

- 6.1 Call to Order
- 6.2 Territory Acknowledgement
- 6.3 Acceptance of the Agenda
- 6.4 Acceptance of the Minutes:
 - 6.4.1 Council Minutes: November 12, 2024
- 6.5 Reports:
 - 6.5.1 Executive Directors' Report *- Roland G. & Sameer I.*
 - 6.5.2 Executive Updates *- Executives*
- 6.6 Old Business – None
- 6.7 New Business:
 - 6.7.1 Sanctioning of Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club *- Xavier D.*
 - 6.7.2 External Policy Stance *- Advocacy & Policy Com.*
- 6.8 Open Forum
- 6.9 In Camera:
 - 6.9.1 Acceptance of the Confidential Council Minutes: October 28, 2024
- 6.10 Reminders:
 - 6.10.1 Next Council Meeting: January 13, 2025
- 6.11 Adjournment

Executives: Jimmy Wang – President

Juan Lee – VP, Finance & Administration

Xavier Delaney – VP, Student Experience

Moksh Garg – VP, Equity and Sustainability

Greyson Dubé – Chair, School of Business & Media

Adam Matthews-Kott – Chair, School of Transportation, Construction, & the Environment

Russell Moy – Chair, School of Energy

Jasmine Yang – Chair, School of Health Sciences

Fiona Wong – Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies

Eric Chau – Chair, Downtown Campus

Councillors: Bobby Davidson, Ho Yin (Pedro) Cheng, Alliah Almendral, Zion Chan, Erik Aloyan, Meehika Chadha, Denzel Mohamed, Prabjot Sabharwal, Joseph Yuruk, Oscar Gutierrez, Tyler Gravenor, Yan Yiu Li, Vikram Gill, Ja Mu Ku, Avra Parent, Shervin Laghaie, Yachana Jangra, Oceaan Pendharkar, Kenneth Ng, Inez Yoon, Khushmeen Kaur, Tijana Radovic, Marisa Price, Monica Sanchez, Bella McKimmie**Staff:** Adam Beggs – Executive Assistant & Board Liaison

Roland Gagel – Director of Finance; Interim Co-Executive Director

Sameer Ismail – Senior Advisor, Strategic Policy; Interim Co-Executive Director

Regrets (E.): Cora Bell – VP, External

Geoff Vinod Pittappillil – Chair, Specialized Transport Campuses

Regrets (C.): Isabela Patarroyo Singh, Wasawat (Matt) Joongjai, Harjot Barsa, Sina Faraj Poor**Guests:** None**6.1 Meeting called to Order**

The Chair, Jimmy Wang, calls the meeting to order at 18:41 (35 voting members).

6.2 Territory Acknowledgement

Jimmy Wang acknowledged the territory the meeting was held on.

6.3 Acceptance of the Agenda**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

*Moved by: Greyson Dubé**Seconded by: Zion Chan***26/1/8****CARRIED**

6.4 Acceptance of the Minutes:**6.4.1 Council Minutes: November 12, 2024****Motion:**

Be it resolved that the Council minutes from November 12, 2024, be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Marisa Price

Seconded by: Meehika Chadha

22/2/11

CARRIED

6.5 Reports:**6.5.1 Executive Directors' Report**

- Roland G. & Sameer I.

The interim Co-Executive Directors provided a verbal report.

- As of Wednesday, November 20, Sameer and Roland officially became the interim Co-Executive Directors.
 - How did both Sameer and Roland become interim Executive Directors? – At the Board meeting on November 18 the Board passed a resolution to appoint them. It was decided that the duties should be spilt for the interim as to not overload one person.
- The print shop will soon be selling pre-paid Kudo mobile plans.
- Still working with BCIT to have Christmas lights put up in the plaza on Burnaby campus. BCIT is having difficulty finding a contractor to do the work, and the project may not come to fruition due to the late start of the project.
- On November 27 BCIT will run a food drive for the Association's food pantry.
- Student fees from BCIT are late this year due to them pushing back the registration date for the upcoming semester. The student fee payment from BCIT has not yet been received.

6.5.2 Executives' Updates

- Executives

The Executives provided verbal reports.

Greyson Dubé – Chair, School of Business & Media

- A new Business & Media Councillor has been appointed, Avneet Kaur, and will be starting at the first meeting of the new year.
- Trivia in the pub will start in the new semester.

Fiona Wong – Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies

- The computing social event scheduled for December 13 in the Great Hall from 6-11pm has been opened to the general student body. There will be a raffle, food and prizes to win. Advertisements for this event will come soon.

Russell Moy – Chair, School of Energy

- Will be meeting with Kirk Iverson – Events Manager soon to discuss events that could use extra assistance.

Moksh Garg – VP, Equity and Sustainability

- Met with Shaleeta Harrison – Director of Engagement to discuss the details of the thrift store event including donation bins and laundry. The event has been scheduled for the end of the next semester.
- The Equity & Sustainability committee has selected some key proposals to plan: a thrift store, subsidised lunch program, and textbook exchange. A written report on these proposals will come in the new year. The committee is still in the discussion phase and are open to comments from students. Please reach out to Moksh to share ideas.

Adam Matthews-Kott – Chair, School of Transportation, Construction, & the Environment

- The Student Spaces Development committee is working to host an art competition for the creation of a mural on one of the buildings on campus.

Juan Lee – VP, Finance & Administration

- The Association will be partnering with the Accounting Association on the tax clinic by providing marketing support. Coming up in the new year, the marketing strategy to maximize student engagement will be built.

Jasmine Yang – Chair, School of Health Sciences

- A new Health Sciences Councillor has been appointed, Yachana Jangra, and has started today.
- Objectives are in the final stages of creation.
- Interprofessional Healthcare Expo:
 - The objective of this event is to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world healthcare practice by providing a platform for students to engage with industry professionals, gain insights into current health sector trends, and navigate interprofessional networks. Details will be shared as they become available.

Jimmy Wang – President

- The Student Spaces Development committee is working to provide more outlets in classrooms as a temporary solution while BCIT upgrades classrooms.
- The staff of the Association have unionized, excluding managers and the childcare department. Negotiations will come with the collective agreement. The Association's lawyers will be bargaining on behalf of the organization. There will be some decisions to be made by Council in the new year to set the boundaries of the collective agreement.
 - What does this mean for students? – BCITSA is an outlier as most other student associations in the area are unionized workplaces. Staff and management want to keep flexibility in the negotiations for the students. It does not appear likely that this will cause disruption to services. As Councillors are an extension of the employers, they are advised to be cautious about conversations on this topic with staff.

- Will Councillors face legal liability if this topic is discussed with staff? – The advisement to not discuss this topic with staff is being made from an abundance of caution.
- Is the Executive Director included in the union? – No. The People & Culture department is also not included.
- Have the staff made a statement? – No. They are not required to do so, and it is unlikely they would do so. This will primarily be handled by lawyers and the Labour Relations Board (LRB).
- How will Council remain up to date on this? – They will be updated as necessary. It is expected that this will take some time to resolve, and the Board will remain transparent throughout the process. It is difficult to determine how often communications to Council will occur on this topic at this stage in the process.
- What are the financial impacts, and how likely is it to impact students? – That stage of bargaining has not yet been reached. Once the agreement has been reached, it will be sent to Council. It is not expected to balloon the budget of the Association.

6.6 Old Business – None**6.7 New Business:****6.7.1 Sanctioning of Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club***- Xavier D.***Motion:**

Be it resolved that the Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club be officially sanctioned by the BCITSA as a general club.

*Moved by: Xavier Delaney**Seconded by: Avra Parent***27/1/7****CARRIED****Discussion:**

- This is one of three clubs currently seeking sanctioning. They currently have over 60 members, lots of events, a banquet in the spring, and monthly club meetings. They also have external sponsors that will assist with funding the club.
- This club will allow for lots of networking opportunities for students with each other as well as industry professionals.
- What is rapid media? – News reporting, movie production, everything in media.
- Is this club only for media students? – No, this club is open to everyone. Students not in media will need to sign a liability waiver to handle camera equipment.

6.7.2 External Policy Statement – The Kwantlen Student Association*- Advocacy & Policy Committee***Motion:**

WHEREAS the proposed Bylaw amendments (the 'Amendments') on the part of the Kwantlen Student Association (the 'KSA') are antidemocratic; and

WHEREAS the Amendments have the effect of stripping power from the members of the KSA and transferring them to the KSA Council; and

WHEREAS such actions are fundamentally incompatible with the goals and purposes of the student union movement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Bylaw 21, the BCITSA denounces the KSA's Amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT with the exception of the U-Pass BC program, the BCITSA will not cooperate with the KSA on any initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA will not invite the KSA, nor permit them to attend, any conference or event hosted by the BCITSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA will not attend any student-led conference or student-led event that the KSA is invited to or permitted to attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA calls upon any regional, provincial, or national lobbying organization of which the KSA is a member to suspend or expel them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA calls upon the members of the KSA Council who supported these amendments to resign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as the KSA Council has chosen to act in a manner hostile to the interests of its own members, that the BCITSA calls upon elected leaders at all levels of government to decline to meet with any KSA representative for any reason other than to condemn their antidemocratic behaviour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT pursuant to Bylaw 21.3(e), this External Policy Position shall be reviewed one year following the date of its adoption, and annually thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT where, in the opinion of the Advocacy and Policy Committee (the 'Committee'), material changes have occurred between review dates, that the Committee may discuss these changes and make recommendations to Council.

*Moved by: Greyson Dubé**Seconded by: Xavier Delaney***Amendment 1:**

To strike: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA will not attend any student-led conference or student-led event that the KSA is invited to or permitted to attend; and".

*Moved by: Jasmine Yang**Seconded by: Joseph Yuruk***14/14/7****REJECTED**

Amendment 2:

To add at the end of the motion: “Be it further resolved that with the acceptance of the resolution, the adoption of all resolutions provided in this motion be suspended until such a time that at least two other independent student associations pass similar motions to condemn the KSA.”

Moved by: Joseph Yuruk

Seconded by: not captured

TABLED

Discussion (Main Motion):

- Is the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) aware that we are considering this motion? – No. If this resolution is passed, they will be made aware of it.
- If the Association passes this motion, thereby deciding to no longer associate with KSA, would that affect BCIT students? – This is a decision on how to act as an organization and institution. BCITSA would refuse to associate with other student associations that condone the actions of KSA. This would only impact sanctioned events, with the hope that other student associations would follow suit and shun KSA.
- The U-Pass program is the only initiative that the Association collaborates with KSA on.
- Would the language of this motion be the same as the external policy? – Not exactly. The motion would be translated into a new format with statements of supporting and opposing for the actions taken by KSA.
- Are there any conflicts of interest, real or perceived, that Council should be aware of? – Sameer was a hired contractor for KSA from December 2023 – June 2024 performing consulting work, governance training and was their Chief Returning Officer (CRO). KSA dissolved the contracts and parted ways on amicable terms.
- Two of the bullet points in the attached decision note are missing sources, but the sources were collected after the note was shared with Council.
 - Point 4. Source: Regulations Section XI Article 4.10(g) (The current version of KSA’s Regulations were approved on September 27, 2024). While many students campaigned making derogatory comments on KSA, it will now be an offense to do so.
 - Point 6. Source: Proposed Bylaws s. 9.8. This amendment will bar media, the public and non-Council members from meetings.
- Since this motion is being proposed with the hope that other student associations will follow suit, has anyone from BCITSA been in contact with them about this? – Sameer has communicated with Alliance of BC Students (ABCS), Capilano Students’ Union (CSU), Royal Roads University Student Association (RRUSA), UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS), and BC Federation of Students (BCFS). They share the same values as BCITSA and are looking for someone to take the first stand against KSA.
- Has any other Association adopted this stance? – ABCS has condemned the actions and behavior of the KSA Council. They forced the resignation of Ishant Goyal, Associate President of the KSA, from his position as Chairperson at ABCS.
- Is BCITSA a member of ABCS? – No, the Association left in 2015. The Association left because it was not receiving enough benefits from the relationship. At the time there were not many other members with a trades focused agenda. The academic calendar ABCS followed often led to lobbying trips that would not line up with the trades calendar.

- What does it look like when the Association wants outside parties to take an action such as resigning? – A statement is made and sent to the person, group or organization. The ABCS is aware the Association is presenting this motion and will support a statement.
- What would be the consequences if KSA continued these actions? – Sameer is in communication with provincial government officials and staff, and can confirm that the ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is aware of the situation at KSA. If the sector is unable to police itself, then the government may impose more regulations and controls on student associations on items such as student fees and potentially leading to court cases.
- How would students be affected by the decision to not attend conferences? – The only sanctioned, student-led event is the Student Union Development Summit (SUDS). Ideally, KSA will be isolated, but it is not guaranteed so there is inherent risk. If the coalition building with other student associations is unsuccessful or does not happen quickly enough, this motion can be reviewed again by Council for amendments. The intention behind this line of the motion, and most of the motion, is to have KSA isolated from the community.
 - Since this part of the motion could impact BCIT students, should it be amended out? – BCITSA doesn't typically have much of a presence at SUDS. This motion would only impact sanctioned events, informal events are still open to BCITSA representatives.
 - Since BCITSA has a small presence at SUDS and this provision would have little impact on the Association, would the same be true for KSA? – The calculation of impact is unique for each organization. The intention is that other student associations will take this same stance to create a larger impact.
 - If BCITSA won't have a large impact, why is the Association not leaving this to another student association that would have a large impact? – Someone must go first. Once a statement is made denouncing another association it would be senseless to attend events with that association. As the third largest student association in the province, BCITSA has some authority within the community, although it is not a tangible authority.
 - Why is BCITSA not collaborating with the other larger student associations? – BCITSA is collaborating with them on this initiative, but they move slower than BCITSA.
- When will this policy be reviewed? – One year after creation.
- Is there a low chance of this policy backfiring on the Association? – Yes, and it can always be amended if needed.
- Since the intention of this policy is to form a coalition against KSA, why did the Association not start with forming the coalition? – Conversations on this topic has been happening with ABCS and other student associations. ABCS has already acted against KSA, thus this policy would be joining in their denouncement.

Discussion (Amendment 1):

- This part of the motion only refers to the Executives and SUDS, any BCIT student can still pay for and attend any event themselves. This policy would only limit the Association and will not remove any autonomy from students. The Association cannot and will not prevent the members from acting on their own will.
- Since amendments take time to happen and the Association does not know about all potential future events, would future student Executives lose out on opportunities to attend events? – Due the intensive planning and marketing that goes into sanctioned and large-scale events it is unlikely that an amendment could not be made in time to provide members the chance to attend.

- Will this motion affect SA sanctioned clubs? – Since clubs do not represent BCITSA they are still permitted to attend events with KSA. The Association is condemning the KSA Council, since clubs are not the focus they will not be affected. Language would be added to the policy stating that clubs are not included in this policy.
- Moksh attended SUDS this year and believes restricting access to SUDS would hamper the learning and growth of BCITSA Executives.
- Passing this amendment would protect future Executives from being restricted on what events they can attend.
 - Council will know before their term is up if this motion was successful in its intention. If the motion is passed, amendments would likely be made before the end of this Council’s term.
- The intention with this line of the motion is to force AMS (the host of SUDS) to choose to invite either BCITSA or KSA, but not both.
- This is a matter of principle to include this provision. If other student associations follow suit, then this becomes larger than one event.
- Is there a better way to word this motion to prevent BCITSA from potentially not be included in events? – It is difficult to take a stance on something with just words and no impacts. This is a relatively safe way to approach this.
- This line within the motion does not have a large impact on the overall motion. It would reaffirm the Association’s stance of isolating KSA.

Motion:

To call the question.

Moved by: Moksh Garg

Seconded by: Xavier Delaney

24/3/8

CARRIED

Discussion (Main Motion):

- A primary concern is being the first to act could isolate BCITSA.
 - Other student associations likely have similar concerns. Someone must act first.
- Who will write what will be said and posted publicly, and who will respond to the media? – Sameer, Jimmy, Cora, and Greyson will be responsible for writing public statements. The media strategy will be coordinated between Sameer and Shaleeta.

Discussion (Amendment 2):

- Please keep open communication about potential amendments being consider and share them with either the Executives or the Advocacy and Policy committee.

Motion:

To extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Moksh Garg

14/16/5

REJECTED

Motion:

To postpone consideration of this item until the next meeting of Council, January 13, 2025.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Shervin Laghaie

28/2/5

CARRIED

6.8 Open Forum**Alliah Almendral – Councillor**

- Is it possible to extend the Executive discounts to Councillors? – This can be discussed at a future meeting.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the meeting be extended by 10 minutes.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Greyson Dubé

14/8/13

CARRIED

6.9 In Camera:**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved in camera with Adam, Roland and Sameer.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Greyson Dubé

22/4/9

CARRIED

6.9.1 Acceptance of the Confidential Council Minutes: October 28, 2024**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the confidential Council minutes from October 28, 2024, be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Greyson Dubé

17/2/16

CARRIED

Motion:

Be it resolved that the meeting be moved out of camera.

Moved by: Jimmy Wang

Seconded by: Marisa Price

18/3/14

CARRIED

6.10 Reminders:

6.10.1 Next Council Meeting: January 13, 2025

Monday, January 13, 2025; 17:30 – 19:30, Council Chambers.

6.11 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Jimmy Wang and seconded by Greyson Dubé that the meeting be adjourned.

Unanimous CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 20:32.

Minutes Recorded by

Adam Beggs

Approved by Council on:

January 27, 2025

DECISION NOTE

November 25th, 2024

PREPARED FOR: BCITSA Council

PREPARED BY: Xavier Delaney, VP Student Experience

ISSUE: Sanctioning of Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club

MOTION:

Be it resolved that the Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club be officially sanctioned by the BCITSA as a general club.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant of BCITSA Policies and Procedures and Bylaw 12.9 the Clubs Committee has made the unanimous decision to bring forth to council the proposal to sanction the Rapid Media & Broadcasting Club. In accordance with Bylaw 9.10, the final decision to accept or deny the application is by the council on the basis of a majority vote.

This club is built on a basis to be supportive of students in the Media and Broadcasting program analogous to other program-oriented clubs. This club will provide the members an opportunity to obtain hands-on experience in radio arts, television production, journalism, and social media marketing through extensive projects. They have formed a detailed agenda of what the club activities and scheduling will be, not limited to but including weekly newsletters, monthly meetings, submitting projects for film festivals, and producing short films and podcasts.

The club have planned their finances and will have a \$5-10 membership fee in addition to confirmed support from external sponsors.

DECISION NOTE

2024-11-22

- PREPARED FOR:** BCITSA Council
- PREPARED BY:** Chair, Advocacy and Policy Committee, Senior Advisor Strategic Policy
- ISSUE:** External Policy Statement – The Kwantlen Student Association

PROPOSED MOTION:

WHEREAS the proposed Bylaw amendments (the ‘Amendments’) on the part of the Kwantlen Student Association (the ‘KSA’) are antidemocratic; and

WHEREAS the Amendments have the effect of stripping power from the members of the KSA and transferring them to the KSA Council; and

WHEREAS such actions are fundamentally incompatible with the goals and purposes of the student union movement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Bylaw 21, the BCITSA denounces the KSA’s Amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT with the exception of the U-Pass BC program, the BCITSA will not cooperate with the KSA on any initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA will not invite the KSA, nor permit them to attend, any conference or event hosted by the BCITSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA will not attend any student-led conference or student-led event that the KSA is invited to or permitted to attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA calls upon any regional, provincial, or national lobbying organization of which the KSA is a member to suspend or expel them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the BCITSA calls upon the members of the KSA Council who supported these amendments to resign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as the KSA Council has chosen to act in a manner hostile to the interests of its own members, that the BCITSA calls upon elected leaders at all levels of government to decline to meet with any KSA representative for any reason other than to condemn their antidemocratic behaviour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT pursuant to Bylaw 21.3(e), this External Policy Position shall be reviewed one year following the date of its adoption, and annually thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT where, in the opinion of the Advocacy and Policy Committee (the 'Committee'), material changes have occurred between review dates, that the Committee may discuss these changes and make recommendations to Council.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past few months, the KSA Council, having previously engaged in a number of questionable practices, has responded to the blowback by seeking to gut democratic accountability to their members by seeking to amend their bylaws as follows:

- Extending Council terms to two years, depriving many of their members of any voice whatsoever in their student leadership¹;
- Cancelling all Council elections until 2027², allowing its current Council to remain in office for an unprecedented three years. This is a serious affront to democracy within the KSA and means that many students will spend their entire time at KPU without ever having a chance to vote for their representatives;
- When elections resume, cutting by more half the election nomination period³;
- Forcing the disqualification of any candidate for election who criticizes the conduct of the KSA Council;
- Closing meetings of Council to the public, and even the KSA's own members⁴;
- Banning media from attending Council meetings, thereby stifling democratic scrutiny;
- Allowing non-students to hold voting roles on Council^{5,6}

¹ KSA Proposed Bylaws s. 5.1

² KSA Proposed Bylaws s. 5.2

³ KSA Proposed Bylaws s. 5.5

⁴ Nyamat Singh and Claudia Culley, KSA Proposes to delete and replace their bylaws at Sept. 26 special general meeting, September 19, 2024, <https://runnermag.ca/2024/09/ksa-proposes-to-delete-and-replace-their-bylaws-at-sept-26-special-general-meeting/>

⁵ KSA Proposed Bylaws s. 2.2 (b)

⁶ KSA Proposed Bylaws s. 2.4

- After being criticized for their behaviour by the campus newspaper, *The Runner*, attempting to remove safeguards protecting editorial independence⁷
- Eliminating safeguards that currently protect the KSA against Council taking out risky loans without oversight⁸
- Eliminating the ability of KSA members to petition for changes to its regulations⁹;
- Permitting Council to adopt, amend, or rescind regulations with no notice to KSA members¹⁰;
- Reducing the notice period for General Meetings¹¹;
- Severely curtailing the ability of members to force a General Meeting to be held¹².

None of the changes to the election process were recommended by any of the KSA's past Chief Returning Officers, who are independent officers specifically hired for their expertise in the conduct of free and fair elections.

Any one of the steps taken above would, on its own, represent a serious threat to the goals of the student union movement, which is meant to amplify student voices. These actions, taken together, make clear that the views of the KSA Council are that students should not be at the heart of the process, and that democratic accountability is an obstacle to their personal interests.

This view is bolstered by the fact that further action taken by the KSA included an expenditure of approximately \$20,000 for a "Council retreat" to Kelowna, in spite of the fact that months earlier, a similar amount was spent on a Council retreat to Manning Park. Many members of the current Council were not even aware of the existence of the Kelowna trip at all¹³.

To stand silent in the face of this egregious conduct would mean that some might be inclined to believe that the student union movement supports this behaviour. By speaking up, we wish to make clear that we condemn this behaviour. This is incredibly important, as student unions are largely self-regulating, which is important given that we regularly need to criticize different levels of government, and our respective institutions, when they fail to meet the needs of our members. If we demonstrate an inability to self-police our own sector, we run an increased risk of unwanted provincial regulation that might prevent us from doing our jobs effectively.

⁷ Gordon McIntyre, Kwantlen University student newspaper threatened with shutdown, September 26, 2024, <https://vancouversun.com/news/kwantlen-university-student-newspaper-shutdown-threat>.

⁸ Nyamat Singh and Claudia Culley, KSA Proposes to delete and replace their bylaws at Sept. 26 special general meeting, September 19, 2024, <https://runnermag.ca/2024/09/ksa-proposes-to-delete-and-replace-their-bylaws-at-sept-26-special-general-meeting/>

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Claudia Culley, KSA council spends almost \$20,000 on 2-night retreat to Kelowna, October 3, 2024, <https://runnermag.ca/2024/10/ksa-council-spends-almost-20000-on-2-night-retreat-to-kelowna/>

Student Union politics generally fall under the radar, but this story has already been picked up by the CBC, Global News, CKNW, The Vancouver Sun, and The Province, among others. It is a matter that senior staff in the Ministry of Advanced Education are aware of. At this moment, not only should we stand up because it is the right thing to do, it's also in the interest of our own sector. The administration of Kwantlen Polytechnic University have already spoken up forcefully against this action¹⁴ as has the ABCS, which forced the resignation of KSA Associate President Ishant Goyal as their Chair, and subsequently placed the KSA in bad standing¹⁵. Other student associations are also considering their own action as well.

In short, while BCITSA has an opportunity to lead, it is not out on a limb on its own. The moral clarity of the third-largest student association in British Columbia will create space for over a dozen other student associations, who are all also considering stepping up, to do so more safely, and it will send a signal to government that we are good actors with the ability to manage our own affairs competently.

¹⁴ Claudia Culley, KPU cancels space for KSA's special general meeting due to security concerns, September 25, 2024, <https://runnermag.ca/2024/09/kpu-cancels-space-for-ksas-special-general-meeting-due-to-security-concerns/>

¹⁵ ABCS CONDEMNS ALLEGED MISCONDUCT BY KSA COUNCIL, MOVES TO PUT KSA IN BAD STANDING, October 25, 2024, <https://bcstudents.ca/news/2024/10/25/abcs-condemns-alleged-misconduct-by-ksa-council-moves-to-put-ksa-in-bad-standing>