

Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Union of Confederation College Inc. Board of Directors – September 13, 2022

Call to Order

Vignesh Viswanathan called the meeting to order at 6:03pm on September 13, 2022.

Board Members Present

Ronnie Kasana, President

Hyunjoon Kim, Vice President

Robin Gathercole, Director of Athletics & Campus Recreation

Amay Patil, Senator of Business, Hospitality and Media Arts

Andrei Rosario, Director of Social Events

Maricor Ballaret, Director of Wellness & Diversity

Kuol Ayuen, Senator of Engineering, Technology & Trades

Vignesh Viswanathan, Chief Justice (e.o.)

Kiran Ramesh, Past President (e.o.)

Catherine Hilgers, Support Staff Representative (e.o.)

Kendall Williams, Executive Director

Alyssa Veneruzzo, Administrator, Accounting and Payroll (Recorder)

Regrets

Don Duclos, Admin. Staff Representative (e.o.)

Welcome

Vignesh welcomed everyone to their very first 2022-23 SUCCI Board Meeting. He touched lightly on the way our meetings are conducted, according to the Roberts Rules of Order style of meetings. Thomas had previously went over a few of these details during the board intro and orientation on September 1st and 2nd.

Adoption of the Agenda

“On a motion made by Robin and seconded by Andrei that the agenda be adopted.

7/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – none

“On a motion made by Maricor and seconded by Robin that there are no previous minutes to review.

7/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Possible Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

Items for Discussion

Welcome

Vignesh officially welcomed everyone to the first board meeting of the year and briefly explained his role as Chief Justice. Ronnie also gave a warm welcome to introduce Kendall Williams, SUCCI's new Executive Director. Kendall is a proud alumni of Confederation College, where she graduated from the International Business program, she then went on to get her business degree from Okanagan College. During her time studying at Confederation College, Kendall worked on

campus in various departments including international education, student success, and The Hub. Kendall has spent the majority of her career in Economic Development where she has worked at the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre for over ten years, including her time as Executive Director. Each of the board members introduced themselves and their position and role to the board. We are all looking forward to a new year, in person and with new board members and staff.

OCAA Championship

Robin discussed a very exciting upcoming event. The OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association) Cross Country run will be happening here in Thunder Bay on October 29th, 2022, at the Lappe Nordic track. Over 16 colleges and their athletes, coaching staff, and assistants will be travelling from across the province to attend this one-day championship race followed by an athletic banquet. Confederation College's president, Kathleen Lynch will be the guest speaker at the banquet. Many college staff and students are very excited to attend, as most of the provincial championships have been held in Southern Ontario. This race may be quite different from other terrains that have been raced, and it has been noted it will be "Legendary" for the athletes. There is also a community run called the "Sawdust Run" that will be happening after the championship races, if any community members are interested.

Sue Tucker, Administrator of Athletics and Recreation, is the chair of the organizing committee and plans are underway. SUCCI is contributing \$1,000 in addition to the following grant funding we have received for the OCAA Championships

- Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) - \$6,000
- City of Thunder Bay- \$4,000
- Confederation College- \$1,500
- Confederation College Alumni \$1,000
- Tbaytel- \$2,500
- Fresh Air Experience – Gift in Kind (for race winners)

Volunteers will be needed for this event, so if you have availability, watch for upcoming communication to sign up. Amy inquired if volunteer certificates will also be given out and Sue has confirmed they can be upon request. Transportation for volunteers and staff was also discussed, and Sue has confirmed they will be available. Note: this is not a mandatory event, as we understand it is during Student Success week. No board or office hours are required that week. However, we encourage you to attend if you can to support our athletes. Further information about this event will be communicated in the coming month. Stay tuned!

Vacant Board Positions

There are three vacant board positions right now, and interviews are underway. Five students have applied for the Senator of Aviation and two students have applied for the position of Senator of Health, Negahneewin and Community Services. We currently have no applications for the DE (Distance Education) representative and board members are encouraged to reach out to some DE students and engage their interest in applying. There were some questions about who qualifies as a DE student and whether international students are considered DE, based on their program. Ronnie will look into this to get more clarity on who qualifies. Gailynne Fiddler has accepted the position of our OASA (Oshki Anishnawbeg Student Association) representative.

Provincial Advocacy Organization (PAO)

SUCCI used to be part of the CSA (College Student Alliance), however, there were a few years of concerns and what value they were giving our students. The past board voted to leave the organization back in 2019-20. That being said, Ronnie has been working with other colleges in Ontario on establishing a new Student Advocacy Group. SUCCI is one of 9 other colleges in Ontario as a founding member of this new organization. This new committee has been working on what this new organization will offer, terms of reference and how the membership pricing and voting will work. Given our smaller college size, it is important we as a “northern” college have a fair voice on this new committee and will be beneficial for future opinions. In the future, it is likely this current board may need to vote on joining a new student advocacy organization, specifically this new group that SUCCI is a founding member with. Ronnie has been working on a PowerPoint explaining what student advocacy is and how this new organization will meet our student’s needs. He will send to the board shortly.

SRP (Student Refugee program) Updates

Kuol discussed with the group what the Student Refugee Program is and how Confederation College started this initiative last year. This program offers a unique opportunity for refugee students to join Confederation College and are assisted in their studies, accommodations, wellness opportunities and finances in their first year of studies. There were two students last year and one has started this year. SUCCI’s contribution is from a social pillar stance, and we have provided a financial contribution, health plan access, social opportunities as well as campus employment. Ronnie and Kuol will continue to assist with the SRP committee and keep us up to date on how we can assist. Note: all refugee students’ information is kept confidential. Ronnie has also been in talks with Feras Battah, who works at Lakehead University who is also leading their refugee program. They are looking into how we can join together in providing a welcoming atmosphere to both Lakehead and Confederation College refugee students.

UPASS (Universal Buss Pass) Contract Updates

All Confederation College full-time students are assessed an annual fee for the UPASS. This gives them full access to all Thunder Bay Transit throughout the academic year (Sept-August). Back in 2017, the student body passed a referendum and 5-year agreement with the City of Thunder Bay Transit to include this fee for all full-time students. Only students outside of the transit area are able to opt out. This fee is at a significant discount and is a highly valued service amongst our student population.

During the Pandemic, our contract was up for negotiation, and it was decided to extend it another year (into 2023). This past summer, Alyssa and Ronnie discussed with transit, another extension given a few circumstances regarding upgrades and updates. For future updates, Confederation College IT Department and city transit have been looking into a digital version of the UPASS, an embedded image on physical student cards. This will help in assisting with expiry date of cards and the validity of the pass. SUCCI was also in the midst of hiring a new Executive Director, who would be key in upcoming negotiations. As well, given our board has to approve fee updates and a student survey may need to be presented, it was decided it was in the best interest of all parties to extend the agreement to 2024. This year, Kendall and Ronnie will work with Brad Loroff (City Transit Manager) on creating a new agreement, while recognizing these new updates and student’s needs. A possible survey may also need to be sent to students in very early spring.

Ontario College Fair Draw

Confederation College's recruitment department travels across Ontario and attends college recruitment fairs. They are always looking for college representatives amongst different departments to attend. SUCCI has sent past board members to these events, to speak on student life and engagement. There are two events that SUCCI would like to send a board member to. The first event is here in Thunder Bay on October 5th and the second event is being held in Southern Ontario on October 19th and 20th. There was a lot of interest from all board members to attend these events. Everyone's names were put in a draw to decide on who would go (based on academic availability) and a secondary board member, in lieu of the winner. Maricor was drawn to attend on behalf of SUCCI with Andrei to be a backup. Further communication will be sent to you from a recruitment officer at Confederation College. Stay tuned.

Items for Decision

"On a motion made by Ronnie and seconded by Robin that Confederation College Performing Arts Club be approved for recertification.

7/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

New Business

Andrei brought up concerns over the laptop rental program through the library, as there are not enough laptops to be rented out to those students in need. Unfortunately, many programs/software will not run on Mac computers, and access to Splashtop (which gives access to college software) are only available based on academic program. Ronnie said he would look into the issue.

Maricor also brought up the concern of bussing from the Aviation building to Shuniah, to access some for the college's main services and/or classes for the Aircraft Maintenance program. The timings from transit were supposed to be set to provide ample time for students to travel. Ronnie said he would follow up with transit to confirm the times are accommodating based on student classes, or if we can add another bus time to the route.

Next Board Meeting – TBD

Laurel Tyrvalinen, Office Coordinator/Reception is looking into everyone's timetables to find an applicable time for future biweekly meetings. She will update everyone very soon and send the meeting request.

Adjournment

"On a motion made by Robin and seconded by Maricor that the board meeting be adjourned at 8:07 pm"

MOTION CARRIED