



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2013 - 2014 # 6

Date: Tuesday July 23, 2013

Time: 6:04 pm

In Attendance:

Kareema Batal (Chair)

William Lau

Dylan Hanwell

Kelsey Mills

Colin Champagne

Braiden Redman

Nataliya Binczyk

Excused Absence:

Dustin Chelen

Adam Woods

Others in Attendance:

Bashir Mohamed

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *BATAL* at 6:04 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No amendments to the agenda

HANWELL moved that the July 23, 2013 agenda be approved as *tabled*
Seconded by *BINCZYK*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HANWELL amended minutes to include "Is the engagement task force related to SEFT?" after his first comment in Question Period.

LAU amended minutes to substitute "the task force is not related to Policy, but tied to" for the first part of his answer in Question Period.

BINCZYK amended minutes to include the correct spelling of her last name in

the minutes wherever it appears.

BINCZYK amended minutes to include capitalized CASA instead of lower case in VP External's Executive Report.

LAU amended minutes to include a period instead of a question mark at the end of his Executive Report statement.

LAU amended minutes to include "William or Lau" instead of "him" in his Chelen's question in Discussion.

BATAL moved that the July 9, 2013 minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by REDMAN.

Vote on Motion 7 / 0 / 0

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Can we meet at 5:00 pm on August 6 to leave room for council goal session? Motion to reschedule is coming up later in the agenda.
- We have Affordable Housing, Students in Governance and Omar Khadr policies that have no one on task forces. Let me know if you want to be involved, or email the responsible Executive. Kelsey Mills wants to be on the Omar Khadr policy task force.

5. PRESENTATIONS **Students in Governance Policy** – by VP CHELEN.

Information provided by CHELEN is attached.

BATAL: I do not have that much information other than what CHELEN has passed on. I am not clear as to what the objective is of the policy. Does anyone know?

MILLS: Policy is designed to protect students in governance, holding student representative positions.

MILLS: Sometimes administrators don't realize that student representatives are the legal representatives of students and that students have legislated equal right to speak in university matters. They also may think that because they are students, they do not know as much or are not as credible and may use that to undermine the position of student reps. Furthermore, student reps change every year and face a huge learning curve. This policy will help protect them and hold their value against administration experience.

BINCZYK: Students need the ability to be a part of governance and be empowered to do so and make proper decisions. It is imperative to provide councilors with leadership development activities.

LAU: First clause could be cleaned up: the term "undergraduate students" is too general, maybe add "reps" to the end of that and after "student group". I don't feel like this first clause is speaking about governance. Concerned over the terms "fairly and equitably": are we not being treated the same?

BATAL: We need something more specific than anyone in the "university community".

MILLS: Suggestion for wording in first clause: "... other faculty or administration member at the University"

LAU: First Be it Resolved clause on pg 15: take out "consult students" because student consultation needs to be defined more clearly. Administrators could walk up to one student and "consult" them however they wish and they could say that they consulted students. Unless we define how consultation should be.

MILLS: Should just be "student reps" because it may undermine policy. Have a training or support clause/addition for student reps as part of "reducing barriers" as mentioned in the last Be it Resolved clause.

BINCZYK moved that the *Students in Governance Policy* be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded by *MILLS*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

(See attachment for changes made)

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

BATAL: WOODS and CHELEN are away but reports are attached.

LAU: My theme this year will be Food, Dance and Music. I had a meeting with Councilor BATAL about community kitchen and community kitchen steering committee. Regarding my activities around Health and Wellness-Healthy Campus seed funding has increased.

BINCZYK: Where does seed funding come from?

LAU: The Provincial government provides \$25,000 to \$30,000 in seed money a year for the next three years to fund mental health initiatives and it comes from the \$3 million of recent funding. The applications are accepted every month, but the funding cycle ends in August of that school year. Launch will be in November.

BATAL: What do proposals look like?

LAU: Applications are looked at as long as they are contributing to campus health, symposium at the very end to show what was done.

NATALIA: Do they get lots of applications?

LAU: No, not really. But, the \$40k should probably go pretty quick.

BATAL: What is your role with it?

LAU: I am just involved as an SU representative and as part of my portfolio around Health and Wellness. Since it affects students, then I try to be involved.

BATAL: You mentioned that GSA will be joining the community kitchen steering committee. How does that work with fees? Do Grad students also pay fees to use that facility?

LAU: GSA also charges fees for PAW. So Grad students do pay fees, as well.

BATAL: Any updates on the Internationalization Policy?

LAU: No changes yet, but should have it ready to go by August 6.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

BINCZYK to BATAL: Can we debate the Omar Khadr Policy principles?
BATAL: Yes, we can make changes to the principles; it is up for discussion, from what I understood from Craig at Council.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Quality Instruction

BATAL: I believe this was approved in first reading at Council. Eric made a motion to change something in the principles. Replacing “don’t” with “directly” in the second principle.

HANWELL: that motion was ruled out of order because it changed the principles of the policy. So it remains “don’t relate”.

LAU: Interdisciplinary is something I would like to look at, and wish I said something during Council.

BATAL: can we change it, then?

MILLS: It came to us in first reading, so now we can’t change the principles. It is best to table it for next meeting and talk to Craig about what to do.

BATAL moved that the *Quality Instruction Policy* be tabled and moved to the next policy meeting.

The motion was seconded by *LAU*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

Internationalization

BATAL: There is still more to be done, and WOODS and LAU will bring it to policy next meeting. They need to meet with Councilor Mohamed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

MOHAMED: The supporting documents are attached and I can talk about it, I would also like to discuss some of the points President KUSMU made in his letter.

REDMAN: With other PSI’s, we can go through CASA.

BATAL to MOHAMED: Can you clarify what the objective(s) is/are of this policy and then go into detail. I think we should set up a task force just like our other policies and they can bring it back.

MOHAMED: I would like to know the timeline of task force?

BATAL: Approximately 3 weeks until 1st reading passed to Council.

BINCZYK: What harm will we be doing in making it a broad policy? Get away from mentioning individual names.

MOHAMED: It will water it down the policy too much. A broad policy will have support in Council, but I would like it to have acknowledgement specifically of Omar. Support on the website as suggested is not enough.

BATAL: Political policies are for Executives, is political policy this specific going to accomplish this goal?

MOHAMED: This policy will allow him to go to the U of A and not be discriminated against.

HANWELL: Should it be more expansive for more people?

BATAL: We can endorse a person after we create the policy.

MOHAMED: If there is an appeal process, the U of A can still make a slow decision.

BATAL: When would Omar actually apply?

MILLS: Would Omar have to do upgrading? Would he be rejected on academic merit?

MOHAMED: Omar just finished grade 10 and is doing well and will graduate high school in 2 years.

MILLS: Political policies are living documents. Also, things change, Omar may not even want to go to the U of A.

MOHAMED: Omar is a 26 years old, so is a mature student. Kings University is not the right fir for him because it is not a secular University.

BATAL to MOHAMED: Statement made by King's University may have loopholes, and may not be true or entail the actions you are proposing.

MILLS: What is wrong with going to a non-secular school if accepted?

MOHAMED: The Muslim Students' Association (MSA) is strong at the U of A and will provide support for Omar. King's University will not have that. He may be the black sheep there, and may feel more at home at U of A.

LAU: It is understandable that if one got accepted to the U of A to want to choose that over another university/college in Edmonton. I would want to go to U of A!

MOHAMED: Omar would potentially go into Science and possibly Medicine.

BINCZYK: I am not convinced why we should not have a broad policy.

BATAL: If we were to go with President KUSMU's suggestion and draft an Appeals Policy, we can spend the next 2 years advocating for an appeal process and actually get it.

MOHAMED: I am opposed to an umbrella policy if Omar is not referenced.

REDMAN: Often, if something goes through supreme court it is named after that person like Omar's Bill, is that what you want? Some countries do not allow Chinese and Iranian students t be admitted into nuclear programs because those countries have different policies.

MOHAMED: Sure, we can have a person's name, but I want a specific clause mentioning Omar.

BATAL: Is there a policy like that in the SU? Will have to ask Craig if that is feasible.

MOHAMED: I would rather have a specific *Be It Resolved* clause with Omar's name in it.

MILLS: If we made this policy and because this case is so public already, by incorporating his name will I fear he will face discrimination because he is made more public.

BATAL: What about the students who have unique situations, too? Every situation is unique. We will have to do this for everyone.

LAU: If I was in Omar's shoes, I wouldn't want articles written about me.

What type of supports does the SU give?

MOHAMED: If Omar ever came to the U of A, he would face media backlash. It's not that controversial. If students do rise up we can put up a statement. With other students, if anyone else has the same situation, we should take action, but it is not likely.

REDMAN: Is there a specific policy for Omar?

MOHAMED: There will be an education team that oversees his education at King's University.

HANWELL: Shouldn't we be consulting with people on this? Or making our own judgment? Our constituents may not support it.

BINCZYK: We cannot compare two people that may have traumatic things happening to them. Every situation is unique in their eyes.

MOHAMED: It would be a case by case basis.

BATAL: Everyone who goes to jail will be unique, should we say that Omar is innocent?

MOHAMED: Omar is a child soldier; we should make sure that we stand by our position that he is innocent. The PSLA states – promote general welfare of students, gain power from strategic plan as they are vague. Moral responsibility to assist him. This is a unique and powerful case.

MILLS to MOHAMED: You are misinterpreting the PSLA. Omar is not admitted into the U of A yet. Admitted students pay 50 some dollars to the SU and we advocate for them and reinvest in them. The SU has a fiduciary responsibility to use that fee for them. We don't advocate for grad students there is the GSA; our policy does not talk about it. So how can we advocate for someone who doesn't pay that fee and isn't even a student?

LAU: We can act on it for Omar and all students. The SU has been wary of taking stances on specific issues, where do we find a balance on issues, is policy the right way to accomplish this? The issue is that this policy is focused on one specific individual.

BINCZYK: There are two sides to an argument and it is not right to reject one part of the student body.

MOHAMED: hypothetically speaking: If slavery is legal, would we engage with the other side? Omar hasn't had the opportunity to pay fees, campus groups support him. We have a letter from amnesty International, MSA, and a medical resident. We shouldn't side with the morally incorrect side.

LAU to MOHAMED: What do you want: policy? Specific?

BATAL: Why is policy the best way to do it? To make a statement? This is the only way people have done it, what else can happen?

BATAL: We are getting to the question of whether he is guilty or innocent; it is not up to us to make that judgment.

BATAL: If we have an appeal policy we can work on it.

MOHAMED: So it will be delayed even more.

LAU: Either policy will create the same advocacy efforts.

MOHAMED: Not against broad policy, but would water it down if not including Omar's name. It will be delayed.

MILLS: An appeal process will take lots of time, anyway.

LAU: Councilor MOHAMED is saying that with a name in the policy, we can advocate in advance.

MOHAMED: Yes. I am worried about additional barriers. We should just get it done. An appeal process could cause media attention. Omar's case is well documented enough to know what is legally right.

MILLS: You are assuming that the University will deny him in the first place.

REDMAN: An appeals process policy will help. But, it seems what is wanted here is a media statement.

BATAL: If we work 2 years on creating a legitimate appeals process, we will have it ready by the time he applies.

MOHAMED: We can cut off this policy and just put in one clause for Omar.

BATAL: Are we going to advocate for Omar for 2 years?

MOHAMED: We should advocate for as long as it takes.

BATAL: What can we do right now?

MOHAMED: We should start advocating right now.

BINCZYK: If there is no name in this policy, we will get the same results.

We may face the problem of other students wanting to be or have their name in a policy.

MILLS: University administration may say that it should only work for Omar and reject everyone else. Hence why an appeals policy will serve everyone.

Administration can hold this policy against us.

MOHAMED: It seems we are worried about media potshots but we took the right stance.

BATAL: It's 8:00 pm and we still have things left on the agenda. I would like to have a statement from you, Councilor MOHAMED, with future steps.

HANWELL: We need time and to think about this policy more.

MOHAMED: The politics of the situation makes it impossible to do anything. It is all tedious and a bunch of hoops.

MILLS: Things do take a long time. I always thought things were running in circles. I have now come to appreciate the length of time it takes. It gives the chance to think things through.

LAU: I want to explain to you how policy is treated by Executives. As an Executive, I will do the same things with both policies, attaching it to Omar's name will not strengthen it.

MOHAMED: Would there just be a general appeals process?

LAU: Yes, but for all students. We could bring Omar's case before hand to the Registrar. Having a policy for individuals sets a precedent. There are lots of unique cases.

MILLS: We want a policy structure that gives us a win. Policies need to be a little vague so Executives have the ability to move and have leeway.

MOHAMED: We shouldn't be playing politics. Why are we doing this?

BATAL: Yes we should play politics.

LAU: Because I would have to write in every single student group, and advocate for every single one of them individually, if this is how we are to do things.

MILLS: University administration plays politics, too.

LAU: Let's set a timeline. Things we can do right away: Speak with campus law society and human rights organizations on campus.

REDMAN: Why do we want a timeline? Are we missing a crucial point here?

MOHAMED: to get it done. It shouldn't be this way.

MILLS: The point of this process is to give our opinion and think about it carefully.

HANWELL: The policy as is wouldn't work in Council.

LAU: The inclusion of Omar's name is the issue it seems right now.

BATAL: If [Councilor MOHAMED] is confident in it, take it back to council.

BATAL: What actions do we take now as a committee?

MILLS: We should create a task force and work on it like all our other policies. Or, Councilor MOHAMED can take it back to council.

LAU: Political policies outline what Execs can't do, not what they are supposed to do, talk to Execs if you have an issue.

MOHAMED: I spoke to President KUSMU several times about healthcare for refugees. He says go to Council. I am seeing contradictions here.

BATAL: Where would you like us to go from here?

MOHAMED: I'll just bring the policy back to Council.

BATAL: We need to ask Craig how this works and how we can send this policy back to Council. I will consult with Craig and get back to everyone. We should hold an emergency half hour meeting before Friday when our report is due on the Council agenda so I know what to do.

Motion to reschedule PC's next meeting on August 6th, 2013:

BINCZYK: I would like to suggest that we change this motion to "after the councilor goal session is done" instead of 5:00 pm. I cannot make it at 5:00 pm.

BINCZYK moved that the motion to reschedule the next policy committee meeting be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded by LAU.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

BINCZYK moved to reschedule the Policy Committee meeting on August 6th, 2013 from 6:00 pm to after the councilor goal session is done.

The motion was seconded by LAU.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT BATAL moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by *HANWELL*.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Motions		
1.	HANWELL/ BINCZYK moved that <i>the July 23, 2013 agenda be approved as tabled.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
2.	BATAL/ REDMAN moved that <i>the July 23, 2013 minutes be approved as amended.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
3.	BINCZYK/ MILLS moved that <i>the Students in Governance Policy be approved as amended.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
4.	BATAL/ LAU moved that <i>the Quality Instruction Policy be tabled and moved to the next policy meeting.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
5.	BINCZYK/LAU moved that <i>the motion to reschedule the next policy committee meeting be approved as amended.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
6.	BINCZYK/LAU moved to <i>reschedule the Policy Committee meeting on August 6th, 2013 from 6:00 pm to after the councilor goal session is done.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0
7.	BATAL / HANWELL moved that <i>the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 PM.</i>	CARRIED 7/0/0



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

STUDENTS IN GOVERNANCE POLICY

Whereas undergraduate students know their needs best, and

Whereas some University and Faculty policies already give undergraduate students and student groups representative capacity on certain committees and boards, and

Whereas there are over 600 representative positions filled by undergraduates at the University of Alberta, and

Whereas undergraduate students are required to balance their academic, personal, and professional lives with their representative activities, and

Whereas the undergraduate population at the University of Alberta is diverse in its makeup.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate that the University act fairly and equitably toward undergraduate student representatives and student group representatives, as they would any other faculty and administration member of the University community, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate for ways to alleviate academic pressures of student representatives, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate against the elimination of undergraduate student representative positions from policy or practice, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall encourage the University to consult student representatives on academic, administrative, and operational issues, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall actively communicate to the University the value of student representatives, and student representative groups, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall act to reduce barriers to student participation in University governance, especially for under-represented groups.