



POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

2014 - 2015 #04

Date: June 10, 2014

Time: 6:30 pm

In Attendance:

Stephanie Gruhlke (Chair)

Colin Champagne

Bo Zhang

Justis Allard

Nicholas Diaz

Navneet Khinda

Kathryn Orydzuk

Excused Absence:

Bashir Mohamed

Surya Bhatia

Others in Attendance:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *Gruhlke* at 6:36 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Zhang moved that the *June 10th* agenda be approved as *tabled*.
Seconded by *Khinda*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zhang moved that the *May 27th* minutes be approved as *tabled*.
The motion was seconded by *Champagne*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

6. OLD BUSINESS

Student Space Policy Second Reading:

Taskforce will be created consisting of Zhang and Diaz to create second principles to bring back to the committee for the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mandatory Non-Instruction Fees Policy

Khinda – would be useful if everyone read the old MNIF policy and figured out what they like and don't like. Now that Justin is back we can get some research. Myself and someone else can sit down and start drafting first principles and we can use a similar policy

Zhang – Was there a discussion about wanting to change something.

Khinda – no

Zhang – then why don't we just do first principles together now.

Committee – that makes sense.

Gruhlke – Created a google doc that all members of policy could edit so that we can come up with first principles.

Khinda – Services are essential to the student experience and students have to pay for mandatory non-instruction fees in addition to tuition making them above and beyond the standard price for post-secondary education. It is important that students have a voice in where their money goes and what services they receive.

Gruhlke – Should we do something like "Implementation of MNIFs should be predictable and transparent"?

Khinda – We can do that in second reading but I think for now it should be separate.

Orydzuk – Are points two and three redundant? I like three better due to the wording.

Zhang – maybe it could be worded a bit clearer

Khinda – I re-worded it to say "MNIFS are above and beyond tuition, the sticker-price for post-secondary education.

Khinda- we can separate the policy into sections regarding the fees, student representation, etc.

Orydzuk – are MNIFs included in tuition or external tuition

Khinda – No, they are external which is why when people say that we have some of the lowest tuition they are not lying but once fees are added we are like the third largest cost

Zhang – So when people talk about tuition they are not obligated to talk about MNIFs

Khinda– Nope

Zhang – That’s pretty sneaky.

Zhang –What if we had something that talked about tuition being affordable. It might be in the tuition policy but should we put it here.

Khinda – What if we say something like “The cost of education includes tuition, fees, the cost of educational materials, and living expenses.”

Gruhlke – What if we say that education should be accessible and affordable.

Khinda – We’ll add another point.

Zhang- Do MNIFs only go to services

Orydzuk – It can also go to hallways and stuff

Khinda – Universities can add MNIFs whenever they want and they can increase existing ones if they want without regulation.

Zhang –Do you know how much we pay

Khinda – About \$500 a year

Champagne – Yeah about \$500 a year

Zhang – That’s insane

Khinda – SU fees are technically MNIFs but we vote on them.

Diaz – We don’t actually have to vote on them but we are a democracy

Zhang – Does our political policy only deal with our advocacy to the university

Khinda- our advocacy to the government as well.

Zhang – they do seem to hold the power here.

Allard – in number 7 when talking to predictability do you mean that increases should be predictable? I think it should be a bit more clear.

Diaz– Should we put 7 near two and three so that they are more clear

Zhang– should we say high cost of education instead of what is currently there.

Khinda moved that policy committee recommend to council for first reading the following principles:

1. The University is a public institution and therefore should be accountable to the public and committed to high standard;
2. Services are essential to the student experience and students are willing to pay for services that benefit them;
3. MNIFs are unregulated by the Government of Alberta;
4. Existing MNIFs can change at the discretion of the University;
5. The cost of attaining a post-secondary education includes tuition, fees, the cost of educational materials, and living expenses;
6. MNIFs are above and beyond tuition, which is the sticker-price for post-secondary education;
7. A high and unpredictable cost of education is a barrier to some students;

8. The cost of education should be a predictable expense for students;
9. The cost of a post-secondary education should be affordable;
10. Attaining a post-secondary education should be accessible;
11. Students should have meaningful input on what services the fees pay for; and
12. It should be clear where, and how, fees levied on students are spent.

The motion was seconded by *Champagne*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

**8. DISCUSSION AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS**

NIL

9. REPORTS

a) Vice-President Academic Kathryn Orydzuk (Verbal Report)

In terms of grading I've been looking into and doing consultation on it in regards to grading at the department level. Better standardize grading and there have been a couple things in the report that haven't been followed up on or enforced.

b) Vice-President External Navneet Khinda (Verbal Report)

Still talking to different people at the ministry about the summer jobs program. They are working on a proposal and nobody knows what it is. We met with a summer student but she didn't know much about the project. We are still talking about MNIFs and the potential for regulation. Met with the minister of finance but there is no news. Working with CAUS about what we can do for the upcoming leadership races in terms of student engagement.

c) Vice-President Student Life Nicholas Diaz (Verbal Report)

Began lobbying on health and wellness policy to clinicians and administrators and began preliminary discussions on residence policy with our staff.

**10. CLOSED
SESSION**

NIL

11. NEXT MEETING *June 24th, 2014 at 6:30 pm. SUB 606*

12. ADJOURNMENT *Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.*