

MINUTES

Fight Directors Canada Annual General Meeting
Wednesday July 22, 2020 at 6:39 pm Mountain Standard Time
Digital Meeting on Zoom

Members in Attendance: Christopher Mott, Aaron Casselman, David Leslie, Nicholas Harrison, Laryssa Yanchak, Emily McCourt, Michelle Lewis, Nathania Bernabe, Jackie Hanlin, Rico Pfeiffer, Ryan Armstrong, Jesselle Laurén, Julie Murphy, Jacques Lemay, Casey Hudecki, Erick Fournier, Henry Beasley, Sylvie la Riviere, Thomas Usher, Todd Campbell, Jean-Francois Gagnon, Patrick Howarth, Tammy Everett, Louisa Zhu, Nate Bitton, Brianna Johnston, Jason Mehmel, Daniel Levinson, Michael Ruhs, Jordan Svenkenson, Richard Comeau, J-P. Fournier, Josh Hood, John Nelles, Mike Dufays,

Joined at 6:44 MST – Esther Stellar; At 7:00 MST – Adriano Gatto

Left at 7:52 MST – Emily McCourt; at 8:00 MST – Thomas Usher; at 8:03 MST – Jesselle Laurén

Land Acknowledge from Michelle Lewis

1. Approval of 2019 Minutes

- a. Motion to approve by L. Zhu; seconded by J. Hood; motion passes.

2. President's Report

From FD Patrick Howarth:

This has been the most fundamentally challenging year for FDC in recent memory. The pressures within the organization were informed by the pressures in our society, and it's not surprising; we are blessed to be an organization of people that care about how they can affect their corner of the world when the world calls for change.

This autumn, all parts of the executive were busy: we worked very hard on developing the new website, the Academy planned and organized what was going to be our largest workshop in the last four years, and we filled all the vacant seats on the Board of Directors as the first step in shoring up our Practices. This AGM we have a full complement of Board members, which includes Tammy Everett as the FI representative, Michelle Lewis as the AC representative, and Adriano Gatto in the role of Executive Advisor. Each of these people started initiatives this year that will benefit members for years to come.

The website was launched early in the new year, and members were encouraged to purchase their new extended profile and engage in the continued development of the site and its resources. Very soon after, COVID hit and everything changed. We had to cancel our National Workshop, the event that produces almost our entire income. It was a tough thing to take for the Vancouver community, who were mobilized and ready to lay down an epic event. But the crisis gave us an opportunity as well. We have been talking for years about how to develop online content. Suddenly, we had a crash course. Louisa, Chris, Casey, and others were champions in developing protocols on the fly. We introduced the very successful FDC Fridays and other online classes, chats, and challenges. Luckily, we had a brand new website that

supported our online initiatives. This was a time of great unity, with everyone working together. We saw our community bond, and the creativity shown was inspiring. I think we got to know each other better at this time, even though we were separated physically.

Then, with the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, everything changed again. Arts organizations everywhere came face-to-face with their flaws: their blind spots, their suffocating colonial structures, and their outright racist practices. FDC is no exception. We have been talking about some of these issues for a long time, but what became clear this year was how the practices that exclude and harm are all connected, and that the plan to solve these issues must include a complete review of every structure and system in our organization. This is a huge task for a volunteer membership organization. Thankfully, there is a level of engagement we have never seen before. Again, a crisis gave us an opportunity. The success of FDC is directly related to the level of participation and engagement in or membership. The level of passion right now in FDC is unprecedented, and hopeful. It needs to remain this way if we're to see meaningful change. Where we have failed before today, we cannot afford to fail tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who stood up at this time. Please keep standing. We will be speaking about our inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression initiatives later in the meeting.

With the ground beneath our feet already uncertain, the organization had to face even more financial stress this summer. Discussions around our tax status revealed a potential flaw in our financial reporting that could mean we owe money from past events. Our treasurer, Jason Mehmel, and a panel of FDC executives past and present has come together to investigate this matter. This issue will be resolved in fairly short order, as we have hired professionals to help us clean our financial house. With no money following in right now, it is stressful. But at the end of this, we will be much stronger in our practices, and this may, in fact, open up new funding possibilities for the future. Jason will speak more about this in his report.

During the peak of COVID isolation, I had a discussion with an arts leader about mental health in the theatre industry. I was concerned for the Board and Executive, who were working extra hours for no pay while trying to uplift our members. And I knew many of our members were in tough situations, too. But I didn't anticipate just how touch things would become, as multiple crises crashed into all our lives, and caused suffering. I began to see the limits of what our association can handle during extraordinary circumstances. There have been fruitful discussions about FDC's realistic limits, and how our structure needs to be rebuilt to withstand difficult times without sacrificing the well-being of the people who have invested so much in each of us. I urge you to get involved in these discussions. Above all else, we need to take care of each other.

So, we meet today in this virtual realm, with many question marks regarding the future. But remember, we are just in a moment in time. This is a very hopeful day. The truth is that we are remarkably prepared to meet our challenges. So much positive work has been done over the last several years to get us to this point. As president, I got to learn a few things about FDC. The thing I'd like to leave you with is this: FDC's journey has been a lot like many of ours'. It started small. It was an outsider. It wasn't really understood by others. But it had a passion. That is to say, the people in it had a passion. They wanted to be taken seriously. They fought to be included. They made mistakes. They reinvented. More than once. And there's always been a certain audacity in FDC. That audacity is what will propel the next phase of this organization. As always, it will be what you make of it.

Thank you 2020, for the challenge.

Motion to accept by C. Mott; seconded by E. Fournier; motion passes.

3. Treasurer's Report

From Associate Member Jason Mehmel:

I'll begin with an update on our financials and then a more personal report, as it is my last one in the role of treasurer to our wonderful community.

Our financials for this year show a gain. This is due to a few reasons. We postponed our Nationals event due to COVID-19, which removed those costs, and some of the participants have decided to keep their payments to go towards the next event. We also postponed our major operations, with our two team members, Chris and Louisa, taking a hiatus from their honorariums to keep the organization viable while we weather the pandemic.

We have also begun the process of catching up on our filing with the Canada Revenue Agency. This has been a long standing project for the organization but not a high priority one compared to our other activities. I will note, this is not the same (or as scary) as filing taxes for an individual or a for-profit corporation, since we are a not for profit, but it will involve extra paperwork.

Though I will no longer be treasurer, I will remain on this project as I have the most up-to-date understanding of the material and processes. Also, because I feel that I should have solved this issue many years ago and the incoming administration shouldn't be left with my homework!

Speaking of many years ago... I began with Fight Directors Canada in 2009. I met Laryssa Yanchak a little earlier and began to see the scope and history of Fight Directors Canada. I was inspired. That was also a time of transition for the organization.

I took on the role without a lot of experience but a large amount of ambition. Over the following years I had a chance to work with and associate with so many inspiring teachers, fight masters, and students.

What I remember most fondly from my time in the organization is laughter. In the makeshift offices during a Nationals, or at the restaurant or pub afterwards, the sense of camaraderie and joy among everyone as we explored and trained in the service of our craft.

The chance to be among our Fight Masters as they discuss the organization and what we teach has been an enormous honour.

To watch people that I've seen enter the academy move through its levels both reminds me that I've been here a little while, and is a wonderful reminder of what FDC is best known for.

I want to thank Christopher Mott for his tireless and attentive work for our membership, building infrastructure for them and making sure they have all the access they can use. I also will admit a certain excitement in working with him since I've enjoyed his work as an actor!

I want to thank Louisa Zhu for her ambitious, effective, and thoughtful work as Director of the Academy. They have taken a system refined by Paul and continued to enhance it, and the attention to detail has made me better as a treasurer.

I want to thank Patrick for working with me the last few years of my tenure. The care and attention he has for the membership and what they deserve is a great reminder of why we volunteer for the board in the first place.

In particular, I want to mention that working with Paul Gelineau as he worked as Director of the Academy still inspires me. His ability to match ambition, humility, and leadership are examples I take with me into all of my work.

My life has changed in many ways since I first began with FDC, and some of those changes have meant that I no longer have the time and energy to devote myself to this position at the level it deserves. I've known this for a little while, and it's why John Knight has been shadowing me for the last few years now. My hope is that this transition is not only seamless, but also enhances the organization. I think John has a lot of wonderful opportunities to bring to the FDC and I can't wait to see what they are.

It is worth noting that this is a major transition point not just for FDC, but for the nation and the world. We often take inspiration here from sources of chivalry and greater service, and I encourage the incoming board and administration to continue to hold those inspirations close as we work together as a 'fight family' to improve the lives of those around us, and to do it with safety.

It is no small irony that a long-serving member of the board has no certification. I've been an associate member for as long as I've been here... I've wanted to certify but couldn't make the various events work. That is still a future goal of mine. So, although you may no longer see me as treasurer, hopefully you'll always see me as a member of the family and a fellow student.

Much love and strength to all of you. I can't wait to see what we all do next!

Motion to accept by M. Lewis; seconded by C. Hudecki; motion passes.

4. Director of Training's Report

From FI Louisa Zhu:

Where to begin?

I don't think it is news for anyone that this past year has brought us some extreme ups and downs. In the first half of the year we continued to see independent certification workshops run in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. With tremendous help from FI Mike Kovac, the Nationals was set to take place this summer at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and by February it was shaping up to be the highest level of attendance we would have had since the Worlds Conference in 2016.

Of course, with the arrival of the novel coronavirus in Canada we made the decision in March to cancel the Nationals, and in light of training being unable to continue in person, we launched an online content initiative, FDC Fridays, to help bring training content and resources to members during quarantine. We ran this initiative for 7 weeks with content driven by member requests and supplied by the generosity of volunteers from our Fight Instructor and Fight Master communities.

As I was curating content for the FDC Fridays initiative my intention was to showcase a diverse array of our teaching base week to week. Many of you will probably not be surprised to hear that I had a lot of difficulty in executing this because at our highest levels, FDC is simply not very diverse in a number of areas – race and gender most notably. The question is why?

The Black Lives Matter movement and Anti-Racism movements within the arts industry have fuelled many of us to remember that this question needs to be a priority, not an afterthought. In the wake of the immense hardship and tragedy that the coronavirus pandemic has brought to so many of our communities I am grateful at least that it has given us the time to examine systemic issues within our organization and to try and address them actively.

Despite being founded on values of safety and inclusivity, FDC has not always been a safe and inclusive space for people of certain demographics. I know this from hearing other people's experiences and also from experiences of my own. How do I want things to look for other people? What experiences do I want them to have? What experiences do I hope they can avoid? I of course have not been immune to being exclusionary myself. Building a truly safe and inclusive environment – we will never get it perfect but we must try.

From the Academy side the current focuses are a re-examination of teaching and adjudication responsibilities, as well as opening up our curriculum - emphasizing concepts and skill development to allow weapons from cultures outside of our primarily European disciplines to be taught within our levels. These initiatives will be worked on while supporting initiatives from the Board and other committees.

I am so excited by the level of passionate engagement I am seeing now from newer members of FDC and I hope we can collectively make sure they are well supported. All of us who want change, and all of us in leadership in particular need to ask ourselves not only what we want but what we are willing to give. It can be easy for people to run out of energy in this member and volunteer run organization. How do we keep the ball in the air and step in when someone else needs to step out? How do we set each other up for success?

I really don't know what things are going to look like in terms of training within the next year – if we will run a Nationals, if we will run the first of our planned FDCNext Workshops. In the meantime, I will be looking to facilitate positive change in our structures in anticipation of the next time we are able to train in person.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas or if you just want to connect. In my last year as Director of Training I will do my best to listen and actively support.

Motion to accept by J. Hood; seconded by J. Svenkeson; motion passes.

5. Director of Administration's Report

From FM Chris Mott:

To all members of FDC and the Academy,

As many of you know, as Director of Admin I'm responsible for the maintenance of membership rolls and certification records, official member communications in conjunction with our social media team, and maintaining the website.

Firstly, the state of membership. 2019 was a relatively quiet year for certifications and renewals,

but not unusually so, with a total of 105 new or renewed certifications. 2020 to date has obviously been a different story. Since the suspension of classes in March, we've lost 4 months of activity. And unfortunately, those 4 months are our busiest of the year, since they include the end of the postsecondary school year (where we usually see 2-3 classes), the spring/summer intensives that are often run at Rapier Wit, and of course the Nationals. From January to March, we saw 27 new or renewed certs, plus 2 people who were admitted into the Registry of Fight Directors. At a very rough estimate, that's somewhere between 50-80 certifications that simply did not happen. But at the same time, we've also put a hold on all soon-to-expire certifications and memberships, since people are not able to recert, so we have not seen a significant drop in total membership despite the lack of classes. How the remainder of 2020 plays out is at this point anyone's guess, but given the nature of our classes and work (and our focus on safety) I imagine that we'll be some of the last people back in classrooms.

But on to better news! We have a new website at last. As many of you can attest the old one was confusing, outdated, sometimes not entirely functional, and generally was not helpful for either members or FDC as a whole. And the back-end management of it was at least as bad.

The new site (check it out if you haven't yet) has been made simpler to navigate, includes more resources for individual members, and finally includes a functional, searchable member directory. We have already been making adjustments and tweaks based on member feedback, so if you have any thoughts on something you'd like to see please email me! There were and are plans for several additional features, including the 'Featured Member' and 'FM tip of the Month', an advisors contact area, links to recommended prop and equipment suppliers, and an improved location search function in the directory, but those have taken a back seat to more pressing matters since launch.

Finally, there is one initiative that I will have to do soon (and I mean in the next couple weeks). Our mailing system, Mailchimp, has changed the way they handle free accounts and so our existing mailing lists were no longer useable without going to a paid plan. Given the general lack of income this year, I've elected to tear it down and rebuild rather than pay to keep the old lists. What that means for members is that there will be a new newsletter opt-in email coming soon, and that should be the only change you notice. On the back-end it should make things much smoother, with a lot more functions happening automatically, but that's just for me and whoever comes after me. I should note that opting out of the newsletter list will not opt a member out of official communications like AGM announcements, elections and such, but only to the news items like P&P changes, Nationals and other class announcements, and other non-critical communications.

Motion to accept by J. Hood; seconded by R. Comeau; motion passes.

6. Old Business

a. Website

- The development of the website is funded by the extended profiles – we are hoping to get to 150 profiles to pay for both phases one and two; one has already happened; two creates more opportunities for funding generation and industry ties.
- The path forward for this will be determined by the new administration.

b. Code of Conduct

- Has been officially added to our policies and procedures

- Is still very much intended to be a living document, and there are still changes that are being worked on with membership right now, specifically including the reporting procedures that are in place and making them more accessible and user friendly.
- The board would like to absolutely encourage anyone with suggestions for improvement to email secretary@fdc.ca; we want this document to be a true representation of best practices and to serve our membership as effective as possible.

c. FDC Next

- The FDC Next workshop was designed with the intention to take place every other year, so is still not totally off the ground – the goal is to use this new workshop to usher in the future of this art form in our communities.
- New plans for these workshops include (with resources upcoming) – 1 scholarship for each city that is hosting the event, as well as the development and implementation of social development classes that will be required for both FDC Next and Nationals.

7. New Business

a. CRA/Ongoing Financial Reporting

- The issue of filing taxes was brought up approx. mid way through Jason’s tenure. As far as we know, this has not been taken care of in the tenure of the current administration.
- The question was originally noted during Paul’s tenure, but wasn’t really taken up until this current board was made re-aware of the issue.
- We are up to date on the filings of some of our reports, but not on all of them—including regarding our business number and potential GST reporting.
- Many not-for-profits don’t file for GST or pay GST, for several reasons:
 - o There is a threshold of \$50 000, which must be earned from commercial revenue
 - o As a certification granting organization, membership fees are an exempted category
- We have found an accountant – Peter – who will be coming on board to help us with catching up on our filing and getting through the paperwork:
 - o This filing could go back decades, but we are unsure how far it needs to go back
 - o Peter will be helping us determine whether we are currently working properly within the constraints of the GST limits
- Jason will be staying involved until this is resolved.
- This is mostly catching up on record keeping in terms of the government knowing what not-for-profits are doing – it is not the same as an individual being late on their taxes – our costs to solve this will likely mostly be Peter’s fees, rather than back taxes we owe.

b. Covid-19

- Largely covered by Louisa’s report. Otherwise:
- Chris and Louisa have been on a hiatus for their honoraria while continuing to work incredibly hard; we don’t have any in-flow of money, but have developed online content in a wonderful way.
- We are in a holding pattern for much of what the organization is hoping to do, but are still working on some initiatives that we want to see some movement on before we return to online programming—we don’t want to eat up too much of our personnel resources.

- Planning of future workshops is also in holding while we wait on guidelines – we also recognize that individual provinces are in different places, and need to consider different regional safeties, rather than blanket national policies.

c. Diversity, Anti-Oppression, and Anti-Racism Initiatives

- Louisa has been doing an immense amount of work regarding these initiatives within the organization.
 - o There are a number of initiatives that won't fully bear fruit until we are able to participate in workshops again. Other initiatives need money, and we need to get our financials in order to be able to pay for these.
- Large scale ARAO Initiatives that are taking place include:
 - o Taking a look at our structures and how they work – despite a lot of good intentions, the way that people move through membership is filtered through a narrow set of biases – we are looking at how to reallocate responsibilities to open that up – we don't want to wait too long to see more types of people moving though the membership
 - o Also looking at how we can open up our curriculum – what are the current disciplines and what are their core concepts? The levels aren't necessarily about the weapons, but more about a system of movement or artistry – a whole package deal – which is why we have specific weapons. We are hoping to identify the skills we want to impart and why those weapons were chosen to impart that – then look at what other options are possible to teach those concepts – e.g. longsword vs katana. This will provide options for instructors to teach other weapons, and reduce the limitation of the weapons we teach which currently primarily represent European disciplines. This might cause levels to shift somewhat – perhaps to more concept-based disciplines, at advanced especially. We are very open to suggestions as we continue work on this restructuring
 - o Michelle, Brianna, and Patrick have been compiling feedback from membership – we want to ensure that the work we are doing is inline with membership needs; as well, we are looking to ensure that people in positions of leadership are up to date on our own anti-oppression training and inclusivity training – specifically for businesses – and how we can access best practices for this. It is also important we understand how to make this viable within our financial structure: we need to understand our financial position and what the min/max cost is of what we can afford to pursue/achieve
 - o Looking at our documentation, and specifically our P&P – we recognize that there are problems in the language of the document, even beyond the broader issue of our structures – we need to begin implementing ARAO language into these documents
 - o Looking to move away from an outmoded board structure to something that is more inclusive
- In addition to these things, we are hoping to bring training and policy together – the board has been discussing how best to implement scholarships for underrepresented communities; these scholarship would be both for Nationals and each of the FDC Next cities
 - o We are aware that we have a problem with outreach and in seeming useful/attractive to diverse communities. We are putting together a Diversity/Outreach committee, who will be involved in helping this information about these scholarships out to the applicable people/communities
- The inclusion of new social courses at workshops is another large conversation the board has been having:

- This would include mandatory courses for all members – regardless of membership level – to address social issues as they relate to creating our art. A small selection of what we would hope to see these courses be about includes: exoticism, gender and violence, othering of people with different abilities, racialized violence, etc.
- We will need to find experts in these fields to make these courses possible, as well as looking at how we are scheduling workshops to make these a normal part of the training of stage combat
- Another idea in the early stages of development is a bursary program to help alleviate financial barriers to underrepresented communities. One goal is to put together a marketplace on the new website to help fund this. FDC Next is also intended to be smaller and less expensive, so as to allow it to be more financially available to membership.

d. FM Representative Board Position

- Todd's term nearing its intended end; he has been a member of FDC for 20+ years and has been on the board more than he has been off it. He felt that it was time to step aside and open a position for other voices.
 - FM Laryssa Yanchuk has volunteered to take on the position, and has been accepted by the College to do so
- Laryssa is very excited to be jumping back in to work on the board – she has been a member for 25+ years and is excited for upcoming change to the organization. At a few of the past Nationals workshops, there have been really exciting conversations about the future of FDC, and she is looking forward to being part of this learning, growing, changing, world.

e. Treasurer Board Position

- John Knight was the only candidate for the position, and has been elected by acclamation.
- He is happy to be on the board and excited to help FDC find a stable financial future.

f. Results of Presidential Election

- Nathania Bernabie has been elected as the incoming President of the Board.
- This has been a very interesting time, and what is most exciting is seeing how people are finding their own agency and advocacy, which is so important. Especially in this organization that Nathania cares deeply about. She is grateful for the support from the board and membership.
- We are in this together, but please bear with us – this will take all of us to keep this organization strong and alive.

8. Questions from the Floor

E. McCourt – she was unclear on what the positions entailed, and what needed to be included in nominations – in the future can we work to clarify the process before the next election? We want to help encourage rather than dissuade people to be involved.

- This has been something we've been talking about for some time now—we have been wrestling with this idea of what our leadership roles are and have been working to shore up our practices and clarify that within the board.
- It became clear that what we needed was a rethink, and to prioritize what is needed for each of these roles as we reimagine what our structure is. Many people have had difficult transitions into these leadership roles, and we hope to make it a priority of the new admin to make it better.
- Louisa has been going through initiatives working on the P&P and has seen that this is something we definitely want to talk more about – creating good definitions for the positions, as well as what we are looking for in nomination questions
- It has definitely been unclear in the past, but hopefully the new board will take this up
- We also need to look remember—there are requirements for the organization as we want to build it, but there are also gov't requirements to maintain our non-profit status, so will need to consider how these things can line up – can be bigger than defined by the government but their requirements need to be met

T. Usher – excited to hear what other organizations are doing and is wondering if any other organizations have been brought into this conversation of some of the restructuring and redesign of levels/weapons that is being discussed?

- Not officially, though we do recognize that sharing with other organizations is something that has been very useful for us in the past.
- There have been informal conversations with members of other societies, but we also recognize that they are all going through their own conversations and restructures right now, and we don't want to interfere with internal policy work.
- The informal conversations that have taken place have also focused more on referrals for ARAO resources, more than our policies/curriculum.
- As well, in considering the curriculum, the goal is that there will be more freedom to interpret and to give instructors opportunities to introduce systems they feel are important or work well for the development of core concepts—the goal is not to completely remove the weapon options that currently exist at each level

J. Nelles – there is a meeting coming up with the Directors and Choreographers Committee with Equity, and he is wondering if there are any concerns that FDs and FMs have about these contracts, as well as concerns that actors have for fight directors and these contracts – the CTA is being negotiated in an ongoing manner, and the committee wants to help make it as strong as possible; contact contact@act4living.com with suggestions or concerns.

- Has there been any movement in the last few years for Assistant Fight Director contracts?
 - o This is something that J. Nelles will ask about; part of the consideration around these contracts is how much rehearsal time people are getting, so that may be a consideration here

- Is it possible to open up the contract at all? To help non-equity members, as well as member who are working towards their FD certification gain credits?
 - o Part of the idea of the contracts is that theatres are intended to pull Fight Directors from the registry first; however, the theatre does have the power of that final say. There were instances before this contract of people getting hurt because people were fight directing without proper training. FDC is an organization that gives confidence to the theatre that the people they are hiring can work at a certain level; just as stage managers are required to have first aid training, etc.
 - o That being said, Equity is not interested in being part of the debate of “who can be a fight director” – if the theatre hires you for the job, you should have a Fight Direction contract through Equity – FDC just wants to make sure that you don’t say you are a certified member of the registry, unless you are
- Can you look for an amendment for how long a fight call should be? Right now, it is very tight – big houses sometime shy away from fight heavy productions because of these restrictions and the extra fees that extending the call can create.
 - o Yes, good point. J. Nelles will look into this.

R. Armstrong – there was mention earlier of inclusion and diversity in the academy, as well as narrow implicit biases that are present in how people move through the organization; is there anything specific that has been noticed in that regard, or if we are just starting to look into this? Is there anything we can talk about specifically, without calling anyone out individually, within the structure of the organization?

- A lot of the biases that exist relate to very personal experiences and concerns, which we can’t talk about in this forum; in general, though, it’s important to just start recognizing that when so much of our membership comes from one demographic there will inherently be biases; we all have things to work on and examine;
- Louisa is happy to talk more specifics, just not in this forum.

J. Mehmel – should have spoken to this earlier, but remembers now that we need to pass a resolution. Once the resolution is read, we will leave the floor open for questions specifically relating to it.

“Be it resolved that the member votes to allow the corporation be exempt from hiring a Public Accountant to prepare audited or review engagement financial statements. Furthermore, it is resolved that the corporation will prepare notice to reader financial statements.”

- To ensure that this is clear for everyone—we are not required to hire a public accountant, but we are required to keep transparency and clear paperwork for membership?
 - o Yes. This is intended to maintain transparency both for membership, and also the CRA
- Are we currently registered as a corporation or as a society?
 - o As a Not-for-Profit Corporation
- To clarify—not hiring a public accountant is only a question of rigor in terms of what is done – there is still financial paperwork that is required, but it is of a lesser level for not-for-profits; not hiring a public accountant also saves on costs
- We have gone over many different structures for looking into funding – if we go this route, is there another status that this allows us, to help us secure funding, esp. government funding?

- Not necessarily; but, if we decide later on that we do want audited financial statements/financial statements prepared by a public accountant, we would just need to pass another resolution
- This also help us ensure best practices for new treasurers as the organization continue to move forward

Motion to pass the resolution by L. Zhu; seconded by J. Knight; resolution passes unanimously.

T. Campbell – can we give a clarification regarding FDC Next?

- Patrick has written some procedures for the workshop, which will be available on the website soon, to give further clarification
- In brief: it is a workshop, but not a certifying event, designed for diverse training opportunities—the goal is to expand training and deepen the understanding and practice of the art. It is also designed to be flexible and accessible. Opportunities are included for experts outside our organization to be involved, as well as individuals who are not yet members—new members will receive associate memberships through these workshops. The workshop will run concurrently in five different cities, and the individual host-committee for each city will set their own curriculum for their city; in addition to this curriculum, remote classes will run across all five locations sometimes. These remote classes will be considered master classes, and can be taught by non-certified Instructors, if desired. At least two of the five days will be dedicated to participants of any level.

C. Hudecki – this is part of the newsletter, but wanted to check in – C. Hudecki has been running social media since 2012; she recognizes that she is only one person and that she is Toronto centric; these days, she is often also working in a different field. If you have something going on, or would like something advertised, if you have cool pictures of members fighting, etc., please send them to Casey. She is also looking for someone who would like to share the accounts with her – would specifically love some west coast representation.

- This is also something that we have been talking about for some time—how to share this workload. With the new server, it would also be great to set up a social media email account. This would allow a group of people to collectively receive the social media requests/initiatives, and would share the work better.
- Is it possible to look into HootSuite, or other such services?
 - We have tried HootSuite before, and it wasn't great for us; as well, a lot of social media services are beginning to charge—however, A. Gatto will connect with the digital communications specialist at the university he works at; he will see if there are any new platforms that he can bring us information about
 - For those who don't know, Adriano is our Executive Advisor—he is responsible for looking at and advising on the whole organizational structure. Having him to bounce things off of takes some pressure off of what has been a big job for only a few people.

M. Lewis – in talking to people recently, it has become clear that some people don't know how get involved or where to direct their questions; please put anyone with questions or concerns in contact with Michelle as she is more than happy to help where she can, or connect you to people who can help.

Motion to Adjourn by C. Mott; seconded by D. Levinson; meeting adjourned at 8:19 MST.