

Member associations in attendance to business:

- Capilano Students' Union (by Maia Lomelino)
- Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (by Alireza Kamyabi)
- Kwantlen Student Association (by Jeremy Law)
- Langara Students' Union (by Manpreet Kaur)
- University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society (by Jessica Levesque)

Individuals in attendance to business:

- Emily Bridge, president (Capilano Students' Union)
- Grace Dupasquier, chairperson (officer)
- Christopher Girodat, executive director (Capilano Students' Union)
- Alireza Kamyabi, board member (by GSS UBC Vancouver)
- Gurleen Kaur, vice-president finance & services (Capilano Students' Union)
- Manpreet Kaur, board member (by Langara Students' Union)
- Jeremy Law, KPU Tech representative (Kwantlen Student Association)
- Jessica Levesque, board member (by UFV Student Union Society)
- Maia Lomelino, board member (by the Capilano Students' Union)
- Anna-Elaine Rempel, social policy researcher (staff)
- Shanti Scarpetta-Lee, director of research & campaigns (officer)

* denotes partial attendance

1. Call to Order

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:08pm, and a quorum was present.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The chairperson acknowledged that the land on which member associations are gathering today are lands belonging to sovereign nations co-located in British Columbia. The chairperson acknowledged that the dynamics of general meetings – and the use of *Robert's Rules* in formal proceedings such as those taking place at this meeting – have often been weaponized to the exclusion of Indigenous peoples' voices.

The chairperson clarified for member associations that the general meeting is distinct from a meeting of the board, and that the board member designated by a member association is not necessarily a member association's voting delegate.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

SGM-20210211-01: MOTION

Moved by the UFV Student Union Society

Seconded by the Capilano Students' Union

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved

CARRIED

4. Motions on Notice

a. **[Bylaw Amendment re: Alliance's Fee Structure](#)**

SGM-20210211-02: MOTION

Moved by the UFV Student Union Society

Seconded by the Capilano Students' Union

BE IT RESOLVED, as a special resolution, THAT the bylaws be amended

- (a) in bylaw 11.7.1, by replacing the words "ordinary resolution of the Members at the Annual General Meeting" with the phrase "special resolution";
- (b) in bylaw 11.7.3, by replacing the words "ordinary resolution of the Members at the Annual General Meeting" with the phrase "special resolution is passed during a fiscal year altering or";
- (c) by adding a new bylaw 11.7.6, as follows:

The Director of Finance and Operations shall conduct a review of the Fee on at least a triennial basis, and present the results of that review, including any recommendations for changes to the Fee, to the Directors for referral, if they think appropriate, to the Members.
- (d) by adding a new bylaw 11.7.7, as follows:

The Fee for a given fiscal year shall be payable within 30 days of the start of that fiscal year or, in the case of a new Member, within 30 days of having been admitted as a Member.

(e) by adding a new bylaw 11.7.8, as follows:

In the case of a new Member having been admitted during a fiscal year, then the Fee due to the Alliance shall be pro-rated accordingly.

CARRIED (BY TWO-THIRDS)

b. Bylaw Amendment re: Membership Structure

SGM-20210211-03: MOTION

Moved by the Capilano Students' Union

Moved by the UFV Student Union Society

BE IT RESOLVED, as a special resolution, THAT the bylaws be amended by inserting a new bylaw after bylaw 3 as follows, and by renumbering the remaining bylaws accordingly:

- 4.1 A Student Association may apply in writing to the Board to become an Observer of the Alliance, and shall become an Observer on acceptance of their application by a resolution of the Board. Any application must be made on the official letterhead of the Student Association, and must warrant to the Alliance that the Student Association has undertaken all internal approvals necessary to apply.
- 4.2 An Observer shall have the following privileges:
 - 4.2.1 An Observer shall have access to participate in each campaign and student leadership development opportunity of the Alliance, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
 - 4.2.2 An Observer shall have the right to attend General Meetings of the Alliance with the right to speak, but without the right to vote, move, nor second motions, nor the right to be present during in camera or confidential sessions of any General Meeting.

4.2.3 An Observer shall be invited to designate one (1) non-voting representative to the attend meetings of the Board with the right to speak, but without the right to vote, move, nor second motions, nor the right to be present during in camera or confidential sessions of the Board.

4.2.4 The Board may set additional privileges for Observers, except that the Board must not extend the right to vote for an Observer in any meetings or proceedings of the Alliance, including in the case of any of its committees.

4.3 An Observer shall pay to the Alliance a membership fee that is one-half of the fee that is payable by a Member under bylaw 11.7.1 subject to the same calculations, terms, conditions, and due dates as apply to the fee payable by a Member under these bylaws.

4.4 A Student Association may be an Observer for a maximum of twenty-four months, following which they must apply to be a Member of the Alliance and, if not, then they shall cease to be an Observer, and shall be ineligible to apply for Observer status again until twelve months have elapsed.

CARRIED (BY TWO-THIRDS)

SGM-20210211-04: MOTION

Moved by the Kwantlen Student Association

Seconded by the Capilano Students' Union

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be recessed for five minutes

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 4:26pm.

The meeting resumed at 4:40pm.

c. Changes to Membership Fees

SGM-20210211-05: MOTION

Moved by the UFV Student Union Society

Seconded by the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver

BE IT RESOLVED, as a special resolution, THAT membership fees be set, pursuant to article 11.7.1 of the bylaws, as follows:

- (a) Effective June 1 2021, \$1.39 per full-time equivalent student for undergraduate student societies, and \$0.70 for graduate student societies;**
- (b) Effective June 1, 2022, \$2.09 per full-time equivalent student for undergraduate student societies, and \$1.05 for graduate student societies;**

with respect to the provisions of bylaws 11.7.2, 11.7.4, and 11.7.5, and thereafter, indexed to the Consumer Price Index pursuant to bylaw 11.7.3

A representative of the Langara Students' Union noted for members that their student association's board of directors does not agree to an increase in the Alliance's fees, and that they would be opting out of additional fees. The Langara Students' Union advised that they could not discuss some of their fee increase concerns publicly.

In response to a question, a representative of the Langara Students' Union noted that their organization acknowledges the volume of work that the Alliance of British Columbia Students does, but that their board members are not in favour of the fee increase.

The chairperson noted that, after having sent them the second and third scenarios that would allow the Langara Students' Union to phase in a membership fee increase more slowly, the executive director of the Langara Students' Union had informed the Alliance that the Langara Students' Union's representatives would better explain the reason for opposing the fee increase at the general meeting. The Langara Students' Union representative advised that, if a fee increase is ordered, then the Langara Students' Union might withdraw its membership in the Alliance.

In response to questions about why the Langara Students' Union opposes the proposed increase to the fee, the representative advised that they do not know why the board opposes the membership fee increases, and that this was all that they can say.

The chairperson noted that if the Langara Students' Union leaves the Alliance as a member association, then the total financial position of the Alliance, even were the Langara Students' Union to withdraw membership, would – overall – improve.

A representative of the UFV Student Union Society advised that while their member association would be prepared to offer relief to a member association that might be experiencing financial challenges precluding payment of the full fee, given that the apparent reasons for the Langara Students' Union's opposition appear to be more about priorities than capacity, they would be in favour of fully committing to the fee increase.

In response to a question, the chairperson informed member associations that there are cash reserves available in the accumulated surplus that could cushion deficits for several years while membership fees are increased in gradual steps, and reviewed a number of other financial and fee level scenarios. A member association requested that the chairperson distributed written confirmation of the scenarios they had shared.

At 4:58pm, Trevor Morten joined the meeting.

Member associations discussed the potential for introducing a third membership fee increase step (of \$2.09 per full-time equivalent student to \$2.65 per equivalent student) and the officers' hesitation to request that a third step be seriously considered, including an acknowledgement of the work that board members had done at their member associations to encourage support for the originally-presented proposal.

In response to a question, member associations were provided information about the grant revenue performance of the Alliance over the previous three fiscal years, and member associations discussed whether the Alliance's revenues would be stable enough to proceed even if it means the loss of a member association.

Member associations discussed several considerations with respect to membership retention and the relationship between the Alliance and the Langara Students' Union, and the chairperson acknowledged that this has been challenging for the board member designated to the Alliance by the Langara Students' Union.

SGM-20210211-06: MOTION

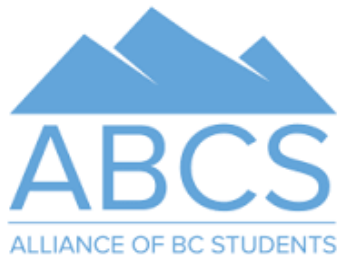
Moved by Capilano Students' Union

Seconded by UFV Student Union Society

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the previous question be now put
CARRIED (BY TWO-THIRDS)**

CARRIED (BY TWO-THIRDS)

Representatives of the member associations offered thanks to the Alliance's officers and staff for the work that they had contributed to the proposal leading to the capacity-changing resolutions of the membership adopted earlier this day. In return, the chairperson offered thanks to the member associations and, in particular, thanks to the student leaders who had acted as ambassadors for the organization.



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Minutes • Special General Meeting
February 11, 2021 | 4pm
Via Videoconference

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.