



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2013 - 2014 # 12

Date: *October 15, 2013*

Time: *6:05 PM*

In Attendance:

Kareema Batal (Chair)

William Lau

Adam Woods

Kelsey Mills

Dustin Chelen

Colin Champagne

Natalia Binczyk

Bashir Mohamed

Excused Absence:

Dylan Hanwell

Others in Attendance:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *BATAL* at 6:05 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BINCZYK moved that the *October 15* agenda be approved as *tabled*.

Seconded by *MILLS*.

Vote on Motion

6 / 0 / 0

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BATAL moved that the *October 1* minutes be approved as *tabled*.

The motion was seconded by *WOODS*.

Vote on Motion

5 / 0 / 1

CARRIED

4. N/A
ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. PRESENTATIONS N/A

**6. EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

a. VP Student Life

LAU reports that the International Students Issues Town Hall will be held on October 18 at 6 pm in SUBstage. It will be a place for international students to discuss some of the issues they have. Issues discussed will help building the Internationalization Policy.

LAU invited staffs from Residence, International Centre, Office of the Dean of Students, ResLife and CAPS to help answering questions around.

Next Friday, October 25, will have the Legacy Game. It is approved to provide 500 free burgers for people who attend the game.

LAU reports the update for Student Group Policy changes. There are a few contentious issues about administration. *LAU* passed it on to Advocacy department and they will have a closed-door meeting with Norma Rodenburg, the Student Affairs Officer, to clarify the relationships between SU and the University over the past few months. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 18. *LAU* thinks Office of the Dean of Students does not understand SU's concerns and why the changes will have a great impact to SU. He hopes the conversation will go smoothly.

He collected all the feedbacks from different staff, either work operationally or politically with student groups, and will bring them to the meeting on Friday to have a more heated discussion.

He went to a retreat in Calgary to meeting with the Exec of University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge, and shares the key findings in the PC meeting. He likes the enthusiasm of U of C's VP Student Life and a group, which shows up on campus when there is an election, shouting chants to ask people to vote. And he likes that the U of C has voting station for 7 days, comparing to U of A's one day. The successful running of the dry tailgate party for athletic games where simply using face paint, and arts and crafts, is also something he wants to learn and pursue this year.

VP Student Affair of U of L has an interesting relationship with student groups, managing student groups directly. *LAU* discusses with him about the pros and cons of this management. The greatest pro is that the position is elected so he has a different mindset managing student groups because he is directly accountable to them. The take way from this conversation is that what if the one who manages student groups and organization is elected; there will be a different mindset of treating student groups.

BATAL asks if it is possible to change the number of Exec. *MILLS* suggests that it can be change through the bylaw to create a new position. *LAU* then points out that there is an idea of appointing a VP International to work and communicate with international students in the meeting about international student issues. But international students face everything that domestic students face; they have the same concerns and even more. VP International will have to work closely with the other VPs, so it makes more sense to split the work amongst the current VPs.

c. VP External

WOODS reports that ministerial election forum is alright. It was a decently attended event. And he will be meeting Karen Leibovici on October 16.

A candidate speed-dating will also be held on October 16. The speed-dating is for election candidates and students. A problem is that a candidate of Ward 8 will come but there will be many people not happy about the candidate's presence.

The voting will be on October 17 and *WOODS* encourages Edmontonians to cast their ballot for the ward they are living in.

CHAMPAGNE points out that as long as a person living in Edmonton for six months, that person is eligible to vote.

WOODS adds that it is the case for people who have Edmonton as their primary residence. If one has another city for his/her primary residence, one cannot vote for Edmonton but for his/her city of primary residence.

LAU points out that the City of Edmonton website has a different explanation. It explains that even Edmonton is not one's primary residence, if s/he considers Edmonton as his/her home; one can vote for Edmonton instead of his/her primary residence as long as s/he is voting for one place.

CHAMPAGNE agrees with *LAU*'s point of view.

The polling station will be set up at the Alumni Room. *WOODS* reports that there is problem setting up the polling station as the couches are hard to move.

BINCZYK asks about the advertisement of the election.

WOODS says posters are posted around campus and the last of them are posted on October 15. There will also be advertisement from SUBprint throughout the week. He also sent academic emails to all faculties on October 15, telling the faculty about the election and asking the professors to announce the news in their class. *WOODS* hopes to have a voter turnout of

about 500 to 600 people. Elections Canada will be at the polling station to check, which never happens to other university campuses. It will be a testing ground to see how the new election mechanism turns out.

BINCZYK, however, cannot see the posters. *WOODS* will investigate, talking to Safewalk as they are responsible for posting the posters, which should be done last week.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

CHAMPAGNE asks LAU about going to Funky Buddha for Student Life event. *LAU* answers that he was having a meeting with Residence Halls Association. In this meeting, they talked about community building. Discussion items include a “Salsa Initiative” in Dewey’s and how to bring this initiative to campus. With the new management of Dewey’s, it is a great opportunity to bring a Mexican Night as a special at Dewey’s. He contacted Senior Manager of Food Services and the new manager of Dewey’s. Both of them are interested in this event. The best part is that it is free to students and it will attract more people to Dewey’s. Other residence associations also planned to have dance in community. Three of them are Grad Housing, East Campus Village and International House, Grad Housing and International House will have a big salsa night.

In the meeting, they also talked about HUB light party. They discuss the possibility of using the lighting and campus radio station to broadcast music across HUB mall, putting up a small light show in the evening, and having shops open late to attract people and run social events. The salsa initiative will optimistically up by mid-November to December.

BINCZYK adds that there is also an initiative of a flash mob. It will combine the students of Campus Saint-Jean and North Campus. She hopes to perform at Campus Saint-Jean, North Campus and perhaps somewhere in the city. There will be 50 to 60 students in the flash mob.

MOHAMED concerns about student issues. He suggests having a position like Board of Governors who is not paid but has an official role to connect to the Student Council. The position is not paid but is a formal position and has to report to the Council. *LAU* explains that the Board of Governors representative exists because they have voting power in Board of Governors. If someone is elected to represent international student issues, there is currently no position for the representative to vote.

WOODS thinks that it is a good conversation but it is a little too far down. It makes sense that there is a representative for the International Student Association. But before the ISA is created, there are a lot of issues to settle. It seems premature to discuss the representative.

8. OLD BUSINESS

BATAL wants the committee to report their progress in the task forces about

the policy and set a timeline for their work.

Health and Wellness Policy

BATAL, *BINCZYK* and *LAU* are responsible. They met last week and by the end of this week and next week, they are doing consultation with students representatives in Health and Wellness field, and on the other side with administration and people from the university, to get the perspective of what are missing, what they have and what the gaps are. They hope, by the mid-November, the policy can be presented to the Council. And they hope to build a recommendation report from the consultation to support their changes to the policy.

BINCZYK adds that they will be attending to a symposium to contribute the most updated information. The symposium will be on November 16, from 10 am to 2:45 pm. 175 students registered and all of them will have posters to present their proposals. The top will have time to present their proposal. It will be a chance to see what Health and Wellness may mean to students.

BATAL states that it is impossible talk to everybody through consultation. There is a lot student groups with health related initiative on campus. And the task force is trying to contact them to see their opinion. She adds that a lot of industries and government are coming to the symposium, and Alumni Association is looking for different ways to fund students and is interested in health and wellness. Therefore, some of the initiative might happen.

Internationalization Policy

LAU comments that it would be interesting to see how the Town Hall will affect SU.

BATAL asks about the focus group of international students. *LAU* answers that the focus group was on the table until the forum came up. Currently, there are 15 to 17 students in the focus group to meet weekly to talk about the issues. But to get a broader scope, *LAU* thinks that the Town Hall would make more sense.

LAU says the Town Hall will be video recorded and transcribe it into minutes. There is also a website for international students to post their questions and concerns.

WOODS comments that the policy only needs to get the idea of how international students want the policy to help them.

LAU suggests presenting a drafted policy in the Town Hall to see how international students think and what is missing. For example, international students might not be clear about the study permit, and it will show what issues the SU should focus on and what are the priorities.

BATAL asks about the structure of the forum. *LAU* answers that he is using a website for students to write their comments. And on Thursday, he will be meeting with the Advocacy team to go over the questions and structure the answers. Once the Town Hall starts, he will answer as many of those questions as possible, then there will be an open Q&A. The Town Hall will also include Office of the Dean of Students and International Centre to address to the questions. It ends with a thanks for people coming out and continue to seek their feedback of an International Students Association.

BATAL asks about the timeline for this policy. *LAU* estimates that it will be finished by the first meeting in November.

Scholarship and Bursary Policy

CHELEN reports that *WOODS* is working towards the first draft. *CHELEN* will take feedback from the Scholarship and Bursary Task Force. The policy will be finished after a week.

CHAMPAGNE has concerns about the application interface of scholarship. The interface and material required are in English. While the program offered in Campus Saint-Jean is in bilingual, students with native language in French need to take English courses, so students come out of Campus Saint-Jean will be bilingual. However, most of the scholarship are applicable in first year are in English. It is hard for them because they do not know how to communicate their issues, and no one brings this issue up.

The first draft of the policy will be finished by the next Policy Committee meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

BATAL reports that the items on the table are Health and Wellness, Internationalization, and Scholarship and Bursary, which will be finished by mid-November. She asks when the committee will look into the remaining items, which needs to be renewed this year.

BATAL, *BINCZYK* and *LAU* are in Health and Wellness.

BATAL, *WOODS*, *CHELEN*, *MILLS* and *CHAMPAGNE* are in Scholarship and Bursary.

LAU, *WOODS* and *BATAL* are in Internationalization.

BATAL and *WOODS* are in Student Loans.

LAU and *WOODS* are in Affordable Housing.

WOODS and *HANWELL* are in Deferred Maintenance.

WOODS, Petros *KUSMU* and Josh *LE*, *HANWELL*, *BINCZYK* and *MILLS* are in Mandatory Non-instructional Fees.

LAU, Josh *LE*, *BINCZYK* and *CHAMPAGNE* are in Public Transit.

CHELEN and *BATAL* are in Research.

LE and *BATAL* are in Student Space.

WOODS, KUSMU and CHAMPAGNE are in Tuition.

BATAL comments that setting the principles will be the biggest problem for the committee because it takes a lot of work, and asks the committee for a timeline of their work, as she does not want to put an item on the table while the committee is not ready for it.

LAU comments that there will be not many changes in Affordable Housing and Public Transit because the SU will not be signing any contract for another 4 year.

CHAMPAGNE thinks that the Town Hall will help the Tuition Policy, and he expects a change in that policy, and not just about the International Differential Fee.

BATAL asks about PSLA Task Force. *WOODS* comments that the Tuition Policy will not be changed much, depending on what goes to PSLA. It should be up for December to January.

BATAL will ask Josh Le about Student Space Policy.

CHELEN thinks that Research Policy will be done between December and January as he hopes for more free time at that period.

LAU comments that Public Transit Policy can be done any time after the completion of Internationalization, and Health and Wellness Policy, because there is not much to advocate for since the contract has been signed.

WOODS says that since Mandatory Non-instructional Fee Policy is also PSLA related dependent, it will be done in January.

WOODS comments that he can finish Deferred Maintenance Policy sooner. He will do it after the city election is over, probably finish it in January or February.

LAU estimates that there will be not many changes in Affordable Housing.

WOODS puts Student Loans in March or April because he does not know what will happen to the Student Loans. Many people are lobbying about Student Loans. If there is a substantial change, then they will have a new policy direction.

**10. DISCUSSION
AND INFORMATION
ITEMS**

N/A

11. REPORTS N/A

12. CLOSED N/A
SESSION

13. NEXT MEETING *October 29, 6 PM. at SUB608*

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

Vote on Motion

8 / 0 / 0

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at *7:00 PM*.



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

<i>Date: October 15, 2013</i>	<i>Time: 6:05 PM</i>	2013 – 2014 MEETING #12
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Motions		
1.	<i>BINCZYK moved that October 15, 2013 agenda be approved as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 6/0/0</i>
2.	<i>WOODS moved that October 1, 2013 minutes be approved as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 5/0/1</i>
3.	<i>BINCZYK moved that the meeting be adjourned.</i>	<i>CARRIED 8/0/0</i>