

Minutes • Semi-Annual General Meeting
June 15, 2019 • 3:0pm • Canoe Lounge
University of the Fraser Valley

In attendance to business:

- **Capilano Students' Union** (by Happy Singh, vice-president external)
- **GSS of UBC Vancouver** (by Sarah Hosseinirad, vice-president external)
- **Kwantlen Student Association** (by David Piraquive, vice-president external)
- **University of the Fraser Valley** (by Gurvir Gill, vice-president external)

Absent:

- **Langara Students' Union**

Guests in attendance:

- Theodore Abbott, arts & sciences representative (CSU)
- Shaunti Bains, arts & sciences representative (CSU)
- Noah Berson, chairperson
- Emily Bridge, president and vice-president equity (CSU)
- Justin Cervantes, president (BCITSA)
- Koushal Charan, member (KSA)
- Andrew Dillman, communications & administrative coordinator
- Marco Dixon, accessibility justice coordinator (CSU)
- Grace Dupasquier, member (CSU)
- Victoria Eaton, director of student affairs (UVSS)
- Christopher Girodat, executive director (CSU)
- Jonathan Granirer, director of outreach & university affairs (UVSS)
- Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, member (GSS of UBC Vancouver)
- Feven Kidane, students of colour liaison (CSU)
- Jeremy Law, Tech/Cloverdale campus representative (KSA)
- Dakota McGovern, director of finance & operations (UVSS)
- Trevor Morton, fine & applied arts representative (CSU)
- Anna-Elaine Rempel, director of campaigns & research
- Shanti Scarpetta-Lee, women students liaison (CSU)
- Dhruv Shahi, vice-president student life (KSA)
- Hunter Sones, chair, School of Business (BCITSA)
- Paula Zerpa, vice-president student life (CSU)

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* denotes partial attendance

^ denotes attendance by teleconference

1. Call to Order

The chairperson called the adjourned semi-annual general meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., resuming business first undertaken at the semi-annual general meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on May 25, 2019, conducted via teleconference.

The chairperson declared that a quorum was present.

2. Overview of Meeting Procedures

Christopher Girodat, executive director of the Capilano Students' Union, provided a brief overview of the meeting procedures, emphasizing that each member association has one vote; that the mechanism by which a member association's vote is determined is an internal and autonomous decision of that association; and advising that an officer must be from the member association by which they are nominated.

3. Presentation of the Outgoing Officers' Reports

The membership received the report of the outgoing officers.

The chairperson noted for member associations that government eliminated the interest on provincial student loans, which had been a founding objective in 2013, which also prompted over 20 interviews, and created a presence in over 40 media sources.

The chairperson also noted that the University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society recently joined the Alliance of British Columbia students, resulting in the Alliance growing to a provincial organization representing over 80,000 students.

The director of campaigns & research noted that a provincial campaign on campus sexualized violence turned out to be unnecessary, as they were appointed by the province to serve on a working group consisting of student stakeholders and representatives of post-secondary institutions from across the province. This led to the "Moving Together" forum, bringing together 24 out of 25 post-secondary institutions, unions, and staff from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training.

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The director of campaigns & research also noted that the Alliance had developed advocacy positions on mental health and international student tuition (approved by the board yesterday) to guide the organization's lobbying work.

4. Elections

a. Election of the Chairperson

Nominations were opened for the chairperson.

The UFV Student Union Society nominated Gurvir Gill (vice-president external, UFV Student Union Society), whereupon he offered remarks. He has served two terms as president, and is now serving a third year as the vice-president external. He hopes to be more involved in provincial and federal advocacy, which has been a priority for the UFV Student Union Society, and drove work to join the Alliance of British Columbia Students.

Gill advised that he wants to encourage other executives and board members to be active in some way or another, including meeting legislators or other local policy-makers, and organizing more informal discussions on student issues.

Gill noted that he was "happy to be here."

Gill noted the importance of capitalizing on the recent trend of successes on student issues by the Alliance, and suggested that this may be the time to start pushing further and to start adding to existing asks (such as in the case of counselling services).

Gill described his leadership style as one where he is prepared to step up to ensure that the campaigns of the Alliance are effective, while also being prepared to step back to ensure that his colleagues also have an opportunity to develop leadership.

Gill advised the member associations that he currently serves as the vice-president external at the UFV Student Union Society, and a few weeks ago he was also elected as treasurer of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations; he and his colleagues at the UFV Student Union Society envision the role of the vice-president external as being one that should become more directly active in provincial and federal advocacy work.

Member associations caucused, and secret ballots were circulated.

Pursuant to article 7.2 of the bylaws, Gurvir Gill was declared appointed.

b. Election of the Director of Finance & Operations

Nominations were opened for the director of finance & operations.

The Capilano Students' Union nominated Theodore Abbott (arts & sciences representative, Capilano Students' Union), whereupon he offered remarks. Abbott advised that while he cannot speak to his experience in finance and operational work, he can assure the board that he has always done things to the best of his ability.

Abbott is hoping to gain experience, connections, friends, and a greater understanding of the financial and operational workings of a non-profit organization.

Abbott advised that his goals in this position will be focused on the advancement of the organization, and supporting the officers in the impressive work that they are already undertaking. Abbott suggested that if he can emulate the work of the outgoing officers, this in and of itself would be an accomplishment.

Abbott advised that he would attempt to work closely with Andrew Dillman (communications & administrative coordinator) and Christopher Girodat (executive director) to learn the functions of the director of finance & operations role.

The chairperson noted that this role has been vacant since November.

Member associations caucused, and secret ballots were circulated.

Pursuant to article 7.2 of the bylaws, Theodore Abbott was declared appointed.

c. Election of the Director of Campaigns & Research

Nominations were opened for the director of campaigns & research.

The Capilano Students' Union nominated Grace Dupasquier (member-elect, board of governors, Capilano Students' Union), whereupon she offered remarks. Dupasquier noted for members that she has been an advocate for as long as she can remember (as early as grade four, writing to the Minister of Education, and in grade seven, running a successful campaign to have "sports day" reintroduced).

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Dupasquier noted for the members her experience in the development of campaigns. They advised that their style is one of consensus-building. She noted her awareness that while the Capilano Students' Union has had a strong presence at the Alliance, she would ensure that all members benefit from the campaigns work of the Alliance, drawing as much as possible from the experiences of all member associations.

Dupasquier asked to acknowledge the tremendous work of Anna-Elaine Rempel, outgoing director of campaigns & research, and assured the members that she would continue the campaigns and advocacy work started by her.

In response to rising international student tuition, and post-secondary institutions abusing international student tuition fees as revenue generators, Dupasquier advised that they would propose that international student voices need to lead the way. She proposed to change the views of people in government so that they look at international students as people who need to be served, and not as a revenue generation opportunity.

Dupasquier took note, in response to a question about lobbying for changes to the terms and conditions of study permits for international students, reminded members that the Alliance is a provincial advocacy organization. She advised, however, that the province could be encouraged to put pressure on the federal government.

Member associations caucused, and secret ballots were circulated.

Pursuant to bylaw 7.2 of the bylaws, Grace Dupasquier was declared appointed.

5. Consideration of Motions on Notice

SAGM:20190615:01 MOTION

Moved by the CSU / Seconded by the KSA

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership thank Noah Berson and
Anna-Elaine Rempel for their service to the Alliance**

SAGM:20190615:02 MOTION

Moved by the CSU / Seconded by the KSA

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motion be amended to add “, and
Andrew Dillman” after the word “Rempel”**

AMENDMENT CARRIED



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CARRIED (AS AMENDED)

6. Adjournment

The chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.