

Call to Order – 12:38 pm, November 20, 2014 | MBC 2294

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*)..... Darwin Binesh
Board of Directors Representative Rebecca Langmead
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace
Councilor Michael Fujiwara
Councilor Nick Poulos
Councilor Maren Thompson
Out On Campus Representative
Women's Centre Representative.....Anjali Biju
Senate Representative Shirin Escarcha (*late-senate*)
Student At-Large..... Muhsin Suleiman
Student At-Large.....Arjan Mundy

Society Staff

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

Regrets

Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi
Board of Governors Representative..... Devan Azevedo
Councilor Kathleen Yang

Absent

Vice President Student Life..... Kayode Fatoba

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2014-11-20:01

Suleiman

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended

Items added: Greek Life, international student fee increase, residence, fair trade, updates, reporting mechanism

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION ADV 2014-11-20:02

Biju

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Board of Governors Representative..... Devan Azevedo

Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2014-11-20:03

Poulos

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-11-13

CARRIED

Noted abstention: Wallace

5. Updates

a. Greek Life

Greek Life Townhall – approximately 100 students in attendance, mostly in support. All groups were asked to submit questions. The video of the townhall had been distributed to the committee. SFU AVP Students Tim Rahilly was in attendance and provided feedback, which would be shared with the committee.

The mandate expressed by Greek Life representatives was to engage the university, and not to be housed under the SFSS but that of the university. At-Large Representative Langmead offered to provide a letter to the university, which would give context for discussions between the SFSS and GRID, and requesting engagement from the university on the matter.

MOTION ADV 2014-11-20:04

Wallace

Be it resolved to task Rebecca Langmead to draft a letter for the subsequent ADV meeting of November 27 to accompany the formal package that Greek letter organizations will present to the university.

Given the assistance already provided to the greek letter groups, there was confusion as to why the SFSS also had to submit a letter. The goal of the letter would be simply to document the work between the groups, and the committee would have the chance to review the greek letter organizations letter, although the committee did not have jurisdiction over their letter.

CARRIED

Noted Abstention: Langmead

b. International Student Fee Increases

A working group convened last week, and agreed in principle with the engagement strategy proposed by President Bueckert. Bueckert also wrote a letter distributed to the international student community to explain the university's responses and SFSS activities. The groups were actively invited to participate, although the strategy would be pursued regardless of participation from international student clubs.

In discussions with the Communications Office, a web portal would be created to provide information on the issues. A flyer would be created to provide information on important dates for students to provide input. Once content was prepared, the portal would be created.

Concerns were raised that the original campaign actions were contingent on students reaching out for assistance. An option was available for the committee to produce journals within which students could write about their opinions and their experiences with the international student fee increases. This would allow the committee to reach out to the community.

The committee was reminded that all SFSS members were invited to submit their thoughts on the subject and contribute to the campaign in person or through online feedback.

Council has agreed to bringing the SFU AVP Students to Council on November 26. It was recommended that discussions with President Petter and VP Academic John Driver be moved to the next semester, as the time proposed conflicted with exams.

There was concern that advocacy campaigns were not well communicated to the rest of the organization. Time constraints often doesn't allow for the Vice President External Relations to provide reports, and working groups. Reporting may be an opportunity for the organizations to be updated as a whole on incoming advocacy campaigns.

The CRP Coordinator indicated that they were still awaiting campaign information and materials from project leads. It was requested that project leads provide information to the CRP Coordinator on the steps taken on projects and the materials produced from such steps, as well as simple explanations of any documents submitted.

The committee was reminded that they could request assistance from executive officers tasked to the committee

c. SFU Residence Issues

Mould issues were identified in both Louis Riel and Towers in residences, and tests were ongoing. Within Louis Riel, 4 spaces had to be reallocated as a result of test results. The community was beginning a concentrated push to have residences added back to the BC Residential Tenancy Act, thus holding the university accountable for residence conditions and maintenance.

There continued to be issues around the university charging market rate for residences and the resulting impact on residence affordability. This was of particular concern given continual provincial government funding cuts to higher education.

Residence issues meeting was occurring at 3:30pm on November 21st.

A director indicated that they were awaiting feedback and guidance from the President and Councilor Yang, who had been most involved with such discussions.

d. Fair Trade

Member Suleiman had conducted meetings with the Canadian Fair Trade Network and the GSS (the latter of which was interested in adopting common ethical purchasing policy between the GSS and SFSS).

There was an interest to begin such a process with fair trade or ethically produced shirts. Suleiman had been developing a draft policy to that effect, and was considering how the organization could ensure that DSU merchandise could be ethically sourced, potentially through mandatory ethical purchasing for DSUs. They were awaiting feedback from the Student Union Organiser.

It was expressed that budgets were extremely tight for a number of student unions, and thus any such policy may adversely impact student unions financially. It may be necessary to offset costs for smaller student unions, given limited core funding. Further, membership involvement could change significantly. Student unions often have difficult in recruitment and financial barriers may further impact the ability for student unions to recruit membership to participate. While the committee was in agreement with the principle, the logistics would have to be refined.

An opportunity may exist for the SFSS to purchase shirts, while student unions handle printing. Suleiman would contact the Council chair to send an email survey out to the student unions.

e. Reporting Mechanisms

Vice President External Relations reports to Board on behalf of the committee, however the VP does not receive regular updates from project leads on expenditures and committee work. In

order to facilitate the reporting process, an internal memo had been created as a template for both campaign planning and consistent reporting. The document included the following:

- Campaign mandate/mission statement
- SMART goals and objectives
- Proposed Budget
- FAQ
- Additional information.

This would ensure that the committee was able to report on its progress and build up institutional memory. The committee was reminded that staff resources needed materials in order to build continuity.

MOTION ADV 2014-11-20:04

Langmead/Amended Langmead

Be it resolved to task all project leads to have a discussion with the CRPC by December 23rd, 2014 in order to create portfolios for each campaign.

The CRPC would distribute a list of necessary documentation for the meeting.

CARRIED AS AMENDED.

f. SFU Francophone Community

OFFA-BAFF (Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs) currently represents francophone and Francophile affairs, but there are concern around the representation from students in OFFA's completion of its mandate. OFFA was mandated to hold events for students and the community, however in practice OFFA work had been relegated to supporting the French PDP and French cohort programs. There was a desire to open dialogue with OFFA on its work. The SFSS offers a clubs platform to support students.

Arts and Social Sciences Representative and the President of SASS had been in contact with BAFF. A meeting could be conducted between the Arts and Social Sciences Representative, the Society of Arts and Social Sciences, and the French Student Union on the matter.

6. Attachments

7. Adjournment 1:26pm