

Call to Order – 12:34 am, October 23, 2014 | Build SFU Think Tank

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*)..... Darwin Binesh
Vice President Student Life..... Kayode Fatoba (*late*)
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace
Councilor Michael Fujiwara
Councilor Kathleen Yang
Councilor
Councilor Maren Thompson
Board of Governors Representative.....
Out On Campus Representative
Women’s Centre Representative..... Anjali Biju
Senate Representative
Student At-Large..... Muhsin Suleiman
Student At-Large..... Arjan Mundy (*late*)

Society Staff

Finance Coordinator Vanessa Kwong
Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator Pierre Cassidy
Minute Taker Dion Chong

Guests

Member Curtis Pooghkay

Regrets

Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi

Absent

Board of Directors Representative Tesicca Truong

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2014-10-23:01

Wallace/ Amended Suleiman

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ethical Purchasing Report added as new item

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION ADV 2014-10-23:02

Fujiwara

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi (*class conflict*)

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2014-10-23:03

/
Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-10-16

POSTPONED TO NEXT ADV

5. Committee Member Updates

a. Financial Procedures

The Finance Coordinator was present to provide a tutorial on the cheque requisition and catering procedures within the organization to ensure that all financial documentation was done in a timely manner.

Catering

On-campus catering had to be requested from the SFSS Food and Beverage Services. Catering requests should be submitted as early as possible (a minimum of 3 days in advanced) with maximum detail to allow the FBS staff to order supplies well in advanced and ensure that all invoices reflect the proper project, and should be submitted via a board member to ensure continuity of information. Electronic submissions were preferred.

As internal departments and committees of the SFSS, GST is not charged for catering purchases. The committee was reminded that all committee costs should be charged to line item 820/23 Campaigns, as the only line item under the control of the Advocacy Committee.

Fatoba entered late

Cheque Requisitions

All SFSS payments were handled via cheque. The Finance Coordinator walked the committee through the requisition process. Legibility was essential throughout the document to ensure that the cheques were issued to the correct persons with exact name.

Long invoice numbers, particularly for retail stores, could be minimized in the format below:
Nesters Market 2015-1 = Store Nesters Market, Year 2015, Spring semester
Canadian Tire 2012-2 = Store Canadian Tire, Year 2012, Summer semester
SFU Bookstore 2014-3 = Store SFU Bookstore, Year 2014, Fall semester

The attachments of the approving minutes was essential, as the Vice President Finance likely would not approve any cheque requisition without proof of committee authorization. Within motions, as much details should be provided.

- Event date and name
- Amount being approved
- Account number and name
- Short summary of what the amount being expended encompasses

When the matter for approval was within the body of the minutes, the requirement may be fulfilled. However, for full transparency, the summary of funding areas being expended into should be included in the motion as well, and highlighted/circled prior to submission. If all documentations are received by the Vice President External Relations well in advanced of the meeting, the VP can submit the documents to the Finance Office and/or FBS immediately upon committee approval.

Kwong left at 12:58pm

Mundy entered at 12:59pm

A motion was put forth to add an international students townhall follow up event item to the agenda. However, the supporting documentation was received at 11:22pm. There was concern that the document was sent too late for the committee to review the documentation, and therefore the committee opted to vote down the agenda addition.

6. New Business

a. Ethical Purchasing Report

Suleiman presented a report on the feasibility of an addition of ethical purchasing into the practice of the SFSS. Suleiman had spoken with a number of groups, including Ethical Bean, Canadian Fair Trade Network, and the SFSS Food and Beverage Services General Manager. Initially, ethical purchasing could begin with the purchase of tea and coffee across the organization. As organizational experience increases, these could be expanded into apparel, chocolate etc.

Options available to committee were narrowed to Fair and Direct Trade. Fair Trade provides farmers with a fair trade premium on top of market prices, but requires that farmers be a part of coops. Direct trade allows for fair trade benefits to directly flow to each farmer.

For paper products, the Forest Stewardship Council ensures that forestry is practiced sustainably, and logging is practiced along 11 guidelines. The organization also works to protect indigenous rights.

At present, the Tim Horton prices were significantly lower as they do not conduct fair trade practices. Pricing analyses were extremely valuable and would be difficult for the Society to manage.

Issues were raised around costs to FBS, profit margins (difficult to convince people to utilize such goods), and the issue that fair trade products was often considered a premium good. In depth research of fair trade suppliers was difficult, and direct trade required significant labour in terms of research.

In moving forward, there was a desire by a member to establish a long term ethical purchasing issues policy, and possibly formulating a purchasing policy through collaboration with other Society communities. The Society could utilize resources and practices offered by Fair Trade Vancouver and SFU.

The committee was reminded that purchasing policies had to take into consideration their impact to student unions and clubs, given their longstanding relationships with various clothing suppliers for different events. The Vice President Student Life and Vice President External Relations have been engaged in discussions of SFSS relations with companies, particularly around ethical concerns, and such policies would play into continued discussions.

Fujiwara left at 1:16pm

7. Discussion

a. Residence

An anonymous mature student came forward with a complaint around the state of residences on campus, particularly around mold testing and mold problems within Louis Riel residence. This building primarily housed mature students as well as indigenous students, students who

were couples, and those living with children, thus disproportionately impacting students within those categories. Water leakage had resulted in a situation during midterms where students were being evicted from their residence with little notification, with cases where only a days notice was provided. The state of the building was such it may not be occupied in the future, resulting in impacts to affordable housing on campus.

Students living in Residence also face issues as they do not fall under the Tenancy Act of BC and therefore residents can only file for human rights issues.

Madge Hogarth has faced a similar situation and was no longer available for residence purposes. There was confusion from the committee as to why Louis Riel had not been closed similarly given the issues.

The Vice President University Relations would request further details on the matter.

Pooghkay left at 1:22pm

The state of residences was raised as a question at the Breakfast with the President. They had answered that reductions to Core Institutional Funding limited the breadth of university response as a matter.

Question was raised around whether this was primarily impacting undergraduates and graduate students, given the jurisdiction of the SFSS. While the committee saw value in advocating for the issue, the committee also recognized that the issue was not limited to a single building. The committee may wish to work with the GSS and RHA on the matter.

8. Working Group Updates

International Student Tuition Fee Townhall Follow-up – a group from UBC has expressed interest in collaborating on the I Am A Student campaign. The goal was to advocate for equity in education and raise issue with the international student tuition increases being incurred. The International groups on campus may wish to brand SFU events under the same label to ensure greater collaboration.

Young Innovators Crawl - a number of committee members were in attendance. Despite limited SFU participation, Wallace deemed there to be a healthy community turnout

The committee was reminded that updates were often more effective via email.

9. Adjournment 1:30pm