

# MINUTES

84th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Federation of Students  
Friday, July 7, 2023 • Zoom

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## PLENARY – 1:00 PM, Friday, July 7, 2023

01:06 the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chirino.

### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Indigenous Caucus Chairperson Treloar introduced elder Sam George and his brother Les George from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation who welcomed delegates with a song.

### 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	Absent
Local 06 Douglas Students' Union	Present
Local 10 Emily Carr Students' Union	Present
Local 12 Students' Union Okanagan of UBC	Present
Local 13 Vancouver Island University Students' Union	Present
Local 14 Coast Mountain Students' Union	Absent
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 Student 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

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. They said the Executive Committee was recommending that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker for the general meeting. They said that Hashemi had a long history of involvement with the Federation, and extensive experience chairing general and board meetings for students' unions and other organisations.

#### 2023/07:01 MOTION

Local 4/Local 13

Be it resolved that Ashkon Hashemi be ratified as the plenary speaker of the 84th Semi-Annual General Meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 4. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

#### 2023/07:02 MOTION

Local 17/Local 4

Be it resolved that the plenary agenda for the 84th Semi-Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 5. 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.

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### **b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting**

Researcher 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 G) states that at each Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Federation a Grievance Resolution Committee is struck and that plenary ratifies its members, one being Federation staff and two being members that are selected by delegates in Opening Plenary. This committee will stay in effect until the next Semi-Annual General Meeting.

An election was conducted to appoint two delegates to serve on the Grievance Resolution Committee for the 2023-24 year.

Local 16 delegate Brynn Joyce was nominated. Brynn Joyce accepted the nomination.

Local 1 delegate Megan Gray was nominated. Megan Gray accepted the nomination.

Local 20 delegate Rozanna Rosarydasan was nominated. Rozanna Rosarydasan accepted the nomination.

Local 2 delegate Payton Maffioli was nominated. Payton Maffioli accepted the nomination.

An election was held.

**2023/07:03      MOTION**

Local 4/Local 17

Be it resolved that Local 1 delegate Megan Gray and Local 16 delegate Brynn Joyce be appointed as members to the Grievance Resolution Committee.

**CARRIED**

### **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.

## **6. ADOPTION OF 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**2023/07:04      MOTION**

Local 4/Local 1

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## **7. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Chirino, Directors at-Large Reinbold and Dliir, Indigenous Caucus Chairperson Treloar and Secretary-Treasurer Niiikoi provided an overview of work undertaken by the Executive Committee since the previous annual general meeting.

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **a. Consideration of Motions Served by Member Local Unions**

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

**2023/07:05      MOTION N01**

Local 10/Local 15

Whereas the Federation hosts three meetings during the summer semester: the Skills Development Symposium, an Executive Committee Meeting, and an Annual General Meeting; and

Whereas resources could be better spent in the summer semester developing services, campaign strategy, and government relations work; and

Whereas these meetings take up an immense amount of financial resources but are only available for a small selection of members; and

Whereas technology exists that can allow for more regular connection that can be more inclusive without being cost prohibitive; and

Whereas it is uncommon for an organisation to hold two general meetings every year.

Be it resolved that the Federation hold one General Meeting per calendar year; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw III, be amended as follows:

### BYLAW III

## General Meetings

### 3.1 Types of General Meetings

There shall be ~~two~~ (2) types of general meetings:

- a. Annual General Meeting; and
- ~~b. Semi-annual General Meeting; and~~
- b.** Special General Meeting.

### 3.2 Scheduling of Annual and Semi-Annual General Meetings

~~The annual general meetings will be scheduled by the Executive Committee annually between January 1 and February 15; and~~

~~b. The semi-annual general meeting will be held annually between July 15 and August 31.~~

### 3.3 Scheduling of Special General Meetings

Special general meetings may be scheduled by:

- a. resolution of the Executive Committee; or
- ~~b. petition signed by more than fifty per cent (50%) of the member local unions presented to an Executive Committee meeting directing the Executive Committee to immediately schedule a special general meeting to occur within the succeeding five (5) weeks.~~

### 3.4 Setting of Agendas for General Meetings

The agendas for general meetings shall be prepared by the Executive Committee subject to the following conditions:

- a. The following business will be included on the agenda of the annual general meeting:
  - ~~i. a verbal report of the Executive Committee;~~
  - i.** presentation of the report of the Auditors; and
  - ii.** appointment of auditors for the ensuing year.
- ~~b. The following business will be included on the agenda of the semi-annual general meeting:~~
  - iii.** presentation of the report of the Executive Committee; and
  - iv.** presentation of year-to-date financial statements **and budget; and**
  - ~~iii. presentation of a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year.~~

### 3.5 Notice of Annual and Semi-Annual General Meetings

Notice for an annual or semi-annual general meeting shall be deemed to have been given by:

- a. the delivery, no later than seven (7) weeks prior to the annual ~~and semi-annual~~ general meetings, of a letter to include, but not to be limited to, the following:
  - i. date of the general meeting;
  - ii. location of the general meeting;
  - iii. deadline for the submission of Constitution and Bylaw amendments; and
  - iv. deadline for the submission of Open Session Proposals.

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- b. the delivery to be no later than (3) weeks prior to the general meeting, of the agenda for the general meeting as prepared by the Executive Committee or set out by a petition.

### 3.6 Quorum for General Meetings

The quorum required for a general meeting shall be more than fifty per cent (50%), but never less than three (3), of the member local unions, present or by proxy.

### 3.7 Voting at General Meetings

- a. All resolutions voted on within general meetings shall be decided by majority vote, unless otherwise specified by the Bylaws or by the Society Act of British Columbia.
- b. Abstentions on resolutions shall not be considered within the determination of the outcome of any resolution.
- c. The Chair of the general meeting shall not be able to cast a deciding vote in the event of an equality of votes cast.

### 3.8 Proxies

Proxies will be allowed at all general meetings of the Federation subject to the following provisions:

- a. a member local union, not having a delegation at a general meeting, may designate another member local union's delegation as its proxy by delivering to the Executive Committee a letter:
  - i. to include the wording of the duly recorded motion of the board of directors designating the member local union's delegation as its proxy;
  - ii. written on its letterhead stationery; and
  - iii. signed by at least (2) officers/directors of the member local union;
- b. a member local union, having a delegation at a general meeting which is unable to remain until the adjournment of the meeting, may designate another member local union's delegation as its proxy by delivering to the Executive Committee a letter:
  - i. to include the wording of the duly recorded motion of the board of directors designating the member local union's delegation as its proxy;
  - ii. written on its letterhead stationery; and
  - iii. signed by at least two (2) officers/directors of the member local union;
- c. a member local union may hold no more than one (1) proxy vote at any given time;
- d. a member local union may issue no more than one (1) proxy vote for any given time; and
- e. a member local union, having been designated as a proxy for another member local union, may not in turn designate another member local union as the proxy.

### 3.9 Rules of Order for General Meetings

The most recent edition of Robert's rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all general meetings of the Federation.

### 3.10 Delegate Fees

A per delegate fee for attendance at the meeting may be charged to offset associated meeting, travel, and accommodation costs.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section F, item 9b be amended as follows:

#### b. Finance Committee shall:

- i. review the audited financial statements; and
- ii. review the year-to-date actuals of the Federation; and
- iii. review any motions that have been submitted with financial implications to provide recommendations to the Plenary.

~~develop a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year for submission to the final plenary of the semi-annual general meeting; and~~

- ii. ~~assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and/or purchases, including donations.~~

Be it further resolved that any other references to the 'Semi-Annual General Meeting' be struck, if redundant or changed to 'General Meeting' if not redundant

Be it further resolved that the annual Skills Development Weekend be adjusted to add an additional day to the Symposium with the purpose of enabling participants to develop the organisation's advocacy and campaign directions for the coming year.

Be it further resolved that the Federation host six additional sessions, like the ones typically held at General Meetings, throughout the year through a free online meeting open to all members free of charge.

**2023/07:06      MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 10/Local15

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee investigate having an in-person issues-focused conference in the 2023-2024 year that includes Indigenous Caucus, and investigate the feasibility of hosting an in-person conference on a regular basis, that includes Indigenous Caucus.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**2023/07:05      CARRIED**

**b. Consideration of Motions Served by the Executive Committee**

Hashemi said that the following motions were submitted with due notice for consideration at this meeting, and will require a mover and a seconder during opening plenary.

**2023/07:07      MOTION N02**

Local 17/Local 4

Whereas, in February 2023, the Quest University Canada Board of Governors made a decision to suspend regular academic programming following the completion of the 2023 academic year ending in April.

Whereas, as such, the Quest University Students' Association has no more students to represent.

Be it resolved that Bylaw V, Executive Committee Composition be amended to remove the following:

Representative – Local 22 Members

**CARRIED**

**2023/07:08      MOTION N03**

Local 16/Local 2

Whereas the Federation has no internal affairs policy to outline how Locals travel to meetings; and

Whereas having guidelines on expectations for travel can help reduce the workload for the Federation's office and provide clarity to member locals; therefore

Be it resolved that Internal Affairs Policy Section S: Travel to Federation Meetings be adopted as

**TRAVEL TO FEDERATION MEETINGS**

Travel to Federation meetings will be booked using the most economical way that balances travel time, weather conditions, and reasonability. All travel requirements are due by the registration deadline for each event, unless the Local informed the Federation of the need for an extension.

Any travel requests that come in past the registration deadline **without communication between the Local and the Federation** may result in the Local being charged for any additional expense incurred by the Federation because of the late registration.

**In all circumstances the Federation will work with Locals to arrange travel that balances the unique need of the travelers.**

The Federation will book travel times based on the given availability of the traveller at the time of submitting their registration requirements. Any traveller looking to arrive before or after a meeting may change their ticket through the airlines and pay the difference. Requests for alternate travel times will be considered with prior arrangement to booking but will not be guaranteed.

For all travel, the Federation will account for severe or harsh weather that makes travel dangerous. This includes changing travel plans to account for highway or road closures or flash events like flooding, forest fires, or sudden storms. Any change to travel necessary due to changes in conditions will be covered by the Federation. In the winter, travel from the province's interior will be done by air primarily for safety.

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For air travel, the Federation will prioritize direct flights where possible and will give preference to unionized airlines. The Federation will also cover the cost of one checked bag but recommends that the traveller use a carry-on when possible. For baggage expenses to be reimbursed an itemized receipt will be required. Travel from the airport to the meeting site will either be done by hotel shuttles, when available, or ground travel arranged by the Federation. Delegates' return flights will be booked to their departure location, primarily their students' union office location unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Federation prior to booking.

For ground travel the Federation will prioritize the use of vehicles and carpools, where possible. Private vehicles will only be used when there is appropriate insurance, the vehicle is in the appropriate condition, **and an experienced driver is available to drive**. Rental vehicles will be used if they are more affordable, or a private vehicle is not available.

When not possible, the Federation will consider other modes of transportation like public transit, charter buses, or ride-hailing services. For transportation to be reimbursed, an itemized receipt will need to be produced. For ground travel, Locals will not be expected to drive more than five hours, calculated based on departure from the Local's students' union office; if ground travel exceeds five hours, air travel will be primarily selected.

For ferry travel, the Federation will reimburse for car costs based on factors including size of delegation and the travel needs after arrival at the ferry terminals. In some cases, the Federation may cover walk-on ferry tickets but allow for taxi or ride-hailing services upon the arrivals.

The mode of transportation will be chosen based on meeting types as follows:

### **General Meetings/Skills Development Symposium/Consortium Meetings held in Vancouver**

**Lower Mainland:** Delegates will be expected to carpool or use public transit where travel time to the hotel is less than an hour. The Federation will connect with the Local and make the arrangements based on the delegation and where they live. Locals may also be asked to carpool together.

**Southern/Mid Island:** The Federation will work with Locals to arrange ferry travel with the use of a vehicle. Smaller delegations may be asked to walk-on the ferry.

**North Island:** The Federation will typically arrange ground/ferry travel with the use of a vehicle unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.

**Interior:** The Federation will typically arrange ground travel unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so **and an appropriate driver is available**. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel. Locals may also be asked to travel together.

**North:** The Federation will book air travel for delegations. Travel to the airport will be organized in groups, with a preference for modes of transportation that incur the lowest fee.

### **General Meetings/Skills Development Symposium/Consortium Meetings held outside Vancouver**

**Lower Mainland:** The Federation will typically arrange ground travel. Locals may also be asked to carpool together.

**Southern/Mid Island:** The Federation will work with Locals to arrange ferry travel with the use of a vehicle.

**North Island:** The Federation will typically arrange ground/ferry travel with the use of a vehicle unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.

**Interior:** The Federation will typically arrange ground travel unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so **and an appropriate driver is available**. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.

**North:** The Federation will book air travel for delegations. Travel to the airport will be organized in groups, with a preference for modes of transportation that incur the lowest fee.

**Executive Committee Meetings;**

**Held in Vancouver**

**Lower Mainland:** The Federation will arrange the use of public transit where travel time to the hotel is less than an hour. In other circumstances, the Federation will arrange the use of ground travel.

**Southern/Mid Island:** The Federation will work with Locals to arrange ferry travel with the use of a vehicle.

**North Island:** The Federation will work with Locals to arrange ground/ferry travel with the use of a vehicle unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so. **The Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.**

**Interior:** The Federation will book air travel.

**North:** The Federation will book air travel.

**Held outside of Vancouver**

**Lower Mainland:** The Federation will typically arrange ground travel. Locals may also be asked to carpool together.

**Southern/Mid Island:** The Federation will work with Locals to arrange ferry travel with the use of a vehicle.

**North Island:** The Federation will typically arrange ground/ferry travel with the use of a vehicle unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.

**Interior:** The Federation will typically arrange ground travel unless inclement weather makes it unsafe to do so **and an appropriate driver is available**. In the case of smaller delegations, the Federation will select air travel if it is more economical than ground travel.

**North:** The Federation will book air travel for delegations. Travel to the airport will be organized in groups, with a preference for modes of transportation that incur the lowest fee.

Depending on the meeting location, additional considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

If Locals prefer to use a different mode of transportation than listed above, they will only be reimbursed for the total value of the travel method listed above unless pre-approved by the Federation.

All alternative modes of transportation and arrangements must be pre-approved by the Federation to be eligible for reimbursements.

**CARRIED**

**2023/07:09**

**MOTION N04**

Local 13/Local 4

Whereas the at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting changed the structure of the Executive Committee; and

Whereas there are now four at-large directors; and

Whereas some of the election rules should be adjusted for fairness and to respect one local one vote; and

Whereas Election Forum needs to be amended to accommodate more candidates; therefore  
Be it resolved that Bylaw VI Election of the Executive Committee, Section 6.6 be amended as follows:

**6.6 Eligibility**

- a. A nominee for any position on the Executive Committee must be a member of the Federation.
- b. Only one nominee from each local union may run per position**
- c. A nominee for any 'at-large' position on the Executive Committee must be:

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- i. either a delegate at the general meeting at which the at-large position is being filled or in an at-large position on the Executive Committee; and
- ii. **is endorsed by their Local to run for the position; and**
- iii. nominated by at least two (2) member local unions.
- d. There shall be a minimum waiting period of one (1) year before a member who has served three (3) consecutive full terms in any single at-large position on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to run for the same position on the Executive Committee, unless waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of plenary.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy B – Election, Section 6 be amended as follows:

### 6. Nomination Procedure

To be nominated a member must submit to the Electoral Committee:

- a. nomination form signed **by their Local and** two member local unions; and,
- b. a statement of purpose no longer than 300 words.

Be it further resolved that Internal Affairs Policy B – Election, Section 8 be amended as follows:

### 8. ~~Nominees Forum~~ **Electoral Forum**

Prior to voting, an **electoral** forum shall be conducted by the Electoral Committee, in which:

- a. nominees shall be allotted up to five (5) minutes to present opening statements;
- b. **the timer clock shall not commence until the individual has started to speak; and**
- c. **after opening statements, delegates will have no less than one hour to ask questions of the nominees;**
- d. **nominees are required to remain in the room and be available for delegates throughout the allotted time;**
- ~~b. the Electoral Committee shall present up to three (3) questions of candidates for each position;~~
- ~~c. the delegates shall be allotted up to fifteen (15) minutes to ask questions of candidates, subject to the following conditions:~~
  - ~~i. questions shall be directed to all candidates for each position;~~
  - ~~ii. questions shall be no more than forty five (45) seconds in length and shall not include commentary;~~
  - ~~iii. candidates shall have up to two (2) minutes in which to respond to each question;~~
- ~~d. nominees shall be allotted up to two (2) minutes to present closing remarks;~~
- ~~e. the timer clock shall not commence until the individual has started to speak; and~~
- e. candidates with accessibility needs shall receive accommodations as determined by the Electoral Committee.

**CARRIED**

## 9. FINANCES

### Presentation of 2023/24 Budget

Davies presented the draft 2023/24 Budget for discussion and adoption.

2023/07:010

#### MOTION

Local 4/Local 17

Be it resolved that the draft 2023-24 budget be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**



**2023/07:011**

**MOTION N05**

Local 13/Local 2

Whereas the at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting the Executive Committee was instructed to investigate increasing the stipend for the two full-time Directors; and

Whereas cost of living in the Lower Mainland has increased; and

Whereas the wage for the two full-time Directors has not been adjusted since 2015; therefore

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 7: Executive Renumeration item a be amended as follows:

**a. Chairperson**

The Chairperson will receive a stipend of \$65,000 per year with medical, dental and eye wear benefits. The salary shall be adjusted by the Vancouver Consumer Price Index each year on May 1.

**c. Secretary Treasurer**

The Secretary-Treasurer will receive a stipend of \$65,000 per year with medical, dental and eye wear benefits. The salary shall be adjusted by the Vancouver Consumer Price Index each year on May 1.

**2023/07:12**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 13/Local2

Be it further resolved that the annual wages for the two full-time Directors are increased from \$65,000 to \$70,000.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**2023/07:11**

**CARRIED**

**10. CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**Presentation of Draft 2023/24 Advocacy Plan**

The Advocacy Plan forms the basis for the Federation's advocacy work that is reviewed at each General Meeting. The draft 2023/24 Advocacy Plan was presented for discussion and adoption.

**2023/07:13**

**MOTION**

Local 13/Local 2

Be it resolved that the draft 2023-24 Advocacy Plan be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**11. LOGISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Patigdas made a series of logistical announcements.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**2023/07:14**

**MOTION**

Local 20/Local 17

Be it resolved that the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

04:25 the meeting adjourned.

GM-2023 07-Minutes  
JA/ CUPE 2396

**APPROVED**

Minutes were adopted at the general meeting held on January 21, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director-Operations