



## COMMITTEE NAME MINUTES

2011 - 2012 # 15

Date: January 31, 2012

Time: 6:37 PM

### In Attendance:

**ADAM WOODS**

**COLTEN YAMIGISHI (6:42)**

**ANDREW FEHR (Acting chair)**

**KINNAR POWER**

**PETROS KUSMU (Chair)**

**FARID ISKANDAR**

**NAVNEET KHINDA**

### Excused Absence:

### Others in Attendance:

**ANDY CHEEMA**

**DAGME ABEBE**

**RORY TIGHE**

**CHAKA ZINYEMBA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by *KUSMU* at 6:37 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *WOODS* moved that the *January 31, 2012* agenda be approved as *tabled*  
Seconded by *FEHR*.

All in favour

Vote on Motion 7 / 0 / 0

**CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF** *KUSMU* amended minutes...(2of5) to say "*TIGHE*" instead of "*TIGHE*"

## MINUTES

*POWER* amended minutes...(3of5) to say “*Where on Whyte Ave. does the public transit start?*” instead of “*the public transit starts in Whyte Ave Where and Why?*”

*KHINDA* moved that the *January 17, 2012* minutes be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded by *FEHR*.

Vote on Motion 7 / 0 / 0

**CARRIED**

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS *None*

## 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **TO VPX - ISKANDAR**

*ISKANDAR*: Most of my time was spent on lobby training and non-instructional fees. Hidden link will go public soon, emailed GOTV volunteers. The reason for pushing back is debts. Regarding non instructional fees: we talked with premier. The minister requested all board of governors to send them the plan on non-instructional fees, a meeting is soon to come.

### **TO VPSL – YAMAGISHI**

*YAMAGISHI*: I was late today because of a U of A podcast. No report today because of break the record. Focusing on affordable housing, east campus villages. Looking to reduce returners next year. There is a proposed staffing model exchange, not favored by residence associations. Regarding sustainability: EcoReps: the first few meetings will be held in February. That is where we are at.

### **TO VP OPERATIONS AND FINANCE - CHEEMA**

*CHEEMA*: I just got you to pass out the written report. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

*ISKANDAR*: when was your first discussion on the Paw Plan?

*CHEEMA*: The reps from GSA and the student office met this Tuesday. Lease was extended.

*TIGHE*: I am only responsible for tuition, highlighted the non-instructional fees. We had a presentation at all three committees and spoke against it. Non instructional fees, same deal. We Lost debate on non-instructional fees. This was the first time this was done. It worked in every way.

*KUSMU*: How are you received after giving a report like this?

*TIGHE*: everyone is positive; they need to look out for the best for the institution. The university’s role is providing accessible education across the province. Other people think differently...

*FEHR*: If it seems like the board of governors are not going to pass, is it not better to take it to the provincial level and switch the effort?

*TIGHE*: We have done a pretty good a job. We will win the war in a lot of little battles. We did get a couple of votes. It is possible.

*ISKANDAR*: The new minister directed us to do this. When the minister

says that, we have to play out the whole thing. We were directed to do the internal thing.

*YAMAGISHI:* Residence Services is trying to create space for first year residence. We need to make sure the LHSA has a voice and that they are heard. We didn't run there for the vote, we were there for the discussion on the staff changes

*ISKANDAR:* When I was elected I was told that non instructional fees will be solved by august. It is something, not nothing. The Minister has asked to meet us in a week. We don't know if we like it or not. Gives good hope that something will happen. The worst case scenario is that we lose our status quo. Best case scenario is that we would win.

*TIGHE:* It is important that we maintain the effort.

*POWER:* This question is for the VPSL: what kind of staff changes are residences looking at?

*YAMAGISHI:* Do you have a good idea of the situation? There would be 42 floors, with a RA or FC, the lister side would pay 50 dollars, residence services would pay about 4000. Two RAs would be hired, not elected by students. The FC would only be in charge of the lister programming. LHSA was upset because of power loss. There are a number of other options. The real conflict is that members need to be elected how to balance with those who are hired.

*ISKANDAR:* The debate the same time last year back when we were passing the tuition policy, do you still think it is a good idea?

*TIGHE:* I don't know, it would be interesting to get a legal opinion on that. Our policy would not legally bind me. I don't know. It isn't legally binding, in our best interest to take it off because it doesn't really serve a purpose to aggravate the university. Put a short term expiry date on that.

*FEHR:* in the vain of tuition and non instructional fees, how would you interact with occupier folks when they approach the Students Union?

*TIGHE:* We should not put our voice behind that in either way. I don't know what their issues are. We probably wouldn't be allowed to anyway. Does that answer your question?

*KUSMU:* I went to the meeting where they were planning this. I was talking to some of the organizers and they want you guys to speak. Would you happen to know anyone who were on the Exec and would be happy to speak?

*KUSMU:* (To *CHEEMA*) Guesstimate of timeline in terms of renovation?

*CHEEMA:* (To *TIGHE*) you already said you were going to speak to Carl about it.

*TIGHE:* The paw center agreement should be done by the next couple of weeks. We will have an agreement signed by the end of our term.

*CHEEMA:* Hard to predict how long it is going to take.

*TIGHE:* If we can get visioning of the space. Renovation will not finish until summer maybe.

*YAMAGISHI:* I have a question for myself: in terms of breaking dodge ball record, what would you do? Class talks and Facebook videos.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**      **None**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**      **None**

**10. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**      **HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY**

*KUSMU*: Ideally, I want to try to finish that by the end of the semester. We talked about it before and sent out reports. My idea goal is for us to have some kind of discussion, hopefully we can get you and someone else to work on it.

*YAMAGISHI*: SU advocates quite a bit on mental and physical. The policy would be the best way to address these issues on campus. We need to very much specify what physical health, spiritual health, etc. are. I was thinking of listing principles for health and wellness and how we define those.

Where would spiritual health fall? We are not going to write a policy that defines happiness or something like that. Something along the lines of: what are the problems, and how can we fix it.

*ZINYEMBA*: We could consider environmental health, One's environment. Basic examples: home environment... but if it's cold, the way we build the city could result in obesity. If you want to look into that.

*YAMAGISHI*: We don't want to step on the toes of other policies, we want to focus on scope that is not covered by other policies.

*POWER*: is sexual health covered on the policy? We don't have a policy about healthy sexual practices.

*YAMAGISHI*: I agree with that. How would you go about that?

*POWER*: encouraging health services to educate.

*ISKANDAR*: For asking for more councilors, is there a limit?

*TIGHE*: It's money. There's space. We should focus on the smaller picture in terms of more councilors etc. Then we can build on that.

*KHINDA*: healthy food but that's been covered by the food policy

*POWER*: specifically the residences, in terms of nutrition.

*KUSMU*: we need to find that fine line.

*WOODS*: Nutrition has been covered by the food policy, do we have gyms in Lister?

*KUSMU*: Lister has a gym. Andy, do you know if they are going to renovate it?

*CHEEMA*: They do have a workout facility, it's small, really narrow. Not ideal for residence.

*TIGHE*: I would be hesitant because SA controls the gyms. We don't want to step on toes.

*ABEBE*: how far have we looked into mental health issues? What are we going to do to control stress, Not just focusing dietary issues?

*YAMAGISHI:* Everything we do you can technically related to mental health. If you guys could send me what you would like to see on the policy.

*KHINDA:* What is the timeline looking like?

*KUSMU:* By the end of the term.

*YAMAGISHI:* I think that would be difficult but we can try.

*KUSMU:* do you guys want to decide and let me know? If you could have something by the next meeting.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

*ZINYEMBA:* The water is quite shallow. I sent out a couple of emails to some people. Feedback has been very very limited.

*KHINDA:* About the survey, did anyone reply?

*TIGHE:* I will send you the actual result.

*ZINYEMBA:* Ferguson asked if I had had a dialogue with smokers. I am hoping surveys would cover that

*ISKANDAR:* Smokers don't do surveys.

*ZINYEMBA:* I was under the assumption, that this was something we all wanted to do; there was an agreement that this was something we should put together.

*WOODS:* I personally don't feel that this should be pursued.

*ZINYEMBA:* I think we should brainstorm, just to start working, given policy's permission

*TIGHE:* what do you mean ETS?

*ZINYEMBA:* environmental tobacco smoke.

*KUSMU:* We should start hashing out a policy.

*WOODS:* We should have a referendum if we are moving a policy like this.

*POWER:* Students are concerned on average. If we are inconvenient saying smokes, how much would we be in convincing them. There are only a few smokers on campus.

*ISKANDAR:* I think the survey results and the publicitee are main constituents before we can move forward. I like to think this policy is not to discourage smokers.

*ZINYEMBA:* it's not about people smoking, it's about exposure to second hand smoke. Student input on the survey is the best way, good point about nonsmokers actually being bugged about this. We do know that exposure to second hand smoke is detrimental to health.

*POWER:* do we know in what amount?

*ZINYEMBA:* any amount.

*TIGHE:* I don't know if we have 50% vs 51%, its going to be a hard discussion. Policy is supposed to reflect what students want.

*KUSMU:* it was like that for the paw center: 51% or 52%?

*TIGHE:* 55%, might have been closer. 49 and 51.

*FEHR:* If the idea of this policy is from a health view point, the effects on a small minority might be large.

*KHINDA:* I think we should fix something we already have instead of

starting a new revolution.

*ZINYEMBA*: Actually, we are quite behind the revolution.

*WOODS*: More indoor campuses are smoke free. I would like to know how many outdoor campuses have gone smoke free.

*ZINYEMBA*: I believe...almost all the campuses in North America have...we can have a look at that.

*KUSMU*: any other questions?

## **RESPONSE TO OCCUPY EDMONTON**

*TIGHE*: Any thoughts on how SU can interact with social movement organizations?

*WOODS*: I think we should greet them, but not join the protest.

*POWER*: They are talking about issues that do concern us.

*ZINYEMBA*: a lot of it will be psychological...certain ways to greet them, initial contact is important.

*YAMAGISHI*: Address students and student concerns, if they ask us something that we don't take care of, then we can't give them an organizational opinion.

*ABEBE*: listen to them rather than actively participate.

*ISKANDAR*: We should play it by ear. We should get a feel of what this group is going to do: are they going to damage campus property. Or are they nice and peaceful..

*WOODS*: There is no harm in letting them in, students are eventually going to complain

*FEHR*: Melcor handled Occupy Edmonton very well: they issued a deadline for the protesters to leave; they just played it by ear. It would be worth while to just play it out.

*ZINYEMBA*: This group is a relatively peaceful group, I don't think too much bad media will go with that.

*WOODS*: They don't have beef with us, if they live in the admin building, then that is nothing to do with us.

*POWER*: I think it's about government cutting. I don't think we have much to fear.

*FEHR*: It is a direct action group and their Ideas are direct....That may change.

*KUSMU*: I became part of the messaging chain: OCUAPY EDMONTON. My personal opinion: I think it is really important that we engage with them. The way that they regard the SU is important.

*KUSMU*: They have tried sending emails and have not received much feedback, SU represents students. Why don't we have any reps from SU? There is a perception that the SU is not doing enough. The Su doesn't have a hand in it. That is the average student point of view. Where is the clear line between occupy and raising the student fees. What I would like to see is execs to come out and listen to them, their concerns. We should show support. That might change the perception of other students who are present

there. That is my personal opinion. Should they be allowed in SUB? At the meeting, there weren't many students. For example, Occupy Harvard: it was a bunch of students. If we have Occupy quad with very few students, what kind of message does that send?

*TIGHE*: I am asking you to get some ideas, not because I am panicking about it. I am not going to compromise my values.

**11. CLOSED SESSION** *NIL*

**12. NEXT MEETING** *February 14, 2012 at 6:30 PM .*

**13. ADJOURNMENT** *WOODS* moved that the meeting be adjourned.  
The motion was seconded by *ISKANDAR*.

Vote on Motion 7 / 0 / 0

*CARRIED*.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.