



Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting

Thursday February 4, 2016 – Cinecenta 3:00pm

95 members were present. The meeting did not meet quorum of 107. Emily Rogers facilitated an informal meeting that included director reports and a question period.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIES**

Renwick-Shields acknowledged the territories.

3. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR**

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

a. **Agenda of 2016/02/04 SAGM**

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a. **Minutes of 2015/10/28 AGM**

6. **MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Special Resolutions**

MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW 6 – ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIRT Bylaw 6.1 is amended as follows:

6.1 Electoral Policy of the UVSS

The Board of Directors shall set Electoral Policy to govern the elections of Directors as well as referenda within the rules set out by these bylaws.

a. The Chief Electoral Officer shall be responsible for carrying out the Electoral Policy of the UVSS.

b. Nominees shall abide by all rules set out in the Electoral Policy.

c. **Any change or amendment to the current Electoral Policy must be voted for by a two-thirds [2/3] majority vote of those voting in a quorate general meeting prior to it coming into effect.**

MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW 17 – CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZATIONS

BIRT Bylaw 17.2 is amended as follows:

17.2 Names of Constituency Organizations

- a. Each constituency organization shall be so named as to indicate that it is a student organization under the Students' Society.
- b. The following shall be considered constituency organizations:
 - i. the Women's Centre
 - ii. ~~UVSS~~ UVic Pride
 - iii. the Society for Students with a Disability
 - iv. the Students of Colour Collective

BIFRT the title of the Constituency Organization "UVSS Pride" is changed to "UVic Pride" in all other instances that it is referenced in the Bylaws.

b. Ordinary Resolutions

MOTION TO AMEND POLICY – ISSUES POLICY

BIRT Issues Policy Part B is amended as follows:

B. ~~HOMOPHOBIA~~ANTAGONISM & ~~TRANSPHOBIA~~ANTAGONISM

1. The Society supports the designation of a constituency group office ~~(of medium or greater size) for a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Centre in the new Student Union Building.~~ **in the Student Union Building for students of marginalized gender identities, and romantic and sexual orientations. The Society supports that this room be large enough to reasonably support the day to day operations of the constituency, and that the space have a gender neutral, accessible washroom.**

Adopted SAGM: 1994/02/16

2. The Society condemns all discrimination based on sexual orientation **and romantic orientation.**

Adopted AGM: 1995/10/25

4. The Society supports ~~same sex couples be given equal priority as heterosexual couples in rental units.~~ **that all couples and individuals regardless of gender identity, gender expression, romantic orientation, or sexual orientation be given equal priority in rental units.**

Adopted AGM: 1995/10/25

MOTION – ROGERS/RENWICK-SHIELDS

WHEREAS collectively Canadians carry more than \$15 billion dollars of student debt - the most heavily indebted generation in Canadian history; and

WHEREAS students in BC now expect to graduate with approximately \$35,000 in student debt; and,

WHEREAS BC is the only province in Canada without needs-based grants for students; and

WHEREAS BC has the highest interest rates on student loans in the country; and

WHEREAS a university education is no longer a guarantee of a good-paying job and has become nearly the equivalent of what a high school diploma has been for previous generations; and

WHEREAS when post-secondary students graduate, they now face a 13% youth unemployment rate and 27% underemployment rate; and

WHEREAS these burdens disproportionately affect students from traditionally marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS in 1976, Canada signed and ratified the International Covenant on Economic,

Social and Cultural Rights which recognized education at all levels as a basic human right and that "higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education"; and

WHEREAS more than 30 countries around the world have made tuition free; therefore **BIRT** the Society shall liaise with BC student unions/federations/alliances/coalitions and community partners to organize a province-wide day of action to protest student debt in Fall 2016.

7. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**
8. **QUESTION PERIOD (30 minutes)**
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**