



Executive Meeting Monday November 3, 2014 Minutes

- Executives:** Dylan Smith, President
Allen Depa, VP Finance & Administration
Bradley Lindsay, VP Campus Life
Tyra Bermudez, VP External Affairs
Evan Findlay, VP Student Affairs
Daniel Sumano, ATC Chair
Joseph Prophet, Business Chair
Nav Bhatti, Acting Computer & Academic Studies Chair
Jamie Haakons, Energy Chair
Amanda Ding, Health Sciences Chair
Daniel Sumano, ATC Chair
Emilio Da Silva, DTC Chair
- Staff:** Caroline Gagnon, Director
- Councillors:**
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Anya Besharah | Vanessa Leo |
| Kaeli Ayers | Joseph Brini |
| Maria Ariela Badenas | Shubhi Singh |
| Michael Tchen | Brett Harrison |
| Andrew Pham | Justin Deddens |
| Michael Hui | Darshan Gill |
| Trevor Matthews | Lindsay Howe |
| Sarah Thomasen | Jennifer Nguyen |
| Nirvair Grewal | Joanna (Mo Man) Yung |
| Mandeep Jaswal | Ivan Koshcheev |
| Sabirin Tutuncu | Andres Aguilar |
- Absent:**
- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Tony Atkins | Arvin Nikseresht |
| Kelsi Carleton | Chloe Guan |
| Daniel Yen | Morgan Latremouille |
- Guest:**

8.1. Meeting Called to Order

The Chairperson, Dylan Smith, call the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. (31 members).

8.2 Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved that the agenda be accepted with the following additions.

8.9.2 Support of David Suzuki Foundation

Moved by: Joseph Prophet

Seconded by: Daniel Sumano

31/0/0 Carried

8.3 Approval of the Minutes: Monday, October 20th, 2014

Be it resolved that the Council Meeting Minutes from October 20th, 2014 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Justin Deddens

Seconded by: Joseph Brini

31/0/0 Carried

8.4 Progress Reports and Updates: Executives

Some of the Student Executives have submitted their progress report.

Tyra:

- Attended the ABCS meeting, which during the meeting they approved the support of the Suzuki Foundation; started on the Funding Policy for ABCS; and worked on a transportation survey, which should be coming shortly.

Amanda:

- The IPE objectives have been distributed to faculty and students

Joseph:

- Sent an email to all the set reps regarding internship. A subgroup is helping with the research and what other schools are doing, while reviewing what BCIT is presently doing.
- Worked on the review of the set reps selection process.

Evan:

- Developing a survey to get PTS more engaged and see how we can develop a model similar to the set rep program for full-time students.

1 member joining (32 voting)

8.5 Question Period

- Councillors have questions regarding the lack of writing reports. They would prefer to have even more detailed written reports but minimal verbal discussion.

8.6 Councillors' Forum

No comment

8.7 Old Business

8.7.1 External Advocacy Discussion

Tyra introduces the topic of external advocacy (see attached presentation) and ask what would be potential issues that the student body would like to have worked on.

Potential issues:

- Eligibility of the Upass for part time students
- Affordability of education, housing, eligibility for funding
- Parking – though not related to VP External portfolio, it is still an important issue
- No bus loop compared to other schools

If anyone has more ideas, please connect with Tyra directly

8.7.2 Council Social Event

All Councillors are invited to the Council Social Event on Monday, November 10 at the pub. An invitation will be sent to all.

8.9 New Business

8.9.1 Elections Committee

Evan is looking for 2 Councillors and 1 Executive to sit on the Election Committee for the by-election of the Chair of School of Computing and Academic Studies. This is a very short term commitment and will start this week until the end of elections.

Important Dates:

November 7 – Nomination closes

November 14 – Confirmation of candidate

November 17 & 20 Campaign and voting

Volunteers: Daniel Sumano, Trevor Matthews and Jennifer Nguyen

8.9.2 Support of the David Suzuki Foundation

Tyra, as the VP External, was contacted by the David Suzuki Foundation to gain BCITSA's support for the issue of Transportation for the Lower Mainland. A transportation referendum will be held in 2015 asking the community for an increase in the transportation budget. They are pleading to the government to invest in transportation projects. ABCS has already endorsed this statement.

Questions:

- What does endorsement look like? It is a statement on behalf of the BCITSA.
- Want to make sure that the tax increases for users of transportation.

They are asking to endorse the statement "The single most important decision facing Metro Vancouver for the next 20 years is the 2015 transportation referendum. A positive outcome is the biggest step we can take to improve the region's health, economy, affordability, livability, quality of life and environmental sustainability for the next generation"

Motion:

Be it resolved that BCITSA endorses the David Suzuki Foundation statement on the 2015 transportation referendum question

Moved by: Tyra Bermudez Seconded by: Andres Aguilar

12/16/4 Defeated

Debate:

- Have Councillors had the opportunity to read about this motion before? No. The Foundation has asked for a response in a couple of days.
- What is the meaning of a “positive outcome” stated in the document? Enhancing the transportation system.
- We are endorsing a statement that has not been developed.
- Are we endorsing the statement that a referendum will be set in the upcoming year, but not the referendum itself? Yes.
- What is Metro Vancouver? Covers area until Langley; area under the prevue of Translink.
- What has the Foundation planned to do with this endorsement? Don’t have the answer but will ask about the next step.
- These types of initiatives would actually benefit BCIT students.
- Since ABCS has already endorsed it, why should we? We are part of ABCS.
- It is important to keep our individual voice, even though we are part of the ABCS.
- Is there any benefit for us endorse this statement, compare to backing up another organisation. What would the benefit be to do this right now?
- The Foundation is highly respectable. It is a great organization to link with.
- The benefit is to have a political stand on this issue. The issue is still at a very strategic level. Not aware of other organizations endorsing this issue.
- I would be concerned to have our name under something that vague.
- The issue of vagueness was brought forward by ABCS, but it was not viewed as a determining factor. BCITSA did view vagueness as a determining factor. Just because it was the David Suzuki Foundation that brought this statement forward, does not mean that we should stand behind this statement.
- We are only supporting a statement that a better transportation system is needed. We have to look at the main issue, not how the statement is written.
- We need to create our own views prior to supporting this issue.
- It would be a lack of social of responsibility not to stand behind this issue. It is not because the statement is vague, that we should not support it.

Call the question

Moved by: Joseph Prophet Seconded by: Joseph Brini

30/0/2 Carried

8.10 Next Meeting: Monday, November 17, 2014

The Annual General Meeting is schedule prior to Council Meeting for Monday, November 17, 2014, in the Council Chamber SE2 – Rm 283 at 5:30pm. AGM will start at 5:45pm to be followed by Council Meeting.

8.11 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Dylan Smith and seconded by Amanda Ding that the meeting be adjourned at 7:13pm. **Carried**

**Council Meeting
Agenda
Monday, November. 3rd, 2014
5:30-8:30pm**

- 8.1 Meeting called to order
- 8.2 Acceptance of the Agenda
- 8.3 Acceptance of the minutes, October. 20, 2014
- 8.5 Progress Reports and Updates: Executives (5 min)
- 8.6 Question Period (10 min)
- 8.7 Councillors' Forum
- 8.8 Old Business
 - 8.8.1 External Advocacy Discussion: Tyra (20 min)
 - 8.9.1 Council Social Event: Dylan (5 min)
- 8.9 New Business
 - 8.9.1 Elections committee: Evan (10 min)
- 8.10 Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 17, 2014
Council Chambers
5:30 – 8:30
- 8.11 Meeting Adjournment

BCITSA Executives – Progress Reports (Oct. 17 – 30)

Name & Position	Relative Priority	Objective Description	Objective Status	Position Update
Dylan Smith - President	1	Investigate the long-term future of BCIT food services, the potential for change to the existing system and BCIT's process for food service review	Started	
	2	Increase student engagement and awareness of their social impact through the establishment of an annual TEDxBCIT event targeted at BCIT students	Ongoing	
	3	Reform and revise electoral process in order to strengthen integrity of elections	Not Started	
	4	Work with BCIT and external partners to bring a car-sharing program to BCIT to provide students another transportation option	Postponed	
	5	Review and appoint new contract for student health and dental plan	Started	
Allen Depa - VP of Finance & Administration	1	Investigate into a possible collaboration with the BCIT Recreation Centre in the funding and expansion of student recreation services	In Progress	
	2	Create a Finance and Budget Committee for student members to have the opportunity to review the Associations financial statements.	In Progress	Contacted members of both the bylaw and finance committee to organize a meeting date. Planned out the structure for both committees for the year.
Evan Findlay - Vice President Student Affairs	1	Design process(es) to improve part-time representation at the governance level	Data Gathering/Lobbying	
	2	Review the current instructor feedback processes; and develop recommendations to better promote continuous improvement and accountability	Data Gathering	
Bradley Lindsay - VP of Campus Life	1	Orientation Day 2014	Completed	
	1	FroshFest 2014	Completed	
	2	Collaborate with Rec Services, to increase the level of student involvement and engagement with wellness opportunities on campus	In progress	
	3	Promote health and wellness on campus	In progress	
	4	Continue to promote student engagement, through the development of an end-of-the-year event	In progress, but nothing new to report.	
Tyra Bermudez - VP of External	2	Review/ Research U-Pass Appendix A for 2016 contract renewal		Created a progress report system for ABCS. Storming on possible methods to instill longevity in the processes and procedures for the organization. Will present possible methods during ABCS meeeting
	1	Further develop governmental efforts related to student matters.	In progress	

BCITSA Executives – Progress Reports (Oct. 17 – 30)

	3	Create collegial relationships with unions on campus	In progress	on November 2.
Joseph Prophet - Chair of Business				
		Implement, review, and refine the new set representative training and communication methods	In Progress	
		Champion career services to the School of Business and work with BCITSA Career Services staff on refining their services	In Progress	
		Research and record co-op and internship opportunities for first year business students, with a plan of action or implementation for the end of the year	In Progress	
Jamie Haakons - Chair of Energy				
	1	Investigate re-naming of the School of Energy	Started	Gathered information on comparable school and programs to base a comparison on. Links & info catalogued
	3	Improve campus involvement in engineering competition	In Progress	Focused effort on encouraging students to compete at mini-WEC and WEC
	2	Promote inter-disciplinary co-operation between School of Energy and School of Business	Ongoing	No progress
Chair of Computing & Academics				
Amanda Ding - Chair of Health Sciences				
	1	Increase student health and wellness, including both physical and mental health	In Progress	
	2	Facilitate opportunities that would build a collaborative community within the School of Health Sciences	On going	
	3	Provide opportunities for students to build their professional portfolio	On going	
Tony Atkins - Chair of Transportation, Construction & Environment				
	1	Improve student representation at the set level	No Progress	
	2	Improve students engagement with the development of shared community space on all campuses	In Progress	
	3	Investigate the needs of satellite campuses outside the classroom	In Progress	
Emilio Da Silva - Chair of Downtown Campus				
	1	Work to reduce infrastructure-related issues at the downtown campus	In progress	Have organized industry events for November in cooperation with BCITSA career services. Have also

BCITSA Executives – Progress Reports (Oct. 17 – 30)

	2	Improve service delivery to students downtown	In progress	organized technical event in November for students in School of Computing and School of Energy that are interested. Worked with Confucius Institute to
	3	Work with career services to gain awareness and visibility with downtown students	In progress	
Daniel Sumano - Chair of Aerospace Technology Campus	1	Provide additional career services specifically for ATC students	No progress	Continued class by class presentation survey regarding EASA program cancellation. Began banner construction for campus event next month.
	2	Create a permanent ATC Chair portfolio	On going	
	3	Monthly campus-wide peer bonding activities	On going	

External Advocacy Outline



ENHANCING
STUDENT **LIFE!**

External Advocacy



Advocacy

The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, policy, or interests of active support of an idea or c

Some definitions

Lobbying:

An organized group of people who work together to influence government decisions that relate to a particular industry, issue, etc.



Historically has a less positive connotation

Advocate:

A person who works for a cause or group



Historically has a positive connotation

History of BCITSA and External Advocacy

- In 2011, participated with “Where is the Funding” Campaign, later to become ABCS.
- In 2013, ABCS became a registered society, with one of its signing members being BCITSA.
- ABCS has organized a lobbying week in Victoria. Meetings with MLAs were conducted and a lobbying document was brought forth.
- We are part of the Vancouver Transit Police Community Council
- We are a voting member of the U-Pass BC Advisory Committee

Who do we present our advocacy initiatives?

- The Ministry of Advanced Education
- The Ministry of Finance
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Translink
- The Federal government
 - Only in matters of student loans, grants, infrastructure and charity related business.

Why advocate?

Issues in which stakeholders have no power over the decision-making processes and operations of organizations responsible for the factors that lead to the issues at hand, are voiced through advocacy.

Stakeholders voice their dissatisfaction and actively participate in finding solutions through advocacy.

What issues do other organizations and student associations advocate towards?

Topics that have been brought forth to the government by post-secondary institutions stakeholders are as follows:

- Students loans and interest rates
- Funding for post-secondary institutions
 - deferred maintenance budget allocated to post-secondary institutions
- Safety and security on campuses
- Public transportation and housing
- Grants and scholarships
- Advocacy necessary in regards to issues in which the final decision-making, processes and operations are in the hands of external entities. Most importantly, the outcome of their decisions directly affect us.

Who are these advocacy organizations?

- Student Associations!
- Collective Lobbying post-secondary organizations such as:
 - ABCS
 - CASA
 - CFS
 - CAUS



Potential topics to advocate on behalf of BCIT students

The needs of every individual are subjective, but there are definite commonalities that affect almost all of our students at BCIT. Some of these issues are:

- Funding allocated to BCIT from the government
 - Deferred maintenance budget allocated to our buildings.
- Efficiency of our transportation system in the lower mainland.
- Availability for nearby housing allocated for students and residential housing within our school.

What other issues affecting your education?