#### Board Meeting

Brandon University Students’ Union, Local 37 of the Canadian Federation of Students

**Wednesday January 20th, 2016 at 5 PM** – CLC Boardroom, Knowles Douglas Centre

1. **CALL TO ORDER at 5:12pm.**
2. **OPENINGS**

Those present at the meeting shall introduce themselves at this time. Regrets shall be noted.

*Present:* Nick Brown, Mercedes McLean, Tyler Lischinski, Chizaram Ukasoanya, Mairo Ahmadu, Jillian Vanderheiden, Suz McFadden, Rhoni Mohanraj, Ashlyn Pearce (Quill), Jocelyn Bruce, Racheal Wu  
 *Regrets:* Sheyenne Spence, Sarah Wallace  
 *Absent:* Olumjumu Kayode Segun

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion (15-BUSU-151)** McLean/Ukasoanya CARRIED  ***Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted***

**Motion to amend (15-BUSU-152)** McLean/Ukasoanya CARRIED  ***Be it resolved that the agenda be amended to have the following added under New Business: d)Family Fun Day e) Bystander Training f) Director Orientation.***

***Be it further resolved that the following points be added under Announcements: c) Positive Space Training d) Office and Services Manager Position***

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

* 1. **CFS Racialized Summit**

Brown said that this was a summit that was voted on at the NGM in November and they are hosting it March 18th-22nd. We get one free delegate as a local of CFS. Wants to know how many people council is wanting to send.   
  
Wu wanted clarity that in order to attend you have to identify as racialized.

Brown said that you do have to identify as racialized in order to attend.

Mohanraj said last time in terms of the budget, we lost $500.00 by sending another delegate who ended up not being able to attend. We should maybe just make use of our free delegate.

Brown said that we had budgeted to send 4 people to the NGM’s total and we only ended up sending 3, so there is money in the budget for 4.

**Motion (15-BUSU-153)** Lischinski/Mohanraj CARRIED  ***Be it resolved that Local 37 send two delegates to the racialized summit.***

Wu said that she is interested in attending.

Ukasoanya asked if it just has to be members of council or if we can open it to the student body.

Brown said we can open it to the student body.

**Motion to reconsider (15-BUSU-154)** McLean/Mohanraj CARRIED

***Be it resolved that the motion to send two delegates to the racialized summit be reconsidered.***

Wu said that she knows that there were problems with sending two people last term, but it would be good to potentially open it up to students to get them interested as a lot of current council members won’t be coming back next year.

Mohanraj said that he agrees with Wu because we didn’t have enough time last term to discuss. Said that we can send it out to the student body. Said whoever is chosen will be held accountable for providing a report.

Ukasoanya asked if they had a definition of racialized.

Vanderheiden said that their letter states “Spaces at the summit are limited and open only to the participation of racialized and Indigenous identified people with special consideration for participants from traditionally marginalized communities such as those that identify as womyn and/or trans and/or gender non-conforming and/or queer and/or with disabilities.” That’s what they have identified.

Ukasoanya said in the email to the students they need to ensure to include the definition.

Bruce said that just because we had a few crazy circumstances that came up last term when we were sending two people, that shouldn’t prevent us from sending two people this time.

Brown said that the summit is also open to anyone who wants to pay their own way to the event.

McFadden said that they may also want to ask CFS about how they are booking the flights as they have been booking through a travel agency to save money, but the agency won’t allow you to change names on the flights. Said it would be good to know if there are any loopholes that would allow for that kind of change before we submit names.

Brown said now that we have decided to send two delegates, council should decide how we want to obtain those delegates. We can either have council members bring forth their names or we can submit it to the student body and ask them to send in letters of intent.

Ukasoanya said that writing letters of intent makes the most sense.

Lischinski said that we should send one person from council and one person from the student body.

Vanderheiden said that if we are going to have them submit a letter of intent, then we need to have a way to measure it as lots of people may have good letters. They should decide on criteria.

Wu said that there is a benefit to sending a council member with a student because students who haven’t necessarily been involved with student politics may not know their role at these events. The council member could show them how these events work and let them know how crucial these events can be.

**Motion (15-BUSU-155)** Wu/Ukasoanya CARRIED  ***Be it resolved that we as a council send one council member as a delegate to the CFS Racialized Summit.***

***Be it further resolved that the second delegate be filled by a member of Local 37 through the process of a letter of intent.***

**Motion (15-BUSU-156)** Ahmadu/Vanderheiden CARRIED ***Be it resolved that Racheal Wu be selected as council’s delegate for the CFS Racialized Summit.***

Wu said that we should hold off until the last possible minute to register people just in case something comes up.

* 1. **Bookstore Changeover**

Brown said as some of you may be aware, the university is looking at bringing in Follett which is a large corporate bookstore from the US. They are bringing them in to manage the bookstore. It’s a bookstore takeover. BU wants to get out of the bookstore game as they have lost money the last four years. Follett is basically the only company that operates in Canada. Follett runs the bookstore at ACC and the University of Winnipeg and others in Canada and the US. They had a presentation that Vanderheiden, McFadden, and Ore attended. They asked a number of questions and didn’t get the answers they were looking for. Said that other faculty and staff groups also came back with a lot of questions and had some anger about how fast this is happening. Felt that there should be more context. This is an agenda item for the Board of Governors meeting this Saturday to give the final verdict on the changeover.

McFadden said that she did some research for council on it. She got in touch with the the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association because they have Follett on their campus. Said that UWSA has their own used bookstore and the person who operates that mentioned that when Follett moved onto their campus, they campaigned outside of the used bookstore trying to get students to go to Follett. Said that their relationship has improved now. The problem that they said that they have seen the most is that there is an edition changeover almost every year on their books as that’s how they make more money. That could be problematic for the book-buy-back system that they have in place as they are using a new edition each year. Could also be problematic for the rental system that they have because these books need to be used for four consecutive terms in order to be put on the rental list. For us that could mean four years or eight years depending on course availability. Said that they also mentioned that with the edition changeovers the prices go up. Said maybe council wants to do a little bit of research on the changeover because she’s not sure about the legitimacy about some of the research that we have done in the office, but it’s always good to look into these things. Another thing they looked into online was “#occupythebookstore” which is a Google Chrome plugin. Apparently Follett had a lawsuit against this group in the States because the plugin allowed students to compare different prices online for their texts on the bookstore page. Regardless of the legitimacy of the website or the plugin, it should be noted that Follett seems to have pushback when alternative options (that are potentially cheaper) are being made available for students. Council may want to explore some of these things, ask questions, and find out the legitimacy behind some of these points. BUSU could end up finding other better alternatives for students during the duration of the seven year contract and implementations of those options could be problematic.

Wu asked if we choose to deny the space in our building to Follett, what happens? Can we refuse to rent them the space?  
  
Brown said that the way that the contract is worded is that Follett will be managing the BU bookstore. The KDC agreement with the bookstore is that Campus Books is a tenant of the KDC. Under that technicality, they would still be able to lease.

Wu asked if we could deny their lease in the upcoming year.

Brown said that they could.

Vanderheiden said that she also did some research. Back in 1976 BU entered an agreement with BUSU about the bookstore. BUSU had a used bookstore and we merged into one with BU and created an agreement. Says that they will take space from the KDC, operate Campus Books, they will manage/make all the decisions about the store, and we’ll have 50/50 profit sharing. Said that the contract is binding until terminated by mutual agreement, so if it comes to that point we could get rid of the agreement and go forward and have our own bookstore or do whatever we need to do. KDC could not renew the tenancy agreement, what that would maybe mean in 2035 when our tenancy agreement is up in this building, we won’t be here anymore, but that could be a footprint we are leaving if we kick out the bookstore. Depends on how big we want to go with this.

Wu said that if it’s binding until mutual agreement to terminate, what does that mean for us.

Vanderheiden said that the agreement has already technically been broken.

Brown said that it hasn’t been followed to the letter. Said that it would probably end in a lawsuit in one direction or the other.

McFadden said that it will be up to KDC in terms of passing the lease. Said that they have typically been approving two-year leases and because of the amount of money that Follett will be investing into the infrastructure, she’s assuming that they will want more than a two-year lease for the seven-year contract.

Wu said some of the brands that Follett has been associated with are not ethical in terms of their labour. So that’s something we need to keep in mind as a union. Said that it’s not saying that they aren’t ethical with their labour practices, but that they are happy to work with those who aren’t ethical and that could be problematic. The idea that some of these students who have been working in the bookstore will be removed from their positions and will no longer be covered under the PSAC agreement isn’t good because it’s taking away from the coverage and services that these students need. Said council should keep this in mind.

Ukasoanya said that a seven-year contract is problematic because if we have problems with them in the first year, then we’re stuck. Is there a way to break the contract?

Brown said that the contract is between BU and Follett, but the leasing agreement will be between KDC and BU. Said that KDC will likely grant BU a two-year lease as they normally do.

Lischinski asked if the students who work there now will be losing their job.

Vanderheiden said that she, McFadden, Ore, and Brown had a meeting with Scott Lamont, Susan Smale, and Tom Brophy and asked them that question. Said that the students would be retrained under Follett if they want to keep their jobs. They plan to use the current staff. Said that they have a great package for the full time staff/managers that work there, but as for the students they didn’t really say if they would be laid off for the summer and if they would be the first to be hired back in September. Said that they are hoping that the Board of Governors passes a motion allowing them to start contract negotiations with Follett and then they are hoping that Follett can come in this summer and start renovations and be open by the fall. We aren’t sure what’s going to happen to those students come the fall. Said that the main staff people have a choice to stay as BU employees or move over to Follett as employees. The student staff members have to move to Follett. They don’t have a choice.

Mercedes said that renovations rarely finish on the date that they are supposed to. So what happens if it’s not open for the fall and students don’t have a bookstore.

Brown said that it has to be open for the summer, so they will be figuring something out.

Vanderheiden said that PSAC is useful for wage negotiations. They make sure that students get paid more than minimum wage. Follett can come in and just pay minimum wage.

Brown said that he’d like to go to the Board of Governors with an official stance and vote from BUSU.

Vanderheiden said that everyone is welcome to attend the open session portion of the BOG meeting. Said that they have had some angry faculty, staff, and students, but that Scott Lamont, Susan Smale, and other BU representatives have said that this is only an increase in services. It will be an increase in services, but we are concerned about at what cost these increases in services come. Said that there are good things about it, like the textbook rental program, but that also comes at a cost.

Brown said that institutions that have a competing bookstore on their campus as well as Follett, their prices have stayed the same. At other institutions where they do not have a competing bookstore, their prices are at about a 15% increase.

Brown said that if you buy an electronic textbook it gets attached to your student number and you access it through Moodle. You can’t re-sell that key because of this.

Bruce said that you’d likely ultimately lose access to that book after you graduate as we no longer have access to those student logins.

Vanderheiden said that their e-books have an attachment for professors to look to see what each student has read and how far they are in their reading. Said could be problematic for students who go and ask for help and professors tell them that they haven’t read a certain chapter yet. Some professors love this, but students find that it’s an invasion of their academic rights. Every benefit just seems to come with a con.

Brown asked if the consensus for his vote on Saturday will be a “No.”

Council agreed unanimously to the “No” vote.

* 1. **BUSU Election**

Brown said that it’s a five-week process. The first nomination period is two weeks; the second nomination period happens over reading week. Then there are two weeks of campaigning followed by an election after the campaigning period. Said that they are currently working on materials to get out there to notify students of the different roles that they can run for. During the election, if people are planning on running, they can continue with their regular duties up until the campaigning period. Asked council to speak to their constituencies and let them know about the election. It would be good to have at least one person running for every position so we can have a full council come May 1st.

* 1. **Family Fun Day**

Brown said on February 26th there is a professional development day for Brandon School Division. On professional development days there are a lot of children on campus with their parents.

Vanderheiden said that PD days happen every third Friday in Brandon. She’s hoping that this event will be successful so that maybe BUSU can do something every third Friday. McFadden and her were chatting about this and then came up with the idea for this day. Our mature students take up 15% of the student body and a lot of them are parents. With the PD day falling on a school day, there are many parents who miss class that day or they are bringing their kids to their classes. She wants to send out an email to faculty to let them know that we are inviting the students to bring their kids to class that day and that they should speak to their students in specific classes that may be dealing with sensitive materials so that they can work something out. We’d like to have a Services Fair in the Mingling Area with Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets, etc… Things that the students can get involved with as volunteers, but also for students who are parents and want more information about what they can get their kids involved with. We also hope that we will have a movie in the Evans Theatre with popcorn. Said we could maybe host a lunch.

Brown asked for interest in hosting this event and other activity ideas.

Ukasoanya and Ahmadu said that there should be some interactive activities for students to do that’s fun.

Bruce suggested that we have students create a giant box fort out of old cardboard boxes. Said that they do this at summer festivals and it’s very successful.

Ukasoanya suggested that we ask local businesses for potential food donations.

Vanderheiden said that she will need help from council on this event as she will be running in the election at this time. She will still be volunteering and running the event, but she will need assistance. Said for council to email her if they have any more ideas.

* 1. **Bystander Training**

Brown said that this training will be made available by Marsha at Student Services. There’s a 90 minute version of the training or 4 hour version of the training. Similar to first aid training. It allows you to identify inappropriate sexual behaviour and understand the role in bystander intervention. You make a commitment to intervene during sexual assault violence. People will understand their own barriers and learn techniques to help them with those barriers.

BUSU council said that they were interested in taking the training. Brown said that they would first request a date with the 90-minute training and if council expresses that they are available for a 4 hour session, then they can look into arranging it.

Wu said that she doesn’t think that a 90-minute session is long enough to get the full benefit of the course. Thinks that sometimes people will leave shorter sessions thinking that they know all of the information and that they may give out the wrong advice to people if they don’t have the chance for more discussion.

* 1. **Director Orientation**

Brown said that this is currently scheduled for this Sunday. A few things have come up since last Friday. He’s had multiple directors who have attended in the past ask if they need to be there and both McFadden and Ore are unavailable on Sunday afternoon. Wants to know if we still want to go ahead with the event if directors have mentioned that they are uninterested and staff are unable to attend.

Vanderheiden said that she doesn’t think that it’s necessary. If directors are looking for specific information we can get it to them personally. Said we have director orientation binders from past years in the BUSU office for people to view as well.

Wu said that she’s been to a number of these orientations before and said for the few directors who really want the information, they should ask the office managers if they are available to give some training to them if they come to the office. Said doesn’t feel it’s necessary to have a full orientation at this point because it’s the same information that’s given out.

Council agreed.

**Motion to reconsider (15-BUSU-157)** Lischinski/McLean CARRIED  ***Be it resolved that we reconsider the motion to have council orientation on Sunday January 24th.***

**Motion (15-BUSU-158)** Wu/Vanderheiden DEFEATED  ***Be it resolved that BUSU hold a Director Orientation on Sunday January 24th, 2016.***

1. **CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion (15-BUSU-159)** Wu/Bruce CARRIED ***Be it resolved that the meeting move into Closed Session.***

* 1. **Update on the Presidential Situation**
  2. **Lawyer Change**
  3. **Appointment of Returning Officer**

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. **Director Photos**

Brown said that they’d like to take photos of council members for the year so that they can put up a shadowbox in the Mingling Area with the other photos.

Council decided to talk about this again in March when the elections are over. Some members felt that there was no point to taking pictures this late in the year.

* 1. **BU Open House**

Vanderheiden said that BU is holding an Open House for the first time. They aren’t doing Winterlude this year. It’s on the Tuesday of reading week. It would be great to have as many directors there as possible. We have a 2 to 3-hour slot that we are in the HLC with BUSU Services Tables and with student clubs. Said that they are expecting 700-1200 grade 12 students to come through campus that day.

* 1. **Positive Space Training**

Vanderheiden said that Positive Space training is happening on February 4th in the afternoon or February 6th in the morning. It was discussed previously that council wanted a session so they could be trained. Said if council is available they should sign up for those slots.

* 1. **Office and Services Manager Position**

McFadden said that she will be moving out of province and as such she will be resigning from her position on April 26th, 2016. Wanted to give time for a proper transition and training with a new hire. (Resignation letter attached).

* 1. **Dismissal of a Director**

Brown said that Olumjumu Kayode Segun has missed three consecutive meetings with no regrets or communication and according to the bylaws is now subject to removal from council.

**Motion (15-BUSU-163)** Wu/Ahmadu CARRIED

***Be it resolved that Olumjumu Kayode Segun be served notice that he may be removed from BUSU council based on bylaw 3500 point c).***

Brown said that this motion is just to serve notice that this will be dealt with at the next council meeting unless he can come back with a reason as to why he’s missed meetings.

Wu asked if he had sent in his schedule of his availability.

Brown said that he hadn’t and that he had asked for it twice in person, once by telephone, and twice by e-mail with no response.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn (15-BUSU-164)** Bruce/Wu CARRIED

***Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00pm.***

Minutes approved at meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Motioned by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_