

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Student Union of Confederation College Inc. Board of Directors – March 15, 2022

Call to Order

Vignesh Viswanathan called the meeting to order at 7:12pm on March 15, 2022. The meeting was held virtually on MS Teams.

Board Members Present

Ronnie Kasana, President
Vitasta Ganjoo, Vice President
Isabel Delaney, Senator of Business, Hospitality and Media Arts
Sunena Shetty, Director of Social Events
Darla Oja, OASA Representative
Maricor Ballaret, Director of Wellness & Diversity
Nathan Smallwood, Senator of Engineering, Technology & Trades
Robin Gathercole, Director of Athletics & Campus Recreation

Vignesh Viswanathan, Chief Justice
Kiran Ramesh, Past President (e.o)
Lynne Savela, Executive Director, Recorder (e.o.)

Regrets

Catherine Hilgers, Support Staff Representative (e.o.) (online)
Don Duclos, Admin. Staff Representative (e.o.)

Guests

Andrei Rosario, Incoming Director of Social Events

Adoption of the Agenda

"On a motion made by Isabel and seconded by Sunena that the agenda be adopted.

8/0/0 MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Possible Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

Possible Faculty Strike

The board was updated on the potential faculty strike which could start on Friday. Both parties have reached an impasse.

The Faculty Union has rolled out an OPSEU on-line petition for students. The Union is asking Management to agree to binding interest arbitration to conclude this round of bargaining. The OPSEU petition has been forwarded to students by their Faculty. The Provincial Faculty Union has asked the College Employer Council(Management) to agree to interest arbitration to avoid a strike.

This is a provincial labour situation across all Ontario Colleges.

D0034

College Employer Council (Management) indicates that the Faculty Union has refused to recognize that the Colleges have not asked for anything and have already agreed to many of the Union demands and have repeatedly tried to reach agreement. Management asked the union for an arbitrated solution via Final Offer Selection to ensure there would be no harm or interruption for students. This was defeated by the Union.

Board members can refer to information available from OPSEU and the College Employer Council in regards to their individual positions.

SUCCI's position will be for the students and not taking individual sides but rather to lobby to get a resolution to the impasse and avoid a strike. Students are feeling stressed and students are the ones in the middle of this labour dispute following a very tough two years through the pandemic.

Ronnie has been working with other Student Association Presidents which has concluded in sending letters out collectively from the group encouraging a resolution to the situation and avoiding disruption to classes. Letters have been sent to the Minister of Education.

The hope is an agreement can be reached and avert a strike.

SUCCI will roll out a campaign tomorrow along with a petition letter which will be sent to President Kathleen Lynch and Confederation College Faculty Union President Rebecca Ward to ask them to do whatever they can to reach a resolution to the stalemate between OPSEU Faculty Union and College Employer Council.

The Board Members support our own petition letter campaign along with posters and roll out through all social media channels. Students are the ones stuck in the middle. Their desire is to be able to finish their semester as planned.

A draft of the petition was reviewed. It will be important to keep the language simple and to not endorse either the Union or Management but to ask both parties to act in good faith for the sake of the students.

Confederation College will send out communication to the students to advise of potential labour disruption and what that will mean. There will be FAQ's – frequently asked questions to respond to some of questions students may have.

The board suggested a Town Hall with the President be scheduled in the event of a strike. This can be done.

Darla indicated that if the parties are referring to a "lock out" that this term needs to be explained as many do not know or understand what a "lock out" is.

A lock out is a right that management can choose to lock their employees from their work place. The College Employer Council has indicated that they will not lock out faculty from doing their job.

D0035

Board Members will be asked to come on campus and set up SUCCI stops and talk with students and encourage students to sign the SUCCI on-line petition.

This will be rolled out tomorrow afternoon.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 21st at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Nathan and seconded by Robin that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED