

Member associations in attendance for the purpose of business:

- **Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver** (by Alireza Kamyabi)
- **Langara Students' Union** (by Manpreet Kaur)
- **Capilano Students' Union** (by Shanti Scarpetta-Lee)
- **Kwantlen Student Association*** (by Palwinder Singh)
- **University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society** (by Andrew Stahl)

Guests in attendance:

- Emily Bridge, president (Capilano Students' Union)
- Andrew Dillman, former executive director
- Grace Dupasquier, director of campaigns & advocacy
- Gurvir Gill, chairperson
- Christopher Girodat, volunteer secretary
- Sara Hosseinirad, member (Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver)
- Jeremy Law, director of finance & operations
- Trevor Morten, fine & applied arts representative (Capilano Students' Union)
- David Piraquive, member (Kwantlen Student Association)

* denotes partial attendance

1. Call to Order

Pursuant to a decision of the board, Anna-Elaine took the chair, and called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The chair acknowledged that they are calling into this meeting of the Alliance of BC Students board from the traditional, ancestral, and unceded homelands of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people, and invited participants to acknowledge lands as well.

The chair invited member associations to consider how the continued oppression of Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour, including the disruption of Indigenous knowledge-keeping, continues to take place in the context of a public health emergency.

Minutes • Semi-annual General Meeting
May 2, 2020 | 12pm
Via Videoconference

The chair invited officers, member delegates, and guests to make introductions.

3. Overview of Meeting Procedures

The chair provided a brief overview of the Alliance's general meeting procedures. In particular, the chair provided an outline of how the officer elections would take place.

- The chair advised that they would ask for a mover and second on a motion to open nominations for each role one after the other and then, once nominations are closed, they would then take nominations for each role.
- As nominations for each role are closed, the chair would invite

Palwinder Singh arrived at 12:28pm.

ABCS-20200502-01: MOTION

Moved by UFVSUS / Seconded by the CSU

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following rules apply to officer elections at this semi-annual general meeting:

- a. once the question-and-answer period has closed following nominations, the polls shall be open for not longer than 10 minutes, during which time delegates may caucus and cast ballots; and**
- b. in the event that only one candidate is nominated for an officer position, a vote shall take place via "yes" or "no" ballot on whether or not that candidate is successfully elected**

CARRIED

4. Presentation of Annual Reports by Outgoing Officers

a. Annual Report of the Chairperson

The chairperson provided a verbal report.

In the context of the year as a whole, the chairperson described it as a "roller coaster ride," and that they were grateful for the opportunities that he and other member associations' delegates had in doing advocacy for 80,000 students.

Minutes • Semi-annual General Meeting
May 2, 2020 | 12pm
Via Videoconference

The chairperson suggested that additional work could be done to get more engagement from board members and other student leaders from member associations, to build community among people who understand the unique work that is done in this sector.

The chairperson lauded student leaders for the substantial victory this year in pressing the provincial government to introduce needs-based grants, which can be directly connected to the advocacy work undertaken by the Alliance over the last seven years. The chairperson drew attention to the multi-year nature of student advocacy, despite the usual 12-month terms within which a student leader does their work.

The chairperson noted the continued development of the relationship between the Alliance and various government policy-making areas, including the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training in terms of day-to-day advocacy, and the Office of the Speaker in terms of how to make the legislature more accessible to students.

The chairperson noted that they had attended several announcements for investments in students during the term, including investments in Indigenous students in the culinary arts and the BC Access Grant, and noted the work that they had done on the working group for Here2Talk, a 24/7 mental health support for students.

The chairperson acknowledged the collaboration that took place over the course of the year with the Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver, the Simon Fraser Student Society, the University of Victoria Students' Society, and the BC Federation of Students.

The chairperson noted that work is being undertaken to put additional resources into managing the internal and financial administration of the Alliance, and that the results so far look promising in terms of setting up sustainable structures and systems.

In response to a question, the chairperson advised that the Alliance may need to refocus how it commits staff time, in light of low membership fee revenue, and the heavy dependence of the Alliance on grant funding.

b. Annual Report of the Director of Research and Campaigns

The director of research & campaigns presented a verbal report.

The director of research & campaigns noted that they had learned a lot during their term of office as director of research & campaigns. They noted that the Alliance continues to

“punch above its weight,” and the sense of elation they felt when it was announced that the Alliance had won the introduction of the BC Access Grant.

The director of research & campaigns advised that the Alliance appears to have built a stronger relationship with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training – however, more work can be done to continue to strengthen that relationship.

The director of research & campaigns advised that there is no end to the advocacy work that can be done to improve conditions for students, including expanding BC Access Grants to graduate students; eliminating health care fees for international students; and improving the Here2Talk service to provide continuity of care for students in crisis.

The director of research & campaigns noted recent achievements in the development position statements to allow the Alliance to more nimbly do advocacy for students, and to come to the table faster. They also noted that the Alliance has been a part of a number of very complex open letter campaigns to advance students’ interests, and this has required significant collaboration with member and non-member associations.

In response to a question, the director of research & campaigns advised that a major focus this year was building community connections that may not have appeared at first glance to be student-focused, but which supported student advocacy work – for example, partnering with the BC Health Coalition on international health care fees.

The director of research & campaigns noted that the next year is unpredictable due to the public health emergency. Both government and opposition policy-makers seem to acknowledge the Alliance as taking a respectful and practical approach, and this keeps the door open when the Alliance is making an ask for students.

c. Annual Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

The director of finance & operations presented a verbal report.

The director of finance & operations celebrated the appointment of Rooks Bookkeeping to support the Alliance’s financial processes, and noted that work had been done with the Canada Revenue Agency to ensure that the Alliance’s accounts are in good standing.

The director of finance & operations thanked the BC Government & Services Employees’ Union for its grant support. They noted continued work to identify potential grant

applications, and noted continuing internal discussions on changes to the membership fee structure of the Alliance to ensure that the organization's budget is sustainable.

5. Officer Elections

a. Election of the Chairperson

ABCS-20200502-02: MOTION

Moved by CSU / Seconded by UBC GSS

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for Chairperson be opened
CARRIED**

The Capilano Students' Union nominated Grace Dupasquier.

ABCS-20200502-03: MOTION

Moved by the CSU / Seconded by the LSU

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for Chairperson be closed
CARRIED**

Grace Dupasquier offered a candidate's statement.

Palwinder Singh left the meeting at 1:10pm.

Pursuant to a motion adopted earlier, the chair declared polls open at 1:11pm, for an electronic ballot as to whether or not Grace Dupasquier should be declared elected, and the meeting stood at ease to allow delegates to caucus and vote as needed.

Palwinder Singh rejoined the meeting at 1:11pm.

The chair declared Grace Dupasquier elected as chairperson.

b. Election of the Director of Research and Campaigns

ABCS-20200502-04: MOTION

Moved by the CSU / Seconded by the LSU

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for Director of Research and Campaigns be
opened
CARRIED**

The Capilano Students' Union nominated Shanti Scarpetta-Lee.

Hearing no objections to doing so, the chair declared the close of nominations.

Shanti Scarpetta-Lee offered a candidate's statement.

In response to a question, Scarpetta-Lee advised that they would emphasize listening to the wishes of member associations in identifying voices that are not represented at the table, and emphasized that the Alliance's executive reports to the membership.

In response to a question, Scarpetta-Lee advised that they would seek the input of member associations to build the priorities of the Alliance's for the ensuing year.

Pursuant to a motion adopted earlier, the chair declared polls open at 1:28pm, for an electronic ballot as to whether or not Shanti Scarpetta-Lee should be declared elected, and the meeting stood at ease to allow delegates to caucus and vote as needed.

The chair declared Shanti Scarpetta-Lee elected as director of research & campaigns.

c. Election of the Director of Finance and Operations

ABCS-20200502-05: MOTION

Moved by the CSU / Seconded by UBC GSS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations for Director of Finance and Operations be opened

CARRIED

The Capilano Students' Union nominated Trevor Morten.

Hearing no objections to doing so, the chair declared the close of nominations.

Trevor Morten offered a candidate's statement.

In response to a question, Morten advised they believe that their experience as chair of the Capilano Students' Union governance committee, and as a member of the Alliance's internal review committee, their passion for learning, and their interest in procedural details would be significant assets in the role of director of finance & operations.

In response to a question to both the candidate and anyone else who had previously performed the functions of the director of finance & operations, the director of research

Minutes • Semi-annual General Meeting
May 2, 2020 | 12pm
Via Videoconference

& campaigns advised that they believed that a person could learn the ins-and-outs of the role without necessarily having financial experience; Morten advised that while they thought they might need assistance, they believed that they would be able to pick it up.

In response to a question, Morten advised that they believe that their expected academic workload will be reasonable enough to dedicate significant time to the role of director of finance & operations if they are successfully elected.

Pursuant to a motion adopted earlier, the chair declared polls open at 1:51pm, for an electronic ballot as to whether or not Trevor Morten should be declared elected, and the meeting stood at ease to allow delegates to caucus and vote as needed.

The chair declared Trevor Morten elected as director of finance & operations.

The chairperson advised that board orientation planning is underway, and requested that member associations ensure that the nominations to the Alliance's board of directors are made on member association letterhead before June 1; they also advised that the board would soon need to name a third bank signing officer. The chairperson advised that member associations can expect to receive correspondence soon.

In response to a question, the chairperson advised that they would welcome officers-elect to start performing some of the basic responsibilities of the roles early.

6. Considerations of Motions on Notice

There were no motions for which previous notice was given.

7. Adjournment

Having no further business, the chair declared the meeting to be adjourned at 2:07pm.