 2024

This motion seems to heavily rely on personal relations between Jimmy and Vrishank

- The working environment that is created is heavily impacted

Abdul – not really impacted by Jimmy’s actions

Joshua notes that stress and anxiety impacted various projects

Jimmy feels personally attacked by the motion.

- Had multiple conversations with different people
- None of the concerns were relayed to him directly, or to other support staff

Short break 7:11pm - 7:19pm

Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes to end the meeting at 8:00 pm
Show of hands, motion passed

Fiona speaks positively on behalf of Jimmy - hosted a committee, kept them informed, on time

Matthew: Jimmy’s behaviour is called into question - if he doesn’t like someone – makes it hard for them to work together.

- Could not seem to resolve differences between the board members
- Had to bring this issue to council
- There’s no way for execs to moderate behaviour among the board members, only one on one

Justin speaks to Jimmy’s behaviour,

- This causes anxiety to several members of the board
- Accusations are hearsay at this point, without proof, it’s only the person’s opinion
- Not a healthy dynamic: People crying after incidences with Jimmy

Jimmy does not acknowledge these accusations as legitimate, without substantial proof

- *“This is the first time I’m hearing of it”*
- Have not heard from HR or other board members.
- Allegations are “Unfounded claims, undocumented”
- Confirms that he called some exec board members names,



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Jasmine Q: If Jimmy was causing so much distress to the executives, was the HR notified, as this is a pretty serious situation? Especially if this affected the executives to a point of sleeping problems.

- HR works for BCIT SA, execs are directing the SA, so HR don't have the power to remove or reprimand an executive for their behavior, that is why it went to the Council

Mia is not comfortable working with Jimmy, after several interactions

Simran had experience with execs being affected by Jimmy's behaviour

Cora doesn't feel confident in the board, the communication between them seems poor

- Unfair to blame one person for rude behaviour
- Jimmy may have hurt people's feelings, but that should not prevent execs from doing their job
- It's all hearsay, no concrete evidence presented
- He may not agree with people, or deliver his message in a kind way, but that is not evidence enough to ask for impeachment of his role

Shelby mentioned that concerns were brought to HR and ED

- But since nothing could be done – this had to come to the council
- There was mediation, but nothing came of it, or responded to

Jimmy clarifies that mediation was last year, and not about him but about conflict between other executives

Owen Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes to end the meeting at 8:15 pm, Cora seconds
Show of hands, motion passed

Kobe doesn't feel the board is cohesive,

- Takes a toll on him to put up with it

Cora motions to limit debate to each person speaking once, Aru seconds
Show of hands, motion passes

Fiona reminds that exec board members are leaders, should be more rational and reasonable

- But they're bringing emotions into this, and going around in circles

Cora: All this is probably due to misunderstanding and miscommunication

- We should consider the bigger picture and act professionally
- Conflicting accounts and hearsay are confusing

Hard to impeach someone based on hearsay, essentially, hard to gauge

- This is getting emotional, maybe HR should be present, more like a mediator
- The management of the board is by the board

Jadon: Jimmy said “no one approached him”

- If 8/11 execs mention difficulties working with him,

Cora calls the question, Jadon seconds

Show of hands, motion passed

Motion:

Be it resolved that Council declares non-confidence in the VP External, requiring him to resign from office, as stated in Bylaw 14.3.

First: Matthew P.

Second: Vrishank P.

Yes: 17 No: 15 Abstain: 2

Motion Fails as 2 yes votes to 1 no is the threshold

19.8 In camera

19.9 Open Forum

Stewart M. felt bullied by execs in the past, observes HR policy applies to council

- HR have a role in the investigation of issues, regulates conduct of execs and councillors, deal with complaints, mediation, and conflict resolution, but they can't fire people
- It's unfair to blame one person for issues on the board

Owen would like to set up a discord channel for all councillors to connect.

19.10 Reminders

19.10.1 Next Council Meeting: April 22nd, 2024 @ 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

19.11 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Joshua L. and seconded by Jimmy W. that the meeting be adjourned.

Unanimous Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm