

November 16th - Annual General Meeting - 2023

Call To Order:

Attendance: Sie, Beau, Eric, Fernanda, Colby, David, Flora, Allie, Devin, Karlina, Lane. Prym, Sarah, Bunni, Cleo, Zoey, Keelin, Karleena,

AGENDA:

1) Overview of consensus based decision making (Sie)

- a) Consensus decision making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with. This ensures that all opinions, ideas and concerns are taken into account. Through listening closely to each other, the group aims to come up with proposals that work for everyone.
- b) By definition, in consensus no decision is made against the will of an individual or a minority. If significant concerns remain unresolved, a proposal can be blocked and prevented from going ahead. This means that the whole group has to work hard at finding solutions that address everyone's concerns rather than ignoring or overruling minority opinions.
- c) Making decisions in this way sometimes requires more discussion and can take more time, but it ensures that all folks involved are granted the opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns, and provide valuable input.
- d) Over zoom, using thumb-ometer system - thumbs up = approved, thumbs sideways= I'd like to discuss this more/I have a question, thumbs down = I do not approve, If you have something to say, put an x in the chat and we'll get to you

2) Facilitator Approval: **Approved**

- a) BIRT GEM collectively accepts Sie Douglas-Fish as our Fall 2023 AGM Facilitator; and allocates \$100 as an honorarium made on a special and non-routine basis to acknowledge their contribution of voluntary services.

3) Territorial Acknowledgement (Sie)

4) Designate note-taker: Eric

5) Check-in, introductions

- a) Check-in question: What fruit are you today?

6) Approval of agenda items (Sie): Approved

7) Reports & Announcements

- a) General programming & resources (Beau)
- i) Menstrual and safer sex supplies → *The Douches*
 - ii) Study nights
- b) Event reports (Beau / Eric/ Fer)
- i) Bake sale successes!
 - ii) Book club (maybe Zoey if she attends)
- c) Community partnerships (Beau?)
- i) UVic Students in Solidarity with Palestine
 - ii) AIR (maybe Flora or Eve wants to speak to this?)
- d) Team reports
- i) Eric (Board Rep report)
 - ii) Fernanda
- e) Financial report (Beau)
- i) Overview of budget (approved August 2023)

8) Changes to Constitution (Sie)

- a) Proposed amendments to the GEM Constitution can be found in this document: [☰ GEM Constitution - Proposed Changes - AGM Nov 2023](#)
Beau will go through each amendment together and vote on all the changes.

9) Other Approvals

- a) Re-electing Eric
- i) Context: Eric was voted in as Board Rep via an e-vote in the Spring when Bunni stepped down; as this was a temporary fix they will need to be re-elected (as per bylaw 7.3). They have been doing an amazing job and would like to continue their role.
 - ii) **VOTE:** To officially elect Eric as GEM Board Rep for the 2023-24 academic year. **Approved**
- b) Retroactive approval for purchase of safer-sex supplies in August - total cost of \$3544.80 **Approved**
- c) AGM Appreciation & Honorariums **Approved**
- i) BIRT GEM collectively appreciates Eve's voluntary services and contribution to the operation of the Costume & Clothing Swap

- and Bake Sale; and allocates \$40 as an honorarium made on a special and non-routine basis.
- ii) BIRT GEM collectively appreciates Tea's voluntary general housekeeping; and allocates \$40 as an honorarium made on a special and non-routine basis.
 - iii) BIRT GEM collectively appreciates Prym's voluntary general housekeeping; and allocates \$40 as an honorarium made on a special and non-routine basis.
- d) Virtual Community and Engagement – Vote for a preferred platform for virtual motions and advertisements.
- i) SAGM March 29th 2023 – What's App was unanimously approved for "broader communications"
 - ii) We can only get IT support from UVic if we use Teams. We cannot use Discord because their data is stored off-shore
 - iii) **Vote:** To approve the use of **WhatsApp** for virtual approvals, advertisements, and general communication **Approved**

10) Updates and Announcements

- a) Collective Quilt Community Project

Meeting adjourned:
