

MINUTES

82nd Semi Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students
Thursday, July 14 to Sunday, July 17, 2022

OPENING PLENARY – 7:00 PM Thursday, July 14

19:15 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chirino.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Sam and Les George, from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, welcomed delegates with a prayer and song. Delegates were encouraged to continuously engage in learning about the history and advocacy of the Indigenous peoples, where this meeting took place, and where their institutions are located.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Proxy
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Coast Mountain Students' Union	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Present
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 21 Justice Institute Students' Union	Present
Local 22 Quest University Students' Association	Absent

Quorum was declared to have been achieved.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER AND REVIEW OF PLENARY PROCEDURES

Chirino explained that the plenary was the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting and that a Plenary Speaker was responsible for chairing the plenary sessions. She states that the Executive Committee was recommending that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker for the general meeting. She said Hashemi had a long history of involvement with the Federation, and extensive experience chairing general and board meetings for students' unions and other organisations.

2022/07:01 MOTION

Local 14/Local 15

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 82nd Semi-Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2022/07:02 MOTION

Local 15/Local 16

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for the 82nd Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2022/07:03 MOTION

Local 21/Local 20

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 82nd Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

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6. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Hashemi provided a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order—the system of meeting rules and procedures that the Federation employs for plenary sessions, general meeting committee meetings, and caucus meetings.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Reid said that the Federation strives to create an environment at its general meetings that is free of harassment. She said that Internal Affairs Policy Section G states that at each general meeting of the Federation, a Grievance Resolution Committee is struck and that plenary ratifies its members, one being Federation staff, and two members that are selected by delegates.

Reid provided a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy and informed delegates of where they can find the contact information for the Federation's current Grievance Resolution Committee members.

c. Presentation by the Staff Relations Officer

Chairperson Chirino, who serves as the Federation's Staff Relations Officer, provided a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of Federation employees at general meetings.

7. ADOPTION OF 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2022/07:04 **MOTION**
Local 13/Local 10

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

8. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEES

a. Striking of General Meeting Committees

2022/07:05 **MOTION**
Local 4/Local 5

Be it resolved that a Campaigns and Government Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Organisational Development Committee, and Services Committee be struck.

CARRIED

b. Adoption of Committee and Forum Agendas

2022/07:06 **MOTION**
Local 2/Local 16

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Organisational Development Committee and Services Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

9. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Chirino and Secretary-Treasurer Kootenayoo provided an overview of work undertaken by the Executive Committee since the previous annual general meeting.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

Hashemi said that the following motions had been submitted with due notice for consideration at the meeting and would require a seconder.

- 2022/07:07 MOTION**
Local 6/Local 14
Whereas the Federation is comprised of Locals from around the province; and
Whereas the Federation seeks to bring students together and build a common framework for communication and the exchange of ideas; and
Whereas those working as representatives of equity deserving groups often face and work on similar issues; and
Whereas the Federation having space for members of equity-deserving groups to share and communicate would be beneficial to their work; therefore
Be it resolved that the Federation be directed to investigate and develop a communication tool for equity-seeking groups around the province to communicate on issues year-round.
- 2022/07:08 MOTION TO REFER**
Local 10/Local 6
Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N01 be referred to the Organisational Development Committee.
- CARRIED**
- 2022/07:07 REFERRED**
- 2022/07:09 MOTION**
Local 6/ Local 14
Whereas the United Nations defines access to contraceptives as a basic human right; and
Whereas Canadian contraceptive care providers identify the cost as the most significant barrier to accessing contraceptives; and
Whereas more than 25% of young adults do not consistently use contraceptive methods due to those financial barriers; and
Whereas 1 in 5 women in Canada experience an unwanted pregnancy; and
Whereas unwanted pregnancy can derail life, limit access to education, cause mental health issues, and create more poverty which causes a significant impact to our health and social service systems; and
Whereas AccessBC is a campaign urging the government to implement universal no-cost prescription contraceptives immediately with the intention to make sure the policy is as expansive as possible; and
Whereas AccessBC has been endorsed by 31 municipalities across BC; and
Whereas a goal of AccessBC is to hold the provincial government accountable for their 2020 election promise of making prescription contraceptives free which was included in Health Minister Dix's mandate letter; therefore
Be it resolved that the Federation officially endorse the AccessBC campaign; and
Be it further resolved that the Federation work with AccessBC to create campaign materials that member locals can use to engage members about this campaign.
- 2022/07:10 MOTION TO REFER**
Local 10/Local 6
Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N02 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.
- CARRIED**
- 2022/07:09 REFERRED**
- 2022/07:11 MOTION**
Local 6/ Local 14
Be it resolved that the Federation research the barriers and lack of funding for new immigrants and refugees to access post-secondary education; and
Be it further resolved that based on the research the Federation join an existing campaign or develop their own campaign that would advocate for the removal of those barriers.

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2022/07:12 MOTION TO REFER

Local 10/Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N03 be referred to the Campaigns Committee.

CARRIED

2022/07:11 REFERRED

2022/07:13 MOTION

Local 12/Local 14

Be it resolved that any references in Federation bylaws or communications to UBC Students' Union Okanagan be referred to as Students' Union Okanagan of UBC.

2022/07:14 MOTION TO REFER

Local 10/Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N04 be referred to the Organisational Development Committee.

CARRIED

2022/07:13 REFERRED

2022/07:15 MOTION

Local 10/ Local 14

Whereas the Federation undertook a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion audit with Bakau consulting that was completed in April 2021; and

Whereas one of the recommendations of the audit was to investigate options to increase the diversity of the executive committee; and

Whereas this investigation can also be useful for member locals investigating diversity and representation within their own board structures; therefore

Be it resolved that the executive committee investigate changes to the make-up of the at-large executive to increase diversity; and

Be it further resolved that the Executive present a proposed change to opening plenary of the 41st Annual General Meeting.

2022/07:16 MOTION TO REFER

Local 10/Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N05 be referred to the Organisational Development Committee.

CARRIED

2022/07:15 REFERRED

2022/07:17 MOTION

Local 15/Local 14

Whereas, as per Federation Select Standing Resolutions Section 4.1, per diem guidelines for meetings and events on behalf of the Federation is at the rate of \$52 for each full day pro-rated by meals; and

Whereas the Canadian Revenue Agency calculates and updates accepted rates for per diems each year, which accounts for current market rates for food and related service; and

Whereas that rate is currently \$98.45, creating a disparity of reimbursement for member local representatives who attend meetings and events on behalf of the Federation; therefore

Be it resolved that the Select Standing Resolutions Section 4.1 shall be amended as follows:

1. Per Diem Guidelines

- ~~a. A per diem of \$52 shall be paid to Executive Committee members attending an entire, day-long Executive Committee meeting.~~
- ~~b. When attending 'out of town' meetings or events on behalf of the Federation, members shall be paid a per diem of \$52.00 for each full day of the meeting or event unless meals were provided.~~
- ~~c. When travelling to attend a meeting or event on behalf of the Federation members shall be paid \$52.00 for each day spent travelling pro-rated for partial days.~~

- d. ~~When pro-rating a full day per diem, the following calculation shall be used:~~
~~Breakfast: \$11~~
~~Lunch: \$18~~
~~Dinner: \$23~~

1. Per Diem Guidelines

- a. Per diem shall be paid to Executive Committee members and observers attending meetings or events on behalf of the Federation at the rate set by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) in April of each calendar year.
- b. When travelling and attending meetings or events that equal to or over eight (8) hours, a full per diem is provided to members – as set by CRA.
- c. When travelling and attending meetings or events that are equal to or less than four (4) hours, the per diem shall be 50% of the current CRA rate.
- d. Federation meetings or events where meals are provided, such as General meetings or Skills Development Symposium, will be excluded from per diem reimbursements outlined above.

2022/07:18 MOTION TO REFER

Local 10/Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N06 be referred to the Organisational Development Committee.

CARRIED

2022/07:17 REFERRED

2022/07:19 MOTION

Local 15/Local 14

Whereas, as per Federation Select Standing Resolutions, Section 4.2 approved travel by personal vehicle is currently reimbursed at \$0.40/km; and

Whereas, the Canadian Revenue Agency calculates and updates accepted rates for personal vehicle travel each year, which takes in account up-to-date costs of operating personal vehicles; and

Whereas that rate is currently \$0.61/km, creating a disparity of reimbursement for member local representatives who perform duties for the Federation, with the use of personal vehicles; therefore

Be it resolved, the Select Standing Resolution Section 4.2, shall be amended as follows:

2. ~~Use of Private Vehicle~~

~~Federation members using private vehicles for travel on behalf of the Federation shall be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.40 per kilometre for fuel and insurance costs.~~

2. Use of Private Vehicle

The pre-approved use of a personal vehicle for Federation business will receive reimbursement rates that match the rates set by the Canadian Revenue Agency, published in April of each calendar year.

2022/07:20 MOTION TO REFER

Local 10/Local 6

Be it resolved that Motion-2022/07:N07 be referred to the Organisational Development Committee.

CARRIED

2022/07:19 REFERRED

11. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patigdas made a series of logistical announcements.

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12. RECESS

2022/07:21 MOTION TO RECESS

Local 10/Local 1

Be it resolved that the meeting recess until Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 10:00am.

CARRIED

20:23 the meeting recessed.

CLOSING PLENARY – 10:00 AM, Sunday, July 17

10:10 the meeting was called to order by Plenary Speaker Ashkon Hashemi.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL UNIONS

Local 01 Okanagan College Students' Union	Present
Local 02 Selkirk College Students' Union	Present
Local 04 College of New Caledonia Students' Union	Present
Local 05 Thompson Rivers University Students' Union	Present
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan	Proxy
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Coast Mountain Students' Union	Present
Local 15 North Island Students' Union	Proxy
Local 16 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College	Present
Local 17 Camosun College Student Society	Present
Local 20 Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 21 Justice Institute Students' Union	Present
Local 22 Quest University Students' Association	Absent

Quorum was declared to have been achieved.

2. PRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' CAUCUS REPORT

Indigenous Students' Representative Cunningham reported on the work of the Caucus during the general meeting.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2022/07:22 MOTION

Local 14/Local 1

Be it resolved that the 2022-23 budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2022/07:07 MOTION

Local 6/Local 14

Whereas the Federation is comprised of Locals from around the province; and

Whereas the Federation seeks to bring students together and build a common framework for communication and the exchange of ideas; and

Whereas those working as representatives of equity deserving groups often face and work on similar issues; and

Whereas the Federation having space for members of equity-deserving groups to share and communicate would be beneficial to their work; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation be directed to investigate and develop a communication tool for equity-seeking groups around the province to communicate on issues year-round.

CARRIED

2022/07:13 MOTION

Local 12/Local 14

Be it resolved that any references in Federation bylaws or communications to UBC Students' Union Okanagan be referred to as Students' Union Okanagan of UBC.

CARRIED

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2022/07:15

MOTION

Local 10/Local 14

Whereas the Federation undertook a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion audit with Bakau consulting that was completed in April 2021; and

Whereas one of the recommendations of the audit was to investigate options to increase the diversity of the executive committee; and

Whereas this investigation can also be useful for member locals investigating diversity and representation within their own board structures; therefore

Be it resolved that the executive committee investigate changes to the make-up of the at-large executive to increase diversity; and

Be it further resolved that the Executive present a proposed change to opening plenary of the 41st Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

2022/07:17

MOTION

Local 15/Local 14

Whereas, as per Federation Select Standing Resolutions Section 4.1, per diem guidelines for meetings and events on behalf of the Federation is at the rate of \$52 for each full day pro-rated by meals; and

Whereas the Canadian Revenue Agency calculates and updates accepted rates for per diems each year, which accounts current market rates for food and related service; and

Whereas that rate is currently \$98.45, creating a disparity of reimbursement for member local representatives who attend meetings and events on behalf of the Federation; therefore

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- ~~g. When travelling to attend a meeting or event on behalf of the Federation members shall be paid \$52.00 for each day spent travelling pro-rated for partial days.~~
- ~~h. When pro-rating a full day per diem, the following calculation shall be used:
Breakfast: \$11
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- d. Federation meetings or events where meals are provided, such as General meetings or Skills Development Symposium, will be excluded from per diem reimbursements outlined above.

CARRIED

2022/07:19

MOTION

Local 15/Local 14

Whereas, as per Federation Select Standing Resolutions, Section 4.2 approved travel by personal vehicle is currently reimbursed at \$0.40/km; and

Whereas, the Canadian Revenue Agency calculates and updates accepted rates for personal vehicle travel each year, which takes in account up-to-date costs of operating personal vehicles; and

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Be it resolved, the Select Standing Resolution Section 4.2, shall be amended as follows:

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2. Use of Private Vehicle

The pre-approved use of a personal vehicle for Federation business will receive reimbursement rates that match the rates set by the Canadian Revenue Agency, published in April of each calendar year.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Services Coordinator Gullins reported on the work of the Committee during the general meeting.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

2022/07:09

MOTION

Local 6/Local 14

Whereas the United Nations defines access to contraceptives as a basic human right; and

Whereas Canadian contraceptive care providers identify the cost as the most significant barrier to accessing contraceptives; and

Whereas more than 25% of young adults do not consistently use contraceptive methods due to those financial barriers; and

Whereas 1 in 5 women in Canada experience an unwanted pregnancy; and

Whereas unwanted pregnancy can derail life, limit access to education, cause mental health issues, and create more poverty which causes a significant impact to our health and social service systems; and

Whereas AccessBC is a campaign urging the government to implement universal no-cost prescription contraceptives immediately with the intention to make sure the policy is as expansive as possible; and

Whereas AccessBC has been endorsed by 31 municipalities across BC; and

Whereas a goal of AccessBC is to hold the provincial government accountable for their 2020 election promise of making prescription contraceptives free which was included in Health Minister Dix's mandate letter; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation officially endorse the AccessBC campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation work with AccessBC to create campaign materials that member locals can use to engage members about this campaign.

CARRIED

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2022/07:11

MOTION

Local 6/Local 14

Be it resolved that the Federation research the barriers and lack of funding for new immigrants and refugees to access post-secondary education; and

Be it further resolved that based on the research the Federation join an existing campaign or develop their own campaign that would advocate for the removal of those barriers.

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patigdas made a series of logistical announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

2022/07:23

MOTION

Local 13/Local 17

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

10:34: the meeting adjourned.