



University of Alberta Students' Union

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

6:00PM

SUB 0-48

AGENDA (FC 2016-05)

2016-05/1 INTRODUCTION

2016-05/1a Call to Order

2016-05/1b Approval of Agenda

2016-05/1c Approval of Minutes

2016-05/1d Chair's Business

2016-05/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2016-05/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2016-05/3a WUSC Funds Update

2016-05/3b Appointment of one member of Finance Committee to the WUSC Board

2016-05/3c Ratification of Councillors DeJong and Nahid to the SU Awards Adjudication Committee

2016-05/5 INFORMATION ITEMS

2016-05/6 ADJOURNMENT

2016-05/6a **Next Meeting:** August 16, 2016 at 6:00PM in SUB 0-48

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday July 05, 2016

6:00 pm

SUB 0-48

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Robyn Paches (Chair)		Y
Victoria DeJong		Y
Franshesca El Ghossein		Y
Dorsa Nahid		Y
Brandon Prochnau		Y
Umer Farooq		Y (6:23)
Nicole Hammond		Y
Saba Al Hammouri		Y
Ben Angus		Y

MINUTES (FC 2016-4)

2016-4/1 INTRODUCTION

2016-4/1a **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

2016-4/1b **Approval of Agenda**

AL HAMMOURI/HAMMOND moved to approve the agenda for July 05, 2016 as amended.

Vote 8/0/0

CARRIED

2016-4/1c Approval of Minutes

ANGUS/DEJONG moved to approve the minutes for June 21, 2016 as tabled.

Vote 8/0/0

CARRIED

2016-4/1d Chair's Business

2016-4/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2016-4/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2016-4/3a Release of Funds from WUSC reserve for Student Travel Loans

PACHES: The things we're talking about today are related to the operational aspects of the Finance Committee. I attached 2 PDFs in the email I sent out. Again, I apologize for the delay in sending them out. I'll talk with Mercy about it. Those PDFs include government documents backing up travel loans for refugee students.

Essentially, when refugee students come over, the WUSC grant covers tuition and educational expenses. The travel costs including flights are covered by a loan from the government. However, the timeline for repayment is very tight. Therefore, some students have trouble getting it paid off right away. WUSC would rather not see the student getting into issues in covering up the government loan. What they'd like to do is to take money out of their reserve. I don't

remember the exact amount, but there's a decent amount of money there. It's made up from the DFU funding provided by the Students' Union. They usually budget for a student at The Campus Saint Jean, but they haven't had a student there until this year. I believe it would take just under \$4000 to cover that student's travel loan. Whether they completely cover the travel loan or whether they have a repayment plan is a decision to be taken by the WUSC board. We can give our opinions to our representative on the WUSC board on what we'd like to see. In the end, it's WUSC's money to do as they please. However, because the money is coming from students, we have a say in it. Does anybody have any questions?

HAMMOND: Is there a process for applying for this travel loan cover?

PACHES: This is an extenuating circumstance. It's on a case by case basis. More often than not, the student is able to have that loan paid off. The Finance Committee will either make a recommendation or not on whether this goes through. Then, I'll move it in Council on the recommendation of the Finance Committee if we decide to go forward.

HAMMOND: I'm wondering whether this is a transparent process for other people that have travel loans.

PACHES: One concern I have regarding this is about the precedent this is going to set. If one student's loan is covered, other refugee students would ask the question why their travel loans cannot be covered. That would be a decision that the WUSC board would have to take. The question they have to answer is whether this is a direct grant or another loan with a different repayment period.

HAMMOND: Is it something we can recommend? Whether there's a repayment plan or not.

PACHES: We can direct the recommendations through our representative in the board.

GHOSSSEIN: For WUSC to provide this grant, they have to do a fundraiser or something.

PACHES: Or the student could seek employment to pay it off.

GHOSSSEIN: So it's basically their decision. They can either fundraise that money, or the student can pay it back later. It's between them and the student.

PACHES: Yes, it's an agreement between WUSC and the student.

HAMMOND: My question was on whether this was fair to others.

PACHES: Yes, I agree.

GHOSSSEIN: We can recommend some consistency for the following years as well. I don't know if it's appropriate for Council to make such recommendations though.

PACHES: As the Students' Union and WUSC are separate organizations, and because we have representatives in their board, it'd be most appropriate to pass our recommendations through them. They can bring those recommendations to the table and discuss at WUSC's board meetings. But, I don't think it's very appropriate to directly push our recommendations.

DEJONG: I had the same concerns. So, I'd be happy with that recommendation. Can we also recommend that they develop some sort of process for this in the future? If the government loan has to be paid off in such a short amount of time, I'm sure this issue may come again.

PROCHNAU: What's the time period for repaying the government loan?

PACHES: I believe it's about 3-4 months.

DEJONG: If their processes are not that transparent, it's better to recommend that they should more clearly outline what their processes are. In addition, we can even ask for a presentation on how WUSC works and ask them to update their website. But, I'm not sure whether we are stepping too far into their operational details.

PACHES: I agree. It is our right to bring this to their board. In the end, we're accountable for student money.

GHOSSEIN: I think it'll be appreciated if we can help them with that. Many times, it's a matter of capacity.

ANGUS: This could be a one off situation. But, it doesn't look like they have something in place to prevent this from happening again.

DEJONG: I don't think we should allow grants unless they give it to every student. It should be the same across the board. Of course there will be situations, but eventually, they'll find a job and they will have the means to repay this.

GHOSSEIN: To clarify, we don't want them to make a grant from the reserve. If they want to grant money to students, they are free to do that through fundraising.

PACHES: That's a good point. We don't mind if they can find the money by hosting fundraisers.

HAMMOND: It's unclear how this person was brought to their attention. Maybe this should be advertised.

PACHES: Yes. That should be included in the transparent process.

DEJONG: Don't DFUs publish their meeting minutes? I didn't see that in the WUSC's website. That should go with transparency as well.

PACHES/AL HAMMOURI moved that Finance Committee recommends to Students' Council that the Student Union releases the required funds from the WUSC reserve.

Vote 8/0/0

CARRIED

The committee emphasized the following recommendations, and agreed to pass them to the WUSC board through the Student's Union representative. They are:

- 1) Having a transparent process for occasions when a travel loan is unable to be paid in the future, and properly advertising the procedure.*
- 2) Having a repayment process for the money given out from **WUSC's reserve** for government travel loan repayments, instead of providing it as a straight grant.*

2016-4/3b

SU Awards Appointments

PACHES: We need 3 members from the Finance Committee to sit on the Students' Union Awards Adjudication Committee. This committee is in charge of looking through all the applications for the Student Union Awards handed out to students and student groups. As members of the Finance Committee, we're already not eligible for Students' Union awards. This is because we may have an unfair advantage due to the fact that we're educated in the process behind the awards and the evaluation criteria. As I haven't sat on this, I can't really tell you what it's like. But, it will only meet during the short period of time when the awards are adjudicated.

DEJONG: Do you know when the meetings are?

PACHES: I don't have exact dates. But, applications are done by the end of July, and the actual awards night is during late October.

ANGUS: What about last year's schedule?

HAMMOND: The process has changed from last year though.

NAHID: I'd like to do it, but can't commit without knowing the meeting dates.

DEJONG: Me too.

PACHES: Shall we table it for now?

DEJONG: Can we do it at Council?

PACHES: We could. I can email out the information.

2016-4/3c

The committee decided to postpone the appointments till the next Council meeting. If it's not possible at the Council meeting, the appointments will be made at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Ratification of New Adjudication Committee Members

PACHES: These are the 4 students-at-large that the Student Group Services has picked. They have been recommended to us to be appointed to the adjudication committee.

ANGUS: I guess we can trust their judgement.

DEJONG: As Student Group Services has already picked these 4 students, I'm sure they are all qualified. They're not present here for us to interview either.

PACHES: I'm fine with going through with the recommendations as long as you guys are comfortable. If anyone wants to go over the profiles, let me know.

2016-4/4 ***NAHID/ANGUS moved to ratify Student Group Services' recommendations to the Students' Union Awards Adjudication Committee.***
Vote 8/0/1 (Abstention by FAROOQ)
CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

2016-4/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

2016-4/5a **Next Meeting:**

2016-4/5b Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
<i>AL HAMMOURI/HAMMOND moved to approve the agenda for July 05, 2016 as amended.</i>	8/0/0 - CARRIED
<i>ANGUS/DEJONG moved to approve the minutes for June 21, 2016 as tabled.</i>	8/0/0 - CARRIED

<i>PACHES/AL HAMMOURI moved that Finance Committee recommends to Students' Council that the Student Union releases the required funds from the WUSC reserve.</i>	8/0/0 - CARRIED
<i>NAHID/ANGUS moved to ratify Student Group Services' recommendations to the Students' Union Awards Adjudication Committee.</i>	8/0/1 - CARRIED