

STUDENTS' UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 2021

SUVCC ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21 YEAR



**STUDENTS' UNION
OF VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS
LOCAL 16

Executive Summary

This report contains a great deal of detail. To aid members consuming the information, this executive summary will provide a list of highlights from the work conducted in 2020-21.

Campaigns

- Signed and endorsed the Period Promise campaign to bring free menstrual products to all campuses
- Two Week of Action campaigns advocating for fairness for international students and removing interest from federal student loans
- One Get Out The Vote campaign encouraging members to vote in the Federal Election

Government Relations

- Participated in a provincial advocacy week. Meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly to advocate for our members.
- Met with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming and Minister of Environment and Climate Change, George Heyman to discuss the UPASS program

College Relations

- Held the Board of Governors accountable for their decision to increase tuition fees for international students.
- Sat on multiple committees and working groups to ensure that the student voice was heard

Campus Life & Events

- Ran online events to connect with members during the COVID-19 campus closure.
- Provided welcome kits to members

Internal Affairs and Finance

- Hired new staff to improve service delivery for members
- Continued to participate in the BCFS through General meetings and executive meetings to bring the Unions voice to the provincial organization.

Services

- Improved the Health & Dental service to better serve members
- Continued to provide office services such as printing and student advocacy during the campus closure.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Campaigns

Provincial Campaigns

Fund It, Fix It

The focus of the Fund It, Fix It campaign is to educate and raise awareness of the public surrounding the funding crisis in BC. The goals of the campaign are to increase funding for institutions and to secure a progressive funding model that provides stability and accounts for inflation; and to immediately freeze, and progressively reduce, tuition and other user fees. The intent of the campaign is to be public facing with the goal of moving public opinion more in favour of properly funding institutions and reducing tuition fees. The campaign aims to make the public think about the actual costs of education — be it trades training, diplomas, or professional designations.

The Students' Union promoted this campaign primarily through its social media accounts; Instagram and Twitter. Stories on how the lack of funding to colleges has affected students' choices and what more funding would mean to them were collected and posted. Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) representing the campus ridings were also tagged in Twitter posts. A newsletter was circulated which included the campaign email tool.

Fairness for International Students

International students make up a substantial portion of the enrolment at BC's public institutions as a result of a multi-year, coordinated effort to recruit them in BC. Without any regulation of non-resident tuition fees, international students pay two or three times the fees paid by Canadian citizens. Revenue from international student tuition fees is depended on to cover budget shortfalls of institutions due to the funding cuts in public colleges and universities. Without regulation, international students experience tuition fee increases by any amount and in any given year; which prevents predictability to allow students to budget for their education in Canada. Fairness for International Students calls for a provincial regulation of tuition fees for international students through a cap on increases just as the domestic students have a cap through the Tuition-Fee Limit Policy.

From March 23rd to 27th the Students' Union hosted a Fairness for International Students action week, which consisted of multiple tactics to create online awareness, including newsletters, class talks, and a zoom pledge drive. Throughout the week, myth-busting videos were shared on social media and students were encouraged to sign an online pledge and share their stories.

Take It Over

Take It Over is a campaign aimed to increase youth voter participation in the 2020 provincial election by encouraging members and other young people to vote. This get out the vote campaign was in collaboration with different students' unions across the province through the BCFS.

The Students' Union ran an Instagram contest which encouraged students to sign the pledge to vote, to comment what issues mattered to them, and to tag friends to gain entries for prizes. As international students make up a large portion of our membership, a video featuring them

Director of Internal Affairs Nguyen that spoke to why the election mattered for international students, recognizing that those members were affected by the decisions made by the provincial government. Other promotion of the election included posters, a newsletter, social media content developed by the BCFS, and a Take it Over tile on the SUVCC App. Lastly, the campaign was presented at the Education Council and Board of Governors meetings.

Federal Campaigns

Knock Out Interest

The Knock Out Interest campaign advocates for the elimination of interest charged on federal student loans to remove financial barriers to post-secondary education for those from low- and middle-income families. Through student advocacy, the elimination of interest charged on provincial student loans was won in 2017, and, knocking out interest on the federal portion of student loans will further prevent the student debt cycle making post-secondary education more accessible.

Week of Action: February 8 – 12

The Students' Union engaged with members using materials created by the Federation as well as other students' unions. These materials included campaign shareables, videos, and Instagram templates. Videos were made featuring board members encouraging students to take part in the week of action and sign on to support the campaign. Additionally the Union partnered with the Douglas Students' Union to purchase digital ads on the CBC-BC website.

A Burma shave was held on March 11 at the Commercial-Broadway Skytrain Station in cooperation with the BCFS and the Douglas Students' Union. Participants carried sandwich boards, a banner, and placard signs which included campaign messaging as well as a QR code to the campaign website.

Lastly, the Students' Union acquired endorsement from the VCC Faculty Association as well as the Institution staff union, CUPE Local 4627.

Local Campaigns

Period Promise

Last year the SUVCC endorsed and signed onto the Period Promise campaign. Period Promise is an initiative of the United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) that aims to raise awareness of period poverty and to break the period poverty cycle by providing free access to menstrual products to those who can't afford them.

In the Fall, board members presented the campaign to the College Student Success department and Facilities department to initiate conversation on provision of menstrual products in college washrooms. The College has shown interest in the campaign and the initiative, especially when it was highlighted that this was an overall benefit to the whole campus community - including employees of the college.

Working with the College, the Students' Union developed a pilot project to bring free menstrual products to 15 washrooms on campus. The pilot project is planned for 2 years and will begin in September 2021. The goal of the project is to develop research for menstrual hygiene and product use on campuses and the barriers it reduces for students and members of the campus community. The project is being co-funded by the Students' Union and the College with the goal of developing fundraising initiatives with the VCC Foundation throughout the first 2 years.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

The Students' Union continues to provide free menstrual products on all campuses.

Unlearn

Transgender Awareness Week: November 13 – 19

Throughout Transgender Awareness Week, a post was shared each day that contained Board members commitments to unlearn racism, transphobia, or homophobia. The goal of the posts was to discuss the intersectionality of issues and discrimination faced by transgender people. Further, screening through a Netflix Party of the documentary Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen was hosted on November 20 to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance. A debrief and discussion followed the screening to discuss lessons and impressions of the documentary as well as further steps that each person can take on allyship. Photos of the commemoration done last year were also shared on the Instagram account, encouraging a positive message of support and allyship in the comments section.

International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women: November 25

The Students' Union shared posts on its social media with alarming facts about gender-based violence ready by board members and staff. This year's theme was Orange the World: Fund, Respond., Prevent, and Collect.

Sisters in Spirit / Orange Shirt Day

Working in collaboration with the Indigenous Education department, SUVCC organized materials to raise awareness for Orange Shirt Day and Sisters in Spirit.

A collection of educational materials about residential schools and their legacy, including books, movies, and music, were shared on SUVCC's Instagram account in lead up to Orange Shirt Day. Posts by the Indigenous Education Department's Facebook account were shared by SUVCC.

Additionally, pamphlets with information on Orange Shirt Day, such as its origin and list of resources for further research, with an orange shirt button, were posted on bulletin boards at the Broadway and Downtown campuses for members to grab. Finally, on September 30, photos of directors and staff wearing orange shirts were shared with a message regarding the importance of the day and highlighting resources.

Materials and messages posted by the Indigenous Education Department about Sisters in Spirit vigils were shared on the Union's social media. Information on the virtual vigil hosted by the Native Women Association of Canada on October 4 on its Instagram and Facebook was also shared.

UTILE Housing Survey

The Students' Union collaborated with UTILE, a Montreal based non-profit with the mission of promoting, studying and developing affordable student housing, to run the FLASH 2021 National Survey on Student Housing. The purpose of this survey was to collect data on the living conditions of Canadians students which can then be used by Students' Unions to lobby their MLA's and MP's for more affordable housing for students. The survey ran from March to April and was conducted through email. The Students' Union will have access to the data collected once the survey results have been compiled into a written report.

Government Relations

Provincial Government Relations

[Advocacy Week: February 8 to 12](#)

Students' Union Directors attended the British Columbia Federation of Students Advocacy Week along with other member locals across the province. Due to COVID restrictions the annual advocacy week was held online. Representatives met with both government and opposition MLAs representing the Lower Mainland region including; South Fraser, Delta, Langley, Surrey, New Westminster, Burnaby, Vancouver, and Richmond. This allowed representatives to meet MLA's where members live and where the College campuses are located.

[Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming and Minister of Environment and Climate Change, George Heyman.](#)

The U-Pass BC Advisory Committee Student Caucus met with Ministers Fleming and Heyman and presented identified challenges to the program when adapting to the pandemic and sought subsidies to reduce the U-Pass fees paid by students in the region.

College Relations

College Governance

[Board of Governors](#)

The Students' Union sends representatives to observe College Board meetings and keeps the Board of Directors informed of issues arising at the meetings. The Students' Union also works with the elected students on the College Board to ensure they are able to present their views and represent members in discussions and decisions.

At the Board of Governors meeting on September 25, 2019, the College's senior administration announced that they would be increasing international tuition fees for nine programs by up to 20 percent. A full report on this issue can be reviewed in Appendix A of this report.

[Education Council](#)

The Students' Union sends representatives to observe Education Council meetings and keep the Board of Directors informed of issues arising at the meeting. The Students' Union also works with the elected students on the Education Council to ensure they are able to present their views and represent members in discussions and decision.

Other College Committees and Initiatives

[Equity Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Steering Committee](#)

The Students' Union has a seat on the EDI Steering Committee which is currently developing a terms of reference, current EDI assets map, and an EDI Action plan. The purpose of this committee is to develop EDI training, communication, and create or improve EDI spaces on campus.

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee](#)

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee was struck to oversee the development and implementation of a strategic and systemic approach to mental health and wellbeing on campus. The committee engaged in a consultation process with the VCC community which

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

included online surveys, community dialogues, and focus groups. The results of the consultation are now being used to create a framework to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the VCC Community.

Recovery Working Group

The Students' Union sat on the College's Recovery Plan Working Group (RPWG) in the early Spring of 2021 to develop a plan and recommendations for a safe return to campus. From this plan the RPWG was able to establish guiding principles and craft appropriate messaging regarding the Return to Campus Mitigation Plan for recovery incorporating the PHO directives. The Working Group was also able to assess and support services to be brought back onto campus for in-person delivery.

Indigenization Initiatives

The College initiated a college-wide consultation of Indigenization initiatives which consulted with service providers, government structures, and faculty departments. A report will be produced to inform the formation and implementation of an Indigenization strategy for the College.

Annacis Island Courses Deactivation

The Students' Union received notice that the College is transferring the Heavy Mechanical Trades (HMT) program to BCIT and will no longer occupy the Annacis space once current HMT students have completed their programs.

Heavy Mechanical Trades (HMT) Feasibility Committee

The Students' Union sits on the Heavy Mechanical Trades Feasibility Committee which is investigating the feasibility of offering the HMT program in future years without the lease of the Annacis Island Campus.

Relations with institution Staff and Faculty

Relations with College Staff

The Students' Union continues to maintain good relations with college staff who are unionised through the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 4627.

Relations with College Faculty

The Students' Union maintain relations with college faculty who are unionised through the Federation of Post Secondary Educators.

Campus Life & Events

Events

2020 FALL EVENTS

Pumpkin Patch: October 30

The Students' Union held a free trip to Southlands Farm which included an outdoor pumpkin patch, and farm animal petting zone. Participating members received a branded toque, tote bag and a pumpkin!

World Kindness Day: November 16

Recognising that students were struggling, especially with COVID-19 restrictions, the Students' Union encouraged students to promote kindness through simple acts of kindness and celebrated the day by sharing act on kindness on its social media.

Stressbusters: December 1 - 4

This years Stressbusters was held online and included a hangout, dance class, yoga, and art classes.

Holiday Movie Marathon: December 7 - 10

Also held online, the Holiday movie marathon featured 5 movies over 5 days including: The Grinch, A Christmas Prince, Let it Snow, Holidate, and Johnny English.

2021 WINTER EVENTS

Welcome Kits: January 18 - 21

Welcome kits were available for curbside pickup at the Broadway campus. The kits included Handbooks and Swag and were very well received.

Lunar New Year Celebration: February 12

The Students' Union hosted an online event that allowed participants to learn and share about the celebration. Participants had a chance to win prizes bundles.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Internal Affairs & Finances

Governance

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

BC Societies Act

The Students' Union operates under the BC Societies Act, and remained in compliance with the Act throughout the 2020-21 year.

College & Institute Acts

The Students' Union maintains compliance with the College and Institutes Act in order to ensure that its fees, and the fees it collects in trust, can be maintained by Vancouver Community College. The Students' Union was in compliance with the Act through the 2020-21 year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting

The Students' Union held its' Annual General Meeting on October 28, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was quorate. Members received the 2019-20 annual report

Special General Meeting

The Students' Union held a Special General Meeting on January 28, 2021 via Zoom in order to approve the 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements. The meeting was quorate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS AND ORIENTATION

Due to the pandemic the Students' Union had a difficult year maintaining a board of directors and had many resignations throughout the year. This unfortunately meant that in addition to the regularly scheduled Fall election the Union had to run two by-elections. One in February and another in April. All elections were held through secure online voting.

The Fall election ran October 7 – 13 and over 225 ballots were cast. There were no disqualifications.

The February by-election ran February 3 and 167 ballots were cast. There were no disqualifications.

The April by-election ran April 26 – 30 and 138 ballots were cast. There were no disqualifications.

Board orientations were held after each election and by-election. Sessions held at the meeting taught Directors about the Students' Union's structures and finances, the legal responsibilities of directors, staffing and labour relations, and the regular responsibilities of directors.

Staffing

REGULAR STAFF AND STAFFING CHANGES

In September Brynn Joyce was hired to cover the leave of absence of Services Coordinator Anthem Postnikoff which started January 2021.

In May Gurpinder Gaidu was hired to cover the leave of absence of Organiser – Campus Life Any Oya which begins September 2021.



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Financial Management

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019-20 Audited Financial Statements

The Students' Union's 2019-20 financial statements were prepared on time and audited prior to December 2020. The statements, along with the auditor's report was presented at the Special General Meeting held January 28, 2021 and received by the general membership.

2020-21 Audited Financial Statements

Work on the 2020-21 financial statements began in late August 2020 and the bulk of the statement and audit preparation will be completed by December 2020. The audited financial statements and report of the auditor will be presented to the general membership in January 2022 at a Special General Meeting.

DUES COLLECTION

The Students' Union collects its fees through automatic assessment and collection by the Vancouver Community College in accordance with the College and Institute Act. The Students' Union also uses the same mechanism to collect fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students

Students' Union Fees

The Students' Union fees were increased in 2020-21 by the rate of change in the consumer price index as per the Students' Union's bylaws.

BC Federation of Students' Fees

The Students' Union collects fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students (BCFS) consistent with VCC students' membership in the Federation. In 2020-21, the fees for the BCFS were increased by the rate of inflation per the organization's bylaws.

Membership Communications

Newsletters/Print Media

Throughout the 2020-2021 year the Students' Union brought back the Newsletter for members. Newsletters were sent out to the membership for the purpose of sharing information, giving notice for elections and meetings, promoting events and services, and raising awareness of the advocacy work that was ongoing. A total of 23 newsletters were sent throughout the reporting period with an average open rate of 56.5%.

Social Media

The Students' Union increased its membership outreach efforts across social media platforms and increased promotion of social media throughout the 2020-2021 year.

BC Federation of Students'

Members of the Students' Union are also members of the BC Federation of Students (BCFS), a provincial-wide organization that functions as the provincial students' union. The BCFS's democratic structures enable each member local students' union to have one voting member of the BCFS Executive Committee, and to send a delegation to each general meeting. The Executive Committee implements the will of members as decided at general meetings of which

there are two per year. The Executive Committee also contains six generally elected positions which are selected delegates at each annual general meeting.

GENERAL MEETINGS

39TH Annual General Meeting (January)

The Students' Union sent six delegates; Sing, Wan, Yeung, Tabuzo, Patigdas, and Sullivan to the General Meeting. The meeting was held virtually and provided new learning opportunities. Delegates reported that the workshops and sessions were informative and useful.

80th Semi-Annual General Meeting (DATE)

The Students' Union sent six delegates: Yeung, Quong, Singh, Ng, Patigdas and Sullivan to the Semi-Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held virtually and beyond regular business was focused on the upcoming Federal Election and trade training. Delegates found these sessions particularly useful.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Between October 2019 and October 2020 the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee was Mandy Wan, Chairperson. Between October 2020 and February 2021 the VCC representative on the Executive Committee was Kayle Tabuzo, Chairperson. Between February and the end of the fiscal year the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee has been Hemvir Singh, Chairperson.

Services

Health And Dental Plan

Broker and Third Party Administrator

This year the Health & Dental service was greatly improved by the addition of the Third Party Administrator J&D Benefits. This addition has increased administration efficiency which led to a decrease in hours spent managing the Health & Dental service which has allowed our Services Coordinator to spend more time on other services.

Benefits Changes

The price of the plan was reduced from \$280 to \$275. Family rates have also been adjusted and reduced.

Member Handbook and Dayplanner

The Students' Union produces its annual handbook through a service of the BC Federation of Students. The BC Federation of Students continually keeps the price stable, with handbooks arriving early in August every year in time for orientation and welcome back events.

2020-2021 HANDBOOK

The Students' Union ordered 5000 member handbooks which arrived on time for the Fall. Due to temporary campus closures Handbooks were distributed both through in-office pick up and delivered by mail. The handbook continues to be one of the most popular and tangible services for members.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Student Discount App

The Students' Union provides student discounts in coordination with the BCFS and other member local unions around the province through the Deals App. The Deals App is a free app for members which gives them access to discounts at business, restaurants, and services across BC.

Promotion

The Students' Union primarily promoted the Deals App online through social media and the SUVCC App. Upon returning to campus the Deals App has been promoted through tabling, posters, and in the Members' Handbook.

Emergency Aid Funding

The Local provided funds to help students further affected by COVID-19. The \$20,000 provided by the SUVCC was added to the existing emergency aid funding provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, VCC Foundation, Students' Union emergency funds from the previous year, and other COVID-19 relief donors.

Membership Development and Member Supplies

FALL 2020 MATERIALS

In the summer 2020 semester, the Students' Union ordered \$9,000 worth of swag items from the BC Federation of Students' ethical bulk purchasing service. Due to the campus closure this order focused primarily on small, lightweight items which could be mailed to members. This included touch tools, stickers, highlighters, pens, soap sheets, post-it notes, lipbalms, and buttons.

WINTER 2021 MATERIALS

The Students' Union ordered additional pens and highlighters to prepare for Winter Welcome Kits.

Ready Education Mobile App (SUVCC APP)

USAGE

The Students' Union has partnered with the BC Federation of Students to use the SUVCC app at an affordable price, available for android and iPhone users. The SUVCC app allows members to foster community through participation in community channels or personal messages. The app also houses pertinent information on services and resources for members and a calendar tool for scheduling classes and assignments. The Students' Union members have access to the app for free. During the year, access to the app has been helpful for students to gain information and resources during the beginning of the pandemic throughout the 2020-21 academic year. The community channels are forums for members to discuss issues they commonly face and offer resources for each other. Efforts to increase awareness of the app to new and existing students have been the focus of the Union throughout the reporting period.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Further, the app has expanded features that allowed the Union to upload helpful tutorial videos such as How to Register to Your Health and Dental Plan. Members have found these videos

helpful, especially during the time when limited access to the campus and office hours is in place.

UPASS

[About the Program](#)

U-Pass BC is a universal transit program offered by Vancouver Community College in partnership with the Students' Union of VCC, TransLink and the Province of British Columbia. U-Pass BC provides affordable access to public transit in Metro Vancouver for eligible students. Several post-secondary institutions have joined the program.

[COVID-19 Adjustments](#)

The U-Pass BC program was temporarily suspended from May to August 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions and the majority of classes moving to online instruction. After the temporary suspension of the program, the UPass-BC reverted to the guidelines of the contract and remained active for students enrolled in courses with regular on-campus instruction.

Students' Union Offices

[Printing Services](#)

The Students' Union offers a free printing service, granting all students 150 pages of free printing accessible at the Broadway and Downtown campus offices. The service has been incredibly popular, with the added benefit of connecting the students' union with members who normally would not have engaged with the students' union. The students' union also sells additional printing for \$5 per 100 pages.

[Student Lockers](#)

Lockers are available for rent at \$10 a semester on the second and third floors of Building A on the Broadway Campus. This service was temporarily suspended due to the Campus closure caused by COVID-19 but will be resuming in September 2021.

[Student Advocate](#)

The Students' Union offers a Student Advocate to assist students when navigating system of the College. The Student Advocate can assist in grade appeals, conduct appeals, or mediate issues between the College, faculty, staff, and students. This service is free and confidential for members to use.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – October 1, 2019 – October 13, 2020

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director	vacant
Annacis Island Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	Marcus Ng
Broadway Campus Representative	Kayle Tabuzo
Chairperson	Mandy Wan
Downtown Campus Representative	Joshua Sanchez
Downtown Campus Representative	vacant
Director of College Affairs	Jessica Yeung
Director of Events	Nicky Tran
Director of Internal Affairs	Alexandra Nguyen
Indigenous Student Representative	vacant
Queer Student Representative	vacant
Women Student Representative	vacant

b. Staff

Bookkeeper	Helen Huie
Executive Director	Sydney Sullivan
Organiser	Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Organiser Campus Life	Andy Oya
Services Coordinator	Anthem Postnikoff
Services Coordinator (effective September 2020)	Brynn Joyce

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

October 2019 to September 2020	Armor Valor Corrales
November 2019 to October 2020	Navreet Kaur Thind

b. Education Council

November 2019 to October 2020	Jessica Yeung
November 2019 to October 2020	Marcus Ng
November 2019 to October 2020	Lisa Hunter
November 2019 to October 2020	vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – October 14, 2020 – February 5, 2021

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director
Annacis Island Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Chairperson
Downtown Campus Representative
Downtown Campus Representative
Director of College Affairs
Director of Events
Director of Internal Affairs
Indigenous Student Representative
Queer Student Representative
Women Student Representative

Marcus Ng
vacant
Hemvir Singh
Nicky Tran
Kayle Tabuzo
vacant
vacant
vacant
vacant
Jessica Yeung
vacant
vacant
Mandy Wan

b. Staff

Bookkeeper
Executive Director
Organiser
Organiser Campus Life
Services Coordinator (on-leave)
Services Coordinator

Helen Huie
Sydney Sullivan
Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Andy Oya
Anthem Postnikoff
Brynn Joyce

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Sahil Arora
Ladan Sahraei

b. Education Council

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Julia Sky Summers
Marcus Mg
vacant
vacant

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – February 6, 2021 – May 10, 2021

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director
Annacis Island Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Chairperson
Downtown Campus Representative
Downtown Campus Representative
Director of College Affairs
Director of Events
Director of Internal Affairs
Indigenous Student Representative
Queer Student Representative
Women Student Representative

Marcus Ng
vacant
Hemvir Singh
Nicky Tran
vacant
Harmanpreet Sign
Jaskamaljit Singh
vacant
vacant
Jessica Yeung
vacant
vacant
vacant

b. Staff

Bookkeeper
Executive Director
Organiser
Organiser Campus Life
Services Coordinator (on-leave)
Services Coordinator

Helen Huie
Sydney Sullivan
Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Andy Oya
Anthem Postnikoff
Brynn Joyce

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Sahil Arora
Ladan Sahraei

b. Education Council

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Julia Sky Summers
Marcus Mg
vacant
vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – May 10, 2021 – July 31, 2021

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director
Annacis Island Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Broadway Campus Representative
Chairperson
Downtown Campus Representative
Downtown Campus Representative
Director of College Affairs
Director of Events
Director of Internal Affairs
Indigenous Student Representative
Queer Student Representative
Women Student Representative

Marcus Ng
vacant
Hemvir Singh
Nicky Tran
vacant
Harmanpreet Sign
Jaskamaljot Singh
vacant
vacant
Jessica Yeung
vacant
vacant
Leanne Quong

b. Staff

Bookkeeper
Executive Director
Organiser
Organiser Campus Life
Organiser-Campus Life
Services Coordinator (on-leave)
Services Coordinator

Helen Huie
Sydney Sullivan
Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Andy Oya
Gurpinder Gaidu
Anthem Postnikoff
Brynn Joyce

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Sahil Arora
Ladan Sahraei

b. Education Council

November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021
November 2020 to October 2021

Julia Sky Summers
Marcus Mg
vacant
vacant

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Appendix A

Board of Governors Authority for International Tuition & Fees

At the Board of Governors meeting on September 25, 2019, the College's senior administration announced that they would be increasing international tuition fees for nine programs by up to 20 percent. The Local met with senior administration prior to that board meeting to discuss these increases. The Local was told that these increases are due to programs not being at cost-recovery as they should be, mandated by the Government. These increases were brought forward to the Board of Governors as an information item and the Local informed the members of the Board that it believes that this is not in compliance with the Colleges and Institutes Act. The Local stated that this item should be brought forward as a decision made by the Board as it is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to manage, administer and control the property, revenue, expenditures, business and affairs of the Institution as outlined in the Colleges and Institute Act.

On November 26, 2019, the Local and Federation Organiser Davies met with the Board of Governors Chair Joey Hartman and Co-Chair Libby Davies to discuss the tuition increases and the legal responsibilities of the Board. A letter was also provided to the Board Chair outlining the legal opinion provided by the Local's Legal Council (see page 5). The Board met on November 27, where a 2 percent increase to international tuition fees, excluding the nine programs previously increased at the September meeting, was brought forward as an information item again.

On June 24 the Local sent a letter to the Board addressing the need to suspend increases on tuition fees for the upcoming fall semester as students were facing unforeseen circumstances brought on by the pandemic consequentially increasing their financial challenges (See page page 6). Further, the increases on international tuition fees that were set to be implemented were not approved in accordance with the Colleges and Institutes Act, therefore, they should have been deemed as an invalid increase. On July 3, the Board Chair responded to confirm the receipt of the letter and acknowledge that the Board was aware of the legal opinion sent in November (see page 7). In this response letter, it is stated that the implementation of scheduled tuition fee increases would not be suspended.

On September 2, 2020 a letter was sent to the Board Chair and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training on behalf of the Local's legal counsel, outlining the Local's opinion of the unlawful delegation of the setting of international tuition fees at the College. The letter also outlined that despite raising these concerns with College administration, the Local has been advised that the College has no intention of changing its practice (see page 8). The Local believes that the practice that is being followed is in violation of the Colleges and Institutes Act. The Board acknowledged that they received the letter and the issue will be discussed at the Board of Governors Governance Committee meeting scheduled for December 2.

Throughout these discussions, the Admin Policy Committee (sub-committee of the Board of Governors) continued to meet to review the Tuition and Fees Policy D.3.7 (see page 9) without legal review as requested by the Students' Union.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

On February 10 the Board of Governors moved a motion outlining that the practice of approving tuition increases for international tuition should be done by way of approval of the Board of Governors (see page 10).

On February 8, the Local met with the senior administration to discuss business of the Board meeting. At this meeting an explanation to the motion was provided, and it was made clear that the College continues to believe that there was never a point where they were not in accordance with the Colleges and Institutes Act and that this decision was being made without consultation with their legal team and that they came to the decision based on the interpretation of the College and Institute Act of the current members of the Board.

The Local specifically asked for more information to be included in the backgrounder or the motion itself to provide more clarity and direction as to how the decision came to be and a clear direction moving forward with the tuition and fees policy. The Local noted that there should be information included to clearly outline that this decision was being made without legal consultation and just based on interpretation of the College and Institute Act. Additionally, the Local asked if the motion could be followed by a subsidiary motion to outline the process to amend the policy (D.3.7) with corrected language and the response of the senior administration was specifically that there was no plan to be writing anything into the policy about the College and Institute Act until the government provides direction and clarity about the

tuition approval process.

The Local continues to have a number of concerns. At no point did this decision allow for the Board of Governors to take responsibility for their wrong doings, leaving no solution or repair for the fees that were "set" through improper practice. In addition to those concerns, the motion also provides the ability for the Board to go back-and-forth with their interpretation of the Act, and there is no protection or sustainability for these fee decisions. Furthermore, while they are not taking responsibility for these actions, the Local has been given no answers for how to proceed with the language of the policy that is in review.

The Local made recommendations to amend the motion to include more context in the backgrounder and provide clear direction and congruency for the policy and the committee reviewing these changes.

On February 25, the Operations Council approved the changes for recommendation to the Board of Governors in Policy D.3.7. These changes include language directing Domestic and International tuition fees to be approved by the Board of Governors.

