



Agenda

University of Victoria Students' Society
Local 44 - Canadian Federation of Students
Monday December 7, 2009
SUB B025 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIES
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA & ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Agenda of 2009-12-07
 - b. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Minutes of 2009-11-02
4. PRESENTATIONS
 - a. UVic Pride, re: Donation for the Canadian University Queer Services Conference.

Motion 2009/12/07: 01 - Pullman/
BIRT \$200 be donated to UVic Pride for the 2010 Canadian University Queer Services Conference.
 - b. Camosun College Student Society; re: CCSS support for the UVSS
 - c. Melissa Pritchard, USW 2009 – SUB Workers, Unit President; re: Motion passed at USW 2009 Executive Meeting
5. IN CAMERA
 - a. Personnel
6. REPORTS
 - a. Committee Reports
 - i. Advocacy Council
 - ii. Armed with Understanding
 - iii. Clubs Council
 - iv. Communications Committee
 - v. Course Union Council
 - vi. Electoral Committee
 - vii. Environmental Responsibility Committee
 - viii. Finance Committee
 - ix. Organisational Development Committee
 - x. Political Action Committee
 - xi. Special Events Committee
 - xii. Students Services Committee
 - b. Director and Staff Reports

c. **CFS Provincial Executive Report**

7. **QUESTION PERIOD**

8. **MAIN MOTIONS**

a. **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion 2009/05/11: 04 - Harrison/Comrie

BIRT nominations open to fill the following vacancies on the Armed With Understanding Speaker Series Committee:
One (1) Member as recommended by Pride

Motion 2009/05/11: 06 - Harrison/Comrie

BIRT nominations open to fill the following vacancies on the Educational Equity Committee:
One (1) Member as recommended by the Women's Centre

Motion 2009/11/16: 07 - Harrison/Shannon

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia announced the proposed harmonization of the Provincial Sales Tax with the Goods and Services Tax on July 23, 2009 just months after an election where assurances were provided that a Harmonized Sales Tax was not on their agenda; and
WHEREAS UVSS policy supports progressive taxation and the HST, as a flat tax, is the opposite form of taxation; and
WHEREAS this proposed regressive consumption tax would represent a \$1.9 billion shift in the tax burden from business to individuals that will in fact hurt many existing service sector business resulting in more young people losing their jobs; and
WHEREAS the HST will tax numerous services that students require and are currently taxed at a lower rate, including school supplies; and
WHEREAS student employment is currently at its lowest point in decades and students are currently struggling under the burden of cost increases in tuition, books, food, housing and other necessary expenses; therefore
BIRT the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) as proposed in British Columbia be opposed; and
BIFRT the following motion be served to the January 2010 CFS-BC general meeting:

WHEREAS the August 2009 general meeting resolved to oppose the HST; and
WHEREAS the Federation's vision for a universally accessible fully-funded system of post-secondary education rests on the achievement of a progressive system of taxation; therefore
BIRT a fact sheet on the erosion of the progressive taxation system in BC and the establishment and expansion of regressive flat taxes, including user fees for public services, be developed and distributed to member local unions.

Motion 2009/11/16: 11 - Hannan/

WHEREAS Local 78, Carleton University Graduate Students' Association has submitted a motion to the CFS November AGM changing the CFS Bylaw stipulations on continuing membership referendum rules to make it more difficult to hold referendums on continuing membership; and
WHEREAS this motion would increase the petition requirement to 20% from its current 10% requirement, limit continuing membership referendums to only 2

referendums nationally per any 3 month period, and require member locals to wait 5 years in between membership referendum for Universities, and 3 years for Colleges; and

WHEREAS these requirements would make it impossible for members of the Federation to keep the organization accountable through the Federation process, literally making it impossible for members to leave in en masse when serious internal problems arise; and

WHEREAS this proposed CFS Bylaw change is attempting to deal with internal dissent through draconian referendum regulation changes rather than attempting to retain members democratic legitimacy; and

WHEREAS any real and responsive student movement representative of its members would survive continuing membership referendums without needing without needing strict rules to prevent referendum attempts; therefore

BIRT the UVSS delegation attending the CFS November Annual General Meeting is urged to vote against Plenary Motion 6 submitted by Local 78.

Motion 2009/11/16: 12 - Hannan/

WHEREAS the UVSS Electoral Policy has strict campaign finance rules to prevent monied interests from unfairly influencing the outcome of referendums; and
WHEREAS the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) has allocated significant amounts of money towards the upcoming UVic CFS referendum on continuing membership that far exceed any campaign finance funding level outlined in our Electoral Policy; and

WHEREAS the UVSS wishes to conduct a referendum on continuing membership where both sides can expect basic campaign finance rules and ethics; and

WHEREAS any referendum on continued membership in the CFS seen to be financially prejudicial towards one side could be subject to subsequent judicial review, entailing significant costs for the UVSS; and

WHEREAS it's a serious conflict of interest to have potential or current UVSS business partners and service providers contributing campaign money to a continuing membership referendum where they might stand to financially benefit from the results; therefore

BIRT the UVSS sends a letter to the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) respectfully requesting them to end all financial allocations towards the upcoming UVSS continuing membership referendum; and

BIFRT the UVSS enacts a policy of official disapproval towards external financial interference into the upcoming continuing membership referendum and will message its disapproval to any external organization (including the CFS and its affiliates) seen to be contributing money in a manner that unfairly benefits a continuing membership referendum campaign side; and

BIFRT the UVSS will decide cases of external financial interference with a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Board of Directors will disregard any case of external financial interference if it deems the money allocation was justified for the fair carrying out of legal or fiduciary duties related to the maintenance of the continuing membership referendum; and

BIFRT the UVSS will hold decided cases of external financial interference accountable during the continuing membership referendum by, but not limited to:

- a. Listing all proven external financial interference on the UVSS website home page with the name of the organization and money amount allocated. All listings of external financial interference will be removed by the Board of Directors with a majority vote upon proof that the money has been reallocated away from the continuing membership referendum or justifiably allocated.

- b. Reconsidering its current or future financial relationship with any company or connected affiliate seen to be partaking in external financial interference during the continuing membership referendum. This includes organizations (CFS) with connected affiliate companies (CFS-Services) and provincial branches (CFS-BC), in addition to companies who may stand to benefit from any future contract renegotiation as a result of changing relationships with the CFS resulting from this referendum (competing health brokers). All financial relationship reevaluations will be reconsidered by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis depending on the importance of the business relationship, the level external financial interference demonstrated and the degree of conflict of interest on display.

b. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 2009/12/07: 02 - Harrison/

WHEREAS CUPE 873, Ambulance Paramedics of British Columbia have been on strike for approximately 8 months; and

WHEREAS CUPE 873 are demanding proper support from the BC Government, including better staffing levels and fair wages; and

WHEREAS Bill 21, the Ambulance Services Collective Agreement Act, was promptly passed in the legislative assembly that legislates BC's 3,500 ambulance paramedics "back to work" while imposing a wage settlement, effectively taking away their bargaining rights as workers; and

WHEREAS students are now concerned about entering a workforce in which their worker's bargaining rights are at risk; therefore

BIRT the UVSS write a letter of support to CUPE 873 for their campaign against Bill 21; and

BIFRT the UVSS write a letter to the BC Government condemning the passing of Bill 21, as recommended by the Political Action Committee.

Motion 2009/12/07: 03 - Pullman/

WHEREAS the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights stipulates that signatories will work toward the progressive introduction of user-fee free post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS the government of Canada signed the Covenant in 1976; and

Whereas since 1976 tuition fees in BC have increased more than 800%, adjusting for inflation; and

WHEREAS the President and Vice President External of the UBC-Vancouver Alma Mater Society filed a complaint with the United Nations, highlighting that BC and Canada have for 33 years failed to uphold the Covenant; and

WHEREAS such creative actions are valuable in generating media coverage of the failure of the governments of BC and Canada to provide access to post-secondary education to low- and middle-income families; and

WHEREAS the UBC-Vancouver AMS Council unanimously voted to withdraw the complaint and issue a statement informing the public of the withdrawal on Wednesday, December 2; and

WHEREAS this decision publicly undermines the work of the majority of students' unions in the province, including the University of Victoria Students' Society, to pressure the governments of BC and Canada to make education more affordable; and

WHEREAS the UBC-Vancouver AMS continues to have policy supporting tuition fee increases; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of students' unions in the province, including the UVSS, are campaigning to reduce tuition fees; and

WHEREAS members of the UVSS Board of Directors have expressed a desire for the UVSS to work closer with the UBC-Vancouver AMS; and
WHEREAS working together requires that core policies align; therefore
BIRT the Chairperson send a letter to the Council of the UBC-Vancouver Alma Mater Society expressing concern that its decision to publicly withdraw the AMS's complaint to the United Nations of the failure of the governments of BC and Canada to live up to the Covenant undermines the work of the majority of students' unions in the province to make post-secondary education more accessible; and
BIFRT the letter urge the UBC-Vancouver AMS Council to overturn its policy in favour of tuition fee increases and adopt policy supporting the progressive reduction of tuition fees.

Motion 2009/12/07: 04 - Pullman/

WHEREAS The Victoria Transit Commission (VTC) is proposing fare hikes to begin April 1, 2010; and
WHEREAS These fare hikes would eliminate youth and senior fares and create a single \$2.50 fare for all passenger trips; and
WHEREAS The Monthly Adult Bus Pass would increase almost 23% in price from \$73.25 to \$90 and the UVic UPASS would increase from \$69.25 to \$86 per term; and
WHEREAS transit fare increases are necessary to provide improved transit service, but the drastic fare increases proposed by the VTC may discourage individuals from using transit; and
WHEREAS the elimination of youth and senior fares places an unfair cost burden on those with no, fixed or low incomes and those who more heavily rely on transit; therefore
BIRT the UVSS write a letter to the VTC outlining the above concerns and urging them to reconsider the current fare hike proposal.

Motion 2009/12/07: 05 - Sall/

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one UVSS Director as the Local 44 Representative to the Canadian Federation of Students British Columbia Provincial Executive Committee.

Motion 2009/12/07: 06 - Harrison/

BIRT five [5] delegates be selected to attend the 28th annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students – British Columbia from January 14 to 17, 2010, including the Provincial Executive Representative and an Aboriginal Representative as recommended by the Native Students' Union.

Motion 2009/12/07: 07 - Pullman/

WHEREAS Meaghan Kerr has resigned from the position of Director of Academics, WHEREAS the UVSS is currently facing a \$268,734 cumulative debt and cost savings is a priority for this year's Board of Directors, and
WHEREAS the total of not filling the Director of Academics position from December 7th, 2009 to April 30th, 2010 is \$11,207.49, therefore;
BIRT the Director of Academics position remain vacant until April 30th, 2010.

Motion 2009/12/07: 08 - Pullman/

BIRT nominations be opened to elect one director to each of the chair positions on the following committees:

- Ombudsperson Advisory
- Communications
- Armed With Understanding
- Course Union Council

Motion 2009/12/07: 09 - Coccola/

WHEREAS members of the executive circulated a petition in October and November titled "Keep the Student Movement Strong"; and

WHEREAS the chairperson was directly asked to the purpose of this petition and their answer, stated in the October 19th minutes, was to "get the other side of view out there"; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Federation of Students has received a petition calling for a referendum on continuing membership and a second, "petition of individual membership requesting that their names be removed from that petition"; and
WHEREAS Bylaw 8.5 c states that directors-at-large are to "scrutinize the activities of the executive directors"; and

WHEREAS this cannot be done if directors are not given correct information as to the activities of the executive; therefore

BIRT the Chairperson be censured for their actions.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. MEETING TIMES

The next meeting scheduled by the Board of Directors is:
Monday December 14, 2009 in SUB B025.

12. ADJOURNMENT