



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2014 - 2015 # 06

Date: July 15, 2014

Time: 6:24 pm

In Attendance:

Stephanie Gruhlke (Chair)

Colin Champagne

Bo Zhang

Justis Allard

Surya Bhatia

Marina Banister

Kathryn Ordzuk

Navneet Khinda

Nicholas Diaz

Excused Absence:

Others in Attendance:

James Hwang

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *GRUHLKE* at 6:24 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

GRUHLKE amended the agenda to include item: Changing Standing Orders in New Business.

ZHANG moved that the *July 15* agenda be approved as *amended*.

Seconded by *ALLARD*.

Vote on Motion 7 / 0 / 0

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ZHANG moved that the *June 24* minutes be approved as *tabled*.

The motion was seconded by *KHINDA*.

Vote on Motion 4 / 0 / 3

CARRIED.

4.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Welcoming of New Committee Members
The committee welcomed Councilor BANISTER as a new member.

5. PRESENTATIONS

**6. ORAL
EXECUTIVE
REPORTS**

1. VP Student Life

DIAZ reported on the student group space for the Student Space policy. The budget just figured out for the furniture for student group. They will be shipped from the US for 6 to 8 weeks. Student group offices are beautiful.

GRUHLKE questioned about the local source of furniture. DIAZ explained that the purchase was made using students' money so the SU found the cheapest option available.

DIAZ also updated on the transition of the Student Financial Office to the Registrar. He met with the Registrar Office to get them to revise how the website looks – it should be clear to student to apply for financial aids as currently the website is unclear.

DIAZ reported on the Wellness Grants. They met to discuss how to adjust the granting, rubrics. The other things were the interview with the Gateway, distributing the microwaves to the Faculty Associations. All happened through Discover Governance.

DIAZ also met with the International Student Association. He met with Lana of the Dean of Students last week to discuss the registration of the International Student Association. He received recommendation from Lana about the constitution and made recommendation for amendment. Then he rewrote the constitution so that it was shorten from 38 to 17 pages. It will register soon.

BANISTER asked about the maintenance of the microwaves. DIAZ explained that according to the contract the Faculty Associations will be responsible for cleaning and if they fail to fulfil the contract, the SU will retrieve the microwaves. ZHANG asked about the inspection of the microwaves. DIAZ explained that there will be methods for students to contact the SU if the microwaves are not clean.

2. VP External

KHINDA went to the CASA conference in Nova Scotia. The issue discussed related to the Policy Committee was the Federal Tax Credits. The goal of the discussion was not to get anything passed but to get the discussion going on and collect the feedback from the rest of CASA over the next several months. So by the time of next federal conference, CASA will pass something about Federal Tax Credits.

KHINDA also met with people from the industries who had invited 130 stakeholders from across the sector which included people from apprenticeship as well as in universities and colleges. However, students were outnumbered; there were only 20 students. The purpose was to collect feedback on student aid from Alberta and student aid for apprentices. It was a good opportunity to have discussion with other people and lobby groups in the sector. There was also a half an hour Q & A section with the premier.

GRUHLKE asked who were the stakeholders. KHINDA answered that they were admin people, people in the ministry itself, people who work for financial aid centers. GRUHLKE also asked about how many times will CASA meet. KHINDA answered that they have a few meetings. The first one was in May in Ottawa which was called "Foundation," an orientation to CASA. The second one was the one KHINDA just went which is called "Policy and Strategy." In this meeting CASA will set its policy goals for the upcoming year. The next meeting will be in October and November. It is a lobby week.

CAMPAGNE asked about the discussion section with the premier. KHINDA described it as being like a townhall as there was a diverse group of people presented, so it was not a lobby meeting.

3. VP Academic

About Academic materials, ORDZUK reported that for the Be Book Smart campaign posters were printed, website was updated, letters were sent to professors.

ORDZUK was also looking at the Engagement Policy and the petition system. She created a second drafted document and sent out it for consultation. Several councilors had already done it and she will continue to collect feedback for another week before she draft the final draft. Then the SU can develop the system.

For Quality Instruction, ORDZUK had drafted an advocacy strategy for students to get rubric principles from departments so that students will have transparent grading. She will do more research in advocacy and meet with more people so that they know it is coming and will not be scared and vote against it.

BANISTER asked who are the people ORDZUK will meet. ORDZUK explained that when there is an amendment to the policy, you have to go through governance. You have to talk to the people in the sub-committee of ASK as they will involve in the process of the draft. Then it will go to APC or GFC depending on the committee's recommendation. So ORDZUK will deal with the sub-committee of ASK that deals with academic standards and she will meet with people who have been known to be supportive to this kind of

issue in past to get their input on this matter.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

8. OLD BUSINESS

I. MNIFs Second Reading

KHINDA reported that not a lot of work had been done towards the second reading and she hoped to start the second reading in this meeting.

GRUHLKE asked who are in the sub-committee of MNIFs. They are CHAMPAGNE, BHATIA and ALLARD.

KHINDA asked the committee for a deadline for the second reading of MNIFs. It was set on 29th July.

II. Student Loans First Reading

KHINDA asked the committee about the four related policies: Merit-based, Needs-based, Scholarship and Bursaries, Student Loans. She realized that there are similar points amongst these policies and the fact that these policies are clearly related. So she asked the committee should there be one or two comprehensive policies instead of four to five.

GRUHLKE explained the history and reasons of last year's separation of the Merit-based and Needs-based Awards policies. She proposed to look at all the four policies at the same time to decide whether to keep them as it is or combine them together, even though they are not expiring.

ZHANG suggested to review them at the same so that it will force the committee to review them together when they expire. He found that there are also different points and clauses in each policy so it is difficult to combine them into one, but he thought that they should be discussed together as they are interrelated.

ZHANG asked KHINDA's opinion about the consequence of creating or getting rid of the Merit-based and Needs-based policies, would it affect advocacy. KHINDA thought that the change will not affect government decision. GRUHLKE added that even without the split of the policies, there are always donors for merit-based awards, but the needs-based awards are always neglected.

KHINDA provided the committee with two proposals: first, to work on the Student Loans policy alone and get it in place, then revisit the other policies after that; or to start a giant project now.

ZHANG supported the first proposal as they do not have policies for a lot of stuff. CHAMPAGNE thought that it will create a lot of workload for the committee if the committee try to create a new policy. ALLARD agreed with ZHANG's opinion that if the committee reviews all four policies together it will encourage future committee to examine them all together.

DIAZ expressed his concern about the expiry date of all the four policies as they are different. KHINDA explained that the committee can define the expiry date of the policies, so that when reviewing the Student Loans policy,

the committee can set the expiry date as the same as the other three.

GRUHLKE asked any of the committee members is interested in sitting in the sub-committee of Student Loans with KHINDA. BANISTER and DIAZ are interested and together with ZHANG and ALLARD they are the members of the sub-committee.

GRUHLKE hoped that the sub-committee can come up with the first reading by next meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

I. Changing Standing Order

GRUHLKE stated that a lot of standing orders of the other committee have regulation about the absence of committee member that if one fails to be present in the meeting for a certain amount of time, the committee can recommend to council to remove the said member from the committee. And ZHANG drafted the wording for the standing orders based on GAC's old standing orders.

DIAZ shared the how GAC deals with the issue. It is stricter in GAC's old standing orders: if the member missed two meetings, the member will be automatically recommended. But then the committee changed it to that the member will be at the discretion of the chair if the member missed two meetings.

BANISTER thought that the new standing orders of GAC regarding absent committee member is better as the old one seems to be a public embarrassment.

DIAZ agreed it is better to be at the discretion of the chair as the committee can deal with the issue through communication.

GRUHLKE explained ZHANG's wording that it gives the committee the authority to recommend absented member, but not to automatically recommend the member if it happens. And since the Council appoints the members of the committee, it has to go through the Council. Although ZHANG thought that the Council will not have the best judgment to remove the committee as the committee does.

BANISTER understood the logic of the wordings, however on a emotional level, she concerned that it will be awful if this is brought to the Council. She thought it is best to keep at the committee level.

ZHANG thought that when a member removed from the committee, it will be reported to the Council anyways. So that the Council will know who is being removed but he agrees that it is a shame to the removed member.

DIAZ thought it is the committee's jurisdiction to remove committee member and the recommendation to the Council should be confidential. GRUHLKE will ask SUMAR about this issue.

ORDZUK was certain that it was under the committee's discretion to remove its members and the Council does not have the authority to deeply involve in the committees' working as it undermines the purpose of the Council if the

Council dictates the smaller function of the committees.

ALLARD suggested the standing orders to include that before the member be removed from the committee, the chair can recommend that the member resign from the committee. GRUHLKE explained that theoretically if this happens, there will be conversations with the member before the member is recommended to be removed.

KHINDA suggested to use a proactive approach to deal with absent members. ZHANG agreed.

The committee decided to continue the discussion in the next meeting.

**10. DISCUSSION
AND INFORMATION
ITEMS**

I. Health & Wellness Policy

GRUHLKE suggested to ask BINCZYK and BATAL to come to the next meeting to talk about the Health & Wellness Policy, so that the committee can start doing the policy.

II. Time Line for the Rest of Summer

KHINDA was in charge of most of the policy this month, such as MINFs and Student Loans. CHAMPAGNE suggested that to get all the VPs to validate their particular policies. This way it will work faster. ZHANG agreed and thought that the committee a little behind the calendar.

August will be Affordable Housing and Health & Wellness Policies. The schedule of the Fall semester will also be set.

GRUHLKE will book a room in the basement for the next meeting.

11. REPORTS

**12. CLOSED
SESSION**

13. NEXT MEETING *July 29th, 2014 @6:30pm*

14. ADJOURNMENT *CHAMPAGNE* moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion was seconded by *GRUHLKE*.

Vote on Motion 9 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.