



POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

2011 - 2012 # 12

Date: November 15, 2011

Time: 6:35 PM

In Attendance:

PETROS KUSMU (Chair)

ADAM WOODS

COLTEN YAMIGISHI

ANDREW FEHR

NAVNEET KHINDA

KINNAR POWER

Excused Absence:

EMERSON CSORBA

RAPHAEL LEPAGE FORTIN

AVINASH KARUVELIL

FARID ISKANDAR

Others in Attendance:

NIKKI WAY

DAGMAWE ABEBE

LEAH DEJENU

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by *KUSMU* at 6:35 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA *KUSMU* amended agenda to exclude *the VPX Report*.
WOODS moved that the *November 15, 2011* agenda be approved as amended.
Seconded by *FEHR*.
Vote on Motion 6 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF *YAMAGISHI* amended minutes...(3of9) to say "*Have a donation box. Move*

MINUTES

to a more visible location than in front of the bookstore” instead of “Move the donation box closer to the bookstore”.

YAMAGISHI amended minutes...(3of9) to say “About 35 people dropped off stuff and approximately 84 people took them.” instead of “35 people dropped off stuff and 84 people took them”.

FEHR amended minutes...(3of9) to exclude “FEHR: I would like to make a comment: I think it is a really good idea to have that. A lot of people might be weary of going to the free store. We need to keep in mind the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle. Reduce is the best and recycle is the least effective of the three. We are at the front of the Reuse. I just wanted to add that”.

YAMAGISHI amended minutes...(3of9) to say “I would like to limit the number of items that people can take.” instead of “I would like to limit the stuff that people bring.”

KHINDA amended minutes...(4of9) to exclude “It’s not realistic to have certification. We are looking at it externally, so I feel like we all know what we are taking about. So why can’t we put that on the policy”

KUSMU amended minutes...(7of9) to say “Aramark causes a grey area because it could be considered the main catering service on campus” instead of “There is one point. Purchasing under direct control of the university. In our case, it’s only the students union” and “Aramark is directly with the university that is the grey area”.

KHINDA moved that the November 1, 2011 minutes be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded by YAMAGISHI.

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

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS *None*

5. PRESENTATIONS *None*

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

TO VPSL – YAMAGISHI

YAMAGISHI: We had a meeting with Aramark where we were going to go over the budget but it was cancelled. Councilor Sumar mentioned a \$50 000 television expenditure, it’s a \$30 000 one. I am not sure what I the follow up with that. I will jump in a pool of ice tomorrow. It’s for the Chillin for Charity fundraiser, part of a business competition where they see who raises the most money. Regarding mandatory non instructional meetings: no one knows where they are going. I have prepared the Spring-Summer U-Pass and external municipality inclusion questions for the Undergraduate Student Survey. Please read them and let me know if you have any questions you want to add. I am thinking about doing a student

health involvement policy. Some of the statistics look as expected, not great.

FEHR: What did you discuss about the LGBTQ cohort?

YAMAGISHI: What is happening, I told them what I am pushing for, they want to do like a two stairwell apartment system, programing events in HUB, HUB security.

KUSMU: In regards to the health and wellness policy: what do you see happening? Like in expanding an entire policy by itself?

YAMAGISHI: There are two sides to it: mental and physical. Includes advocating for more mental health resources such as councilors.

POWER: I don't see how the health and wellness policy falls under engagement.

YAMAGISHI: Symposium happening this weekend from nine until two. It's in Lister. Winner gets \$5000 to put towards their research.

FEHR: What is the deadline for submitting feedback to the questions?

YAMAGISHI: Probably about a week.

KUSMU: Farid is out of town lobbying, Emerson is busy with the symposium.

9. OLD BUSINESS

FOOD POLICY - REVIEW "ORGANIC" FOOTNOTE

KUSMU: I want you guys to go over the footnotes. I want to finish the organic facet of this policy then we can start worrying about the fair trade.

WOODS: With this foot note, how does that explain what organic is on campus. Like how do we establish that what is coming to campus is organic?

KUSMU: Why don't we have Nikki explain?

WAY: this is going to be difficult.

YAMAGISHI: So when it says "Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils ecosystems and people", pretty much anything that is growing does that.

WOODS: How do you make sure that the product is Fair Trade?

WAY: There is certified organic. But it gets back into the same cycle. It costs the farmers over \$ 2500 for certification.

WOODS: Have we confirmed 100% that we want organic? But if we can't decide what is organic then how are we going to know?

KUSMU: I try to leave out my personal opinion till the end but It seems clear that people really wanted it. It is not necessarily something we are enforcing to catch people red handed. It is more of a bar or something to shoot for, our own ideal expectations. Even though we can't fully enforce it.

YAMAGISHI: Enforce it when feasible. We are aiming to get anything that is organic-ish. If I don't think what they are providing is organic enough then...

KUSMU: Any other comments?

WAY: I think we are done with the discussion.

FOOD POLICY - FAIR TRADE CLAUSE

KUSMU: Valentina and Elauna couldn't make it today. I hope you guys have been reading all that I have sent you. How about we go through it together? The long e-mail is Fair Trade Canada's response to the article. You guys can see on the second last page, I make quotations from the articles.

FEHR: Did you email them to Fair Trade Canada personally?

WAY: Madison did. This is their response.

KUSMU: Let's go through it: We have an email from Andrew. The page after that you have a long article. This is an economics article based on the U of A. That's homework reading. Try and read the abstracts. Would the policy committee want 4-5 minutes to skim it?....five minutes have elapsed

POWER: In general, I haven't read a lot of criticisms on fair trade.

WAY: Keep in mind this isn't the SU's policy. It became a viable option because the fair trade coffee is cheaper than java jive coffee. The SU is all fair trade.

LEAH: I think there should be a fair trade option, I have friends who don't like Starbucks but they would definitely buy coffee if it were fair trade.

YAMAGISHI: In theory I am in favor of it. In advocating to the university about this, you can't say "I don't want Starbucks". Its hard to advocate for something without pushing something else out.

WAY: Starbucks has a fair trade brew that they are offering right now. The university is close to achieving fair trade. The only thing is that Tim Horton's are not willing to change their brew.

KUSMU: We don't have to worry about that.

POWER: Starbucks in England, have gone entirely fair trade.

WOODS: At the end of the day, we are offering more options. How can anybody get mad at that?

KUSMU: Any other comments?

WAY: So are we going to sit on the fence again?

KHINDA: Why are we waiting so long?

POWER: I don't know if we everyone has read about this.

FEHR: I don't feel comfortable passing the policy when the two biggest critics are not here.

YAMAGISHI: Maybe we could look at a defining fair trade?

WAY: All we have to do in that case is say "fair trade certified". There are 4 pillars that are available anywhere. In order for us to have a definition, it should have certified behind it. Organic is different because there are different organizations. You don't need a foot note for fair trade, all you have to say is fair trade certified

SMOKING POLICY

WAY: Chakka isn't here.

KUSMU: He isn't here but he sent us his action plan.

YAMAGISHI: Is it the same as the last one?

KUSMU: he is just telling us what is happening. This is what his plan is: he is going to meet up with the various stake holders at the four different organizations. Having designated smoking areas. Colt provided a report. Chakka knows the lady. It is a very interesting report. That is some more food for thought.

POWER: I want to get feedback from people who smoke on campus.

FEHR: It's been a while since we talked about this. I am not really clear on why we want a smoking policy. What are we lobbying for?

KHINDA: I think Chakka mentioned that there is a higher demand for a smoke free campus.

YAMAGISHI: I remember him mentioning that we are the leader for health so the Smoking Policy falls in line with that.

FEHR: So this is largely health based?

KUSMU: It has a liberty aspect.

POWER: If we were to pass the smoking policy, would it be something that we would advocate?

KUSMU: We would just be asking the university to implement. I think they already do this at Grant McEwan and NAIT.

LEAH: I have a question: what inspired the university to make a smoke free campus? Have people complained?

WOODS: There was a publicite in 06 asking the students and 75 % voted yes for a smoking policy. I have criticisms: if you are a smoker and if somebody tells you if you can't smoke anymore, then you won't like it.

Well if you have designated areas.... (to ABEBE) What do you think about it?

ABEBE: it depends on how many areas there are

WOODS: We have to keep in mind that this is a campus, not Grant McEwan or NAIT. If you have to walk far to have a smoke, then...

LEAH: I think that is a good idea. To make it more convenient.

KUSMU: maybe one every building

KHINDA: This is what Kim Ferguson was talking about, we cant make the areas too convenient otherwise there is not point. But then it also stigmatizes students and is it our role to do that? I am just stating what Kim said.

POWER: If we had designated areas where smokers would smoke, I want to know more about the effects second hand smoke. What is the effect right now? What if you walk by a concentration of smokers then that is not too healthy either.

WOODS: 5 m. After 5m the smoke is not harmful.

KUSMU: Chakka said that is true to some extent.

POWER: I would be skeptical: if you were to concentrate that amount would it create a greater concern?

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