

Meeting – July 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

Alex Sutherland	BOD Chair	Voting Member
Jesse Wicks	BOD Vice Chair	Voting Member
Fatima Bilal	Director	Voting Member
Avneet Brar-Sran	Director	Voting Member
Richard Hoang	Director	Voting Member
Tim Holowachuk	Director	Voting Member
Macleon Jarvis	Director	Voting Member
Charlson Reyes	Director	Voting Member
Kelly Jeed Sawadan	Director	Voting Member
Ryan Morstad	Saitsa President	Voting Member
Jasmin Bhatti	Vice President Academic	Voting Member
Jessi Leippi	Vice President Student Life	Voting Member
Joy Bowen-Eyre	Neutral Facilitator	Non-Voting
Rigel Raju	Board of Governors Student Representative	Non-Voting
Marc Stromme	Saitsa Executive Director	Non-Voting
Rio Valencerina	Saitsa Coordinator, Governance	Non-Voting

Regrets:

Shawna LeBlanc	Director	Voting Member
Candy Loo Tong	Director	Voting Member
Yatendra Solanki	Director	Voting Member
Liam Hunter	Vice President External	Voting Member
Rachel Paris	Saitsa Manager, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting

Guest:

Angela Walgren	Coordinator, Administration Saitsa	Non-Voting
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Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

A. Sutherland called the meeting to order at 6:10p.m.

2.0 Board of Directors Appointee Swearing-In

At 6:11p.m. the Saitsa Board of Directors (BOD) welcomed and swore in the 3 new BOD members (F. Bilal, K. Sawadan, and M. Jarvis). Each new member read a statement stating their commitment to the Saitsa BOD and to the SAIT student body.

3.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

M. Jarvis gave the acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories



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4.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

A. Sutherland reminded the Board to declare any real or perceived conflicts on interest. No BOD member declared any conflict of interest.

5.0 Approval of the Agenda:

At 6:15p.m. the BOD went through the agenda and discussed the amendments they'd like to make.

Amendments:

- To have item 7.5 BoG Rep Report added by R. Morstad
- To have item 9.1 Strategic Plan Update added by J. Wicks

Motion:

To approve the July 6th, 2020 Saitsa BOD meeting agenda

J. Wicks/A. Sutherland
12/0/0
Motion Carries

6.0 Adoption of Minutes:

6.1 Regular Meeting of the Board from June 1, 2020

Amendments:

- R. Morstad change 10.1 42% reduction overall fees not including health and dental.

Motion:

To approve the amended meeting minutes from the June 1st, 2020 meeting of the Saitsa BOD

T. Holowachuk/F. Bilal
9/0/3
Motion Carries

7.0 Individual Reports:

7.1 President

Report as presented.

R. Morstad was elected as a Director on the Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC) Board. R. Morstad attended an ASEC retreat last weekend. This is a huge year for provincial advocacy. A full review of the post-secondary system similar to a review that was taken place for Alberta Health Services, the timing of this review will take approximately 6 months. R. Morstad was also elected as a Trustee on the Campus Trust Board; this will give Saitsa a look as to how Campus Trust works and allows Saitsa to give input. The Letter Writing Campaign is addressing the tuition increase; the Saitsa Executive Council (EC) started receiving questions and concerns from SAIT students regarding the increase. T. Holowachuk wrote a letter addressing the tuition increase and this letter received a lot of traction. T. Holowachuk is going to be interviewed on TV and will be featured in a Calgary student newspaper. The BoG (Board of Governors) have had multiple meetings with the BoG representatives, public representatives, the Chair of the Governance Committee and the Chair of the board. R. Morstad received an update regarding awards being developed and later offered



from Alumni and Development; they are creating 50+ awards due to the student support fee going up by 38%. They want this fee to be going back to the students.

T. Holowachuk inquired regarding the EC Expectations agreement. R. Morstad stated it was approved by EC and EC support staff. T. Holowachuk also inquired regarding if SAIT was going to approve a deficit budget, R. Morstad had no update.

R. Hoang inquired regarding Health and Dental fee for international students. R. Morstad states that our by-laws prohibit people who are not members of Saitsa having access to our Health and Dental plan – we need to figure out if we can add ELF students to our Saitsa membership. The International Centre is willing to work on that with us.

7.2 VP Academic

Report as presented.

J. Bhatti had a meeting with Patrick Sullivan the Director of the SAIT International Centre. J. Bhatti will no longer be going forward with her environmental scan regarding what other institutions are doing to support international students due to Patrick conducting research of his own regarding the same topics. Seven students have reached out to J. Bhatti since My 15th looking for academic support. The Saitsa EC have been going through past BOD meeting minutes from the past two years to gain insight of Saitsa's BOD past decisions and meeting formats, this will help take to future meetings and decisions of the Saitsa BOD.

7.3 VP External

Report as submitted. L. Hunter was not available to speak to his report due to being on holidays.

7.4 VP Student Life

Report as presented.

J. Leippi had a meeting with some SAIT staff to further connect with them. J. Leippi had a meeting with John Partington to connect and plan move forward with J. Leippi's involvement with the LGBTQ+ community within SAIT campus. J. Leippi attended her first Environmental Committee meeting; J. Leippi would like to get more students involved. J. Leippi is also attending online Mental Health webinars; there were other VPSL's there and SAIT OWL Representative was also in attendance. J. Leippi has been connecting with other VPSL's across the province to discuss more initiatives ways to stay connected with the student body virtually.

T. Holowachuk inquiries if J. Leippi took any ideas from the Mental Health webinar to apply these tools at Saitsa. J. Leippi said there was a small discussion around online platforms that Alberta Health Services offer to people who have mental health concerns in addition to counseling; there are also in-person services to help students with mental health concerns.

7.5 BOG Representative Report

The SAIT BoG had a meeting regarding Covid-19 plans moving forward. Dr. Ross has been sending bi-weekly reports to the BoG regarding what SAIT is doing, their progress, and how SAIT is contributing to AHS (providing medical equipment, making 3D masks, providing spaces for health care professionals, etc.). SAIT Student Emergency fund supplied students with \$250,000.00 of assistance funds. The BoG have also discussed how Covid-19 and transitioning everything to be virtual has affected the progress of 500 students. These students were learning hands-on



programming and they were not able to complete their courses. These students will be given priority once students are allowed back on campus. Instructors will be given training to give courses in a more effective way online (update from Brad Donaldson). The Performance Revenue Metrics Government discussion were differed, the Board Chair will be talking to Dr. Ross about that.

J. Bhatti inquired regarding what Brad Donaldson said to R. Raju regarding training for instructors. R. Raju replied that there would be a training program in place but did not have details to give.

8.0 Committee Reports:

8.1 Finance Committee

R. Morstad stated that the Finance Committee has not met since the May Saitsa Budget meetings. R. Morstad asked the BOD for advice regarding if we need to execute Finance Committee meetings during the summertime or not. The last meeting the committee had they only made quorum for 30 minutes. The Finance Committee needs to complete the tasks of a Risk Register and an Investment Policy. A. Sutherland asked R. Morstad to send out information regarding the next Finance Committee meeting and to reevaluate the members (which new members assigned to committees, who can make these meetings and who cannot). M. Stromme states it would be key to get the Investment Policy done before the next BOD Elections (October 2020).

8.2 Governance Committee

A. Sutherland states that Governance Committee has not met. A. Sutherland is going to connect with R. Valencerina regarding whether this committee needs to meet soon.

8.3 Nominations Committee

J. Wicks states committee has not met and has no updates to provide.

9.0 Business Items:

9.1 Strategic Plan Update

M. Stromme presented the newly edited Strategic Plan to the BOD. The BOD asked to add the External Advocacy Focus to the Strategic Plan. The BOD went back and discussed it with R. Morstad.

MOTION:

WHEREAS The Board of Directors has tasked the Executive Director and President with developing additional advocacy goals for the Strategic Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Directors approves the updated strategic plan, as presented.

R. Morstad/R. Hoang
12/0/0
Motion Carries

R. Hoang mentioned a mistake on page 6 of the Strategic Plan. M. Stromme asks if R. Hoang can send over the mistake to his email so Marketing and Communication can edit the mistake.

9.2 Saitsa Budget 2020-2021

The BOD discussed the Saitsa 2020-2021 operating budget recommendations from the Finance Committee.



Motion

To move in camera with the Executive Director and without Saitsa staff at 6:49p.m.

T. Holowachuk/K. Sawadan
12/0/0
Motion Carries

R. Raju left the meeting at 8:41pm

Motion

To move out of camera at 8:47p.m.

A. Sutherland/M. Jarvis
12/0/0
Motion Carries

MOTION:

WHEREAS the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic renders a traditional yearly fiscal plan unsuitable;

WHEREAS the Students' Association does not yet have updated Fall 2020 campus capacity numbers;

BE IT RESOLVED that 'Budget 3' is approved as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 'Plan B' is approved as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to review the 2020-2021 fiscal state at the September 2020 regular meeting of the board

T. Holowachuk/A. Sutherland
12/0/0
Motion Carries

MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that effective immediately, the student members of the Executive Council reduce both hours and pay equal to 10%, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting shift to online course delivery, and its impacts on Saitsa's budget until such time that the Board of Directors deems it fiscally responsible to reinstate it.

R. Morstad/J. Bhatti
12/0/0
Motion Carries

10.0 Information/Discussion:

10.1 Executive Council Exit Interview

This item will be presented during the in-camera session.



10.2 ED Report

Report as presented.

T. Holowachuk asked where the February consolidated income statement is. M. Stromme presented this February statement back a couple of months ago. M. Stromme will provide it to the Board for review.

10.3 Executive Director Review

Motion

To move into camera with the Executive and without Saitsa staff at 9:42 p.m.

J. Leippi/A. Sutherland
12/0/0
Motion Carries

10.4 In-Camera

Motion

To move out of camera at 9:55 p.m.

T. Holowachuk/J. Bhatti
12/0/0
Motion Carries

11.0 Questions/Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting of the Saitsa Board of Directors.

J. Bhatti/T. Holowachuk
12/0/0
Motion Carries