



# MINUTES

## Semi-Annual General Meeting

Wednesday February 6, 2019

Vertigo, 2:00pm

Quorum was not reached. The meeting proceeded with a limited agenda as per Bylaw 4.9.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Angelblazer called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIES

Angelblazer acknowledged the territories.

### 3. APPROVAL OF CHAIR

**MOTION TO RATIFY - JAKUBOWSKI/MCGOVERN  
MOTION CARRIED**

### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

a. Agenda of 2018/02/06 AGM

**MOTION TO ADOPT - PONCE/DICKEY  
MOTION CARRIED**

### 5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of 2018/10/11 AGM

**MOTION TO ADOPT - BELL/MORROW  
MOTION CARRIED**

### 6. MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. **Special Resolutions**

#### **MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS – BY-ELECTIONS**

**BIRT** the Bylaws are amended as follows:

- 1.1 **Chief Electoral Officer** shall refer to an individual, appointed by the UVSS Board of Directors, who is responsible for the conduct of UVSS elections, **by-elections**, and referenda.

**1.5 Directors** shall be all those persons elected **by members** to direct the affairs of the Students' Society, **and who occupy the position of Lead Director, Director at Large, Director of International Student Relations, Constituency Organization Representative, or Native Students Union Representative.**

**4.11 Rules of Order**

- a. Subject to any special resolutions of the Students' Society the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order (or another recognized rules of order agreed upon by the BoD) shall govern the conduct of all general meetings of the Students' Society.
- b. **In the case of a by-election to elect At-Large Director(s), held at a general meeting of the Students' Society, Robert's Rules of Order may be suspended and the rules for a by-election in UVSS Electoral Policy shall be used instead.**

**6.1 Electoral Policy of the UVSS**

The Board of Directors shall set Electoral Policy to govern the elections **and by-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.

**6.5 Electorate**

All active members in good standing of the UVSS, as per Bylaw 2.1, may vote in any election, **by-election**, or referenda.

**6.8 Voting**

- b. Students on co-op work-terms will have every opportunity to vote **in an election or referendum.**
- c. Members of the Students' Society may vote only once for each position in an election.
- d. If only one nomination is received for a particular ~~Executive Lead~~ **Director** position, members shall be asked on the ballot to approve or disapprove of the nominee. The nominee must receive the approval of the majority of ballots cast to be declared duly elected.

**6.10 Chief Electoral Officer**

- a. The Chief Electoral Officer shall ensure that all elections, **by-elections, and referenda** occur in the manner prescribed by this Bylaw and the policy of the Students' Society.
- b. The Chief Electoral Officer shall determine the eligibility of all nominated candidates according to the **criteria set forth in these** bylaws. ~~Six, Article Four [6.4] and Bylaw Two, Article One [2.1].~~
- c. The Chief Electoral Officer shall decide the form of the ballot provided that the nominees for each office be listed in alphabetical order by surname.
- d. The Chief Electoral Officer shall make, in the event of a strike, circumstance beyond human control, or other event that may delay the electoral procedure, a decision as to how and when the electoral procedure may best be completed.

- e. The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit a report on the conduct and results of all elections, **by-elections, and referenda** to the Board of Directors for ratification.

**6.13 Recounts**

- a. A nominee may request a recount of votes cast, provided such request is made in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer within seven [7] days following the Chief Electoral Officer's announcement of election, **by-election, or referenda** results.
- b. Each candidate may call for no more than one [1] recount.

**BYLAW 9 – ABANDONMENT OF OFFICE AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS**  
**BYLAW 9 – CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP, LEAVES OF ABSENCE, REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARD VACANCIES**

**9.5 Vacancies Established on the Board of Directors**

- a. When a vacancy on the Board of Directors has been definitely established for a Director at Large position ~~or the Director of International Student Relations~~, the Directors may decide to:
  - i. ~~hold a by-election at a general meeting, the discretion of the Board of Directors~~
- b. **When a vacancy on the Board of Directors has been definitely established for the Director of International Student Relations, the Directors may decide to hold a by-election.**

**MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW 4 – GENERAL MEETINGS AND REFERENDA**

**WHEREAS** current notice requirements are outdated and do not reflect modern engagement methods; and

**WHEREAS** the BC Societies Act already includes specific notice requirements; and

**WHEREAS** Board of Directors Policy Section 1, Part 3.3 “General Meetings” also includes comprehensive requirements; therefore,

**BIRT** Bylaw 4.8 is amended as follows:

**4.8 Notice for General Meetings or Referenda**

- a. The Board of Directors of the Students' Society shall give **due notice for General Meetings, Special Resolutions, Ordinary Resolutions, and Referenda as required by the BC Societies Act and UVSS policy.** ~~not less than fourteen [14] calendar days notice of a general meeting or referenda.~~
- b. ~~Sufficient notice shall be deemed to have been given by the posting of not less than one hundred [100] notices upon notice boards under the jurisdiction of the Students' Society, and not less than one half page advertisement in the official students' newspaper which shall include the following:~~
  - i. ~~the time, date, and location of the meeting or referendum, and the date by which mailout ballots must be returned to be considered duly cast.~~
  - ii. ~~the proposed agenda for the meeting or resolutions(s) for the referendum, and~~
  - iii. ~~any special resolutions to be considered by the meeting or referendum.~~

**MOTION TO AMEND BYLAW 5 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STUDENTS' SOCIETY**

**BIRT** Bylaw 5.1 is amended as follows:

**5.1 Composition of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of:

- e. **The majority of directors must be at least 18-years-old. 16- or 17-year-old directors are permitted to sit on the Board of Directors.**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS - LEAD DIRECTOR TITLE CHANGE**

**BIRT** all instances of “Director of Outreach & University Relations” in the bylaws are struck and replaced with “Director of Outreach & Governance.”

**MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS - LEAD DIRECTOR TITLE CHANGE**

**BIRT** all instances of “Director of Campaigns & Community Relations” in the bylaws are struck and replaced with “Director of Campaigns.”

**b. Ordinary Resolutions**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY – BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY, SECTION 4: ISSUES POLICY, PART 9: GOVERNANCE**

**BIRT** Board of Directors Policy Section 4, Part 9.6 is amended as follows:

**9.6 Governance**

- c. ~~In recognition of students’ rights to organise a representative student union and to have dues, duly authorised by the student union, collected and remitted to the student union, the Society supports amending Section 27 (1) of the Universities Act to clarify that educational institutions will collect and remit to student organisations all student fees duly authorised in accordance with their organisations’ constitution.~~

**Adopted SAGM 1998/02/12**

- d. ~~The Society supports the Canadian University Faculty Association’s boycott of the Technical University of British Columbia until such time as an elected senate of academic representatives, students and peers is put in place.~~

**Adopted SAGM 1998/02/12**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY – BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY – COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**BIRT** Board of Directors Policy Section 1, Part 3.4.c is amended as follows:

- c. The Society shall publicise a list of its committees, ~~the committee membership and the committee~~ **their meeting times on the Society’s website and outside in the Students’ Society Centre Board of Directors and Communications Offices.**

**Adopted SAGM 1999/02/12**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**BIRT** Board of Directors Policy Part 2.2 – Employment Conflict of Interest is amended as follows:

**2. Employment Conflict of Interest**

- a. ~~If Board members~~ **Directors shall not** apply for **unionized** positions of employment within the operations **or departments** of the Students’ Society., ~~they shall resign from the Board of Directors of the Students’ Society (the Board).~~ or their resignation shall be considered to have been delivered on the

~~closing date of applications.~~

- b. Once they take office, Lead Directors must resign from any other paid positions in the operations **or departments** of the Society; ~~or else shall be considered to have resigned from the Board.~~
  
- d. ~~If Directors apply for a Workstudy position within the operations of the Society, they shall resign from the Board or their resignation shall be considered to have been delivered on the closing date of applications.~~ **Directors are not eligible for UVic work study positions within the operations or departments of the Society, constituency organizations, the Native Students Union, and affiliated groups.** Exempt are those **UVic work study positions within the operations of non-affiliated groups.** ~~the Vancouver Island Public Research Group, the Radio Society (CFUV-FM), the Martlet and the Women's Centre, the Native Students' Union, the Pride Collective, the Society for Students with a Disability, and the Students of Colour Collective.~~

**Adopted AGM 1995/10/25  
Amended AGM 2005/02/10**

## **MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS – ARBITRATION PANEL**

**BIRT** the Bylaws are amended as follows:

### **BYLAW 6 - ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **6.12—Arbitration Panel**

~~The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for seeking nominations for membership on the Arbitration Panel.~~

- a: ~~The Arbitration Panel shall be comprised of three [3] members:~~
  - i: ~~Members, as defined by Bylaw 2.1 shall not compose a majority of the committee;~~
  - ii: ~~No member of the arbitration panel shall seek election to, or be a current member of the Board of Directors while serving on the arbitration panel;~~
- b: ~~Members of the Arbitration Panel must be nominated by the Electoral Committee to the Board of Directors and be ratified by a two-thirds [2/3] vote.~~

### **BYLAW 24 - ARBITRATION PANEL**

**WHEREAS** the Board consistently strives to provide ways for members to engage with the activities of the UVSS Board and Electoral Office; and,

**WHEREAS** other student societies across North America provide an outlet for students to appeal decisions of the Board; and,

**WHEREAS** this model provides student-centric checks and balances, review, and additional engagement for members, in addition to those already provided by the Board; and,

**WHEREAS** the yearly election of new students onto the Board means that knowledge transfer is challenging and limited, and this change would enable previous policy-makers to be actively involved in the interpretation and application of existing policy.

**BIRT** Bylaw 24 - Arbitration Panel is established.

#### **24.1 Purpose**

**The role of the panel is to be a check on the power of the board by creating an appeals process where members and directors may be able to appeal decisions of the board to the**

panel for arbitration. The panel shall also act as the final step in the appeals process for disputes arising from electoral policy in order to be a step in the appeals process separate from the elections office and the current board.

#### **24.2 Composition**

- a. The Arbitration Panel shall be comprised of three members.
  - i. Members of the Arbitration Panel have to either be, or have been members of the society as defined by Bylaw 2.1.
  - ii. No Directors or employees of the Students' Society may be members of the Arbitration Panel.

#### **24.3 Appointments**

- a. A call for nominations must be put out following the general election for members to apply for the Arbitration Panel. Nominations must close on April 1st.
- b. Following the close of nominations, the outgoing Board of Directors must appoint the members of the Arbitration Panel for the upcoming term.
  - i. The current Board may never appoint members to the current Arbitration Panel.
  - ii. Directors who ran for election must formally abstain from all discussion relating to the nomination of Arbitration Panel members.
- c. Arbitration Panel members shall be appointed for one year terms starting May 1st and ending April 31st.
- d. Should there be a vacancy on the Arbitration Panel, the Panel shall select an interim panellist who must be ratified at a general meeting with a quorum of 50.

#### **24.4 Duties and Responsibilities of the Arbitration Panel**

- a. The Arbitration Panel shall meet to discuss and rule on all complaints determined to have met the criteria of the appeals process.
- b. The Arbitration Panel shall meet to discuss and rule on all complaints at the final step of the electoral appeals process.
- c. Members must be able to participate in one training session on current UVSS policy within 1 month of the start of their term.
- d. Members are required to have an understanding of UVSS policy, and shall be aware of the most recent policy which relates to complaints received.
- e. The Arbitration Panel must post rulings and responses on complaints to the Board of Directors on the UVSS website.
- f. Members of the Arbitration Panel should not vote on matters where a personal conflict of interest exists.
- g. The Arbitration Panel shall not rule on disputes relating to personnel, legal, and contracts.

#### **24.5 Appeals to the Arbitration Panel**

- a. Motions passed at meetings of the Board of Directors and current policy may be appealed to the Arbitration Panel.
  - i. To appeal, a member of the Society must collect a minimum of 50 member signatures, or the signatures of a third of the members of the Board.
- b. Following a successful appeal, the Arbitration Panel shall produce a ruling within 1 week of having received the complaint. The Director of Outreach & University Relations, or their designate, shall then be provided 1 week to formally respond. After having received a response, the Arbitration Panel shall produce a final ruling within 3 days.

- I. Should the Director of Outreach & University Relations be a complainant in the appeals, the directors on the majority side of the motion being appealed may select a designate.
- c. The Board of Directors may appeal rulings of the Arbitration Panel to General Meetings as a motion with a quorum of 50.
  - I. Should the board appeal the ruling to a General Meeting, a minimum of 50 copies of the Arbitration Panels' decision must be made available.

**24.6 Electoral appeals to the Arbitration Panel**

- a. The Arbitration Panel must abide by Electoral Policy for all matters relating to Electoral Appeals.

**24.7 Policy and Procedures of the Arbitration Panel**

The Arbitration Panel shall maintain a policy and procedures manual.

- I. Policy and procedures can only be adopted as motions with a quorum of 50 at General Meetings.

**BIFRT** these Bylaw amendments take effect after the results have been finalized for the 2019 general elections in order to avoid disrupting the current electoral event.

**7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT**

Lead Directors presented the Annual Report.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD (30 minutes)**

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN - LYNDEN-BRENTNER/GILSON  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.