

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Union of Confederation College Inc. Board of Directors – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## WELCOME

### Call to Order

Vignesh called the meeting to order at 8:34 pm on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## ATTENDEES

### Board Members Present

Robin Gathercole, President (*\*Virtual*)

Kai Fucile Ladouceur, Vice- President

Krushit Shah, Director of Athletics & Campus Recreation

Lizzie González, Director of Social Events

Nazrin Navas, Director of Wellness & Diversity

Kathryn Picard, Senator of Business, Hospitality and Media Arts

Grail Cancino, Senator of Aviation

Prithi Anbalagan, Senator of Health, Negahneewin and Community Services

Tasha Wagner, Distance Education and Regional Representative (*\*Virtual*)

Vignesh Viswanathan, Chief Justice (e.o.) (Chair)

Kiran Ramesh, Past President (e.o.)

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

Kendall Williams, Executive Director (Recorder)

### Regrets

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

TBD, OASA Representative

## AGENDA

### Adoption of the Agenda

It was proposed to remove UPASS from items for discussion and add ConfedCares to items for discussion.

*“On a motion made by Kai and seconded by Krushit that the agenda be adopted with the proposed changes.”*

**9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

*“On a motion made by Krushit and seconded by Prithi that the November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, minutes be accepted as presented.”*

### **9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED**

## CONFLICTS

### **Declaration of Possible Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts to declare.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### **Election Timeline/Board Descriptions**

Kendall discussed with the board the process for elections, which has not changed from previous years. Current board members who are interested in running for the President position will need to declare so by December 31<sup>st</sup>. A meeting will be scheduled at a later date where those interested candidates will do a presentation to the rest of the board in order to receive their support, and vote of confidence to run in the election. Should no current board member put their name forward, it would then open up to the entire student body that meets the Presidents eligibility criteria. Board members are encouraged to chat with the SUCCI staff if they have questions about the role and if they want to learn more. For the other board positions, elections will open around the second week of January and will run the exact same as last year.

In addition to this, there has been some discussion about the current board positions. There is becoming a bit more of an overlap between the Director of Social Events and the Director of Wellness & Diversity. Over the years the board composition has changed in order to meet the student needs at the time. It has been a while since this has been reviewed, and it is not unusual to make changes. If we were to combine those two roles into one, it would leave an open spot that we would need to create a position around. Prior to the next board meeting, board members are asked to look at what gaps we have, and research other student associations to see what positions they have that could work for us. At the next board meeting, we will present what we have found before we make a decision. Board members are also asked to review their own job description and let Kendall know if there is any info that needs to be updated and corrected.

### **Student Town hall**

Kai is working on organizing a town hall for each school. He is aiming at holding them on December 6th, and they will be a lunch and learn format. The town halls will take place in the Shuniah, McIntyre and ACE buildings. Kai will explore what would be best to do in the Dorion Building. It was discussed that Aviation students are in the middle of some important exams and testing, and a different format may need to be used. The goal of these town halls is to share some of the work that SUCCI has been doing this year, as well as connect and engage with students in each of the schools. Some of the topics of discussion will be food service, mental health initiatives, and specific school/program initiatives. The Senators, VP, President, and

SUCCI staff will help make these happen. Other board members are encouraged to attend if they are available.

### **Food Service Committee**

Robin provided an update on the Food Service Committee. It has been a very slow-moving process, but last week he made some progress in talking with other members of the Food Service Committee and putting a bit of pressure on them to schedule a meeting. A meeting will be scheduled for the first week of December and Sodexo will be reaching out to individuals to invite them to that meeting. It was made clear this committee is led by Sodexo, and not SUCCI. They had some concerns and want to be clear that students don't have decision power on the price of food, but are to be there to provide feedback and insight.

Additionally, because the college contract with the current food service provider is up in the spring, they are preparing to go for RFP. As part of this, they are working on a survey to students about food service on campus. SUCCI has agreed to help promote the survey. Over the next week we will push this survey heavily at SUCCI stops in order to get as many responses as possible, and make sure students concerns are heard prior to going out for a food service RFP.

### **Food Insecurity**

Vig discussed some of the current issues students are facing around food insecurity. Last week Vig took part in a food access coalition meeting in the city with several other organizations, and it was brought up how there was no representation from Confederation College or SUCCI. The main point of discussion at this meeting with the increased usage of food banks and meal services, particularly by international students. Usage has exponentially increased, and organizations are struggling to meet the demand each week. This is a large issue nationally, but we need to help improve the situation in our community. The college has sent out an email to international students as there seems to be some misunderstanding of what the intended purpose of food banks are, especially after a video went viral explaining how to get 'free food'. SUCCI continues to do work around food insecurity at our institution, and Vig will connect Robin with the food access coalition to ensure we are participating in future meetings.

### **Stock the Bank**

Stock the Bank kicks off next week. Stock the Bank is an annual campaign SUCCI runs at the college where departments compete against one another to raise funds and collect food for the food bank. The college community is very generous, and with this campaign we are able to stock our own food bank throughout the year without relying on outside organizations. Additionally, we raise money that is then used for emergency bursaries for students in need.

### **ConfedCares**

ConfedCares is a new initiative launched by Confederation College and SUCCI, that builds on the success of the previous Respect campaign from years ago. The initiatives focus on the way Confederation College cares for its people, partnerships, and the planet. The launch of it has people sharing appreciation for those people and services that help them, as well as collecting information on gaps of where the college could be doing more. There is a place on the website where individuals can fill out a form to let the college know how they are doing.

## OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

### **OASA**

The college has hired Anna Chief as Director of Indigenous Initiatives who is now responsible for OASA. Kendall and Robin will be meeting with her soon to discuss OASA and how we can support them and have SUCCI and OASA working together more.

### **Regional Updates**

Tasha shared how the regional campuses want to have their own food banks. The international students that are attending these campuses are finding it challenging. Robin will connect with Tasha later this week to discuss this. Regional Updates will be added as a standing item on future agendas.

### **Housing**

Residence and housing still continue to be an issue. The college residence is working to expand their capacity and build better cooking facilities. They currently have 47 students who have applied for residence in January, and they are doing their best to accommodate. A question came up about why the college accepts more students than they accommodate both academically and with housing. Cathy gave some insight as to how the college offers admissions and that they know that not everyone who gets an offer of admission will accept, so they do their best based on data to accept the correct number of students to maximize programs. Housing is a national issue, and we are continually trying to address it here in our community. It is an ongoing challenge but it is not being ignored.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

November 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm

## ADJOURNMENT

*“On a motion made by Kai and seconded by Krushit that the board meeting be adjourned at 10:30pm.”*

**9/0/0 MOTION CARRIED**