

Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, October 15th, 2018
5:30pm – 7:30pm
SE2 324 Council Chambers

- 6.1 Call to Order
- 6.2 Acceptance of the Agenda
- 6.3 By-Election Ratification *- Stewart M.*
- 6.4 BCIT Strategic Plan Workshop *- Lara J.*
- 6.5 Acceptance of the Minutes: 2018-10-01
- 6.6 Old Business
 - 6.6.1 Executive Updates
 - 6.6.2 Executive Director's Report *- Caroline G.*
 - 6.6.3 SoCAS 2019 Vancouver Sun Run Team Sponsorship *- Justin C.*
- 6.7 New Business
 - 6.7.1 Student Centre Committee *- Christian C.*
 - 6.7.2 Open Educational Resources Committee *- Christian C.*
- 6.8 Open Forum
- 6.9 Reminders
 - 6.9.1 Speak Up Speak Out: 2018-10-16 to 2018-10-18, various activities & locations
 - 6.9.2 Next Council Meeting: 2018-10-29 @ 17:30 in Council Chambers
- 6.10 Meeting Adjournment

Council Meeting
Monday, October 15th, 2018
Minutes

Executives: Justin Cervantes – Chair, School of Computing & Academic Studies
 Christian Colquhoun – VP External
 Timothy David – President
 Carina Dung – Chair, Aerospace Campus
 Matt Hardwick – Chair, School of Business
 Jordan Holden – VP Campus Life
 Cory Pope – Chair, School of Energy
 Chris Samra – Chair, Schools of Transportation, Construction & the Environment
 Eiryll Sanchez – VP Student Affairs
 Henry Vo – VP Finance & Administration
 Sasha Voznyuk – Chair, School of Health Sciences

Satellite Councillors: Spencer Glodek – Downtown Campus

Staff: Caroline Gagnon - Executive Director
 Darla Willisroft - Administrative Coordinator

Regrets:

Councillors:	Annabelle Angle	Michael Martins
	Ophelia Bar-Lev-Wise	Alysha Mayenburg
	Cindy Chang	Max Melling
	Danilo Dal Cengio	Evan Morrow
	Sani Dzafic	Stephanie Mulder
	Michael Girard	Nikita Nayak
	Hala Hassan	Eli Shields
	Raynen Jamieson	Quinton Silzer
	Nic Johnson	Don Starck
	Jean Marc Lafleur	Philip Struthers
	Luna Liang	Lauren Venhola

Absent:	Tyler Alfreds	Rose Salm
	Dan Boisvert	

Guests: Lara Johnson – BCIT AVP Marketing & Communications
 Melissa Liauw – CRO, Elections Committee
 Joy Little – BCIT Project Coordinator, Strategic Plan
 Stewart McGillivray – Government Relations Strategist

6.1 Meeting Called to Order

The Chairperson, Tim, calls the meeting to order at 17:45 (31 voting members, including Chair).

6.2 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion:

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Cory Pope

Seconded by: Stephanie Mulder

30/0/0 Carried

17:47 Councillor joins. Count is 32.

6.3 By-Election Ratification

- Stewart speaks on behalf of the Elections Committee. See attached report.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the BCITSA ratifies the fall 2018 by-election process.

Moved by: Nic Johnson

Seconded by: Quinton Silzer

31/0/0 Carried

17:50 Two councillors join. Count is 34.

6.4 BCIT Strategic Plan Workshop

- Lara, BCIT AVP Marketing & Communications speaks to council about the redesign of BCIT's Strategic Plan.
- Open house on 2018-11-15 for students, faculty and staff in Townsquare regarding the Strategic Plan.

6.5 Acceptance of the Minutes: 2018-10-01

Motion:

Be it resolved that the Council minutes from 2018-10-01 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Chris Samra

Seconded by: Alysha Mayenburg

33/0/0 Carried

6.6 Old Business

6.6.1 Executive Updates

- First Bylaw Committee meeting was on 2018-10-12, forward recommendations to them.

- Board of Governors: BCIT saw a 20% growth in international student population from last year. India, China and Brazil are leading in international enrollments. 288 graduation awards were given out last year. Quality assurance audit last year looked at the Bachelor of Business Administration, Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering & a health science program; all passed.
- Welcome Raynen, Mechanical Engineering student.

Discussion:

- Are international students getting the U-Pass?
 - If they are in full time programs. Part time students and those in the International Student Entry Program do not.

6.6.2 Executive Director's Report

- NE1 renovations have gone silent. There were complaints about the noise level and timetabling would not let the classes move although the School wanted to move them. We lost the contractor as they could not do night shifts. We have gone to tender and hope to have a new contractor by next week. We are moving to a fixed cost contract.
- Smoking Policy survey will be sent out; BCIT would like to see how the community feels about smoking on campus. We want to ensure that all students provide their voice. BCIT will go around with a paper survey for trades students.
- See attached.

Discussion:

- Will they lift the blanket ban on smoking cannabis like they did at UBC?
 - This survey is regarding tobacco smoking.
- Is this the same contractor who have been doing Booster Juice on campus?
 - No, BCIT is managing the Booster Juice project. It is a building systems issue and the city is very slow.

6.6.3 SoCAS 2019 Vancouver Sun Run Team Sponsorship

- Changed previous proposal after feedback from last meeting. Chairs are having conversations with their Schools, so this will be tabled until we hear more.

6.7 New Business

6.7.1 Student Centre Committee

- Only one meeting this semester until we hear back from BCIT. In the new year, negotiations with BCIT will begin regarding the building and partnership.

Discussion:

- How much can we contribute to the building plan?

- We have nothing set in stone yet, so we can have a lot of input as it is our project.
- How is the new student centre building going to be different from SE2?
 - Will offer students spaces to meet and study, more food options, and various other zones as included in the functional report that was conducted.
- How much of the committee meetings are going to be specific to building?
 - There will be no meetings about how to build a building. We need the input on what students want to see in it. This year we are figuring out the partnership with BCIT.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the following Executive be Chair of the Student Centre Building Committee: Christian Colquhoun.

Moved by: Matt Hardwick

Seconded by: Philip Struthers

28/2/3 Carried

Christian notes abstention.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the following council members be a part of the Student Centre Building Committee: Ophelia Bar-Lev-Wise, Nikita Nayak, Stephanie Mulder, Cory Pope, Michael Girard, Max Melling.

Moved by: Christian Colquhoun

Seconded by: Michael Martins

27/2/4 Carried

6.7.2 Open Educational Resources Committee

- Open educational resources are textbooks and class materials that are available for students to use for free. There are Z degrees where students use only open resources and pay nothing on textbooks for their entire program. There will be an event in January called the Textbook Broke campaign. The committee will meet likely once or twice before the end of the semester.

19:06 Councillor leaves. Count is 33.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the following Executive be Co-Chair of the Open Educational Resources Committee: Cory Pope.

Moved by: Christian Colquhoun

Seconded by: Michael Girard

31/0/1 Carried

Discussion:

- What will this committee do?

- Help with the event, brainstorm and put forward ways of decreasing the cost of textbooks for students, and more depending on interest.
- Is the Bookstore going to be receptive to this?
 - The bookstore does not make a lot of money off textbook sales. The instructors are going to be the hard-selling point on this initiative.

Motion:

Be it resolved that the following council members be a part of the Open Educational Resources Committee: Sani Dzafic, Michael Martins, Max Melling, Ophelia Bar-Lev-Wise, Evan Morrow.

Moved by: Christian Colquhoun

Seconded by: Don Starck

28/0/4 Carried

6.8 Open Forum

- Time of year where everyone gets sick; need more hand sanitizers around campus.
- Seems like most events on campus happen between 08:30-16:30; 10:00-18:00 would be better for events.
 - In the past the events team found that a majority of programs end earlier in the day at 14:30 so we lose on attendance if events are pushed later.
- Are vegan and gluten free diets going to be addressed in the new food service areas?
 - Pub is challenging as everyone just buys burgers and beer. We tried the vegetarian and vegan options, and they do not sell. In NE1 we will have more options as we have more flexibility as there is a wider audience. The Stand store is still a convenience store and not a true food outlet.
 - What are the expected hours for NE1 food services?
 - 06:30-21:00, open 6 days of the week.
- Is there negotiating room for pricing with Chartwells?
 - We have zero power with pricing at Chartwells. Cannot speak for how BCIT regulates that. At NE1 we have the power to set prices to challenge what Chartwells offers.
- Why has BCIT not approached apprentices to do contracting work?
 - Challenge is that students are still students; work would not move if mainly students are employed due to class schedules and placements. BCIT prefers to have a solid contractor in place to rely on. Students are often hired by the contractors. Two of our designers were BCIT students.
- Are there entrance awards for international students? Students have to prove that they are financially stable to be allowed to study in the country, but award availability would be nice.

- Noticed lots of leftover food at Set Rep meetings; what happens to it?
 - Invite students to grab food; saw students passing the food around.
- The Stand charges 10 cents for a spoon, but students can go to the market kitchen to get one for free.
 - We are trying to discourage people from using plastic cutlery. Trying to set a trend on campus.
- Discussion of honorariums came up during the Bylaw Committee meeting; would like to have some information at the next meeting about this.
- There is no walk-in option for mental health issues.
 - They do take in emergency appointments for Counselling?
 - Yes, they do have emergency slots available for crisis situations.
 - Want to introduce online counselling through the student health and dental plan, likely with a fee increase associated with it. We do not want to increase the fees any higher than they already are, so we are negotiating the fees to provide this at no extra cost. We have the go ahead to pursue this from BCIT.
 - What kind of service would this be?
 - Over the phone, instant messaging, and through web applications. At ATC and BMC there are designated areas for students to connect virtually to current counselling services.
 - Are we doing this because we cannot hire more counsellors or extend hours?
 - Not sure as BCIT is responsible for this.
 - They are fully booked the hours that they are here, so it is not an issue that students cannot attend during their current hours.
- Passionate about sustainability and want to see if people would be interested in school wide clothing swap.
- Passive design program report will be done in the next two weeks because the School is interested in it. Have a connection through instructor to Passive Design institute to help move the program creation forward.

6.9 Reminders

- 6.9.1** Speak Up Speak Out: 2018-10-16 to 2018-10-18, various activities & locations
- 6.9.2** Next Council Meeting: 2018-10-29 @ 17:30 in Council Chambers

6.10 Meeting Adjournment

It was moved by Ophelia Bar-Lev-Wise and seconded by Jordan Holden that the meeting be adjourned.

29/3/0 **Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 19:38.

BCITSA Elections Committee - Report for Council on Fall 2018 By-elections

October 15, 2018

Reviewed by Committee members, Melissa Liauw (CRO) and Solomiia Vysotska (DRO), with SA Government Relations Strategist, Stewart McGillivray, at meetings on October 11 and October 15.

Introduction:

As this was everybody's first time participating in this process, special thanks are extended to James Foran, Caroline Gagnon, Sameer Ismail, Timothy David, Ean Goqingco, and other staff and councillors of the SA who provided invaluable guidance.

Due to the lack of candidates for ATC Chair and Health Sciences Chair during the 2018 general elections earlier this year, the positions were left vacant for the summer and by-elections were ordered for the autumn, with voting occurring between October 1st and October 5th.

At the close of nominations, three students had submitted applications for ATC Chair and two students had submitted applications for Health Sciences Chair. Each was found to be presumptively eligible, pending official review by the Committee and subject to the caveat described below.

Decisions:

Of the five candidates, two were first years and therefore had no GPA to speak of, affecting their ability to satisfy the 65% minimum requirement. Bylaw 5.7 permits the Committee to approve candidates notwithstanding this fact. As the apparent intent of the requirement is not to exclude first years but to ensure a minimum academic standing for candidates and Executives, the Committee reviewed the matter and was also guided by the precedent established by a previous committee in the spring of 2018.

The relevant precedent suggested that the Committee had approved two candidates with no GPAs on the condition that they each sign a letter (1) consenting to a review of their GPA following the term and (2) immediately triggering their resignation if they did not have the requisite GPA at this time. In effect, this puts them on the same footing as other elected Executives.

As the facts were substantially the same, the Committee had no difficulty agreeing to apply the precedent, and both candidates consented and complied. Accordingly, there were five candidates for the two positions.

Results:

The successful candidates were Carina Dung (ATC) and Sasha Voznyuk (Health Sciences).

Overall turnout figures were 119/363 (32.8%) for ATC and 85/3451 (2.5%) for Health Sciences.

Complaints and Appeals:

No formal complaints or appeals were filed, during the election period or afterwards. However, each candidate was advised of the right to do so within 24 hours of the results being published.

After the results had been announced but before the first 24 hours had elapsed, one of the unsuccessful candidates approached the Government Relations Strategist to indicate that they felt the outcome had been affected by the winning candidate's use of posters in areas (wall space) not officially approved for such purposes. The potential complainant was, in the opinion of the GRS, acting reasonably and sincerely.

It was discussed that (1) the complaint would be more challenging to investigate with no photographic evidence and that, (2) as the alleged transgression relates to the campaigning period, it should really have been brought to the Committee's attention immediately rather than after the fact. This was subsequently confirmed upon review of EC precedent, that any onus to establish a burden of proof rested with the complainant to demonstrate their case.

In light of these facts, the potential complainant also offered that they may be less inclined to pursue an appeal if they knew how close, or not, the outcome had been. Upon being advised of each candidate's vote totals, the potential complainant determined that it was extremely unlikely that posters had affected the final result and indicated that they would not pursue a formal appeal.

Observations and Recommendations:

The following observations / recommendations are premised on a review of Bylaws 5 and 12, Regulation 5, and previous Elections Committee precedents and reports. Additionally, they are influenced by this being the first election / by-election for the GRS and for the EC members.

1. The Committee echoes the Recommendation made in the Fall 2017 Report, namely that Council should regulate the conduct of candidates and their supporters, once voting has officially opened, in terms of face-to-face communications encouraging individual voters to cast ballots on computers or mobile devices while the candidate or their supporters are still present. Any such regulations should continue to take into account that campaigning may still reasonably occur in public places such as lecture halls, computer labs, online, etc but that voters should have privacy in casting their ballot. This would mirror best practices in provincial and federal elections, which strictly prohibit campaigning near polling places.
2. Guidelines to candidates should encourage them to document any issues which may be the subject of a complaint, and to raise issues as they arise, rather than after the fact.
3. Had the potential complaint led to a successful appeal of the results and the winning candidate been disqualified, the Bylaws are silent on how the position would then have been filled: would the second-place candidate be declared the winner, or would a fresh election be held? This should be clarified to prevent confusion in the future.
4. The Committee recognizes that, although it would always have been difficult during the summer to raise awareness about the by-election and to appoint members of the Elections or Appeals

Committee, it would nonetheless be prudent to begin that process as early as possible, once the need for a by-election is apparent. For this by-election, the Elections Committee members were informed of their successful applications on September 21st, not long before the all-candidates meeting (Sept 26th) or the opening of voting (Oct 1st). Additionally, there are currently only two, rather than three, members of EC; while matters are generally decided by consensus, having an even number of members creates an issue if there were ever a need to vote on something and a tie were to result.

5. Similar to item #4, there may have been potential issues had any candidate disagreed with a ruling of the EC, as there were no members of the Appeals Committee to hear such an appeal. Bylaws indicate that they're supposed to be selected within 48 hours of the close of nominations. Bylaws also provide extremely tight timelines for these procedures, insofar as candidates must appeal EC decisions or election results within 24 hours, *and* the Appeals Committee must receive training from a member of Advocacy Staff *prior* to hearing an appeal, *and* the Committee must render a decision within 48 hours of the appeal. These timelines are ambitious at the best of times but would be practically impossible to comply with if an appeal had been launched, creating issues of procedural fairness for candidates.
6. Noting that SA-administered in-person voting stations have previously been recommended and looked favourably upon, it could be worthwhile to utilize them during by-elections too.
7. The final recommendation relates to enforcement powers and is being addressed primarily through the GRS's participation in the Bylaws Committee. Briefly stated, it is observed that, once candidates have been approved and campaigning has begun, the power of disqualification is the sole penalty which the EC can apply for non-compliance. This is problematic because disqualification is, in effect, the most extreme form of punishment to which a candidate might be subject but is the only tool at the Committee's disposal. Rather, the administration of elections would be better served were the EC able to apply more proportionate penalties, given that there are certainly some infractions which cannot go unpunished but ought not result in a disqualification. This observation was previously included in a 2016 Elections Report but not fully addressed in terms of enforcement powers.

Conclusions:

BCITSA elections administration are generally quite accessible, fair, reasonable, and transparent. The Committee is grateful that they inherited a robust framework and had ample access to precedent and to advice. In summary, fair elections were held and produced clear winners, the essential ingredients of a good elections process. This report notes several areas for improvement upon which Council will hopefully look favourably.

Appendix 1 - Detailed Results:

Chair, ATC Campus

Kurtis Bussey, Aircraft Maintenance	16
Carina Dung, Aircraft Maintenance	67
Nicholas Woolley, Airport Operations	36

Chair, School of Health Sciences

Adam Langenstein, Biomedical Engineering	24
Sasha Voznyuk, Nursing	61

Appendix 2 - Recommendation from Fall 2017 Report:

“Recommendations:

1. It is recommended, in light of the complaint made, that Council consider enacting a regulation ending the current practice permitting candidates and their supporters to campaign using electronic devices for the purpose of securing votes (other uses of electronic devices would continue to be permitted). Current practice improperly blurs the line between campaigning and voting. While this change might have an effect on turnout, ensuring that our elections are viewed as being transparent and fair outweighs any concern about turnout. Impact on turnout will also be mitigated by setting up a voting station in the SA Centre, a proposal to which the Student and Career Services manager has agreed.”

Appendix 3 - Recommendation from 2016 Report:

“Elections Committee Mandate Unclear

The mandate for the committee is not concisely defined anywhere in the bylaw. It does not set out our limits or exactly what powers of enforcement we might have when a breach of Bylaw 11 occurs. The only mechanism we seem to have is to disqualify someone or politely ask them to stop. Each option is likely to be too harsh, or not effective.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Define the mandate, and powers of enforcement of the committee. Set out the scope of their reach and when those powers ought to be wielded against SA members.

The bylaw ought to define what the EC should do when an SA member violates the elections bylaw.”