

Student Association of George Brown College

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 19, 2016

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: St. James – Quiet Lounge

Board of Directors – Voting Members:	
Executive Members:	
Director, Communications & Internal	Vacant
Director, Campus Life	Brittney DaCosta
Director, Education	Tiffany White
Director, Equity	Rajai Refai
Director, Operations	Gemeda Beker
Campus Directors:	
St. James Campus Director	Francis Torres
Casa Loma Campus Director	Naqeeb Omar
Satellite Campus Director	Vacant
Waterfront Campus Director	Vacant
Educational Representatives:	
Business	Ron Greenberg
Community Services	Andrew Murrell
Construction and Engineering Technologies	Vacant
Health Sciences	Vacant
Hospitality and Culinary Arts	Cathy Chung
Liberal and Preparatory Studies	Michelle Harrypaul
Art and Design	Rajat Sood
Constituency Representatives:	
Accessibility Representative	Carolyn Mooney
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Representative	Leslie Van Every
LGBTQ Representative	Sheldon Mortimore
International Student Representative	Gurjot Singh
Women and Trans People Representative	Vacant
Non-Voting Members:	
Executive Director	Lorraine Gajadharsingh
Resources:	
Chair	Alastair Woods
Operations Manager	Faris Lehn
Equity and Advocacy Manager	Rosalyn Miller
George Brown College Representative	Gerard Hayes
Minute Taker	Cathy Chung
Guests:	
CAC Coordinator	Michelle Pettis
CAC Assistant	Steff Pinch
Communications Coordinator	Mick Sweetman
Dialog Reporter - Editor	Shaun Iyer
Dialog Online Editor	Manseeb Khan

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1. Roll Call:

Board of Directors: Voting Members	Present	Absent	Regrets Sent
Executive Members:			
Director, Communications & Internal	N / A		
Director, Campus Life	✓		
Director, Education	✓		
Director, Equity	✓		
Director, Operations	✓		
Campus Directors:			
St. James Campus Director	✓		
Casa Loma Campus Director	✓		
Satellite Campus Director	N / A		
Waterfront Campus Director	N / A		
Educational Representatives:			
Business	✓		
Community Services	✓ (late)		
Construction and Engineering Technologies	N / A		
Health Sciences	N / A		
Hospitality and Culinary Arts	✓		
Liberal and Preparatory Studies			✓
Art and Design	✓		
Constituency Representatives:			
Accessibility	✓		
First Nations, Métis and Inuit	✓		
LGBTQ	✓ (late)		
International Student	✓		
Women and Trans People	N / A		
Non-Voting Members:			
Executive Director	✓		

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Land Recognition Statement:

I would like to take a brief moment before we continue to recognize that as many of us are settlers on this land, it is our collective responsibility to pay respect and recognize that this land is traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and that we are here because this land was occupied. In recognition that this space occupies colonized First Nation territories, and out of respect for the rights of Indigenous people, it is our collective responsibility to honour, protect and sustain this land.

2. Call to Order

Time: 6:09PM

3. Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors accept the agenda as presented. Any amendments to the Agenda should be made at this point in time.

Discussion: The proposal being discussed in item #6 is currently being printed.

Motion to amend the agenda and move item #6 to item #14.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Vote: Carries

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Francis Torres, St. James Campus Director

Vote: Carries

4. Speaking Time

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors, resource persons and guests respect Robert's Rules of Order and, when invited to speak by the Chair, limit their speaking time to 3 minutes per item.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Vote: Carries

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5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Whereas the meeting minutes from the June 27, 2016, board meeting require approval (see Appendix I); and

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors accept the meeting minutes as presented (please refer to Appendix I). Any amendments to the meeting minutes should be made at this time.

Motion to table until the next board meeting.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded by: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Vote: Carries

6. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – No Direct Access Pipeline (NoDAPL)

Whereas Dakota Access is working to build a direct access pipeline that, if built, would carry toxic fracked oil from North Dakota across four states and under the Missouri River, immediately upstream from the Standing Rock Sioux Nation; and

Whereas this direct access pipeline is a threat to the sacred land and water of Native communities and a disaster for the climate; and

Whereas thousands of Indigenous activists have set up prayer camps along the pipeline route in a historic moment of nonviolent resistance where they are fighting with everything they have to protect their water, the land, their history, and the climate; and

Whereas on September 13, 2016, people around the United States, and even in Toronto, took part in a day of action in solidarity with Standing Rock calling on President Obama to instruct the Army Corps of Engineers to revoke permits for this dirty oil pipeline; therefore

Be it resolved that the Student Association of George Brown College supports the fight against the building of this direct access pipeline; and

Be it further resolved that the Student Association of George Brown College will issue a solidarity statement to show that we stand with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and support their fight in saying “No Direct Access Pipeline”.

Discussion: None

Moved by: Leslie Van Every, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Representative

Seconded: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Vote: Carries

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7. National Day of Action - November 2

Presentation: Michelle Pettis, CAC Coordinator; Stef Pinch, CAC Assistant

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students have launched a “Fight the Fees” campaign; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students and member locals are organizing a National Day of Student Action on November 2, 2016; and

Whereas rising tuition fees and the reliance on loan-based financial assistance have pushed student debt to historic levels; and

Whereas students on average graduate with over \$28,000 of education-related debt after an undergraduate degree and the amount owed to the Canada Student Loan Program is over \$19 billion and is increasing by nearly \$1 million per day; and

Whereas low and middle-income students who are forced to take out student loans end up paying more for their education, as they must repay both tuition fees and the accumulated interest on their public and private student loans; and

Whereas these large levels of debt impact the life decisions students make for years to come; and

Whereas students are mobilizing to fight back and advocate for their vision of post-secondary education in Canada; and

Whereas it is known that public education is a public good that society benefits from as a whole and it must be funded as such; and

Whereas education is a right of us all, not a privilege of a few; therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors agree and accept that the Student Association supports and stands in solidarity with the Canadian Federation of Students’ “Fight the Fees” campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the Student Association, along with the Community Action Center, will work together to organize with the Canadian Federation of Students for the National Day of Action on November 2, 2016.

Discussion: Gerard – Offered to display media for us on screens across campuses.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Rajai Refai, Director of Equity

Vote: Carries

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8. Board Structure – Board of Governors

Whereas the position of the Board of Governors Representative is an unpaid position within the Student Association; and

Whereas the position of the Board of Governors Representative is currently vacant; and

Whereas the position of the Board of Governors Representative is not directly involved with the affairs of the Student Association; and

Whereas the individual that holds the position of the Board of Governors Representative does not attend board meetings, and is not required to do so; and

Whereas the individual that holds the position of the Board of Governors Representative is unable to properly represent the voice of all students due to the lack of participation within the Student Association; therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors agree to terminate the position of the Board of Governors Representative; and

Be it further resolved that the by-laws be amended to remove the position.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Brittney DaCosta, Director of Campus Life

Amendment to amend Be it further resolved that changes to the by-laws removing this position be presented to the Board for approval and presented to the members at a general meeting for ratification.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded by: Francis Torres, St. James Campus Director

Vote: Carries

Discussion:

Tiffany, Carolyn – The elected students never have good attendance to the 6 Board of Gov.'s meetings per year, has no communication with the Board, and is not well-equipped to represent students. Not removing duties, just reassigning.

Gem – Board of Gov. Rep an important position giving a voice to the students.

Ron – Dir. Internal & Comm. already a heavy position. How are other schools working this position? Is there a way to have them more involved or enmeshed in the SA? Don't know until we check.

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Motion to table to next meeting after further research.

Moved by: Ron Greenberg, Business Representative

Seconded by: None, motion fails.

Tiffany – Suggested by Mark Nesbitt, VP Communications of George Brown, either offer honorarium or move responsibility to another position.

Lorraine – money is a factor, inequitable to have unpaid position alongside paid board of directors. Stipend is incentive and helps students who struggle financially. If responsibility shifts, enhances the Dir. Internal & Comm. role on the College Council.

Rose – Ron has a point, fiduciary duty to figure out best practices, look at all possibilities. Dir. Internal & Comm is heavy in workload, and designed well the Board of Gov Rep could be effective.

Lorraine, Gerard – Position is not in By-Laws. For Board of Governors, student representative must be an elected position, they sit 6 meetings per year. At universities, often reps are fourth year students. Difficult with college student body where turnover is quick.

Item declared OUT OF ORDER by Chair as Board of Governors Representative is not defined in the By-Laws.

9. **Board Structure – Board of Governors**

Whereas the Board of Governors requires representation from a member of the Student Association, as per agreements with George Brown College; and

Whereas it has been determined that a volunteer position that has no involvement in Board activities, such as monthly meetings, does not properly represent the student voice in the Board of Governors meetings; and

Whereas the position of the Director of Internal and Communications requires that the individual represent the Student Association in public relations; therefore

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Be it resolved that the Board of Directors agree to appoint the responsibilities of the former Board of Governors position to the position of the Director of Internal and Communications; and

Be it further resolved that the by-laws be amended to include these responsibilities under the Director of Internal and Communications; and

Be it further resolved that, as the position of the Director of Internal and Communications is currently vacant, the appointed interim Director of Internal and Communications, Tiffany White, Director of Education, will assume the additional responsibilities of the Board of Governors representation until the election of a new Director of Internal and Communications.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Naqeeb Omar, Casa Loma Campus Director

Motion to refer to the Executive Committee to be brought back at next meeting.

Discussion: (For preliminary discussion refer to item #8.)

Tiffany – Responsibility makes sense with the Dir. Internal & Comm. profile.

Ron, Carolyn – Maybe position should be paid, maybe moved to Internal, maybe something else, just needs more research. Don't make a hasty decision.

Sheldon – by-elections coming up, candidates should be informed if there will be additional responsibility added to their portfolio. Should have decision made.

Gem, Alastair – By-law changes will only happen at AGM/after by-elections, but can just leave the position out of by-elections if needed.

Faris – Compromise, follow by-laws in terms of representation from Dir. Internal & Comm. as it is already under their portfolio.

Motion Called to Question

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Vote: Carries with 2/3rds vote.

Moved by: Ron Greenberg, Business Representative

Seconded by: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Vote: Carries (1 opposed, 1 abstention – Leslie Van Every)

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10. Student Fees – International Exchange Students

Preface: The College has a number of reciprocal academic partnerships with institutions overseas. Exchange students come here for an academic experience and we send GBC students there. The agreements stipulate that students should only pay tuition and ancillary fees to their home institution. With all of our outbound GBC students, they are not required to pay any fees to the host institution overseas. GBC has not been providing the same courtesy to incoming exchange students, which has caused unhappiness with our visiting exchange students and their schools back home. (Information provided courtesy of John Porter, Director of International Admissions & Student Services)

Whereas the Student Association charges all full time student members ancillary fees for the Student Association (approximately \$95/semester), Canadian Federation of Students (approximately \$8/semester), and the optional Special Student Levy Fee (\$25/year); and

Whereas the College also charges all full time international exchange students Admin fees for Post Secondary Technology, Graduation, Athletics, and Assistance, Material fees, Athletics Facility Building Fund fees, Alumni fees, Student ID Card fees, and Student Activity fees; and

Whereas the full time international exchange students, who also pay these fees, are also paying the same, or similar, fees in their country of origin, thus being charged double the amount; and

Whereas there are only approximately 18 of these international exchange students enrolled for the 2016-17 school year; and

Whereas the projected impact in the foreseeable future of these fees effect approximately 25-30 students per year; and

Be it resolved that, in the interests of incoming international exchange students, all Student Association ancillary fees be waived on a retroactive basis for the September 2016 intake and for all future intakes; and

Be it further resolved that these students will still be charged for the Health Insurance Fee, so as to provide the international exchange students with adequate health care coverage while studying at George Brown College.

Discussion: Brittney, Gerard – Removal of fees will not hinder access to services and gym facilities, though student would not be able to run in the elections. GBC Finance confused that students are paying double, will follow SA's lead.

Moved by: Gameda Beker, Director of Operations

Seconded: Gurjot Singh, International Students Representative

Vote: Carries

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11. Student Association Charitable Contribution to George Brown College Foundation

Whereas the Student Association of George Brown College prides itself on the support of student success; and

Whereas the Student Association of George Brown College has reviewed the annual budget for 2016-2017 and has determined the feasibility of a charitable contribution to the George Brown College Foundation; therefore

Be it resolved that the Student Association of George Brown College will offer a co-sponsorship of \$650 to the George Brown College Foundation’s Food Court Social as a show of solidarity in the support of students within the Augmented Education programs.

Discussion: Brittney, Lorraine – Worried about giving other students, organizations, or groups co-sponsorships; budget available is \$5000 total.

Moved by: Gameda Beker, Director of Operations

Seconded: Cathy Chung, Hospitality Representative

Vote: Carries

12. New Student Residence - The George

Whereas the Student Association represents over 24, 000 full time students at George Brown College; and

Whereas the College has opened a new student residence called “The George”, where 500 students now reside; and

Whereas the Student Association currently has no dedicated space within the residence and no representation is present within the residence; therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors agree to sponsor the games room within the residence, The George, in the amount of \$5,000; and

Be it further resolved that the Student Association will plan future events specifically for the residence.

Discussion: Naqeeb, Lorraine, Ron – Money is not a sponsorship, coming from building fund. Works out to \$10 per student which is reasonable for student engagement and awareness of a body of 500 students.

Amendment to amend Be it resolved that the Board of Directors agree to financially support the games room within the residence, The George, in the amount of \$5,000, to be taken out of the SA Building Fund.

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Moved by: Naqeeb, Casa Loma Campus Director

Seconded by: Sheldon Mortimore, LGBTQ Representative

Vote: Carries

Gem, Brittney, Gerard, Rose, Alastair – How do we give SA a presence in the Residence, branding or naming of the games room to show SA’s involvement. Will revisit in October board meeting for specifics.

Amendment to add Be it further resolved that the SA engage in discussion with the College to ensure that the financial support is recognized as part of the room’s branding.

Moved by: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Seconded by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Vote: Carries

Moved by: Gameda Beker, Director of Operations

Seconded: Francis Torres, St. James Campus Director

Vote: Carries

13. Satellite Campus - Distillery District

Whereas the Student Association hosts a week of welcome, or “frosh” week, at the beginning of every semester at the three main campuses: Waterfront, St. James, and Casa Loma; and

Whereas the Student Association hosts an event at the Ryerson satellite campus on one day during the week of welcome, or “frosh” week, every semester; and

Whereas it has been expressed by students that there is no representation of the Student Association during these events at the Distillery District campus; and

Whereas no events are held at the Distillery District campus; therefore

Be it resolved that there will be an event held at the Distillery District during all future weeks of welcome, or “frosh” weeks; and

Be it further resolved that the Student Association will include the Distillery District campus in future events planning; and

Be it further resolved that the Student Association will determine the types of events that are most appropriate, as well as requested/desired, for the students of the Distillery District campus by obtaining feedback from the students through such methods as surveys, questionnaires, polls, and direct discussions with students of the campus.

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Discussion:

Tiffany, Gerard – Complaints from Distillery District campus students on lack of SA presence during week of welcome. Around 80-100 students there.

Brittney, Sheldon – Concern for other campuses, all other groups are covered.

Lorraine, Faris, Ron – Good thinking, will have events going forward, soonest sometime first semester.

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Leslie Van Every, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Representative

Vote: Carries

14. The Truth and Reconciliation Retreat

Whereas First Nations, Metis & Inuit people are misrepresented, and fall victim to harmful stereotypes; and

Whereas the retreat will provide an opportunity for students to learn the history of Indigenous people, including the Residential School legacy, visit First Nation's museums and National Historic Sites, as well as tour a thriving First Nations community; and

Whereas the retreat will engage students, and help to break down the harmful stigmas that are perpetually placed onto Indigenous people throughout society; and

Whereas the First Nations, Metis, & Inuit Constituency Representative has extended the retreat invitation to the other constituencies, and their members to ensure that a variety of students benefit from the educational opportunities offered through the retreat; therefore

Be it resolved that the Student Association contribute to the costs of the retreat by providing financial support of \$1,500 to assist in subsidizing the costs of the retreat.

Moved by: Leslie Van Every, First Nations, Métis & Inuit Representative

Seconded: Sheldon Mortimore, LGBTQ Representative

Discussion:

Naqeeb, Lorraine – Budget for events like this should be coming from constituency funds, traditionally BoD would support only if that runs out.

Lorraine, Sheldon – Each constituency rep should motivate on how it benefits their own students before they can contribute funds. Examples, intersectionality and insight into Canadian culture for international students.

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Brittney, Carolyn – Truth and Reconciliation is not just history, affects all of us. Would be an amazing and important learning experience for any student.

Rose - Planning should be supported by Dir.s Equity/Education and Committee, how do we decide what level of sponsorship is appropriate, how do we prioritize?

Motion to refer to Executive Committee to be decided upon at the next Exec Meeting.

Moved by: Sheldon Mortimore, LGBTQ Representative

Seconded: Naqeeb Omar, Casa Loma Campus Director

Vote: Carries

15. Report Back: Board Accountability

Presentation: Tiffany White, Director of Education; Lorraine, Executive Director; Jessica Pasion, Internal Coordinator

Lorraine – Retroactive Calendar for historical documentation, what the Board has accomplished and been a part of over the past and upcoming months. Please send all committees, meetings, and other events board has participated in as a representative of the SA (with dates, times, agendas, and minutes).

16. Update: Executive Director

Presentation: Lorraine Gajadharsingh, Executive Director

- Will be sending a 1-3 page written update.

17. Update: Equity and Advocacy

Presentation: Rosalyn Miller, Equity and Advocacy Manager

- Will be sending a 1-3 page written update.

18. Update: Operations

Presentation: Faris Lehn, Operations Manager

- Will be sending a 1-3 page written update.

19. Update: Campus Life and Events / Frosh

Presentation: Brittney DaCosta, Director of Campus Life and Events; Faris Lehn, Operations Manager

- Will be sending a 1-3 page written update.

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20. Other Business

Alastair: ONCAT - Opportunity for anyone who has gone from Univ to College or vv.

Motion to go IN CAMERA

Moved by: Naqeeb Omar, Casa Loma Campus Director

Seconded by: Carolyn Mooney, Accessibility Representative

Vote: Carries

- **Time:** 8:02PM
- **Present:** Board of Directors; Lorraine Gajadharsingh, Alastair Woods
- **Excused:** Guests, Rosalyn Miller, Faris Lehn, Gerard Hayes
- **Out of Camera:** 8:17PM

21. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Tiffany White, Director of Education

Seconded: Brittney DaCosta, Director of Campus Life

Vote: Carries

Time: 8:18PM