

# Saitsa Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00p.m.  
Microsoft Teams



## Present:

Ryan Morstad	President
Jasmin Bhatti	Saitsa Vice President Academic
Liam Hunter	Saitsa Vice President External
Jessi Leippi	Saitsa Vice President Student Life
Marc Stromme	Executive Director
Rachel Paris	Manager, Governance and Advocacy
Angela Walgren	Coordinator, Governance Administration

## Absent:

Marc Thususka	Director, Business and Development
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	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Time</b>
1.0	<b>Call to Order</b> <i>R. Morstad called the meeting to order at 3:07p.m.</i>	R. Morstad	2 Min
2.0	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	R. Morstad	2 Min

## Amendments:

- The addition of discussion item 8.2, Candidates Meeting
- The addition of discussion item 8.3, Update with OERs
- The addition of discussion item 8.4, Update with Online Proctoring

*Approved as amended by general consent*

3.0	<b>Adoption of Minutes</b>	R. Morstad	2 Min
3.1	<i>Regular Meeting of the Executive Council from April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</i>		

*Approved by general consent.*

4.0	<b>Individual Reports (maximum of 2 minutes each)</b>		
4.1	<b>President</b>	R. Morstad	2 Min
	Report <i>not</i> submitted. <i>R. Morstad has been busy with outboarding from the role of Saitsa President.</i>		

The Academic Council met yesterday to collect updates from all subcommittees. R. Morstad, L. Hunter, R. Paris and our Research Coordinator, Tyler De Melo (T. De Melo) attended the Alberta Student Leader Consultation. It was recommended from the Executive Council that the Manager of Governance and Advocacy attend these sessions in the future – these sessions are very valuable for institutional knowledge. Monday this week the Awards Committee met to discuss selecting applicants for the Saitsa Awards. R. Morstad attended the Strategic Planning Session and the Saitsa Board of Directors meeting on Monday night. M. Stromme and R. Morstad are meeting tomorrow with the Developer in regard to a potential capital partnership for student space/housing. L. Hunter and R. Morstad recorded the last episode of Asterisk podcast for this academic year.

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J. Leippi asked what would be included in this potential partnership with the Developer. R. Morstad said it's TBD at tomorrow's meeting.

- 4.2 VP Academic** J. Bhatti 2 Min  
Report *not* submitted. *J. Bhatti will be submitting her report after this meeting.*

J. Bhatti reviewed her role as VPA with A. Walgren to integrate with the oncoming Board roles. J. Bhatti met up with R. Paris and T. De Melo for a quick check-in regarding some research being conducted for J. Bhatti. J. Bhatti participated in a one on one meeting with Life Coach Mallory Panich regarding exiting the role of VPA. J. Bhatti played a part in the Saitsa Student Town Hall. J. Bhatti organized a date and time for the ad hoc Instructor and Support Selection committee to meet next Monday. J. Bhatti attended the Strategic Planning Session and the Saitsa BOD meeting on Monday night. J. Bhatti assisted students with their academic concerns. J Bhatti engaged in the Council candidates meeting.

- 4.3 VP External** L. Hunter 2 Min  
Report *not* submitted. *L. Hunter was on vacation last week.*

L. Hunter had three meetings with the Council candidates with the Saitsa Executive Council. L. Hunter is working on the press release regarding Bill 67 with MarCom. L. Hunter attended the Strat Planning Session and BOD meeting on Monday. He reviewed his role of VPX with A. Walgren. Today and tomorrow are CASA's EDI days – this is two days of EDI specific sessions and meetings. L. Hunter is excited about the shift towards public statements; this is a great opportunity to communicate with members more frequently about politics that directly affect them. The advocacy position documents are important in speeding up our statement process.

R. Paris asked if Husson sent L. Hunter the revised version of the press release. L. Hunter said that he and Husson reviewed the press release and L. Hunter made significant changes – this happened on Tuesday. Husson sent R. Paris a copy for revisions today.

- 4.4 VP Student Life** J. Leippi 2 Min  
Report as submitted.

J. Leippi had a one on one meeting with Life Coach Mallory Panich to work on the VPSL exit. J. Leippi participated with the Saitsa Town Hall. J. Leippi has been active with EC meetings (onboarding and team meetings).

R. Paris asked for an update with the sustainability through art project. The vision between what the committee perceived vs. what J. Leippi perceived is blurry. The project is for now on hold.

- 4.5 Executive Director** M. Stromme 2 Min  
Report as submitted.

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## **Motion:**

To move in-camera with staff.

**R. Morstad**

***Approved by general consent at 3:30p.m.***

## **Motion:**

To move ex-camera.

**R. Morstad**

***Approved by general consent at 3:44p.m.***

## **5.0 Business Items**

### **5.1 Grant Program Applications**

J. Leippi

3 Min

## **Motion:**

To approve grant applicant 2021-23 for \$80.00 for a CPR course.

**J. Leippi**

**4 – 0 – 0**

**Motion carries**

R. Morstad discussed the idea of Saitsa offering students a First Aid/CPR course. R. Paris noted that SAIT does not have their First Aid/CPR course anymore. The Student Experience department would run a First/CPR for our Saitsa volunteers. If we host a First Aid/CPR course, we would host it for students separately where students would fill up the slots.

M. Stromme suggests advertising it for Saitsa members to pay a small fee to take the First Aid/CPR training (ex. \$25).

**Action item:** J. Leippi to provide more information regarding this First Aid/CPR idea.

## **6.0 Action Items (maximum of 2 minutes each)**

## **7.0 Unfinished Business**

## **8.0 Discussion and Information Items**

### **8.1 EDI Check-In**

J. Leippi

5 Min

J. Leippi asked the group if they've considered EDI in their working projects.

L. Hunter mentioned CASA hosted EDI days.

J. Bhatti wished those in Academic Council who are celebrating a good Vaisakhi, Ramadan, and Chaitra.

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R. Morstad asked if there has been a managers meeting with an EDI check-in. They had it on the agenda today, but they ran out of time. In their in-camera sessions R. Paris mentioned to the managers what an EDI check-in is.

R. Morstad noted some of the Council candidates mentioned EDI related items in their meetings.

## 8.2 Candidates Meeting R. Morstad 5 Min

The Executive Council had three meetings with Council candidates today; all of those meetings went well. L. Hunter acted as the point person today. The Executive Council reviewed their strategy in regard to approaching certain topics during the continuation of the Council candidate's meetings. The questions are in the categories of student related items and rapid-fire city issues. They divided certain questions amongst the group.

## 8.3 Update with OERs R. Morstad 5 Min

The beginning of last month there was an article written in the Edmonton Journal about OERs. The Executive Council heard the appetite for the push for OERs. Saitsa is hoping to partner with the University of Alberta (UASU) to create an OER bank. SAIT is a leader with OERs and Saitsa has great relationship in the SAIT e-learning Librarian Jessica Norman. There seems to be a renewed appetite to focus on OERs. With the situation of an American company purchasing the bookstores at the University of Calgary and SAIT and potentially raising the price of textbooks, there is more appetite for OERs. J. Bhatti will be meeting with UASU and Jessica Norman.

## 8.4 Update with Online Proctoring R. Morstad 5 Min

J. Bhatti shared a letter her and R. Morstad received from B. Donaldson in response from their OER letter sent on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The committee discussed aspects of the letter. The letter was appreciated by the Executive, but the explanations was noncommittal. This will be an ongoing project for the future Board. The Executive noted that they will need to ask for a date in regard to reviewing the policy.

**Action item:** J. Bhatti to email B. Donaldson in regard to more date information for reviewing the policies and procedures.

## 9.0 Questions/Adjournment R. Morstad 2 Min

L. Hunter asked R. Morstad to send the final approval to Husson for the press release regarding the Alberta 2021 budget.

J. Leippi stated in the student voice survey; a student suggested to express that grades aren't everything, but mental health is. L. Hunter suggested to write a segment and send it to MarCom for the Saitsa Student Bulletin.

R. Paris asked the group about the Saitsa Grant Program; how do we reach our student membership. J. Leippi mentioned our Saitsa Grant Program hashtag was not used. R. Morstad stated a lot of people do not want online professional development (PD), a lot of students want in-person PD which is not available.

*R. Morstad adjourned the meeting at 4:41p.m.*