

**Meeting – October 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Begin Tower, 22nd Floor Meeting Room**

Present:

Liam Hunter	President	Voting Member
Dawson Thomas	Vice President	Voting Member
Oluwatomisin Aroge	Director	Voting Member
Jasmin Bhatti	Director	Voting Member
Arek Gellatly	Director	Voting Member
Hana Hossain	Director	Voting Member
Macleon Jarvis	Director	Voting Member
Truc Thanh	Director	Voting Member
Jaira Velasco	Director	Voting Member
Marc Stromme	Saitsa Executive Director	Non-Voting
Rachel Paris	Saitsa Director, Student Services	Non-Voting
Rio Valencerina	Saitsa Manager, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting
Sunra Sunra	Saitsa Administrative Coordinator, Governance	Non-Voting

Guests:

Jonathan Billodeau	ASEC Executive Director
Kat Dulay	Saitsa Coordinator, Clubs
Alejandro Melgar	SAIT Student
Erin St-Jean	SAIT Student
Paola Hinojosa	SAIT Student
Greg Fulmes	SAIT Instructor, Journalism

Agenda Item

- 1.0 Call to Order:**
L. Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
- 2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:**
H. Hossain gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories.
- 3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:**
L. Hunter reminded the Board to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest is any situation in which a Director may benefit or be perceived to benefit from business being conducted on the agenda.
- 4.0 Approval of the Agenda:**
R. Valencerina requested the WEAL Presentation be moved to item 7.0

Motion:

To approve the agenda as amended.

**A. Gellatly/M. Jarvis
Motion Carries**



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The motion was approved by general consent.

5.0 Adoption of Minutes:

5.1 Regular Meeting of the Board from September 14, 2021

Motion:

To approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 Board of Directors meeting as circulated.

**A. Gellatly/M. Jarvis
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

6.0 ASEC Membership Presentation

J. Bilodeau presented to the Board regarding Saitsa's membership with the Alberta Student's Executive Council (ASEC). ASEC exists to serve elected student leaders, generally working with the Executives and Boards of their member organizations. Advocacy, networking, and professional development are the key services that ASEC provides, providing opportunities for members to engage with government and decision-makers and other student-organization leaders throughout Alberta. ASEC has also recently partnered with the BC Federation of Students to create a federal advocacy group to represent student interests. ASEC now has a group to provide dedicated support to members' representatives to their institution's Board of Governors.

ASEC's advocacy priorities are:

- Additional supports and resources for international students, in response to government initiatives to bring more international students into Alberta;
- Sustainable funding for the PSE System;
- Regulate Alberta Tuition to the long-run rate of inflation;
- Standardizing meaningful consultation processes between Student Association's and their institutions;
- Expanding the Healthy and Safe campuses policy to include standardized and fair conflict resolution procedures for students.

J. K. Bhatti asked how international students will be supported by provincial government, when they are managed by the federal government. J. Bilodeau responded that certain parts of the International Student system are governed by the federal government, but other supports at the provincial level exist for students. There are a number of items provincially held that are currently being researched, that ASEC will be looking into to provide support.

L. Hunter concluded the session by thanking J. Bilodeau for the presentation, highlighting the value of ASEC with regards to supporting Saitsa.

7.0 The WEAL Proposal

R. Valencerina introduced Alejandro Melgar, Greg Fulmes, and Erin St-Jean, the students and SAIT faculty members who hope to revitalize the WEAL Student Newspaper.

A Melgar introduced the staff and students advocating for the restoration of the Weal. Their hope is for the Weal to become an independent production and media house with support from SAIT and Saitsa. They believe that this will allow for transparent journalism by and for students to develop on



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campus, citing The Gateway as a successful student newspaper run at the University of Alberta. They also believe that developing the Weal in this way can create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration at SAIT.

A. Gellatly asked for additional details regarding the financing and revenue from advertising and collaboration with other non-profit organizations. A. Melgar and E. St-Jean responded that they are in the process of conducting research into possible funding models and sources of funding dedicated to newspapers run by students at post-secondary institutions.

L. Hunter asked what supports are being requested of Saitsa. A. Melgar responded that they are asking if the Weal can be allowed to separate from Saitsa to be integrated into SAIT's programming. They are also seeking the release of funding set aside for the Weal as a club.

A. Gellatly asked if any SAIT contacts have been consulted to incorporate the Weal into SAIT's Academic structure. G. Fulmes responded that he was consulted with other instructors and Deans in various programs, who have voice support for the idea of the Weal becoming an opportunity for students to complete capstone projects.

K. Dulay was sponsored by L. Hunter. K. Dulay asked why the Weal specifically is needed for this project. A. Melgar responded that the end goal is for the Weal to become a separate production house on campus to replace The Press.

K. Dulay asked if there is a plan for staff to manage continuity for the Weal, citing concerns that student turnover may negatively affect it. G. Fulmes responded that continuity would be provided by Instructors involved with the Weal, who can provide guidance and context to incoming students.

L. Hunter asked what has been asked of SAIT to support this idea. A. Melgar stated that arrangements with Deans, Academic Chairs have secured some funding and resource support for print materials and web hosting.

J. K. Bhatti asked how students involved with the Weal may be held accountable for ensuring the organization's success. G. Fulmes responded that Instructors are intended to teach new students how to successfully manage the Weal, creating a partnership between students and instructors.

L. Hunter thanked the presenters, recognizing their intention and goals, but voiced concern that without a formal agreement in place the proposal presents a risk to Saitsa. L. Hunter asked if the presenters would be willing to pursue a formal, written agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding with SAIT. G. Fulmes stated that they are willing to pursue such an arrangement.

L. Hunter and the Board thanked the presenters for their time. The presenters were excused for the Board to discuss next steps.

ACTION: The Board of Directors tasks M. Stromme with gathering information from the students related to the expected timeline regarding the release of funds to the Weal, and seeking a memorandum of understanding with the institution by the next Board meeting.

8.0 Presidential Reports:

8.1 President

Report as submitted.



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8.2 Vice President

Report as submitted.

A. Gellatly asked D. Thomas why they resigned from the CASA Board of Directors. D. Thomas stated that their decision was based on the heavy workload they have, and a lack of support from CASA, so to be academically successful they felt it was necessary for them to resign from the CASA Board of Directors.

9.0 Open Report Discussion:

All Directors reports are as submitted.

M. Jarvis asked H. Hossain if they have been in contact with their Dean this month. H. Hossain will be meeting with their Dean this week to discuss the development of a Hospitality Management or Travel and Tourism academic club. M. Jarvis asked if they will be bringing up grievances of students on campus over the past couple weeks. H. Hossain will be bringing that up with their Dean to discuss how vaccine requirements have affected students.

J. K. Bhatti stated that they were nominated by faculty to be Vice-Chair of Academic Council, and was successfully elected.

M. Jarvis asked O. Aroge asked what the outcomes form their meeting with their Dean. O. Aroge responded that the meeting was to outline expectations and goals. O. Aroge will be working with a club called Let’s Talk, intended to give students in different programs opportunities to interact with past graduates and industry professionals to try and ease frustration students might be experiencing.

M. Jarvis asked T. Than for a follow-up regarding accessibility issues in the Senator Burns building. T. Than contacted the LAMB Leaner Success Center and received an email informing them that the issue has been escalated. L. Hunter and D. Thomas were also able to escalate the issue to the SAIT Executives, and Facilities Management had moved the entrance.

10.0 Business Items:

10.1 Academic Allowances for Directors

In accordance with section 2.4.1 of the Board of Directors Policy Manual, Directors may receive academic allowances if they receive passing grades for all their classes.

Motion:

WHEREAS section 2.4.1 of the Board of Directors Policy Manual states that Directors who receive passing grades for all their classes may receive academic allowances at the discretion of the Board; and

WHEREAS O. Aroge and J. Velasco, have fulfilled the requirements necessary to receive academic allowances, and have provided documentation demonstrating as such;

BE IT RESOLVED the Board approves the following academic allowances:

- O. Aroge - \$1000
- J. Velasco - \$1000

M. Jarvis/J. Velasco
9-0-0
Motion Carries



10.2 Environmental Sustainability Monitoring Update

The Board has elected to leave the policy unchanged pending further review of the policy manual.

10.3 Board Advisor Hiring

D. Thomas stated that the Board's hiring committee has recommended that the Board hire the interviewed candidate.

Motion:

WHEREAS section 5.6 of the Saitsa Bylaws and Section 2.7 of the Board of Directors Policy Manual state that the Board shall appoint a Board Advisor to act as a parliamentarian and resource person for the President, as chair, and Directors;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board appoints Neil Little to serve as Board Advisor until June 2022.

A. Gellatly/J. Velasco
9-0-0
Motion Carries

ACTION: The Board tasks M. Stromme to prepare an employment agreement for the Board Advisor.

11.0 Information/Discussion:

11.1 Upcoming Saitsa Events

R. Valencerina presented upcoming Saitsa events to the Board.

11.2 ED Report

M. Stromme presented his report to the Board. An In-Camera session is needed for Noah McDonald, Saitsa's Controller, to provide information to the Board.

M. Jarvis asked if the Ends policies will be reviewed in October. The Ends policies will be reviewed with Saitsa's Governance consultants on October 6, 2021. The Ends policies will be finalized by 2022.

J. K. Bhatti asked for an updated regarding the development of a Privacy policy. The policy will be developed by an external party after the completion of other policies and procedures needed.

11.3 In-Camera

Motion:

To move In-Camera with the M. Stromme and N. McDonald, Saitsa's Controller.

M. Jarvis/J. K. Bhatti
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.



Board of
Directors



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Motion:

To move Ex-Camera.

**M. Jarvis/A. Gellatly
Motion Carries**

J. Velasco left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

The meeting moved ex-camera at 7:11

12.0 Questions/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at the discretion of the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.