

Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 09, 2023
17:30 PM – 19:30 PM
Council Chambers

- 6.1 Call to Order
- 6.2 Acceptance of the Agenda
- 6.3 Selection Committee for Elections *-Liam L.*
- 6.4 Acceptance of Minutes
 - 6.4.1 Council Meeting Minutes: 2022-11-28
 - 6.4.2 Annual General Meeting Minutes: 2022-11-28
- 6.5 Reports
 - 6.5.1 Executive Director's Report *- Yael Z.*
- 6.6 Old Business
 - 6.6.1 Executive Update *- Executive Team*
- 6.7 New Business
 - 6.7.1 EXT-8: Student Housing *- Nolan N.*
 - 6.7.2 Council Commitments *- Liam L.*
- 6.8 Open Forum
- 6.9 Reminders
 - 6.9.1 Next Council Meeting: 2023-01-23 @ 17:30 in Council Chambers
- 6.10 Meeting Adjournment

Please refer to attached materials.

Council Meeting
Monday, January 09, 2023
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 Loriot – Chair, School of Health Sciences
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 & Sustainability
Joshua Luu – Chair, School of Business+Media
Ashley Obeck - BMC Satellite Councillor

Staff: Yael Zachs – Executive Director
Minnu Bennichan – Administrative Coordinator

Councillors: Erik Zhao
Cailin Shires
Daniel Mah
Catherine Lam
Alyssa Ilich
Laurel Kinahan
Shelby Woida
Owen Rains
Sharon Madavana Govindan
Alyssa Ilich
Sha Gilani
Lata Kumari
Dan Minster
Crystal Man
Matthew Puyat
Dennis Phan
Ruby Hsu
Laurie Solkoski
Yasmin Gardy
Ashley Le
Karandeep Singh Kullar
Anmol Sidhu
Nicolas Johnson

Regrets: Andrew Warren
Gareth Moon
Carrie Liang
Andrew Pham

Students: Stewart McGillivray
Riley Lyons

6.1 Meeting Called to Order

The Chair, Liam, calls the meeting to order at 17:30 (36 voting members, including the Chair).

6.2 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion:

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended to move item 6.3 to 6.6.1 and to add a new item to 6.6.2.

Moved by: Liam Lauren

Seconded by: Crystal Man

Unanimous

Carried

Motion:

Be it resolved that the agenda be further amended to add Land Acknowledgement.

Moved by: Liam Lauren

Seconded by: Dan Minster

Unanimous

Carried

Motion:

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as amended.

Moved by: Liam Lauren

Seconded by: Alyssa Illich

Unanimous

Carried

6.3 Acceptance of the minutes

6.3.1 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Council Meeting minutes from 2022-11-28 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Nolan Nordwall

Seconded by: Sha Gilani

29/0/2

Carried

6.3.2 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Annual General Meeting minutes from 2022-11-28 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Nolan Nordwall

Seconded by: Alyssa Illich

28/0/3

Carried

6.4 Reports

6.4.1 Executive Directors Report

- As submitted.
- Congratulated Nolan and Mo for organizing the Hackathon.
- Staffing announcement
- Revenue from food and retail operations was lower in December. We did some extra events related to the world cup in the Pub.
- We are adjusting the staffing based on the revenue from the food and retail operations and we will continue to do so.
- We are continuing to open Pavilion until 6:30 pm
- Elections are coming up. If you are interested in running, please talk with the board members.
- We have fully completed the Childcare Canopy.

6.5 Old Business

6.5.1 Executive Update

- As submitted.
- Theo mentioned that his objective will be changed to reflect the new position. He is meeting with the associated Deans from the satellite campuses to come up with new objectives.
- Mia updated that BCITSA has registered with the CRA to run a tax clinic. It will take place in the last week of March and the first two weeks of April.

Discussion:

- Does the BCIT Accounting Association collaborate with us for the tax clinic?
 - Mia has contacted them. They have a different audience, so they were not interested in collaborating with this initiative.

6.6 New Business

6.6.1 Selection Committee for Elections

- As submitted.
- Tanya will be chairing the committee and Mo was elected to the committee as vice chair.
- All three individuals in the selection committee will not be able to run for the election.

Motion:

Be it resolved that Dan Minster be appointed to the Selection Committee for the term ending May 31st, 2023.

Moved by: Liam Lauren

Seconded by: Cody Pallin

6.6.2 Update on Student Associations Response to Parking Fee Increases

- BCIT has recently let us know that they will be increasing the parking fees for Burnaby, Marine, and DTC campuses. The daily rate increase in Burnaby is 68%, while the monthly pass increase will be at a rate of 18%. At the Marine campus, the increase will be by \$1 per day; and at DTC the daily rate is going up from \$12.75 to \$20.25. These changes will go into effect on February 1, 2023.
- We understand that this will impact the students, so we have reached out to BCIT. They have acknowledged the impact and are looking to see options to minimize it.

Discussion:

- Why haven't they done research on the impact before implementing the changes?
 - I can't speak to any work they have done before implementing it. They haven't increased their parking rate for 8 years.
- In the email it is mentioned that they have been comparing the rates to their competitors. Whom are they comparing to?
 - They are comparing their fees to other parking lots near the campuses impacted as well as other post secondaries in the Lower Mainland.
- With the increases are they going to increase the services?
 - They will be switching to a License Plate Recognition system (LPR).
- The change was sudden. Some of the students went ahead and purchased the monthly pass without understanding the discounted price for four months.
 - Yael has a meeting with the VP of Facilities and will bring this up.
 - If the parking rates are increased, the students will be relying more on public transit. One request would be to have bike storage. Yael has already put in the request to increase bike storage, particularly at DTC where there currently isn't any bike storage for students. She will follow up with BCIT on this request.
- The Advocacy and Policy committee will have further discussion on this at their next meeting.
- If students purchase a parking pass, can they opt out of the U-Pass?
 - Students can not opt out of U-Pass. The agreement is based on all full-time students, and it includes other post-secondary institutions. There is no flexibility on this in the current agreement.
- It would be good to encourage the departments to have more hybrid classes.

6.6.3 Ext -8: Student Housing

- As submitted.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the proposed external policy position "EXT-8 On-Campus Student Housing" be adopted.

Discussion:

- Isn't 3 years too long for reviewing the policy?
 - We have to make sure that we can give enough time to review all the policies before going out.

6.6.4 Council Commitments

- As this is the start of the new term, it is a good time to remind everyone of the Councillor responsibilities. Please ensure you attend all council meetings and committee meetings. If you are struggling with the commitment, please talk to your chairs.

Discussion:

- Is it okay for the councillors to attend the meeting online?
 - Originally this was only permitted for Councillors from Specialty campuses. This changed during COVID. For non-specialty campus councillors, it is preferable that they attend in person. If this is not possible, they should have a conversation with their Chair.

6.7 Open Forum

- Theo mentioned that his new email and the current one are active. The new email is stc@bcitsa.ca.
- Sally provided a verbal notice that the BCIT marketing will be shadowing her in the upcoming meeting to capture some videos.
- Nolan provided verbal notice for proposing a new policy for Affordable Transportation.

6.8 Reminders

6.8.1 Next Council Meeting: 2022-01-23 at 17:30 in Council Chambers

6.9 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Owen Rains and seconded by Alyssa Illich that the meeting be adjourned.

Unanimous Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 18:31.

Executive Director Report
January 9, 2023

Student Services:

HR Updates: We have completed hiring for the positions of Career Services Manager and Career Specialist. Joyce Lee will succeed Laurie Sinnott-Lee in the position of Career Services Manager, and we've hired Sara Lyele as the new Career Specialist who will join us on January 9th. Last week, Laurie started her new role as Director of Student Services and Tara has moved on to the role of Director of People & Culture.

Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurship Services launched a new **Business Plan Review** program in December. This is a self-paced program that combines online modules with individual professional guidance from the Entrepreneurship team. This program will help students and alumni to develop and execute a well-defined business plan.

Career Services: Career Services is working hard to bring BCIT students the annual Business and Construction and Engineering Career Fairs at the end of January. Stay tuned for more information and spread the word!

Food & Retail:

Revenue for December is as follows:

- Habitat Pub: \$43,849 (66% of budget)
- Pavilion: \$47,600 (75% of budget)
- Stand Central is \$13,700 (65% of budget)
- Stand South is \$15,900 (45% of budget)
- Geared Up is \$17,700 (84% of budget)

December was a slow month/ actually just two weeks, especially after the exams were done. The p/t staff were scheduled in December to match the sales.

Currently waiting to hear back from Timetabling regarding Part Time courses to determine evening hours of operation for Pavilion.

We are currently recruiting 1 or 2 on call part time staff, should we need to sustain the evening hours and in anticipation of more staff leaving, who are actively applying for jobs in their fields.

Pavilion will have new food specials next week, and we will have new special food items every 3 weeks until May. We will also have a special pizza that will start Mid-January.

Marketing, Communications, Events and Publications:

Events Department: We have hired Alvin To for a grant-sponsored Events Assistant position and he started January 4 and will be with the Events Department until March 29. Hackathon has sold out! We are now 100 student participants and we have secured \$18,000 in sponsorship funds. The event will run from Jan. 6 – 8 over the weekend.

Marketing & Communications (Marcom) Department: Elections trickle campaign started with the first CTAs to appear in the January newsletter. We will be offering ways for students to become involved in student government right up to March. Retail and student services promos are currently under way for the month of January.

Publications: Link Magazine winter edition is nearly complete for mid-January release.

Childcare:

We are excited to show you the progress on our permanent canopy just outside our Toddler Centre. It is really starting to come together, hopefully finishing soon so our toddlers can enjoy their yard again with the added bonus of a covered area! The centres are all full and running smoothly with our amazing ECE staff. We are patiently waiting for the decision on our expansion application, fingers crossed



Finance & Admin:

Student Fees through November – Seems to have settled down at around a decline of 4%, which as a percentage doesn't seem like much but based on the total number of students fees there will be a shortage of about \$480,000 to budget through to the fiscal year end. All the other fees are exhibiting similar declines.

The building Capital Fund has an accumulated value of about \$7.7 million.

2022 2023 Executive Objectives

| | Position | # | Objective | Objective Update | Next Step | Position Update |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Liam Lauren | President | 1 | To make a charity campaign that will run in April to support the Food Support Hub through various fundraising events. | successfully scheduled a meeting with Yael this coming week to get direction on how to go about targeting donors in an effective way. Will also be a chance to get feedback on ideas I have on engaging the targeted demographic through the month. | work together with marcom to create posters and advertising for the campaign. Also work with events on how to plan a large thank you to donors | |
| Mia Bui | VP Finance & Administration | 1 | Advocate for accurate, transparent and timely information passed by BCIT to international students regarding Co-op program (with heavy focus on Accounting students this year). | | | |
| | | 2 | Collaborate with BCIT Wellness (and/or other parties if applicable) to host an annual BCITSA Tax Clinic. | | | |
| Tanya Fuchs | VP Student Experience | 1 | Increase student engagement with the BCITSA by planning and executing a year-end block party by May 2023. | | | |
| | | 2 | Support Wellness and Clubs staff in organizing and hosting the "Food Fight" food drive contest to support the Food Pantry program. | | | |
| | | 3 | Perform an SKU analysis for the Stand stores and make recommendations for product offerings. | | | |
| Amanda MacKearney | VP Equity & Sustainability | 1 | Work with BCIT on curriculum updates for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, as well as cultural safety training. | | | |
| | | 2 | Have available for free disposable menstruation products in all BCIT washrooms by year-end. | | | |
| | | 3 | Work on the development of a program that collects the leftover food products of students leaving residence and redistributes it to students in need. | | | |
| | | 4 | Continuing the previous VP equity and sustainability objective of adding a fall reading break for programs one year in length or longer. | | | |
| Nolan Nordwall | VP External | 1 | Increase the percentage of students who take part in the BCITSA general election from 2% to 7% by next election, Spring of 2023, using student outreach programs and student services to get more students involved in the Student Association | We met recently and all confirmed our commitment to getting more applicants for each position. | I'll be getting an estimate sent to Student spaces for pipe and drape to bring the Zen Lounge more easily to the downtown campus | QDS Hacks, the BCITSA Hackathon will be happening Jan 6th to 8th. I'm the event lead, and we completely sold out of tickets. 100 students will be attending. |
| | | 2 | Advocate to retain the current level of Canada Student Grants at their current level by next federal budget review in summer of 2023 by building strong relationships with student advocacy groups and effectively lobbying to members of parliament. | I went to Ottawa over the break for a week to lobby for student grants, it was a highly productive trip. | I'll be following up with the MP's that we couldn't meet with while we were there, and planning virtual meetings to lobby further. | |
| Joshua Luu | Chair, School of Business + Media | 1 | Further develop and promote a Discord server aimed at students of the SOB+M and to achieve 500+ members in the server and to act as a resource for information for students | | | Spoke to external parties about future funding of 'mental health dinner' if the data from the pilot is robust, increased Jack.org support, and access to key notes speakers that have lived experience with mental illness. Céline is aware. |
| | | 2 | Investigate and improve the success of the set-rep program with the goal to have set-reps and instructors informed about the role and resources of being a set-rep. | | | |
| | | 3 | Improve students' mental health by hosting fun ongoing social events where students can destress, build a sense of connection to BCIT, and feel comfortable accessing services that address their concerns (joint objective w/Céline). | | | |
| | | 1 | Reach out to at least 6 full time programs starting in Winter 2023 about useful info for new students (such as SA benefits, peer tutoring, advocacy, dealing with instructor issues, etc.) | | | |

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|-----------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Vrishank Prabhu | Chair, School of Energy | 2 | Gather data from 50 students about common and reoccurring academic issues to resolve problems and/or pass on to future chairs | | | Had a successful set rep meeting and working with councillors to plan the movie night and orientation outreach |
| | | 3 | Assist in planning and promoting at least 2 networking events organized by SA and work towards reviving clubs in the School of Energy (such as IEEE) | | | |
| Mo Baydoun | Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies | 1 | Promote the physical health and wellness of Computing students who suffer from the effects of a sedentary lifestyle through tabling and events (Joint objective with Céline). | | | Had first set rep meeting, invited Associate Dean of Computing and they showed! Meeting went great, felt like we resolved a lot of the issues after the fact with the help of Donna (AD). Second set rep meeting is happening on the 30th of November. Donna will be there again as well as special industry guests courtesy of Amy Smith, set reps are excited about this. Tabled for the Hackathon. |
| | | 2 | Find a way to include the 'Academic Studies' portion of my constituents in the Set Rep program as well as establish a line of communication with their program head. | | | |
| | | 3 | Improve student engagement & relieve stress through a LAN party. | | | |
| Céline Loriot | Chair, School of Health Sciences | 1 | Improve students' mental health by hosting fun ongoing social events where students can destress, build a sense of connection to BCIT, and feel comfortable accessing services that address their concerns (joint objective w/Josh). | Currently, we are looking for student leaders to express interest in leading the Jack chapter by January 11 . Josh and I are planning our next Mental Health Dinner around the end of February . | Josh will connect with Kirk on booking a space, and our Canadian Mental Health Association contacts to lead the discussion. We'll support the student leaders in the Jack chapter onboarding process. | 1) Advocated for promoting healthier body image and diet attitudes within SoHS programs. 2) Spreading awareness of ThriveBCIT, a new upstream intervention designed to reach students before distress sets in, inviting students to equip themselves with resilience and learning strategies that can help to mitigate crisis. |
| | | 2 | Promote the health and wellness of students by hosting two sports day competitions during the first week of May (joint objective w/Mo). | Event planning is complete. Mo will have a meeting with Kirk to discuss which of the two | Conduct bi-weekly meetings with Mo during the Winter term , and apply for external sponsors | 1) Participated in SoHS and BSN Orientations. 2) Followed up with the SNA and Career Services regarding planning a nurses' career fair in mid/end of April . |
| | | 3 | Strengthen the health sciences family at BCIT by hosting a social event at Habitat to boost morale. I aim to have health science trivia games, and door prizes. | Tabled indefinitely due to staffing. Connected with Kirk about planning a karaoke night. If it is still not feasible, I will close this objective. | Plan for end of January in collaboration with Josh and Andrew. | 1) Actively looking for a 4th HS Councillor. 2) I created a survey to gather feedback in planning set rep meetings for March . I am currently collecting responses. |
| Cody Pallin | Chair, Schools of Transportation, Construction & Environment | 1 | Compile the feasibility and interest into a report of implementing the Set Rep program to the considered "Trades" courses under the School of Construction and the Environment | | | |
| | | 2 | Develop a feasibility and interest report of forming an Aerospace Marine Annacis Chair position from the existing Aerospace Technology Campus Chair position while also clarifying the Transportation, Construction & Environment Chair position to be strictly BCIT Burnaby Campus based. | | | |
| | | 3 | [ended] | | | |
| | | 4 | [ended] | | | |
| Sally Poon | Chair, Downtown Campus | 1 | Increase the visibility of SA services at DTC by hosting in-person office hours at the Student Lounge with snacks, monthly. | | | |
| | | 2 | Gain a better understanding of DTC Student Service needs by forming a quick survey that can be used to collect student interest throughout the year. | | | |
| | | 3 | Develop a planned, new DTC Student event for the Winter term. | | | |
| Theo Robson | Chair, Aerospace Campus | 1 | Create and host a 'Campus Flag' contest as well as a grand flag raising ceremony to community build and increase SA presence on campus. | All flag submissions have been recieved and finalized. A meeting will be held early January to determine the voting process, and another meeting in late January to determine the final event. | Voting meeting scheduled for this week; event meeting tentively scheduled for the end of January. | |
| | | 2 | Develop an indepth analysis of current Diversity + Inclusion environment at ATC to be used to weave such values into the school's culture moving forward. | Objective cancelled due to role change. | | |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | 3 | Develop a feasibility report of creating an AMA Chair (Aerospace-Marine-Annacis) to have all satellite students (excluding DTC) represented on the board by a satellite chair. | Objective completed. | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Name | Position | Report | | | | |
| Ashley Obeck | BMC Satellite Councillor | | | | | |
| TBD | AIC Satellite Councillor | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Committee | Report by | Last Meeting | Next Meeting | | | Optional - Other Notes |
| Finance | Mia Bui | Meeting on Oct. 20 | | | | |
| Student Spaces | Cody Pallin | November 9th | | | | |
| Bylaw | Mia Bui | Meeting on Nov. 3 | | | | |
| Advocacy & Policy | Nolan Nordwall | Nov 17th | Schedule being decided after the break, will be following up with the team after QDS Hackathon | Bringing EXT-8 to Council next week, then at our next meeting we'll be discussing next steps | | We have one more EXT policy already drafted that we're finalizing, plus edits to current policies to make them more specific. |
| Clubs | Tanya Fuchs | Met on November 22. Bringing the BCIT Lifiting club application to Council. Approved \$3000 in event funding. | January, date TBD. | | | |
| Board of Governors | Liam Lauren | Decemer 6 | 28-Feb | | | |
| Education Council | Tanya Fuchs | November 16 | February 1, 2023 | | | |
| Alumni Board | Nolan Nordwall | Nov 15th | | | | |
| Equity & Sustainability | Amanda MacKearney | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

DECISION NOTE

January 4, 2022

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PREPARED FOR: | BCITSA Council |
| PREPARED BY: | Stewart McGillivray & Tanya Fuchs |
| ISSUE: | Selection Committee for Elections |

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint one Councillor to the Selection Committee, the body responsible for selecting members for the independent Elections and Appeals Committees.

MOTION:

Be it resolved that _____ [a Councillor] be appointed to the Selection Committee for the term ending May 31st, 2023.

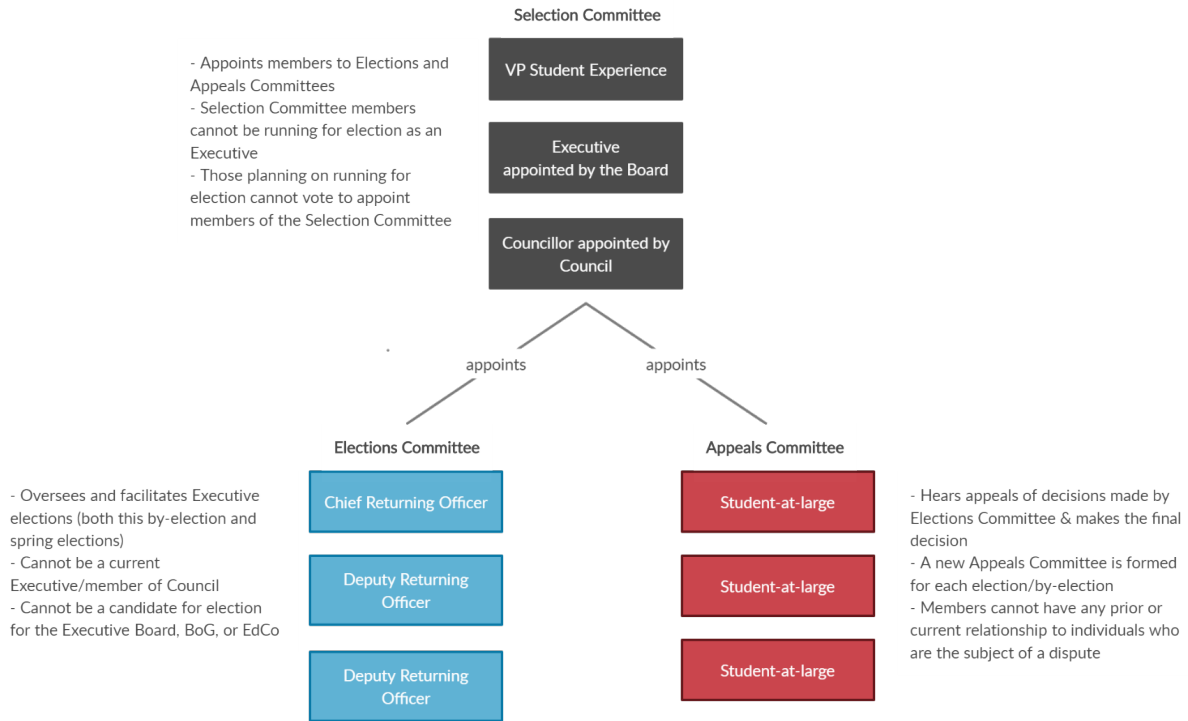
BACKGROUND:

The Selection Committee is how we ensure that the administration of our elections is impartial. It is ordinarily chaired by the VP Student Experience (or another Executive, if the VP Student Experience plans to seek re-election) and includes one other Executive and one Councillor. All three individuals on the Selection Committee **cannot be running for election as an Executive**. Any members of Council still considering running in the elections should refrain from proposing, seconding, debating, or voting on motions to appoint members of this committee.

The committee's work involves reviewing resumes from students who apply for the Elections and Appeals Committees and deciding on the best candidates. These applicants must not be current Executives nor Councillors and they will be found through marketing efforts by BCITSA staff. The Selection Committee does not need to do any recruitment.

The time commitment is about **two to three meetings** of about **one to two hours each**. This year, the committee is chaired by Tanya Fuchs, VP Student Experience; the vice-chair is Mo Baydoun, Chair of Computing and Academic Studies.

Please refer to the diagram on the following page, accompanied by those sections of Bylaws applicable to these appointments.



“Selection Committee

5.13. The Selection Committee shall be responsible for appointing members of the Election Committee and the Appeals Committee [...]. The Committee consist of the following individuals:

- (a) Vice President Student Experience;
- (b) one Executive, as vice-chair, as appointed by the Executive Committee [...]; and
- (c) one Councillor, to be appointed by Council,

subject to the following restrictions and exceptions:

- (d) any Executive running for re-election shall not be permitted to be a member of the Selection Committee or cast a vote to name a member of the Selection Committee;
- (e) no member of the Selection Committee shall be eligible to stand for election as an Executive;
- (f) in the event that the Vice President Student Experience is seeking election to an Executive position named in Bylaw 4.1, and is therefore ineligible to sit on the Selection Committee pursuant to Bylaw 5.13(d), an alternate member of the Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Executives subject to the procedures and restrictions of this Bylaw; [...]

DECISION NOTE

January 5, 2023

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| PREPARED FOR: | BCITSA Council |
| PREPARED BY: | Nolan Nordwall and Stewart McGillivray |
| ISSUE: | Adopting a policy on student housing |

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the proposed new External Policy Position *EXT-8 On-Campus Student Housing* in accordance with the requirements found in Bylaw 21.3.

MOTION:

Be it resolved that proposed external policy position “EXT-8 On-Campus Student Housing” be adopted.

(needs 2/3 majority) (notice provided at November 28th, 2022 Council meeting)

BACKGROUND

Council has the authority to adopt External Policy Positions ([link](#)), and VP External and the Advocacy & Policy Committee take the lead on studying and proposing new policy positions for consideration by Council. This process was introduced in late 2020 and seven External Policy Positions have been adopted since that time, the most recent in November.

At its initial meetings in fall 2022, the Committee reviewed various draft external policy positions and will be periodically bringing them forward for a formal decision from Council. This proposed policy, EXT-8, is the second in this series and addresses the Association’s current gap in any formalized policy stance relating to on-campus student housing.

The formal rationale for adopting EXT-8 is included below, as part of the policy document that would appear on our website. The Association has sometimes taken informal stances and lobbied government regarding on-campus student housing, and this policy would properly formalize a BCITSA position on the issue.

By adopting this proposed policy, the VP External and staff would be able to continue advocating to government on important issues related to on-campus student housing. With a new Minister and a renewed provincial focus on addressing the housing crisis in the Lower Mainland, on-campus housing dedicated for students can be a valuable part of the government’s policy response.

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Subject: On-Campus Student Housing | Policy Number: EXT-8 | Last reviewed: 2023 Jan. 9 |
| Approved by: [_____] | Managed by: Advocacy & Policy Committee | Next review: 2026 Jan. 30 |

Policy Rationale:

Finding affordable housing has long been a problem in the Lower Mainland, and students are one of the groups most affected by a tight market and high rents. With low vacancy rates, increasing rents, and a rising cost of living, the challenge of finding affordable housing continues to have a negative impact on students.

For BCIT students, the limited supply of on-campus housing further heightens the pressures facing far too many students. While there have been some increases in density along the Willingdon corridor, this has not always translated into more affordable options. In Burnaby, average rents have continued to rise: a one-bedroom unit costs \$2,010 per month, while a two-bedroom unit now costs \$2,744; these are the sixth highest in the country, and well above the national average.¹

Building more affordable housing on campus helps to lower students’ dependence on roommates for housing security and fosters a vibrant on-campus community where students live in close proximity to the school. Living on-campus can also provide a higher quality of life compared to living off-campus, mainly due to reduced commutes and lower rents, as well as living with others who share similar lifestyles, goals, and needs.

External Policy Position:

1. The Student Association supports:
 - A. The further construction and expansion of high-quality, affordable, purpose-built student housing on-campus with accompanying amenities to fully encompass students’ academic and social needs;
 - B. The development and enforcement of policies that ensure residence fee increases are tied to inflation or to the maximum allowable rent increases set annually by government for off-campus rentals;
 - C. The inclusion, in on-campus student housing developments, of units which address the unique needs of students with families, those with accessibility needs, international students, and Indigenous learners.
 - D. The status of student residences as exclusively owned and operated by public post-secondary institutions or community-based not-for-profit organizations.

¹ “Burnaby rental prices still averaging more than \$2k a month, report shows.” *Burnaby Now*: August 12, 2022 ([link](#)).

- E. Increased supports from government for on-campus housing through the following:
- i. investments through capital grants and low-interest loans;
 - ii. permanent policy changes to permit post-secondary institutions to incur debt to expand housing; and
 - iii. the provision of ongoing dedicated operating funding to public post-secondary institutions for on-campus student housing.
- F. The continued development of sectoral best-practices, through ongoing consultations, such as the recent “Leading Practices in Student Housing Agreements” resource prepared by the Ministry.²
2. The Student Association opposes:
- A. Increases in student housing fees beyond the equivalent maximum allowable rent increases off-campus;
 - B. Payment programs which require residents to pay an entire semester’s rent up-front rather than the prevailing monthly payments found off-campus; and
 - C. Profits of any kind generated from on-campus student housing, especially from international students’ residences, where applicable.

² “Leading Practices in Student Housing Agreements.” *Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills*: Fall 2022 ([link](#)).