

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC.

FULL BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference

MINUTES

Present:	T. Singh	-	President
	T. Graf	-	Vice President, Bombardier Centre
	P. Verma	-	Vice President, Morningside Campus
	A. Babbar	-	Vice President, Progress Campus
	A. Malik	-	Vice President, Story Arts Centre
	J. Bilakhia	-	Board Development Officer
	P. Kirlik	-	Executive Director/CEO
	G. Khadarro	-	Advocate
	J. Gutierrez	-	Advocate
	R. Joy	-	Advising Council
	M. Wang	-	Advising Council
Staff:	K. Rajpaulsingh	-	Director, Student Life
	A. Mushtaq	-	Research & Advocacy Coordinator
	J. Michalios	-	Recording Secretary, MinuteTakers Inc.

Motions will include the count of votes for, against and abstentions. The count will be shown as follows: (FOR – AGAINST – ABSTAINED).

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Notice having been given and there being a quorum present, J. Bilakhia called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and presided as Chair.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

P. Kirlik read the land acknowledgment statement.

3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest to declare.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On Motion by T. Singh and seconded by A. Malik the agenda was approved and adopted as presented. Motion carried (5-0-0).

5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Chair asked for any errors or omissions in the Minutes of the Full Board meeting of January 7, 2021 that were previously circulated for review.

On Motion by T. Singh and seconded by A. Malik it was,
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Full Board meeting of Thursday, January 7, 2021 be accepted as presented. Motion carried (4-0-1).

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – T. Singh reported:

- (a) *Colleges for Ontario Meeting* – T. Singh noted having met with the CEO of Colleges of Ontario and representatives from other student associations in the province to consider the common needs that Colleges have at this time and the opportunities to work together to advocate on behalf of all students in a capacity separate from the CSA.
- (b) *Forward Committee Meeting* – The Committee discussed the many concerns that students have brought forward this year including root causes of mental health issues, financial aid concerns, lack of communication between students and professors/success advisors during the pandemic etc.
- (c) *Board of Governors* – On February 12, 2021, T. Singh will be endorsing the academic plan from a student perspective with the Board of Governors of the College to highlight the importance of the new plan, as it contains improved financial supports, mental health resources, online textbooks for courses etc.

- (d) *Town Hall* – T. Singh will be a panellist at the February 2021 Town Hall and will have the opportunity to promote the various CCSAI services and resources available for students.
- (e) *Goals Orientation* – T. Singh had the opportunity to inform student athletes about CCSAI services including the new food bank initiative.
- (f) *Textbooks* – T. Singh has received a response from the College noting that a committee will be formed to consider e-textbooks. The CCSAI will be involved in these discussions. In response to a query by the Chair regarding when a final decision will be made in this regard, it was explained that it often takes a very long time to hear back from the College for these types of matters. T. Singh is in regular communication with the College and this is a priority item for them that will be closely considered. M. Wang expressed concern and explained that some textbooks required for courses are not sold at the Centennial bookstore and this should be addressed by the College.
- (g) *Asynchronous Classes* – J. Gutierrez reported that there have been several concerns received from students regarding asynchronous classes and requested that this matter be considered by the Board of Directors.

7. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW REPORT UPDATE/NEXT STEPS** – T. Singh reported:

- (a) *Board Development Officer Position* – An overview of the proposal to eliminate the Board Development Officer position as per the recommendations outlined in the governance review completed by C. Raso was provided for Board information. It was explained that amendments would be made to the by-law for approval at the Special General meeting on April 26, 2021. The role of the Chair would be incorporated into the job description of the President and the Chair could be passed to other members during meetings, as deemed appropriate. It was noted that a part-time support person would be engaged as General Elections Co-ordinator to manage the CCSAI general elections. ***Action: P. Kirlik is directed to obtain clarification from C. Raso regarding the vote that the President would hold with this restructure.***

8. **BOARD DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT** – J. Bilakhia reported:

- (a) *Involvement* – In the months of December 2020 and January 2021, J. Bilakhia assisted with preparations for the Leadership Conference, Vote of Confidence, and elections and is now acting as elections officer. It was noted that an information session was hosted on zoom for students.
- (b) *Asynchronous Classes* – J. Bilakhia expressed concern regarding the experience with asynchronous learning and noted that some students have not met their professors and are finding it challenging to learn difficult concepts without live assistance. M. Wang and T. Graf echoed the concerns raised by J. Bilakhia.

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9. **CSA UPDATE** – J. Bilakhia reported:
- (a) *Federal Student Loan Interest* – The CSA has thanked the federal government for their decision to eliminate interest on federal student loans for 2021-2022.
 - (b) *Virtual Learning* – The Government of Ontario has invested an amount of \$50 million for virtual learning for post-secondary education.
 - (c) *Mental Health and Wellness* – In December 2020, it was announced that the Government of Ontario will invest more funds for mental health and wellness and addiction services.
 - (d) *International Students* – The CSA asked the federal government to provide additional support for international students and in January 2021 it was announced that the post-graduate work permit for international students will now be eligible for an extension of 18 months.
 - (e) *CSA Advocacy Scholarship* – Students of member schools can still apply for the scholarship.
 - (f) *FebCon 2021* – The FebCon Conference will be held virtually from February 17 to 19, 2021.
 - (g) *Workshops* – The CSA continues to host informative workshops and sessions discussing Indigenous student support and anxiety management were recently held.
 - (h) *Initiatives* – Since the last advocacy summit, J. Bilakhia has been involved in many initiatives including reaching out to non-members schools to encourage them to join the CSA, offered suggestions for FebCon, shared techniques to enhance the organization's social media presence, promoted the CSA advocacy scholarship to students at Centennial, researching elections processes at other Colleges, etc.
 - (i) *CSA Information Session* – J. Bilakhia explained that the CSA would like to arrange an informal information session with the CCSAI.
10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – P. Kirlik confirmed having emailed a copy of the Executive Director's report to all Board members one week prior to the meeting. A brief overview of the report was provided with highlights noted as follows:
- (a) *Vaccination Site* – The Student Centre has been approved as a vaccination site for the Scarborough Health Network with a tentative launch date of Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

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- (a...) Vaccines will be available for health care workers and will be administered in the gym. Break out rooms in the building will be used for staff members of the Health Network. P. Kirlik liaised with the CCSAI insurance provider and the College in this regard. It is anticipated that about 3,000 vaccines will be given daily.
- (b) *Food Bank* – The food bank initiative has commenced, and 150 students have already benefited from this program. T. Ellul and N. Singh were praised for their efforts with the launch. It was reminded that students are required to register online with the Daily Bread Food Bank to obtain their seven-digit number after which they can book an appointment with the CCSAI.
- (c) *Leadership Conference* – P. Kirlik attended the conference and had the opportunity to promote elections. Board members were thanked for their efforts to make the conference a great success.
- (d) *Elections* – Several completed elections packages have been received from students.
- (e) *Convocation Ceremonies* – There will be no convocation ceremonies in June 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic situation. Virtual ceremonies will be organized.
11. **CENTENNIAL COLLEGE UPDATE** – K. Rajpaulsingh will send a copy of his report to the Board of Directors via email.
12. **OTHER BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP** – Nothing to report.
13. **FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD**
- (a) *Elections* – The Board thanked P. Kirlik for promoting elections at the Leadership Conference.
- (b) *Food bank* – T. Singh praised the Board for their hard work to see the food bank project come to fruition.
- (c) *Advocates* – Advocates were thanked for their continued efforts and it was noted that many students have provided positive feedback regarding their experiences with the Advocates this year.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Full Board meeting will be held on a ***date to be determined.***

15. **IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION**

On Motion by T. Singh and seconded by A. Malik it was,
RESOLVED THAT the Board would enter into an in-camera session at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried (5-0-0).

The in-camera session concluded and the meeting resumed at 7:42 p.m.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded at 7:43 p.m. on Motion by T. Singh and seconded by A. Malik.

President – T. Singh

Executive Director/CEO – P. Kirlik