



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2014 - 2015 # 11

Date: October 23, 2014

Time: 6:33 pm

In Attendance:

Stephanie Gruhlke (Chair)

Bo Zhang

Nicholas Diaz

Navneet Khinda

Justis Allard

Kathryn Orydzuk

Excused Absence:

Marina Banister

Surya Bhatia

Colin Champagne

Others in Attendance:

David Forster

**1. CALL TO
ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by *GRUHLKE* at 6:33 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

ZHANG moved that the *October 23* agenda be approved as *tabled*.
Seconded by *ALLARD*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

KHINDA amended the minutes to change “share” to “shared” in “New Business.”
ORYDZUK amended the minutes to change her name from “ORDZUK” to “ORYDZUK.”

KHINDA moved that the *October 2* minutes be approved as *amended*.
The motion was seconded by *ORYDZUK*.

Vote on Motion 6 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS GRUHLKE announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday next week. ZHANG suggests bringing some refreshment to the next meeting.

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. ORAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

1. VP Student Life

DIAZ reported that Residence Budget Advisory Committee budgets for the next seven years for the furniture renovation at HUB. There is also a mild rent increase in HUB residence, but it is budgeted for many years.

2. VP External

Regarding market modifier, KHINDA wrote a letter to the minister, which outlined SU's concerns with the constitution process and each of the proposals from the undergraduate programmes. It is followed by an online press release; all of the five letters will be made public.

CAUS is having meetings at SUB on Monday and Tuesday. It is followed by a mixer in the evening.

KHINDA is also preparing for CASA the coming lobby week in November.

3. VP Academic

About the cost of textbook and alternatives for textbook, ORYDZUK make an extra part of Be Book Smart – Professor Recognition. She sent out emails to all professors advising them about various alternatives or methods they could use instead of new textbook, and if they are using innovative method, they should let her know and she will give them honour role named in the website. The professor who has the most innovative methods will receive The Students' Union and Centre for Teaching and Learning Award for Innovation and Academic Materials, which is \$1000 award and an honour that can be put on resume.

On CTL's response, SU will advocates for preferable academic materials to be standardized across institutions. ORYDZUK raised the issue of online access codes to central administration. Apparently, they are releasing a statement about them probably on tomorrow.

GRUHLKE asked if students could nominate professors for innovative award. ORYDZUK stated that currently students could not nominate, but she thinks it is a good idea.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

8. OLD BUSINESS

Student Financial Assistance Policy Second Reading

GRUHLKE stated that the draft of the second reading of the Student

Financial Assistance Policy is available online.

KHINDA led the discussion of the second reading. She took out a few things in the draft as they are repetitive. KHINDA explained the first principles to start off the discussion.

DIAZ spotted missing colons in the 7th and 9th Whereas clause.

1st Whereas: ZHANG asked why the tax system is in this clause. KHINDA explained it is the assumption that people will have a higher income with education, so it is making a claim that education is a good investment.

6th Whereas: GRUHLKE commented that it is repetitive so she suggested to remove it. DIAZ thinks that the accessing part is duplicated but the finalizing part is not. KHINDA explained that there were two policies combined in this clause. ZHANG suggested making the last part another clause. The committee also discussed about the wordings.

7th Whereas: the committee agreed to remove it.

11th Whereas: KHINDA is not sure about the Government of Albert providing more funding for merit-based award than need-based, so she will do more research and bring it back to the committee.

15th Whereas: the committee agreed to replace “University of Alberta” with some.

16th Whereas: KHINDA decided to remove it and the committee agreed.

17th Whereas: the committee debated about the word “amount” and changed “amounts” to “amount.”

18th Whereas: ZHANG asked about the living allowance. KHINDA explained that students’ loans have a portion for living expenses, but the situation now is that the cost of living increases but the portion does not increase to match, so it states that the cost of education includes a lot of things besides tuition. DIAZ suggested making another clause based on this clause. ZHANG suggested making a new Whereas clause to reflect the first principle that cost of education is more a sticker price. GRUHLKE moved the new clause to the 2nd.

KHINDA and DIAZ explained the new format of the BIRT and BIFRT clauses and the committee discussed the BIRT and BIRFT clauses as follow:

BIRT A and B: the committee thought that these points are wordy and they will get back to these clauses.

BIRT F: KHINDA removed this point as it is not relevant anymore.

BIRT G: KHINDA explained that this point advocates for loan system those relief students’ debts so they do not have to pay back.

1st BIFRT A: KHINDA removed “aid.” DIAZ thought that they need not to talk about “relative and absolute number” instead talk about increase the

number and value of need-based awards. KHINDA and DIAZ revised this point.

KHINDA proposed a new clause under the BIRT as point G.

1st BIFRT B: KHINDA will look up the distribution of awards between programmes.

2nd BIFRT: DIAZ thought that this clause contrasted to university programming as the Students' Union and the University manages their own awards respectively, so currently there are two access points. ZHANG suggested changing the advocacy for more efficient or accessible instead of a single point of entry. KHINDA also suggested making this point C of first clause.

KHINDA asked the committee if the second reading reflects all the points of first principle. The committee agreed.

ZHANG commented that he initially did not think it is a good idea to combine the policies; now he thinks the new one is very good but it is just a little bit long.

DIAZ stated that the other committee arranges the clause to make them clearer and reminded KHINDA to make the clause consistent.

FORSTER suggested putting main points at the beginning of each clause, so it is easy for people to locate and understand the clause.

KHINDA moved that the second reading of Student Financial Aid Policy be tabled to the next meeting.

The motion was seconded by *DIAZ*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

GRUHLKE stated that ORYDZUK drafted the first principle of Deferred Maintenance and Research Policies. GRUHLKE will send them out prior to the next meeting, so that the committee can think about it.

11. REPORTS

12. CLOSED SESSION

13. NEXT MEETING October 30, 2014 at 6:30pm at SUB 606

14. ADJOURNMENT *ZHANG* moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion was seconded by *DIAZ*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 0 / 0
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.