

**Present:**

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

**Guests:**

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**Regrets:**

Marina Butenko	Director	Voting Member
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**Agenda Item**

**1.0 Call to Order:**

A. Ramos called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

**2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:**

B. Espiritu recited the Land Acknowledgement.

**3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:**

A. Ramos 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:**

J. Joshi requested for additional agenda items, Mental Health and Wellness Program and Integrity Awareness Suggestions to be added under Ownership Linkages 10.0.



**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

August 14, 2023, 5:00 p.m. Begin Tower 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom

**Motion:**

To approve the agenda as amended.

**J. Joshi/R. Ng**  
**8-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

**5.0 Adoption of Minutes:**

**5.1 Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting from July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Minutes were amended to reflect accurate attendance records.

*The motion was approved by unanimous consent.*

**6.0 Presentations**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

**7.0 Items for Decision:**

**7.1 Ends**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

**7.2 Executive Limitations**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

**7.3 Governance Process**

**7.3.1 GP-2-5-4 Email Motion – Mission/Vision Business Statements July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Email Motion:**

**WHEREAS** Section GP-2-5-4 states that the Board of Directors shall be accountable for any changes to the organizational name or identity in the community;

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Board of Directors approves the following new public Mission, Vision, and Business Statements for the organization:

New Mission Statement: To empower SAIT students and enrich their experience by fostering wellbeing, providing support, and advocating for success at every step of their academic journey.

New Vision Statement: A thriving, inclusive community where students achieve their fullest potential, equipped with resources, support, and opportunities that inspire growth, leadership, and excellence.

Business Statement: At Saitsa, our non-profit Students' Association, the students are our cornerstone! Our foremost dedication is to their academic advancement and comprehensive



well-being. The reinvestment of any surplus revenue is designed to constantly improve student experiences and the services we deliver.

J. Jatin/R. Ng  
8-0-1  
Motion Carries

### 7.3.2 Academic Allowance

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** Board of Directors Policy GP-8 entitles Directors who meet eligibility requirements to an academic allowance that shall not exceed the amount of tuition paid for the respective semester; and

**WHEREAS** The Directors indicated below, have submitted documentation demonstrating that they have passed their courses and validating the total amount of tuition paid for the Spring 2023 semester;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors approves the academic allowances for the following Directors:

- Ryan Ng - \$607.50
- Julia Ysabel Espiritu \$1000

## 8.0 Policy Items for Decisions

### 8.1 Ends

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

### 8.2 Executive Limitations

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

### 8.3 Governance Processes

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

### 8.4 Board Executive Director

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

## 9.0 Required Approvals

No Business was conducted at the meeting.



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**10.0 Ownership Linkages**

**10.1 Mental Health & Wellness Program Event**

J. Joshi presented his proposal for a Mental Health and Wellness Program Event with the Radha Madhav Cultural Association. The program would focus on incorporating mantras and practices that promote positive mental health in a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages students to engage in open discussions about their mental well-being. The new opportunity is centered around helping students start the academic year positively in September.

M. Stromme advised the Board to be cognizant of the Ends and to remember that Ownership Linkage activities should a priority of the Board.

R. Paris suggested reaching out to her department with the possibility of working together on an event proposal while recommending the Healthy Habits Expo as an alternative approach to promote the Wellness event.

**10.2 Integrity Awareness Suggestions**

J. Joshi highlighted the need for increased class talks on academic and non-academic misconduct, ensuring students' policies are clear and defined while emphasizing the environment in which students feel comfortable approaching Directors regarding these issues.

A. Ramos questioned whether we are doubling on initiatives SAIT already holds. R. Ng suggested a call to follow up with students mid-way through the year. A. Bunado suggested exploring shorter policies to prevent students from neglecting them.

**11.0 Advocacy Linkages (Position Statement)**

No business was conducted at this meeting.

**12.0 Board Education**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

**13.0 Monitoring Board Performance**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.

**14.0 Monitoring CEO Performance**

No Business was conducted at the meeting.



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**15.0 Information Requested by the Board**

**15.1 Revised Mission/Vision/Business Statements (Completed)**

See 7.3.1 for reference to Revised Mission/Vision/Business Statements.

**16.0 Information for the Board**

**16.1 Saitsa – Events of the Month**

E. Mobberley provided a look at the month ahead.

R. Paris provided a small insight into the increasing cost of living here in Calgary, seeing a rise in students reaching out to secure good food boxes, food support, and housing needs/concerns.

A. Ramos shared that he was interviewed by CBC News regarding the increase in the dependence of on-campus food programs among the student population.

**16.2 BOD and Staff Support and Communications**

R. Paris discussed the challenges associated with communicating with the Board when planning events, training days and other administrative tasks. E. Mobberley acknowledged there are many ways to communicate, asking how the Board would like to be communicated with going forward. The Board agreed that email was the best form of communication to arrange various administrative tasks.

**17.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Processes**

The Board participated in the Self-Evaluation.

**17.1 Board Expectations and Reporting Protocols**

R. Paris presented the topic of Board expectations to emphasize that previous boards successfully established Board Expectations to guide and hold each other accountable throughout the year. These expectations encompassed various aspects that included Attendance and availability to ensure effective communication and collaboration between staff and Directors.

**18.0 In-Camera Session**

**Motion:**

To move In-Camera with the board advisor at 6:16 p.m.

**R. Ng/ M. Ali**  
**8-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**



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At 6:17 p.m., M. Stromme, R. Paris, and E. Mobberley were excused.

At 6:20 p.m., C. Matisons was excused.

At 6:23 p.m., M. Stromme, R. Paris, E. Mobberley and C. Matisons welcomed back.

**Motion:**

To move ex-Camera at 6:24 p.m.

J. Joshi/ A. Bunado  
8-0-0  
Motion Carries

**18.1 Review of Board Advisor position**

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** section 5.6 of the bylaws states the Board shall appoint or contract the services of a Board Advisor to act as a parliamentarian and resource person for the President, as chair and Directors; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors appoints Christina Matisons as Board Advisor for the Saitsa for the 2023-2024 academic year, effective immediately.

R. Ng/ B. Espiritu  
8-0-0  
Motion Carries

**Motion:**

To move in-Camera at 6:27 p.m.

R. Ng/ B. Espiritu  
8-0-0  
Motion Carries

**Motion**

To move ex-Camera at 6:43 p.m.

J. Joshi/B. Espiritu  
8-0-0  
Motion Carries



**Board of  
Directors**

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**19.0 Questions/Adjournment**

A. Ramos adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.