

Meeting – November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Tim Holowachuk | Board of Directors Chair | Voting Member |
| Shawna LeBlanc | Board of Directors Vice Chair | Voting Member |
| Fatima Bilal | Director | Voting Member |
| Arek Gellatly | Director | Voting Member |
| MacLean Jarvis | Director | Voting Member |
| Tola Jimoh | Director | Voting Member |
| Krystal Nguyen | Director | Voting Member |
| Kelly Jeed Sawadan | Director | Voting Member |
| Dawson Thomas | Director | Voting Member |
| Ryan Morstad | Saitsa President | Voting Member |
| Liam Hunter | Vice President External | Voting Member |
| Jasmin Bhatti | Vice President Academic | Voting Member |
| Jessi Leippi | Vice President Student Life | Voting Member |
| Joy Bowen-Eyre | Neutral Facilitator | Non-Voting |
| Marc Stromme | Saitsa Executive Director | Non-Voting |
| Rachel Paris | Saitsa Manager, Governance & Advocacy | Non-Voting |
| Rio Valencerina | Saitsa Coordinator, Governance | Non-Voting |

Regrets:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Akinjide Akinwale | Director | Voting Member |
| Rigel Raju | Board of Governors Student Representative | Non-Voting |

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

F. Bilal gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories.

3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

T. Holowachuk reminded the Board of the definition of conflict of interest and reminded them to declare any real or perceived conflict of interest.

4.0 Oath of Office

J. Bowen-Eyre administered the Oath of Office for the 2020 – 2021 Board of Directors.

5.0 Approval of the Agenda:

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- Oath of Office as added as item 4.0
- Saitsa 2021/2022 Fee was added as item 9.3
- Upcoming Saitsa events was added as item 10.1
- Financial Update was added as item 10.2
- Committee reports were removed, due to committees failing to meet.



Motion:

To approve the agenda as amended.

**T. Holowachuk/F. Bilal
Motion Carries**

The amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

6.0 Adoption of Minutes:

6.1 Regular Meeting of the Board from Oct. 5, 2020

Motion:

To approve the minutes from the Oct. 5, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board.

**T. Holowachuk/K. J. Sawadan
9-0-4
Motion Carries**

7.0 Individual Reports:

7.1 President

R. Morstad did not submit a report.

R. Morstad reported the following activities:

- Attended ASEC Advocacy week in Edmonton
- Worked to develop Health & Dental Opt-In Clause
- The EC began packing care packages
- Attended Board Orientation and Meetings, and SAIT Open House

7.2 Vice President Academic

J. Bhatti's report is as submitted.

J. Bhatti was asked to elaborate on her meeting Avnish Mehta, an external strategic consultant for Saitsa. J. Bhatti provided a brief overview of what was discussed.

J. Bhatti was asked to elaborate on her meeting with Brad Donaldson regarding mandatory webcam usage and recording classrooms for students. J. Bhatti responded that recording was not mentioned and requested F. Bilal contact her later so she may bring these concerns to B. Donaldson.

7.3 Vice President External

L. Hunter's report is as submitted.

L. Hunter highlighted the following activities:

- Attended ASEC Advocacy week
- CASA eAdvocacy month



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- CSA Meet your Councillor event and sending meeting requests to various City of Calgary councillors regarding UPass advocacy.
- ASEC drafted letters to be sent to MLAs
- Launched the first episode of the Saitsa podcast the Asterisk

7.4 Vice President Student Life

J. Leippi report is as submitted.

8.0 Business Items:

8.1 Saitsa Restricted Building Fee Deferral

R. Morstad stated that the information received from the Governments of Alberta and Canada, as well as feedback received from students, indicate that students are struggling financially. The purpose of the deferral of the Building Fee is to suspend the fees collected by Saitsa members by 42% to ease financial burden.

R. Morstad indicated to the new Board members that this fee-suspension is a continuance of a decision of the previous Board, Saitsa will continue to evaluate whether or not to reestablish the fee every semester while COVID-19 continues to impact students.

A. Gellatly asked for a clarification of the definition of temporary waiver. R. Morstad responded that the deferral only applies to the Winter 2021 semester.

Motion:

WHEREAS The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in significant financial hardships for SAIT Students; and

WHEREAS In mid-May 2020 StatCan released survey statistics showing the significant impact that the Covid-19 Pandemic has had on Post-Secondary Students;

BE IT RESOLVED Saitsa implements a temporary waiver of the Saitsa Building Fee for the Winter 2021 Term.

R. Morstad/J. Leippi
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

8.2 Saitsa Health & Dental Opt-In

R. Morstad explained the need for an Opt-In option for part-time and Apprentice Saitsa members. Saitsa Bylaw grants members the right to participate in the plan, and to bring Saitsa into compliance with its Bylaws all fee-paying members must be provided the option to participate in the Health & Dental plan. Consultations with Campus Trust and PBAS were made, and they recommended pricing for students to opt-in to Saitsa's Health & Dental plans.

R. Morstad was asked to clarify if this will be an annual rate. R. Morstad stated that it is.



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R. Morstad was asked why the rate was set higher for students to opt-in than for those who are automatically provided the plans. R. Morstad responded that the Health & Dental program coverage is dependent on money received and used. The fee will be reviewed at a later date to determine if the fee needs to be adjusted to accommodate students and the cost of providing coverage.

Motion:

WHEREAS Saitsa bylaw 3.2(e) states that Members of Saitsa have the right to participate in the Saitsa Health and Dental Plan if H&D fees are paid;

BE IT RESOLVED Saitsa offer an option to opt in to the Saitsa health and dental insurance plan to all Saitsa members who are not eligible for the health and dental plan as a full-time credit student. The price for this option will be set at double the current rate each for both the health fee and the dental fee. Total as of November 2020 will be \$244 for the health plan, and \$260 for the dental plan.

**R. Morstad/T. Jimoh
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

ACTION: The Board tasks M. Stromme to gather information from SAIT regarding how fees will be collected and distributed to Saitsa's Health & Dental program, and to update the Board as information becomes available.

8.3 Saitsa Fees for 2020-2021

M. Stromme explained that SAIT's fiscal year has changed, and now requires Saitsa to approve its membership fee earlier than usual. M. Stromme provided information on Saitsa's current financial position and projections.

Motion:

WHEREAS the decision to set the 2021/2022 academic year's Saitsa fee schedule is required earlier than normal due to a change in SAIT's fiscal year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saitsa fee remain the same as the 2020/2021 academic year fee schedule as approved on the February 3rd, 2020 meeting of the Board

**T. Holowachuk/R. Morstad
Motion Tabled**

Motion:

To table item 8.3.

**S. LeBlanc/D. Thomas
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.



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ACTION: The Board tasks the Finance Committee to discuss and provide a recommendation for the 2021-2022 Saitsa Fee.

8.4 Board of Directors Vacancies

R. Paris informed the Board that there are two vacancies due to a lack of candidates in the 2020 Board of Directors Election. The Board may decide to fill the vacancies or leave them vacant. The board may fill the vacancies via an appointment process, or through byelection.

Motion:

To fill the vacant seats on the Board by appointment process.

S. LeBlanc/D. Thomas
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

R. Paris stated she will be in communication with S. LeBlanc, the nominations committee, and Saitsa Marketing and Communications to initiate the appointment process.

8.5 Standing Committee Appointments

R. Paris outlined the standing committees of the Board, their obligations, and their requirements. Directors must sit on at least one committee.

ACTION: Directors and Executive Council members are to complete the presented Committee form by midnight on Sunday, November 15th.

8.6 2020 BOD Election Report

R. Paris presented the 2020 Board of Directors Election report, as prepared by Saitsa's Chief Returning Officer, Ilene Burns. The CRO notes that the election was successful overall, despite a lower voter turnout than previous years.

Motion:

To ratify the 2020 Board of Directors Election Report as presented.

R. Morstad/S. LeBlanc
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

9.0 Information/Discussion:

9.1 Upcoming Saitsa Events

R. Valencerina and R. Paris presented upcoming Saitsa events and Board activities.

9.2 Saitsa Financials

M. Stromme presented information and documents regarding Saitsa's financial position to the Board.



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9.3 ED Report

M. Stromme reminded the Board that there is a Special Meeting scheduled for November 30th, 2020. M. Stromme will be distributing documents to the Board for them to review prior to the meeting.

Report is as presented.

9.4 In-Camera

Motion:

To move In-Camera.

**T. Holowachuk/S. LeBlanc
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting moved In-Camera at 8:26 p.m.

Motion:

To move In-Camera with M. Stromme and J. Bowen-Eyre, and without staff.

**T. Holowachuk/S. LeBlanc
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

R. Paris and R. Valencerina left the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

M. Stromme left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

J. Bowen-Eyre left the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Motion:

To move Ex-Camera.

**T. Holowachuk/L. Hunter
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

ACTION: The Board directs M. Stromme to include a stronger advocacy focus in the budget expected to be tabled in Dec 2020.

10.0 Questions/Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

**T. Holowachuk/T. Jimoh
Motion Carries**



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The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.