



ACADEMIC ISSUES CAUCUS

MINUTES – 7 October 2009

**All errors or omissions are the responsibility of Alexander Cooke (Director of Academic Issues).*

Attendance: Kate Phipps (Chair), Alexander Cooke (Secretary), Keith Evans, Eric Gauf, Sara Hopkins, Xiaodi Jin, Dia Montgomery, Ted Murray, Dave Peletier, Aimee Procyk, Michael Sami.

Late: Henry Bian (12:36), Kim Fenwick (12:41).

Observer: Lisa.

Meeting called to order, 12:31 PM

Committee Elections

Kate describes the faculty committees to which students will be elected today.

Voting for appointments

Appointment Results:

Appointments: David Andrews & Keith Evans

Building: Ted Murray & Eric Gauf

Curriculum: Aimee Procyk & Xiaodi Jin

Equity: Kim Fenwick

Examinations: Alexander Cooke

First Nations: Dave Peltier

Faculty Advisory/Strategic Planning: Sara Hopkins & Kate Phipps

Research & Library: Henry Bian

Ad Hoc Swing Space: Keith Evans & Sara Hopkins

[Henry Bian enters]

Michael and Dia, it is noted, are still on Faculty Council as there are 13 seats to fill.

Kate reviews the principles of student involvement on committees. The problem in the past was students acting as “lone wolves”. This year representatives should be more accountable, including monthly reports, and requiring AIC approval for votes and new initiatives in committee.

[Kim Fenwick enter]

Ted reiterates what **Kate** said above. Representatives can of course offer opinions on new matters raised in committee, but the issue in the past was students coming up with their own ideas. It is important to remember that students are elected to AIC, the decision making body, and are not elected as the sole student representative for a particular subject area.

Dia's Report Re Examination Tips Presentation

Dia notes several issues, including faculty involvement, and whether to hold the event before or after the first exams. **Dave P.** thinks that November is good because students are tense before their first exams. **Dia** notes after classes better than lunch because students can head off in groups to Koerner's. **Henry** says that November marks count, **Ted** approves. **Keith** doesn't want the event to overlap with what Career Services offers. **Dave A.** thinks first years will like January because they can learn how to improve from December. **Alex** wants to know who is picking the student speakers—not everyone is objectively successful, and the strategies of those that are may not translate. **Dia** says that we could ask for volunteers, **Kim** thinks that volunteers will probably be those who think they have something to say. **Aimee** thinks that the “right” people are important since there have been issues with “misinformation”.

Dia does not know where to have the event. **Ted** says to ask reception for space.

Potential topics would be academic concerns, careers, financial issues, and mental health. **Kim** thinks the setting is awkward to discuss mental issues. **Ted** says we could approach it in terms of “stress management”. **Aimee** says the event should be kept practical and informal—nothing too heavy. **Keith** thinks it is enough to note the resources. **Dia** says the information is important, to which **Keith** agrees. **Kate** says there is a consensus on “lightness”.

Vote for either November or January Date: Majority for January.

Dia to proceed on that basis, will pick a date.

First Nations Legal Program

Dave P. wants feedback for a proposal at his committee: To change from “First Nations” to “Aboriginal” Legal Studies on our admissions material. **Dia**, who is American, wants to know the difference. **Dave P.** says that in Canada there are First Nations, Inuit, and Métis under the umbrella of aboriginal peoples. UBC Law already uses the “aboriginal” terminology in courses, so we should make clear to Métis applicants that they are included since prospective students are confused.

Vote to Approve: Unanimous.

Motion to Adjourn, 12:56 PM