

Call to Order – 12:32 am, January 29, 2015 | MBC 2290

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*) ..... Darwin Binesh  
President (*ex officio*) ..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Rebecca Langmead (*late*)  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Brady Wallace  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang  
Councilor ..... Melissa Lee  
Out On Campus Representative .....  
Women's Centre Representative ..... Anjali Biju  
Board of Governors Representative ..... Deven Azevedo (*late-BOG*)  
Senate Representative .....  
Student At-Large .....  
Student At-Large ..... Arjan Mundy

### Society Staff

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

### Guests

Board of Directors Representative ..... Tesicca Truong

### Regrets

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*acad*)  
Councilor ..... Andy Untawala (*acad*)  
Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara

### Absent

Vice President Student Life ..... Kayode Fatoba

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### MOTION ADV 2015-01-29:01

Wallace/Amended Wallace/Bueckert/Langmead  
*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.*

*Following items added: SFU Read, Additions to Greek Society Letter, Transit Referendum  
Volunteering*

### CARRIED AS AMENDED

## 3. Ratification of Regrets

### MOTION ADV 2015-01-29:02

Biju  
*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:*

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*acad*)  
Councilor ..... Andy Untawala (*acad*)  
Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara  
Board of Governors Representative ..... Deven Azevedo (*BOG Meeting*)

Specificity was sought in the future for any academic regrets.

**CARRIED**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**MOTION ADV 2015-01-29:03**

Langmead

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-01-15, 2015-01-22, 2015-01-23*

**CARRIED**

Abstention Noted: Biju, Bueckert, Yang, Lee

**5. Discussion**

**a. International Student Tuition Opposition Campaign**

In the open letter to the membership approved by Advocacy Committee and the Board of Directors, the membership was encouraged to attend the January 29 Board of Governors meeting to encourage BOG members to have a discussion on student consultation. Following the commitment of the SFU VP Academic to meet with the SFSS, the BOG Representative removed the agenda item on international student tuition fees. The Advocacy Committee also came to consensus that it would not be rational to encourage students to participate at a BOG meeting without such an agenda item. As such, a revised call to action had to be considered for the letter, as well as next steps for the campaign.

*Azevedo entered at 12:48pm*

A budget meeting in February would be conducted by BOG prior to final ratification of the university budget at March.

- The new Call to Action within the Society open letter was to shift the call to action to encouraging students to sit in on the budget review session on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - Even if the meeting is not public, having a large number of angry students may also be impactful
    - Student access to such meetings was also an issue of interest to the membership.
- Additionally, the current BOG consultation policy requires that any written submissions from the SFSS and GSS to the VP Academic be presented to the Board of Governors.
- This submission could request clarity around the plans for the \$6 million budget surplus currently projected by the University as source from the international student tuition fee increases.
  - it could make reference to the numerous delays in receiving information from the university—it has been difficult for the Student Society to have an informed discussion on the matter when information is provided 1 month after initial request at minimum.
  - This was an opportunity to speak to constituents and groups to include them in the conversation
    - **Action Item:** Student At-Large Mundy would follow up with groups, clubs, and The Peak on the status of collected student stories on the impact of the tuition increases.
  - It could also indicate that the SFSS has not, to date, received correspondence from the VP Academic on the consultation issue.

**Action Item:** Langmead Wallace and Bueckert will prepare a draft submission, with an appendix with submissions from student unions and clubs.

At BOD 2015-02-02, a motion will be added to approve a letter in principle, and the ADV will approve the final draft prior to submission.

**Action Item:** The President will meet informally with the VP Academic prior to drafting a formal written submission.

### **b. Sharing of Campaign Status with Other University Societies**

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator had hosted an intersociety policy summit. It provided a networking opportunity between the Advocacy Coordinators of the student societies at the University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, Kwantlen, and the SFU Graduate Student Society. A mailing list was generated, with interest expressed by all parties in sharing the status of advocacy campaigns in order to encourage collaboration and providing/taking advantage of expertise.

The Committee was interested in this initiative. Weekly summary updates from campaign leads at the ADV table were sought (high level update of dates and actions), which would both assist in the development of the advocacy portfolio and maintaining contact with other student societies.

Finals documents as well as the timeline updates for campaigns would be shared with the other student unions when requested.

The understanding was all Society activities were public unless it was clearly and unequivocally stated that the matter was confidential.

### **c. SFU Read**

The SFU Bookstore has moved forward with an SFU Read pilot project. This pilot project was opt-in, but the final form of the project would likely be a mandatory fee charged simultaneously to all students with no opt-out clause. Students would then have access to a digital copy of their textbook at a discounted rate for the remainder of their degree. However, securing a physical copy of the textbook would negate any savings from this program. Additionally, students would no longer be able to sell any textbooks. This development was alarming for a number of reasons, including the Society's push for open educational resources, the mandatory fee, and the fact that the Taskforce for Flexible Education was still in consultation phase while this project was already moving forward (A member of the taskforce indicated that they had received no details on this program). It was expressed that those with financial aid had opportunities for compensation but no details were found on the Bookstore website.

During the summer, the ADV expressed clear opposition to a similar programme brought up from Pearson Education (who had provided the presentation as market research for their company). An open letter was circulated by the Board of Directors to this effect, and therefore concern was raised that the University was seeking consultation and then ignoring the findings of this consultation.

The Dean of Library Services had expressed confusion as to the source of this programme. President Bueckert has alerted a number of SFU Administrator, and both David Porter (Taskforce Project Lead) and Candy Ho (Taskforce Research Analyst) have been contacted.

The total lack of consultation prior to the implementation of the pilot project was expressed as a major concern, and a question had been submitted to senate regarding the details of the program, including details on any consultation conducted, and whether it was considered a mandatory (which would therefore have to be approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education) and whether they had received approval to such effect.

Additional concern was raised around the additional materials that were bundled with digital textbooks, which may amount to the educational process being taken away from professors and given to publishers.

At a Joint Operations Group meeting in July, there was no consultation. SFU administrators and BOG members have all informally expressed concern regarding such projects.

Members of the committee indicated that the concept of 100% of students always having access to course materials would be a positive development, however the mandatory opt in nature of the programme was problematic, and a signal of publishers and the bookstore trying to stay relevant through problematic means. Contracts had already been negotiated between publishers and the SFU Bookstore.

Members would reach out to the Student Society at Algonquin College to request details on the outreach process and the opt-out processes in place for students in their equivalent campus-wide programme.

Working Group meeting time will be announced after the Task Force meeting.

#### **d. Addition to the Greek Society Letter**

An email was circulated to the Committee relating to the letter drafted after the Greek Life Townhall. Langmead expressed that they wished to add a section to the letter with the results of the non-binding poll conducted at the Special General Meeting. Authorization was requested from the committee to simply add a sentence. The letter was simply a confirmation that the SFSS had been involved in discussions. The SFSS and ADV have set up the opportunity for GRID to discuss with the University.

The approved letter had not been sent yet, as GRID chose to delay their submission to the university until the question on the SGM agenda had been answered by the membership. Langmead would sit in at the meeting between GRID and the University if requested, but they would not speak as the Board of Directors has not formally taken a stance on the issue. The desire was to assist GRID to a point where they could take ownership of their own initiative. Langmead was commended for their work in handling the sensitive matter.

The committee reached consensus to add the sentence to the previously approved letter of information.

### **6. Announcements**

#### **a. Communications Office Volunteering Opportunities**

The Communications Coordinator is compiling student resources for the website, including social services in the Metro Vancouver area. This required some research assistance and volunteers were requested for the matter. Volunteers could contact the Vice President External Relations or the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator to indicate interest.

It was expressed that Health and Counseling Services already had compiled a number of resources which may be of interest.

The Director of Health and Counseling Services, Martin Mroz, was identified as a great individual.

**b. Transit Referendum Volunteering Opportunities**

The provincial transit referendum would be occurring soon and would require student outreach. The only way to receive the mail in ballot is to be registered on the provincial voters list. This could be achieved through a simple online form.

Sustainable SFU has already been engaged in classroom talks but requested additional human resources. Student Services has allowed outreach by the UPass machine. Information could be made available through SFSS spaces and it was requested that members assist in tabling by the UPass machines and encouraging voter registration.

GSS and SSFU were commended for their contributions to this campaign.

Members were reminded that this particular campaign would provide a wide range of opportunities to develop experience in networking and campaigning through a variety of venues.

**7. Attachments**

**8. Adjournment 1:30**

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