

University of Regina Students' Union
Board of Directors' Meeting – URSU Boardroom
01/07/2020

Minutes

Attend	Report	Name	Position	Attend	Report	Name	Position
P	L	Victor Oriola	President	P	Y	Mark Matthies	Faculty of Nursing
			VP Operations and Finance	A		Jashneet Kaur	Faculty of Science
P	L	Harmeet Singh	VP Student Affairs	P	Y	Selma Babini	Faculty of Social Work
P	Y	Karminder Singh	VP External	P	Y	Michael Shorting	First Nations' University of Canada
P		Jacq Brasseur	Campaigns and Equity				LaCite Students
			Campion College	P		Karlene Pruden	Indigenous Students
			Continuing Education	P		Adekoya Oluwanifemi	International Students
P	Y	Alfred Adenuga	Faculty of Arts				LGBTQ Students
A	Y	Amit Kumar Bansal	Faculty of Business Administration	P	Y	Kiegan Lloyd	Luther College
P	Y	Rylan Jensen	Faculty of Education	P	L	Songhoprio Khan	Part Time Students
R	Y	Tanaya Sharma	Faculty of Engineering	L	Y	Katlyn Richardson	Students' with Disabilities
R	Y	Rajbir Singh	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research	P	Y	Amandeep Kaur	Women Students
P	L	Barzany Ridha	Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies	Y	Y	Carl Flis	General Manager
R		Melissa Barrows	Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance	Y		John Lax	Chair

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

Minimum number required to attain quorum - 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by John Lax.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the Agenda for January 7, 2020.
Added 6.(g) February board meeting schedule
- b. Approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2019 board meeting.
- c. Adoption of the Executive and Director reports filed by the appropriate deadline.
- d. Next meeting to be held on January 21, 2020.

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

Victor Oriola/Barzany Ridha.

Carried.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST / CONFLICT OF COMMITMENT DECLARATION

None.

4. PRESENTATION

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Resignation of VP Operations and Finance - Victor Oriola and Carl Fis addressed the sudden resignation of Usman Khan, VP of Operations and Finance which was delivered to URSU via letter on January 2, 2020, effective immediately as of that date.

Most of the VP duties abandoned have been assigned to URSU staff who are able to manage them and in many cases were already operationally and functionally managing or otherwise supporting the portfolios in any case.

The remaining principal problem is with signing authority, which is held by the President, the VPOF, and the General Manager with a requirement that all financial transactions be signed by two out of three authorized parties. Having only two authorized parties presents a problem/risk. The board's chosen resolution was to empower another member of URSU staff and, on a temporary basis, another member of the URSU executive - with the caveat that at least one signature on all transactions be a member of the executive, as it is the elected board members who have fiduciary responsibility.

At this point, the board moved to motions 7.(a) and 7.(b) before continuing with discussion items.

- b. Woodrow Lloyd Lecture - Jacq Brasseur presented concerns about how the Woodrow Lloyd lecture controversy was handled by URSU. Former Canadian Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke was scheduled to read poetry related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and had intended to include two poems by Canadian ex-patriot Stephen Bown of Mexico City. Stephen Brown is the current name used by

Steven Kummerfield who, along with Alex Ternowetsky, beat 28 year old Indigenous woman and mother Pamela George to death in 1995. Clarke cancelled his lecture commitment on January 2, 2020 in response to public outcry.

The principal concern was that URSU did not put forward a public statement objecting to or opposing the lecture, or in support of other statements put forward by other campus and social groups. The response was that URSU's board had not met, there were other pressing issues being managed, the executive cannot act unilaterally, and the lecture was scheduled for late January - and, as such, was manageable within the normal course of URSU business. The following action item list was agreed to by motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that URSU:

Directors make every attempt to attend the FNUC smudge event on January 23, 2020 (Michael Shorting will provide details);

Send a letter to the Faculty of Arts indicating disappointment at bringing forward such an event (Jacq Brasseur will draft); and

Reach out to the FNUC and share the FNUC statement via social media.

***Victor Oriola/Rylan Jensen.
Carried.***

- c. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Student Townhall - Jacq Brasseur presented on the university's EDI townhalls which were promoted as ostensibly inclusive of students but then students were asked to leave. The university has received \$384,000 in EDI funding and their resistance to including students in the process through a combination of marketing, communications, access restriction, and general responsiveness seem like a willful attempt to not engage students in the process or address student concerns. Also, by definition, townhalls are inclusive; a non-inclusive event is not a townhall.
- d. New PEC Policy - Jacq Brasseur and Carl Flis will work on the new PEC Policy for a future meeting.
- e. Letter regarding implementation of XF grade - Kiegan Lloyd presented the draft letter to the University regarding changes to the XF grade which would keep the 0 grade as part of the average, even after a student successfully retook the class. The board approved the letter with minor edits.
- f. 2020 Luncheon Series - Dr. Vianne Timmons - January 28, 2020 - Victor Oriola addressed the Vianne Timmons Luncheon Series. Interested board members can indicate interest to Carl and attendees will be selected by draw.
- g. February Board meeting dates - Carl Flis brought to the board's attention that the planned February 18 board meeting is during a holiday week. The board agreed to push the meeting back one week and adjust the remainder of the semester calendar to follow on a bi-weekly schedule.

7. NEW BUSINESS

WHEREAS Usman Khan has tendered a resignation to be effective January 2nd, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the board acknowledge and accept this resignation.

**Mark Matthies/Rylan Jensen.
Carried.**

**WHEREAS Usman Khan has tendered a resignation; and
WHEREAS as per policy URSU is required to have three
signatories on all of its finance and banking services;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT both Nick Oleynick, URSU Accounting
Manager and Karminder Singh, VP of External Affairs be
designated as a third and fourth contingent signatory until
such time that a new VPOF is in place; and
WHEREAS the board holds fiduciary responsibility;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one of the two signatories must
always be an elected member of the board.**

**Rylan Jensen/Harmeet Singh.
Carried.**

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion to enter into Executive Session

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND BUSINESS

- (i) Finance and Audit Committee
- (ii) Investment Committee
- (iii) Governance Committee
- (iv) Events Committee
- (v) Social Responsibility & Sustainability Committee
- (vi) Human Resources Committee - In the absence of the VPOF, who chaired this committee, Jacq Brasseur will plan the next meeting and serve as Acting Chair until the committee selects a new chair. Rylan Jensen will join the committee to fill out membership.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

EID Follow Up

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Board Retreat
 - January 24 12:00 - 4:00
 - January 25 - all day
- b. Winter Welcome Week
 - January 15 - 17
- c. Sexual and Mental Health Week
 - January 27 - 31
- d. 2020 Luncheon Series - Dr. Vianne Timmons
 - January 28

13. ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned by John Lax at 7:43 pm on a motion by Mark
Matthies.*