

University of Regina Students' Union
Board of Directors' Meeting – URSU Boardroom
03/26/2019

Minutes

Attendance	Report	Name	Position	Attendance	Report	Name	Position
P	Y	Shawn Wiskar	President	-	-	-	Faculty of Science
A	Y	Derrick Gagnon	VP Operations and Finance	-	-	-	Faculty of Social Work
P	Y	Jermain McKenzie	VP Student Affairs	-	-	-	First Nations' University of Canada
-	-	-	VP External	A	Y	Muhammad Khan	Francophone Students
R	-	Carly Hill	Campion College	A	-	Allyson Watson	Indigenous Students
-	-	-	Faculty of Arts	P	-	Harmeet Singh	International Students
A	Y	Harmanpreet Sidhu	Faculty of Business Administration	P	Y	Jacq Brasseur	LGBTQ Students
-	-	-	Faculty of Education	P	Y	Dakota Kaufman	Luther College
A	Y	Usman Shafiq	Faculty of Engineering	P	Y	Radhika Bansal	Part Time Students
-	-	-	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research	P	Y	Jashneet Kaur	Students' with Disabilities
P	Y	Barzany Ridha	Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies	P	-	Navjot Kaur Makkar	Women Students
-	-	-	Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance	P	Y	Carl Flis	General Manager
-	-	-	Faculty of Nursing	P	Y	John Lax	Chair

P - present R - provided regrets more than 24 hours in advance A - absent

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by John Lax.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the Agenda for March 26, 2019.
- b. Approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2019 board meeting.
- c. Adoption of the Executive and Director reports filed by the appropriate deadline.
- d. Next meeting to be held on April 9, 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the URSU Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda.

Shawn Wiskar/Radhika Bansal.

Carried.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST / CONFLICT OF COMMITMENT DECLARATION

None.

4. PRESENTATION

- a. Bangladesh Students' Club
- b. Health and Dental Plan - premium renewal - StudentCare

All presentations were complete by 5:32 pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. URFA support conversation

Displeasure from some board members was noted at the lack of support for URFA in the negotiating process. Concerns were also noted about the UR's use of a dedicated PR firm to manage the public narrative of the negotiation.

The board discussed concerns about the sessional to tenured faculty ratio and the UR's failure to meet its own guidelines. The board agreed to explore the issue further and consider support or opinion once a clear consensus from faculty is established, a necessary argument is clear, or a formal request comes from URFA on the matter.

In the meantime, the board acknowledges that the sessional to tenured faculty ratio may not be the biggest or most important issues, either for students or for staff. Instead, it may be the way sessional lecturers are treated in terms of contractual stability and compensation.

The board will explore perspectives from a diverse range of faculty partners and revisit the issue.

b. Election Committee - work progress update

Carl Flis updated the board on election results and next steps as it was deemed unnecessary to ask election officials to attend and present as they are not prepared to ask the board to ratify any results yet. It may be another two meetings before ratification is appropriate.

While tentative election results are in, election officials are investigating 25+ complaints of irregularities and/or violations of election and campaign rules. These investigations will take some time and cut across every single board constituency.

c. Strategic Plan Review

Shawn Wiskar informed the board that the process is ongoing with a focus on performance management.

d. Status of ISA constitution

Jermain McKenzie informed the board the process is ongoing and hopefully nearing completion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

***WHEREAS the University of Regina Bangladesh Students' Club is hosting Bangladesh Night 2019, and;
WHEREAS the University of Regina Bangladesh Students' Club has presented their funding request to the Board,***

BE IT RESOLVED that the URSU Board of Directors fund the University of Regina Bangladesh Students' Club in the amount of \$3000.

Usman Shafiq/Barzany Ridha.

Carried.

WHEREAS multiple Board members recently expressed their discontent with the media statement drafted at the Executive level regarding the URFA-UR Regina bargaining negotiations, and;

WHEREAS the perspectives of these board members were not significantly considered in any edits to the Executive-approved media statement, and;

WHEREAS the Executive did not approve the media statements unanimously, and;

WHEREAS the Not-For-Profit Act clause related to Dissent is inaccurate in the current policy,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Media Statement Policy be amended under section 3.1.1 to read: "The statement or talking points must be approved unanimously by the Executive.", and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a section 3.1.5 be added that reads: "Any board member may request to approve a particular statement or talking points through a Board of Directors majority vote by submitting a motion to the Chair. The particular statement or talking points may not be released prior to this vote taking place, at which point a defeated motion would allow the Executive to release the statement or talking points. A successful motion would require the particular statement or talking points to be approved by the Board of Directors through a majority vote before being released.", and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT section 3.2 Dissent be amended by substituting the words "clause (147)" with "clause (110)".

No motion was made. In discussion it was determined that media policy should be developed after research is done to align it with the stated intention of this motion in as much as is practical while also operational processes and clarity between prepared media releases and verbal responses to media inquires, impromptu or otherwise.

This literary review and policy development process should also include consideration and updating of the social media policy, if necessary. A *Guiding Principles* document was also suggested and may be pursued.

Some policy changes will need to be made, as the final clause of the proposed motion is correct that the policy references the wrong clause of the *Not For Profit Act, 1985*.

Jacq Brasseur, Usman Shafiq, and Barzany Ridha have volunteered to undertake this project. They will develop a policy and pass it to Carl Flis within the next few weeks. Once Carl has reviewed it, he will discuss the policy changes and risks with Shawn Wiskar and the board can reconcile any concerns before establishment of new policy or policy changes.

WHEREAS the recent happenings regarding the URFA-UR Regina bargaining negotiations have shown that URSU may sometimes need to make decisions quickly, and;

WHEREAS the current Board Meeting policy does not allow for any possibility for Directors to challenge an Executive's decision to not host an e-motion;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Meeting Policy be amended under section 3.8 by adding, immediately after "Executive deems that the situation warrants it", the words: "or if at least 1/3 of Board Members agree that the situation does warrant an e-motion."

Jacq Brasseur/Usman Shafiq.

Carried.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Board Meeting Policy be amended under section 3.8 by adding, after the words "minimum of 36 hours", the words: "or, under extenuating circumstances, a shorter deadline as decided by the Chair."

Radhika Bansal/Shawn Wiskar.

Carried.

WHEREAS URSU recently held a referendum asking its membership if URSU should negotiate a U-Pass for the Spring/Summer semester, and; WHEREAS the results of the referendum were overwhelmingly in support (Yes: 1844 No: 323 Eligible Voters: 16550);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby ratifies the result of the referendum, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the URSU Executive and senior management commence negotiations with the City of Regina for a spring/summer U-Pass program as soon as possible.

Barzany Ridha/Usman Shafiq.

Carried.

WHEREAS the URSU Board of Directors previously authorized management to prepare a bid in response to University of Regina Request for Proposal # 96140-01-19 for a provider of food services campus wide, and;

WHEREAS URSU is confident in its capabilities to provide such a service with a mission to improving the health and well-being of students through improved food offerings focusing on local and fresh ingredients and a sincere respect for the cultural, ethnic, religious and dietary diversity on campus, and;

WHEREAS should URSU be selected as the successful proponent, that implementation and execution of the food service contract would generate many benefits and rewards to URSU and its members but that such an initiative is not without risk;

BE IT RESOLVED that the URSU Board of Directors hereby authorizes the submission of its bid in response to University of Regina Request for Proposal # 96140-01-19 for a provider of food services campus wide.

Shawn Wiskar/Dakota Kaufman.

Carried.

**WHEREAS URSU recently signed on to the anti-racism campaign of the University of Regina;
AND WHEREAS multiple URSU members and directors have expressed concerns about racism within URSU as an organization;
AND WHEREAS the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) is a well-respected organization in Saskatchewan that provides anti-racist training and consultation at an hourly cost of \$400.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT URSU engage the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan to provide anti-racist training to all URSU staff, including management, all Executive, all Board Directors and Owl staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this initiative be revisited and re-evaluated within one year to determine value and ongoing participation as it relates to URSU staff, including management, executive, directors, and Owl staff, who have not received the training during their employment terms.

Jacq Brasseur/Jermain McKenzie.

Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

**Motion to enter into Executive Session
Shawn Wiskar/Usman Shafiq.**

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND BUSINESS

- (i) Finance and Audit Committee - NA
- (ii) Investment Committee - NA
- (iii) Governance Committee - the committee has been focused on the ISA constitution.
- (iv) Events Committee
- (v) Social Responsibility & Sustainability Committee
- (vi) Human Resources Committee - The committee is working on exit interviews for departing executives.

There are only two board meeting left in the school year.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a. Approval of 2019/2020 bridge budget
- b. Ratification of election results
- c. Update on CRO activities, even if results are not ready for ratification

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

John Lax adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm on a motion by Harmeet Singh.