



## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2014 - 2015 # 05

Date: June 24, 2014

Time: 6:35 pm

In Attendance:

Colin Champagne

Bo Zhang

Justis Allard

Navneet Khinda

Nicholas Diaz

Surya Bhatia

Excused Absence:

Kathryn Ordzuk

Stephanie Gruhlke

Others in Attendance:

**1. CALL TO  
ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by *CHAMPAGNE* at 6:35 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

*CHAMPAGNE* amended the agenda to include item: Resigning Councilor in New Business.

*KHINDA* moved that the *June 24* agenda be approved as *amended*.

Seconded by *ZHANG*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0

*CARRIED*.

**3. APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

*KHINDA* amended the minutes to change "sticker rice" to "sticker price" on p.2.

*DIAZ* moved that the *June 10* minutes be approved as *amended*.

The motion was seconded by *KHINDA*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0

*CARRIED*.

**4.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 5. PRESENTATIONS

#### 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

##### i. VP External

KHINDA submitted her written report to the committee.

##### ii. VP Student Life

DIAZ reported about residences. He had a meeting with Residence Services talking about flexible leases of graduate residences and Residence Services stated that they do not want to openly offer flexible leases. Their notification has to go through respective student associations. DIAZ thinks this needs to be working on.

He requested a respond of residences from the advocacy department to compare the experiences of the quality of life of students living off campus in residences as oppose to on campus not in residences.

DIAZ also reported on Health and Wellness issues. He was working with ALLARD, James and Vivian on campus for provincial post-secondary strategy for mental health. It is helpful to the Health and Wellness Policy and the University of Alberta has the opportunity to lead the forefront of this topic.

#### 7. QUESTION PERIOD

#### 8. OLD BUSINESS

##### i. Task Force of MNIF

CHAMPAGNE asked any committee member was interested to join the task force. ZHANG asked about the size of the task force. CHAMPAGNE answered that it is usually composed of 4 people: 3 committee members and 1 Vice-President and the schedule is flexible. ALLARD is interested.

KHINDA suggested the task force to work together on this policy over Google Doc and have it ready for the next Policy meeting.

##### ii. Student Space Second Reading

ZHANG and DIAZ met three times discussing about the First Principle and how it can be fitted into the WHEREAS and BIRT clauses written before to produce the current Second Reading. They tried to include every point including the new issues.

There are six WHEREAS statements: three focus on the University and three on students' need.

- The first statement is almost word-for-word from the original.
- The following two WHEREAS clauses state that the University needs to plan better and keep students in mind as its planning will have effect on students, which set the foundation for the BIRT clauses.
- The fourth statement covers students' engagement on campus.

- The fifth statement covers the time and space of Student Space available to students.
- The sixth statement is able the accessibility of Student Space.

The first BIRT statement covers WHEREAS statement one, two, three and four and the current and future students. The second BIRT statement covers the curricular needs. The third BIRT statement advocates that student space should sufficient hour to address students' needs. The last BIFRT statement covers the physical accessibility of the student spaces.

KHINDA suggested adding a point discussing the safety of student spaces. ZHANG and DIAZ agreed. CHAMPAGNE pointed out that the HUB residence has safety issue that anybody can walk in. KHINDA suggested putting this point in the last BIFRT clause.

KHINDA amends the Second Reading to add "and students' safety" after "physically accessibility in the fourth BIFRT clause.

ALLARD asked that if the policy covers the things available to students within the student space such as computers. KHINDA explained the history of this policy being put into place. DIAZ thinks that this policy somewhat covers the materials within the student space. CHAMPAGNE asked if there is policy that specifically talks about materials. ZHANG thinks that it can be covered under curricular needs.

ALLARD also asked that should the policy cover the upkeep of the materials, or if it is covered in another policy. ZHANG thinks that this policy is not about the materials but more about making sure that the space fulfils its own intend. DIAZ pointed out that the Deferred Maintenance Policy, which covers the maintenance of building, should cover the materials as well.

*CHAMPAGNE moved that the Policy Committee brings the amended Student Space Policy to the Council for second reading.*

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0  
**CARRIED.**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### Student Loan First Principle

CHAMPAGNE attached current policy in the agenda for the committee.

KHINDA pointed out that the first WHEREAS clause was no longer relevant as the parental contribution had been got rid of.

ZHANG asked if the committee wants to change the format of the policies so that they are consistence. KHINDA affirmed that it will be changed.

KHINDA asked the committee if anyone is interested in working on this policy. ZHANG and DIAZ are interested.

KHINDA suggested to bring the first principles back to the committee after the task force discussion. DIAZ thinks it will be the easiest for the committee. CHAMPAGNE agreed but the task force had to collect the comments of the committee in this meeting.

ALLARD pointed out that the fifth point of BIRT clause was achieved. ZHANG asked why the second BIRT clause specifies not-for-profit post-secondary institution. KHINDA explained that out of 26 publicly funded institutions there are 24 are not-for-profit, so they are all publicly funded to some extent but not all are public institution. She further explained the principle that public system should be publicly accessible, if one chooses to go to private system, s/he chooses to pay out of pocket for more.

ZHANG asked about a program in the university or in the government that it will waive a portion of a student's student loan after graduation. KHINDA answered that the program is called the Repayment Assistance Program (RAP) but it is underused. She can bring in more information for the committee. ZHANG suggested that this should be advocated.

**10. DISCUSSION  
AND INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

Health and Wellness Policy

CHAMPAGNE was asked to contact Natalia who had worked a lot on this policy last year. DIAZ suggested to completely redo the policy. KHINDA further suggested to rewrite the policy based on this meeting. CHAMPAGNE instead suggested to wait for the respond from Natalia and Kareema; if GRUHLKE could not contact them, the committee will start to rewrite the policy.

Resigning Councilor

MOHAMED resigned last week. The committee will open this issue in the next Council meeting, then the Council will receive nominations and vote to decide a new committee member.

KHINDA will bring this issue up in the next Council meeting.

Attendance Standing Order

ZHANG bring up this idea in the meeting. He suggested if a committee member fail to attend four meetings without appointing a proxy or a valid reason, the committee member will be at the discretion of the committee. He asked the opinion of the committee.

CHAMPAGNE thinks that four meetings is too long which is equal to half a semester, so he suggests to make it to three meetings. He also suggested the committee to contact the absent member, if the member fails to attend for two to three times, before the member becomes the subject of the committee's discretion.

ZHANG thinks that it is not the responsibility of the chair or the committee to make sure the member's attendance; it is the member's own responsibility. However, CHAMPAGNE, KHINDA and DIAZ think that there should be a check for the attendance. DIAZ gave the example of James that he actively reaches out his committee members.

DIAZ suggested to wait for the opinions of the other committees before the Policy Committee continues the discussion of this standing order.

Next Policy Meeting

CHAMPAGNE asked the committee if they want to have another meeting before the next Council meeting to work on MNIF second reading and/or Student Loan first reading. The committee decided to have one meeting before the next Council meeting and BHATIA is interested in MNIF policy.

**11. REPORTS**

**12. CLOSED  
SESSION**

**13. NEXT MEETING** The committee discussed the possible date for the next meeting. The committee decided the next meeting on:

*July 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 2014 @5-6pm*

CHAMPAGNE will figure out the booking of meeting room.

**14. ADJOURNMENT** *ZHANG* moved that the meeting be adjourned.  
The motion was seconded by *DIAZ*.

Vote on Motion 6 / 0 / 0  
*CARRIED*.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.