



Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
Sheridan Student Union Incorporated (SSUI)

Meeting #:	322
Date:	April 11, 2022
Time:	7:00PM [EST]
Location:	Teleconference (Zoom)

Director	In Attendance	Calling In	Absent	Late (Time Arrived)
Chairperson: Sarah Jewell	X			
Vice-Chairperson: Kashyap (Kashyapkumar) Patel	X			
Rhema Javed	X			
Hasan Iqbal	X			
Riddhi Mihir Shah	X			
Tejaswini Shah	X			
Rashad Haque	X			
Parth Thummar			X	
Vanessa (Matifadza) Manyika	X			
Zeravan Aswad				7:17PM
Raghuveer Vakharia	X			
Shweta Ravel	X			

Quorum is reached with 10 of the required 8 directors being present.

Ex-Officio Member	In Attendance	Calling In	Absent	Late (Time Arrived)
Jamie (James) King, General Manager			X	
Kyle Budge, President	X			
Maria Lucido-Bezely, Dean of Students	X			
Saz (Sarah) McKean, Executive Coordinator & Board Secretary	X			

Guests In Attendance	Gaby (Gabrielle) Moryoussef, Vice President of Staff & College Engagement
	Julia Bertola, Vice President of Community Development

Agenda Item 01	Call to Order
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting is called to order by Sarah Jewell at 7:07PM. 	

Agenda Item 02	Roll Call
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board has reached quorum and is able to proceed with the meeting. 	

Agenda Item 03	Land Acknowledgement
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hasan says the Sheridan Land Acknowledgement. 	

Agenda Item 04	Opening Remarks
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saz informs the Board that there have been changes to the agenda, and will discuss them in the agenda approval. 	

Agenda Item 05	Approval of Current Meeting Agenda		
Motion:	I move that we approve the updated 322nd SSU Board Meeting Agenda.		
Moved By:	Sarah Jewell	Seconded By:	Rhema Javed
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saz shares the 322nd Board Meeting Agenda [edited]. Items deleted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections recap, In-camera session. Items added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Course Proposal, StudentCare Ideation, Financial aid support. 			
Motion Carries			
Votes:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
	10	0	0

Agenda Item 06	Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes		
Motion:	I move that we approve the 321st Meeting Minutes, as presented to the Board.		
Moved By:	Rashad Haque	Seconded By:	Riddhi Mihir Shah
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Motion Carries			
Votes:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
	10	0	0

Agenda Item 07	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyle has a conflict of interest with the Board Reform Proposal agenda item. 	

Agenda Item 08**Executive Updates**

Notes:

- In-camera session for legal update:
 - The timeline of wrapping up has been delayed.
 - There will likely be an in-camera update next meeting.
- New VP:
 - In the hiring process of a new VP because Gaby is graduating and leaving at the end of the month.
 - Tristan, Julia, and Saz are continuing their roles and contracts have been renewed.
- SSU Gala:
 - Gala was last Friday. Event itself went smooth.
 - The gala will likely happen again next year.
 - Kyle asks the board what they would be willing to pay for a gala ticket.
 - This year early bird tickets were \$50, regular tickets were \$55, and guest tickets were \$65.
 - Sarah thinks the price were good. She said people in her program responded well.
- Friday (April 15) is Good Friday; it's a holiday, take it off.
- Statement
 - Over the past couple months, we have heard a few student unions have been taking questionable actions; they've been releasing statements, putting policies out, or having referendums on topics; and we want to say something at this point.
 - Over the course of the past few months, we don't like seeing these things happen; we want to stand up and say that we are not supporting or on board with any of the things they are doing.
 - This is not just in Ontario; we have heard it has spread out to BC.
 - We are hoping to get in front of this, put out a statement, and talk about why we are taking an impartial stance, what it is we are hoping to accomplish, and set the record straight as to why people should not be supporting these types of things.
 - To briefly summarize: it's policies, referendums, or things that are being put in place that are rejecting one group of students to empower another group of students. This is creating a harsh dynamic between the two.
 - As we have in our Advocacy Policies, as we take a stand in this organization, we treat all students equally and we are going to support all students; we are not going to take a stand on world issues, we are not going to take a stand on political issues, we are just going to support the students as they are affected and whatever it is that they need.
 - When one or multiple student unions start putting things out that are repressing one group to build up another group, it affects every student union and association, and it affects all students.
 - We want to get ahead of that and show that there are student unions that do not want to do these types of things.
 - We are putting a statement out, Kyle signing off on this, and we are getting some other student unions involved to show support and sign off on this letter as well.
 - If anyone is interested in speaking further about this, Kyle can talk about it in-camera, but cannot publicly.

NOTE: Zeravan joins the meeting at 7:17PM.

Agenda Item 09**StudentCare Ideation**

Notes:

- Kyle met with StudentCare today on campus. It was Kyle and Madison, our service manager, meeting with Del and Larissa, the StudentCare reps.
- They were going over our premium renewal. Spoke about the usage of the last 6 months; usage of the last 5 years; and the projected usages.
- On a tight timeline to adjust some of the benefits that we're looking for next year.
- We already set our fee at \$312, which was agreed upon earlier this year.
- Original projection from StudentCare was that we were going to be paying \$325 per student; it was a bit more but we have a big reserve, so were going to subsidize some of that cost.
- However, because of our premiums and claims, Del was able to get that down to \$312 per student; we will be breaking even.
- We were given the opportunity to increase some of our benefits. Plan is to move that money up and paying for it out of pocket, or we might be able to do some additional services.
- This ideation is happening so quickly because Del needs to know by the end of the week of what ideas we have, he will get some quotes together by the end of next week, and Kyle will be able to pitch it to the Board at the next board meeting.

- We will need to finalize everything in May. We have 2 options:
 - Option 1: go through it as a Board, and we talk through the different options we have. Then, once this Board has concluded, the next Board comes on. We will need to inform them and catch them up on everything StudentCare, and have them approve the changes we want to make.
 - Option 2: This board can authorize Kyle to make any approvals based on a certain amount or based on certain changes that the directors want; essentially, give criteria that Kyle can operate under, and Kyle can make that approval in May.
- Kyle goes over the changes to coverage and asks for any thoughts.
- Major changes were to mental health practitioner costs.
 - The original coverage was \$50 per visit, up to \$500 for the year.
 - In 2018, it was changed to 60%, up to \$500.
 - Since changing it to 60% coverage, there has been exponential growth of students using this service.
 - With the rate we are going, we are triple the rate of every other school in Ontario on average.
 - We need to get in front of this to have it go steadier; stop it from increasing drastically each year.
 - 2-3 years this might be higher than the medical and dental costs.
 - Options right now:
 - Reduce the amount from \$500 to \$200 or \$250.
 - Reduce the percentage from 60% to 25% or 30%.
 - Change it back from a percentage base to a value base.
- Vision care
 - A past Board changed this from 24-month premium to 12-month premium, and then increased the amount.
 - Recommendation to moving back to 24 months, \$150 coverage.
 - If using the StudentCare approved brand, you can get about an extra 10% off.
- Additional coverage:
 - Hormonal replacement therapy,
 - Accidental death and dismemberment coverage,
 - Birth control (oral contraceptives),
 - Smoking cessation drugs,
 - Covering more ADHD medication brands.
- Long-term mental health support:
 - A supplement of Empower Me, providing an alternative mental health support.
 - Empower Me users usually use it for 1 to 3 sessions, but some people need consistent therapy/counseling.
 - This is a collective option across Canada that we would be buying into, similar to the Empower Me program, but with more long-term support.
 - Hoping to get the college on board because not only domestic students can have access.
 - Cost would be estimated \$8 per student who is enrolled, similar to Empower Me.
 - In addition to Empower Me, possibly shift funding from Empower Me to this long-term option or rearrange out health coverage.
 - From the pitch Kyle was given, the values of when colleges hire a counselor are restrictive to hours and pay, but by spreading it across Canada there can be people on hand that can help consistently at all hours.
 - Between this and Empower Me, students will be able to have support 24/7.
- There is a meeting with StudentCare within the next week.
- Board Directors give positive feedback in pursuing the long-term mental health support.
- Kyle will bring a quote next Board Meeting.

Agenda Item 10

Financial Aid Support

Notes:

- Last year we donated \$250 000 to Financial Aid for awards, bursaries, and scholarships.
- About \$58 000 rolled forward to this year.
- Because of the big surplus the SSU had, we're trying to off-load some of that, and Financial Aid is a good opportunity to do that again.
- Looking for tentative approval and looking for ideas to sustain this support more long-term.
- The Board has approved the budget for next year; realistically there is already \$20 000 in scholarships.
- Kyle is looking to up the scholarship to 3 students this year, compared to the 2 for this last year.
- We can donate another \$200 000 or \$150 000—essentially however much the Board delegates.
- Kyle spoke to Financial Aid about having a long-term saving plan to create an endowment. This would be putting funds in an endowment, the money sitting there for a period of time and gaining interest; then using the funds generated through interest to donate to scholarships, bursaries, and awards.

- With the 5% interest rate, there would need to be a significant amount of money put into an endowment to make it a substantial amount for each year in just interest alone to be able to donate the usual funds to Financial Aid.
- If we were to donate a large amount of money, even if it's going to take several years to get to \$1 million, the amount of interest we will get is much more substantial and impactful for students.
- If the Board is interested, then we can start budgeting for a long-term savings plan over the next couple years.
- Kyle wants to know if the Board is more interested in:
 - Donating money now to ensure we can support students next year, or
 - Saving that money to build a fund that we can put into an endowment 3 years from now.
- Sarah and Tejaswini say it would be good to start the long-term plan.
- Rhema thinks it would not be fair, in a sense, when those funds could be given to the students next year.
- Maria explains about investing into the future and how similar types of funds have been collected in the past, for example recently for the HMC SC building fees.
- Any donations need to be approved at the last meeting, on April 25th. Kyle will give an official quote and proposal next meeting.

Agenda Item 11		Wellness Course Proposal	
Motion:	I move that the SSU Board of Directors approve the sponsoring of The Wisdom of Connection course, a new course meant to help promote and educate students on Mental Health practices and social justice in the FHASS faculty. This approval will donate \$45000 towards the cost of running the course for 4 academic years.		
Moved By:	Kyle Budge	Seconded By:	Rhema Javed
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course that Kyle has brought to the Board in the past several months. • Wisdom of Connection, the mental health and wellness course in FHASS that we wanted to sponsor. • This motion will be a tentative on everything being approved by the dean tomorrow; the agreement being signed off on tomorrow. • Kyle shares his screen to show The Wisdom of Connection agreement. • Kyle is signing on the approval of the Board, so will be signing once the Board approves. • AFTER MOTION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kyle notes this is pending the approval of the FHASS faculty dean by tomorrow. ○ If this goes through, then this should be a quick turnaround. ○ Kyle highly recommends taking the course if they are still students next year. 			
Motion Carries			
Votes:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
	11	0	0

Agenda Item 12		Board Reform Proposal	
Motion:	I move that the SSU Board of Directors approve the changes to the SSU Bylaws as presented. These changes will be adopted by the board on May 1st, 2022 and will take effect for the incoming 2022 - 2023 Board of Directors. These bylaws are designed to empower the board and the organization by providing additional continuity, consistency, and efficacy.		
Moved By:	Kyle Budge	Seconded By:	Sarah Jewell
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle notes that this is a big conflict of interest if the Board gets involved in reforming themselves, so the changes are being proposed to begin after this board has completed their term. Kyle also has a conflict of interest, but is a non-voting member of the board and will not influence the decision. • These are bylaw changes towards the Board in a specific way. • Kyle shares his screen to see the changed Bylaws. • Everything moved today we will need to ratify at the AGM, but this can be put into motion right away. • Kyle walks through the changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President becomes chair, ○ Vice-chair needs to still be an elected director, ○ Specific ex-officio members are specified to be non-voting, ○ VPs becoming voting ex-officio to the Board, ○ Removal of the CRO position; any bylaws changed to Board Secretary. 			

- Still run an election every year in the year, but there will not be a by-election and any vacant seats will be hired instead.
 - Hiring process needs to be done before October 1st, any vacancy afterwards stays vacant until the next general election.
- Changing chairperson to vice-chairperson being the elected director present in agenda planning,
- Differentiation between President and Chairperson,
- Ex-officio members of the Board are not counted towards quorum,
- Differentiating Board Member and Board Director,
- Overall eliminated loopholes.
- Kashyap asks about conflict of interest for the President being the Chairperson. Kyle explains the Vice Chairperson will chair the meeting for the items that are a conflict of interest for the Chairperson.
- Vice chairperson is also now helping in creation of the Board Meeting Agenda, ensuring there's a balance between President and the directors when creating the agenda.
- It is up to the Board on how to hire the directors to fill vacant positions.
- Kashyap says that there is a better chance for by-elections, that it gives more opportunity to more people.
- Zeravan asks about the hiring:
 - Kyle shares his screen to show the Board of Directors Job Description and explains that can be used to delegate the process of hiring for vacant seats.

Motion Carries

Votes:	For: 10	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
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Special Instructions/Interpretations:

- Kashyap abstains.

Agenda Item 13	In-Person Board Meeting
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Motion:	I move that we alter out time of our 323 rd Board Meeting to 12:00PM on April 25 th .
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Moved By:	Sarah Jewell	Seconded By:	Kashyapkumar Patel
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Notes:

- Next meeting, 323rd Board Meeting on April 25th is planned to be in-person.
- As of April 25th, the health guidelines will be changed on campuses to discontinue on the mandates on masks, vaccines, and social distancing.
- There will still be the option to attend virtually.
- There will be catering and will be a good chance to see everybody in person.
- Directors discuss the time and come to the conclusion that noon (12PM) is a good option for everybody.
- The 323rd Board Meeting on April 25th will be at 12:00PM.
- **AFTER MOTION:**
 - For the record, this meeting will be in-person, and virtual accommodations.

Motion Carries

Votes:	For: 11	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
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Agenda Item 14	New Business
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Notes:

- SSU End of the Year party will be on April 22nd, everyone is invited, including the newly elected Board.

Agenda Item 15		Adjournment	
Motion:	I move that we adjourn the 322nd Meeting of the Board.		
Moved By:	Kashyap Kumar Patel	Seconded By:	Tejaswini Shah
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Motion Carries			
Votes:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
	11	0	0
Special Instructions/Interpretations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting is adjourned by Sarah Jewell at 8:38PM. 			

Referenced Documents:

- 321st Board Meeting Minutes
- 322nd Board Meeting Agenda [edited]
- SSU and FHASS – Wellness Course Agreement
- SSUI Bylaws (April 2022 Review)

Respectfully submitted by,



[Sarah Mckean \(May 27, 2022 15:01 EDT\)](#)

(Signature of Secretary of the Board)

Adopted by the SSU Board of Directors in the meeting of

May 27, 2022

(Date of Meeting)


[shivang shingala \(May 28, 2022 00:02 EDT\)](#)

(Signature of Board Vice-Chairperson)