

# DRAFT MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society  
October 10, 2007 • Simon Fraser University, Convocation Mall, Burnaby Campus

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## **CALLED TO ORDER – 2:41pm – October 10, 2007**

### **1. RATIFICATION OF THE CHAIR**

#### **AGM: 10-10-07:001 MOTION**

Moved / Seconded

Be it resolved that Patrice Pratt be ratified as the Chair for this meeting.

**CARRIED**

#### **b. Appointment of the secretary**

#### **AGM: 10-10-07:002 MOTION**

Moved / Seconded

Be it resolved that Jenn Farrell be appointed as the secretary for this meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEETING RULES**

#### **AGM: 10-10-07:003 MOTION**

Moved (Archeology) / Joe Paling

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted for this meeting.

**CARRIED**

The Chair provided a brief overview of the proceedings, as well as reviewing some points of order (in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order) and general parliamentary rules.

#### **AGM: 10-10-07:004 MOTION**

Derrick Harder / Michael Caulkins

Be it resolved that the rules of order be accepted for this meeting.

**CARRIED**

The Chair announced the prize draws to be held throughout the meeting, and Joe Paling drew the first winners.

### **3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS' MINUTES**

#### **AGM: 10-10-07:005 MOTION**

Doug Ross / Michael Caulkins

Be it resolved that the minutes from the October 25, 2006 annual general meeting and from the October 25, 2006 special general meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Motion to Remove Graduate Students**

**AGM: 10-10-07:006 MOTION**

Derrick Harder / Ursula Arndt

Be it resolved that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society be amended as written in Appendix A to reflect a solely undergraduate society.

A graduate student spoke in favour of the motion, saying that this will give graduate students a new, more clearly defined role in the University, and that this motion was a result of the referendum. She asked what date this motion, if passed, would take effect.

**AGM: 10-10-07:007 AMENDMENT**

Derrick Harder / Ursula Arndt

Be it further resolved that the above take effect on either May 1, 2008 or September 1, 2008 and that the date shall be at the discretion of the Board.

**AMENDMENT CARRIED**

Harder reiterated the Student Society's support of the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**b. Motion to amend By-Laws by referenda**

**AGM: 10-10-07:008 MOTION**

Derrick Harder/ Michael Caulkins

Be it resolved that By-Law 13.1 be amended to read:

*The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by special resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting, or by indirect voting via referendum held in accordance with Bylaw 17.*

Be it further resolved that By-Law 13.3 be amended to read:

Amendments may be initiated by:

a. The Board

b. Forum

c. Any member in good standing of the Society:

*i. if twenty-one days notice of the actual wording of the proposed amendment is given in writing to the Society prior to the Annual General Meeting;*

*ii. Any member of the Society requesting a Special General Meeting for the consideration of a proposed amendment, provided that the proposed amendment shall be accompanied by a petition setting out the text of the proposed amendment and requesting a Special General Meeting for its consideration and accompanied by the signatures of not less than five percent of the members in good standing of the Society*

*iii. in accordance with Bylaw 17.3 when special resolutions are to be considered via indirect voting by referenda.*

Harder motivated, saying that passing this motion would enable future bylaw amendments to be passed by referenda, and would allow for greater student involvement and participation.

**CARRIED**

**c. Motion to reduce quorum**

**AGM: 10-10-07:009 MOTION**

Doug Ross / Jason Tockman

Be it resolved that By-Law 10.3 be amended to add:

*Electronic memoranda to all active members of the Society, unless the University is unable or declines to provide the necessary access to student electronic contact lists.*

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10.6 be amended to read:

*If within ~~fifteen~~ thirty minutes from the time appointed for the Annual General Meeting a quorum is not present, quorum shall be twenty members in good standing of the Society, and the meeting shall transact only such business as is specifically referred to in By-Law 10(2)[a]- [f].*

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10.9 be amended to read:

*Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting shall be ~~five hundred~~ two hundred and fifty (250) members in good standing of the Society.*

An attendee spoke against the motion, saying that fewer people would be aware of the goings-on of the Society and the university if this passed.

Walsh asked for a point of information as to the contents of Bylaw 10.

Titus Gregory read the contents of the Bylaw 10(2), points A through F. (Primarily about the auditor's report, appointment of the auditor). He said that having reduced quorum for these issues would enable the Society to survive.

Carrie Penner asked if By-law 10.9 could be divided.

The Chair allowed the motion to be divided. By-law 10.9 would be voted on separately.

Ian Reid spoke against the motions, saying that a reduced quorum number would force the "say" of what happens on campus onto an even smaller group, and that the Society should be trying to get more students involved, not less.

Students asked for clarification of the division of motions.

The Chair responded, saying that By-laws 10.3 and 10.6 would function as one motion, and 10.9 as another motion. She called for a new mover and seconder for the first motion.

**AGM: 10-10-07:010 MOTION**

Doug Ross / Ryan Williams

Be it resolved that By-Law 10.3 be amended to add:

*Electronic memoranda to all active members of the Society, unless the University is unable or declines to provide the necessary access to student electronic contact lists.*

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10.6 be amended to read:

*If within ~~fifteen~~ thirty minutes from the time appointed for the Annual General Meeting a quorum is not present, quorum shall be twenty members in good standing of the Society, and the meeting shall transact only such business as is specifically referred to in By-Law 10(2)[a]- [f].*

**CARRIED**

**AGM: 10-10-07:011 MOTION**

Randy Galloway / Joe Paling

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10.9 be amended to read:

*Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting shall be ~~five hundred~~ two hundred and fifty (250) members in good standing of the Society.*

Galloway spoke in favour of the motion, saying that reducing quorum wouldn't prevent students from participating; it would just allow the Society to get on with their business.

Another speaker spoke in favour, saying that it was also important that meetings be well advertised to attract interested students.

Ian Reid spoke against the motion, saying that important decisions affecting students would be being made by a considerably smaller percentage of the student population.

Watson spoke in favour, noting that, except for the exceptional circumstance of the past two years, quorum had not been met in ten years, and said that the Society could not count on this level of support forever.

Another student spoke against the motion.

Doug Ross spoke in favour, and said that reducing quorum made sense in light of the fact that the graduate students would soon no longer be a part of the SFSS, and that they currently comprise a large part of the active membership.

A speaker asked if increasing the time limit in By-law 10.6 would have a measurable difference in achieving quorum in the future.

The Chair noted that it took 45 minutes for today's meeting to reach the quorate attendance of 525 students.

A Geography student (Robin?) asked how the number of 250 had been determined.

Paling said that the number was a compromise, as 100 seemed too low. He noted that a reduced quorum would enable future meetings to be held indoors.

A student spoke against the motion, saying that the motion passed regarding electronic referenda was a tool that could be used, and therefore there was no need to reduce quorum.

Augustin Cerani spoke against the motion, saying that the Board should focus on adding to its membership and working with students to ensure that they are aware of the importance of the SFSS and then they will want to come to meetings.

Steven Anas spoke in favour, noting that of the 525 students present, many were graduate students.

A graduate student spoke in favour, saying that the Society had been hobbled by the quorum level in the past, and once the graduate students leave it will be impossible to meet the current number. A reduced quorum is more realistic, as it will still get students involved, and if enough do it can always be changed back, she said.

A student spoke in favour, saying that the previous mention of electronic referenda increased accessibility for students, but lower quorum numbers would make it more accessible as well.

Amy Fox called the question.

#### **CALL TO QUESTION CARRIED**

An attendee asked a point of information regarding any available information on the number of undergraduate versus graduate students present at the meeting.

The Chair responded that she did not have that information at the time.

#### **CARRIED (77.4 per cent in favour)**

The Chair noted that the meeting was no longer quorate and as such, no other resolutions could be passed.

An attendee urged the students to stay for the remainder of the meeting, noting that the motion regarding reduced quorum did not take effect immediately.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Review of Highland Pub Operations**

No motions could be brought forward at this time.

**b. Sustainable Campuses Audit**

No motions could be brought forward at this time.

**6. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joe Paling presented the report of the Board of Directors for October 26, 2006 through October 9, 2007, as enclosed in the agenda package.

He made special mention of the sudden passing of SFSS Ombudsperson Laurine Harrison, and expressed how much she is missed, and of her many years of service.

Paul Browning asked where Society stood on private post-secondary institutions. (Referring to a booth outside the meeting offering private education support and LSAT preparation.)

Paling said that the Society is against private post-secondary institutions.

Andrew Ferguson called attention to the section of the report entitled "Fall 2006 transitional period," saying that it had a tone of vindictiveness. He attempted to move that everything after the first paragraph be struck from that section of the report.

The Chair noted that no motions could be brought forward without quorum.

A speaker commented on the CFS section of the report, saying that monies given to the CFS are from students, not the SFSS, and that the services the CFS provides are valuable. She said it was better to stay in the CFS.

Sasha Langford asked about the section on constituency groups, and asked for examples of how the Society supports these groups on campus.

Paling said that the Board works alongside the groups in Forum, but said that the Society needs to do more to support these groups.

**7. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE OMBUDSPERSON**

David Evans, Society Ombudsperson, presented his report, as enclosed in the agenda package. He noted that he wished to carry on the fine work of the late Laurine Harrison and that his report covered only May 1, 2006 to September 28, 2007: the duration of his employment and that of the temporary Ombudsperson, Gary Insley.

**8. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE TREASURER**

Adam Lein, Student Society Treasurer, presented an overview of the Student Society's finances from October 26, 2006 through October 9, 2007, as enclosed in the agenda package. He noted that last year's legal costs were over seven times what they had been in previous years, and that lost labour costs were significant as well.

Lein also discussed the operating budget and services to students, and said that, apart from the exceptional expenses, the Society had done very well financially.

Paul Browning commented that he found the editorializing in the Treasurer's report troubling, particularly the "an exceptional year" section. He also asked why there was an increase in the deficit.

Lein said there is usually a deficit from one year to the next, but that it can fluctuate considerably, depending on changes in management of services and so on. He said that the Board of Directors is looking for ways to address this issue in future.

The Chair called on the auditor to present his report.

**9. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR**

Gary Wozny, of Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co, presented the Student Society's audited financial statements, as enclosed in the agenda package.

Sean Magee expressed his confidence in the abilities of the auditor and the financial staff of the Society.

Gary Wozny noted that the Society's financial staff worked very hard to provide the necessary data to the auditors, and that the audit would have cost a great deal more without their assistance.

Titus Gregory noted that according to Section 8f, there were some motions that could be passed without quorum, including the appointment of the auditor.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR THE COMING YEAR**

**AGM: 10-10-07:012 MOTION**

Adam Lein / Steven Anas

Be it resolved that the firm of Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co. be re-appointed for the coming year's audited financial statements as per the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

**CARRIED**

Joe Paling thanked all the attendees and reminded them of the Oktoberfest festivities.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Doug Ross / Mike Letourneau

Be it resolved that this Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 4:08 pm.

**CARRIED**