Federation of Students’ Board of Directors Minutes

SLC 1106, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Chair: President Beauchemin  Secretary: Secretary Easton

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

• President Beauchemin
• Secretary Easton*
• Director Eyre*†
• Vice President Gerrits
• Director Hunte*
• Director Parmar*
• Chairman Plante*
• Director Town*
• Vice President Velling

* remote  |  †Late

The following members were absent:

• General Manager Burdett†
• Director De Sousa*
• Vice President Fitzpatrick

* regrets  |  †Non-voting resource member

Regular Session

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors assembled at 5:30p in SLC 1106, University of Waterloo. President Beauchemin took the Chair on behalf of Chairman Plante, and Secretary Easton recorded minutes. The Chair verified the meeting was properly constituted in accordance with the Corporation’s bylaws, policies, and procedures, that due notice had been given to all members, and that a quorum was present.

President Beauchemin called the meeting to order at 5:35p.
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair assumes the Agenda.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pursuant to Federation Policy 50, Indigenous Engagement and Inclusivity, the Federation’s Board of Directors acknowledges:

“The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.”

ORAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

In accordance with Procedure 2 §II(6), President Beauchemin posed the following question:

“In relation to any of the items of business on the agenda for this meeting, does any Director had an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest?”

No conflicts were declared.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Plante noted required timelines for the next University Board of Governor’s meeting, should agenda items pass.

GENERAL ORDERS

SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURE

Be it resolved that the Board suspends Procedure 13, Fee Increases, §(4)(d), to consider the administered fee increase, as recommended by the Students’ Council, proposed in agenda item 2.2 below.

Chairman Plante and Vice President Velling.

Secretary’s Note: Director Eyre joined the call at 5:38p.

Chairman Plante explained that the fee increase being proposed is above the threshold set out in Procedure 13, meaning it would have to go to a referendum or General Meeting to be ratified. Therefore, it was further noted that in order for the Board to accept the recommendation from Council to pass the fee increase in time to get in on the University’s October Board of Governor’s Meeting agenda, the Procedure would have to be suspended.
Directors asked why this shouldn’t just go to a referendum or General Meeting. Vice President Velling responded the Student Refugee Program Fund is not sustainable beyond a single academic term based on its current levy and expected opt-out rates. It was further noted that an increase is crucial to the fund’s financial health, and that no inflationary adjustments had ever been made to the levy in the past.

Director Eyre stated that he respected Council’s endorsement of the increase, but planned on abstaining on the vote of suspending Procedure due to the bad precedent it could set. Finally, Vice President Velling noted that he was working on having the fund issue tax receipts.

**Motion carries** with Director Eyre, Chairman Plante and Secretary Easton noted in abstention.

**ADJUSTMENT OF STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM FEE**

**Be it resolved that** the Board accepts the recommendation of the Students’ Council to increment the optional Student Refugee Program administered fee to $4.82 to reflect the financial position of the fund and the required program expansion directed by the Students’ Council;

**Be it further resolved that** the Board directs the Vice President, Operations & Finance to review and increment the administrative overhead fee, as may be required for execution of the foregoing resolution, in compliance with the 15 May 2019 standing orders.

_Vice President Velling and Vice President Gerrits._

Vice President Velling refereed to the report attached to the agenda and highlighted key aspects of it. Notably, the increased fee will allow for the continuation of the program without drawing from the General Fund and, depending on what the opt-out rate is, may allow for program expansion to support an additional student once the fund’s reserves are in a healthy position.

It was noted that the University has expressed a desire to not have any fee assessments that are below $3.00 (the current SRP fee is $1.03). Additionally, the levy is the second lowest for Ontario University’s running a refugee program.

Director Eyre wished to note that he supports the efforts of Vice President Velling to make the program voluntary so donation receipts can be issued.

Directors expressed concerns with the current financial status of the fund, and if there would be enough funding to support the students currently in the program. Vice President Velling assured the Board that WUSA was committed to covering the remaining costs of any students completing the program should the fund become insolvent.

Chairman Plante read two prepared questions on behalf of absent Director De Sousa asking what the benefits of the increase would be, and how the specific number was
arrived at. Vice President Velling noted that the increase would put the fund in a better overall financial position, and would allow it to continue to support students without needing to rely on loans from the General Fund. The Vice-President further noted that a detailed budget was provided on page 9 and 10 of the attached Student Refugee Program Financial Sustainability & Growth Report.

Motion carries unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all business on the agenda with no immediate business arising, President Beauchemin declared the meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.