

Present:

Aaron Ramos	President	Voting Member
Mansoor Ali	Vice President	Voting Member
Gurnoor Brar	Director	Voting Member
Auginne Bunado	Director	Voting Member
Marina Butenko	Director	Voting Member
Bella Espiritu	Director	Voting Member
Jatin Joshi	Director	Voting Member
Ryan Ng	Director	Voting Member
Benjamin Nwachukwu	Director	Voting Member
Marc Stromme	Saitsa Executive Director	Non-Voting
Rachel Paris	Director, Student Services	Non-Voting
Rio Valencerina	Manager, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting
Erin Mobberley	Administrative Coordinator, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting
Christina Matisons	Board Advisor	Non-Voting

Regrets:

Nicole MacInnis	Research Coordinator, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting
Kelvin Fredua-Agyeman	Policy Development Coordinator, Governance & Advocacy	Non-Voting

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

C. Matisons called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

C. Matisons gave the acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories, telling the story of Api-kai-ees, a Blackfoot Runner who couriered messages between forts in Southern Alberta. In 1886, he earned the name “Deerfoot” after running 84 miles and 6 laps in 16 hours during an indoor track competition in the recently established City of Calgary.

In the 1970’s, Calgary built the highway from north to south, as well as a large shopping centre and industrial area and named them all after Deerfoot, the Blackfoot runner of the western prairies. The City of Calgary has named many roads after First Nations. C. Matisons commented that such actions speak to Calgary’s unique identity and weaves a social fabric into our physical environment. C. Matisons invited others to learn more about the land in and around the SAIT and Calgary community.



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C. Matisons acknowledged the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, comprising of the Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations, as well as the Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nations, as well as the Métis Nation, Region 3.

3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

C. Matisons performed a conflict of interest check. A conflict of interest is defined as any situation where a Director may have a real or perceived interest in the business of the board.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

To amend the Agenda to add an item to reconsider the 2023-2024 Board of Directors Budget.

A. Ramos/R. Ng
9-0-0
Motion Carries

Motion:

To approve the agenda as amended.

A. Ramos/A. Bunado
9-0-0

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

5.0 Adoption of Minutes:

5.1 Regular Meeting of the Board from April 3, 2023.

Motion:

To approve the minutes from the April 3, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

A. Ramos/A. Bunado
9-0-0

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

6.0 Presentation

No business was discussed in the current meeting.

7.0 Items for Decision:

7.1 Ends

7.2 Executive Limitations

7.2.1 2023-2024 Budget Amendment



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A. Ramos stated that in the Board budget under Board Programming, \$2000 is budgeted for Transcription, to be changed to general "Research". A Ramos stated they feel \$2000 would be insufficient for Saitsa's research budget.

M. Stromme mentioned that the change of "transcription" to "research" would not need reconsideration by the Board.

7.3 Governance Process

7.3.1 President & Vice President Selection

C. Matisons provided an overview of the selection process:

- The President shall be selected first, followed by the Vice President.
- Directors may self-nominate or nominate others for the position of President or Vice President.
- If a Director is nominated by someone, they may choose to accept or reject the nomination.
- Nominees shall give speeches that are no longer than 4 minutes long. Nominees shall give their speeches successively.
- There shall be a 10-minute question period after the last nominee gives their speech.
- After the 10-minute time limit has been exhausted, or if there are no questions from Directors, ballots shall be distributed for the vote in accordance with GP-12.

C. Matisons called for nominations for the position of President:

- A. Ramos self-nominated.

No other nominations were received. In accordance with Board of Directors policy GP-12, A. Ramos has been acclaimed as President.

C. Matisons called for nominations for the position of Vice President:

- M. Butenko self-nominated.
- M. Ali self-nominated.

M. Butenko stated they believe that passion and drive are necessary for success in the role. She referenced her drive and passion for students and student issues, and shares the same beliefs as several Directors, which would lead to positive outcomes for the Board.

M. Ali stated that they believe their diverse background culturally, professionally and academically would be beneficial in supporting the Board and its Directors to achieve their goals. They cited their professional experience and skills they had developed. They believe they have the necessary qualities to serve the student association and the broader student community.

J. Joshi asked the nominees what they find most challenging of VP and how they plan to overcome that.

M. Ali stated time management would be challenging to balance academics and Board commitments. M. Ali provided an anecdote of their experience managing their time.



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M. Butenko responded to the question stating that they believe navigating student issues and deciding which issues take priority over others. They stated that the Board works together to prioritize these issues, and that the Board's support would be necessary to make these determinations to serve students.

R. Ng asked how they would balance their other responsibilities with those of the Vice President.

M. Ali stated they have an internship, but currently does not have much work for the semester, so will be able to fulfill their responsibilities during the summer.

M. Butenko stated that they have made a point of showing they are committed to the position by decreasing their courseload to ensure they can balance their responsibilities as Vice President with their other responsibilities.

A. Ramos asked what prior advocacy experience the nominees have.

M. Butenko responded that they had experience as far back as they were 12-13 years old, exploring the effects of sugar consumption on children that led to a school-division-wide change to replace unhealthy items in vending machines. They have been involved in other advocacy issues including mental health and policy, including a petition at SAIT for students struggling to complete their capstone projects. M. Ali stated they do not have specific advocacy experience, but believe that their other experiences have granted them skills that would be beneficial for Saitsa's advocacy.

B. Espiritu asked the nominees about their past experiences regarding miscommunication and how they handled these issues. M. Butenko responded that they have had several jobs in the service industry, as well as experience working with individuals with limited communication skills. They stated they believe that miscommunication is something that would happen, and learning how to navigate those situations requires a tailored approach to address miscommunications. M. Ali stated they agree that miscommunication is inevitable. They provided an example of a meeting they were in where they had miscommunicated with another stakeholder. After this issue, they sat down and discussed.

Motion

To extend the question period by 10 minutes.

A. Ramos/B. Nwachukwu
9-0-0
Motion Carries

B. Nwachukwu asked the nominees how they intend to contribute to image projection and protection. M. Ali stated that they believe that this is an important part of business that they apply to other parts of their life; they provided an example of dressing appropriately and being presentable. M. Butenko stated that they share the same ideas such as punctuality and being appropriately prepared. M. Butenko stated that they think that they are well spoken and that their interactions are professional, which would make the transition to VP natural.



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R. Ng asked if either candidate would be willing to decrease their other responsibilities if they feel that the VP role is too much. M. Butenko stated that they would be willing to accommodate the role, and have collaborated with other stakeholders to ensure that clubs and other students can be served. M. Ali stated they would not, but felt that they perform at a high-level that would make them successful in the role.

A. Bunado asked how they plan to balance the responsibilities of the Board and supporting other directors. M. Butenko stated that they feel that they will continue the sentiment that they are equal to the other Directors. M. Ali stated that they felt their election to VP would be an endorsement of their judgement, and that if a Director brought an idea to them, that they would recommend the idea be tried out by the Directors individually, and then supported after some work has been done.

G. Brar asked what top 3 problems they'd like to address with the Board.

M. Ali stated their priorities are:

- UPass negotiations
- Working with international students
- Any issue that the Board puts forward

M. Butenko stated their priorities are:

- UPass negotiations
- Accessibility on campus, physical and mental
- Clubs, sports, and partnerships to support student wellbeing

B. Nwachukwu asked the nominees how they would approach conflict situations with the President. M. Ali responded that they feel that the policies would resolve these issues so long as the Board agreed. M. Butenko agreed, and stated that they would respect the wishes of the Board.

Ballots were distributed to the Board for voting. R. Paris and R. Valencerina tallied the ballots in accordance with Board of Directors Policy GP-12. M. Ali was selected by secret ballot.

Motion

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has administered the selection process for the President and Vice President, as detailed in Board of Directors policy GP-12; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has voted by secret ballot for the President and Vice President;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors affirms the election of the following individuals for the offices of President and Vice President:

- President: Aaron Ramos
- Vice President: Mansoor Ali

B. Espiritu/R. Ng
9-0-0
Motion Carries



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7.3.2 Campus Trust Representative Selection

R. Valencerina provided an overview of the selection process:

- Directors may self-nominate or nominate others.
- Speeches shall be no longer than 4 minutes long.
- A 10-minute question period shall follow after all nominees have spoken.

B. Espiritu asked to discuss the role before beginning the process. A. Ramos asked for clarification about the role. M. Stromme explained that the representatives would be encouraged to run for election to Campus Trust Board, and that the experience would be similar to sitting on the Saitsa board. R. Paris stated that they would be provided training by the Campus Trust as well. Students are elected on one-year terms.

M. Stromme stated that the representatives would be attending a conference from June 19-23; one individual may be nominated to the Campus Trust Board. The commitment involves monthly meetings with the Board and students. R. Paris and M. Stromme provided an overview of other opportunities that participants could have if they are selected.

R. Ng asked what changes could be seen when changes are made at the Board. M. Stromme explained that Saitsa is one of the biggest partners in the Trust, so it is beneficial to have Saitsa's perspective on the Board.

C. Matisons called for nominations for the position of Campus Trust representative.

- A. Ramos self-nominated.
- B. Espiritu self-nominated.
- A. Bunado self-nominated.
- B. Nwachukwau nominated M. Butenko. M. Butenko declined the nomination.

A. Ramos withdrew his nomination.

Motion

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors appoints the following individuals as Saitsa's representatives to the Campus Trust APO:

- B. Espiritu
- A. Bunado

A. Ramos/A. Bunado
9-0-0
Motion Carries



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7.4 Board-Executive Director Delegation

8.0 Policy Items for Decision

- 8.1 Ends
- 8.2 Executives
- 8.3 Governance Processes
- 8.4 Board Executive Director Relationship

No business was conducted at the meeting.

9.0 Required Approvals

No business was conducted at the meeting.

10.0 Ownership Linkages

No business was conducted at the meeting.

11.0 Advocacy Linkages (Position Statements)

No business conducted at the meeting.

12.0 Board Education

No business conducted at the meeting.

13.0 Monitoring Board Performance

C. Matisons asked the Board to complete the BOD Evaluation form. Time was provided for the Board to complete the form.

14.0 Monitoring CEO Performance

No business was conducted at the meeting.

15.0 Information Requested by the Board

No business was conducted at the meeting.

16.0 Information for the Board

- 16.1 Upcoming Saitsa Events



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R. Valencerina informed the Board of upcoming International student orientation and Spring orientation.

17.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Processes

18.0 In-Camera Session

19.0 Questions/Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.