

Call to Order – 12:33 am, February 5, 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
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace
Councilor Michael Fujiwara
Councilor Andy Untawala
Councilor Melissa Lee
Board of Governors Representative Deven Azevedo
Out On Campus Representative
Women’s Centre Representative Anjali Biju
Senate Representative
Student At-Large
Student At-Large Arjan Mundy

Society Staff

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

Absence

Councilor Kathleen Yang
Vice President Student Life Kayode Fatoba

Regrets

Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2015-02-05:01

Biju

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

A number of items were added to the agenda: Get Out the Vote, SCI 2015, Louis Riel Situation,

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2015-02-05:02

Biju

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-01-29

CARRIED

4. New Business

a. Get Out The Vote

MOTION ADV 2015-02-05:03

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Whereas the Advocacy Committee has identified that low youth voter turnout is an issue;

Whereas there is a federal election coming up in 2015;
Whereas the Council of Canadians and Check Your Head are organizing a "Get Out the Vote" campaign;
Be it resolved that the SFSS Advocacy Committee endorses the "Get Out the Vote" youth events to be held at SFU Burnaby and SFU Vancouver.
Be it further resolved that...

Speaker was not present at the meeting. Events in question were towards the end of March and the matter was therefore not considered time-sensitive.

POSTPONED

5. Discussion

a. Submission to the VP Academic

A letter to be submitted to the Board of Governors through the SFU VP Academic was approved in principle, and reiterates the four requests of the Student Society along with new information, such as 2013 yearly budget which indicated that the majority of bursaries for international students are currently going to graduate students—the students paying into the tuition fee increases are not benefitting fully from their contributions bursaries.

- The letter reiterates the need for the 25% of the 8% tuition increase to be targeted specifically to support international students at the undergraduate level, considering the specific impact on the particular demographic.
- Recognizes ongoing work on the consultation protocol.
- Reiterates request for information on where the tuition funding would be used.
 - Concerns raised around the confused information being provided to different university bodies and organizations. In Q3 forecast at the BOG, a \$6 million surplus was forecasted in the budget, with 1.4 million attributable to credit tuition. In followups, the University has indicated a \$1.1 million deficit, partially due to an error in a faculty marketing strategy. University information provided to different student leaders has been changing and confused.
 - Additional concerns around the timeline in the provision of information, as the Student Society had to wait one month to receive a letter from the administration detailing their rejection of all requests. Timely access to accurate information was seen as the only possible way for the Society to be reasonable and rational actors and to continue dialogue with the university in good faith

The International Studies Student Association has provided a letter, signed by the eight executives, concerning the matter. Student At-Large Mundy has provided 7 stories from international students on the impact of the fee increases. The committee had consensus to add the letter and the stories to the letter as appendices to the BOG submission.

The SFU Administration had taken issue with the references to the fee schedules issued by the University of Toronto. It was recommended to avoid any such suggestions as dialogue with the University has historically hit a standstill over such points. However, the Committee agreed to maintain some reference through the drafted language.

Comments and suggestions could be forwarded to the President.

b. Tuition Consultation Policy Changes

A draft policy prepared by the SFSS was provided to the committee for comparison to the version developed by the SFU Vice President Academic and the SFU Vice President Finance in consultation with the Board of Governors Representative during late January.

3.3a and 3.3b – Bueckert originally provided stronger wording and it was recommended to provide such suggested stronger wording to the Office of the VP Academic.

Any changes would likely have to be implemented by the Summer semester.

c. Alliance of British Columbia Students Lobby Days – February 22 to 25

The ABCS is a coalition of 200,000 post secondary students from across the province, including a number of Student Societies from UBC, UFV, UVIC, Capilano etc. At present, the SFSS was not a member, but the Society has collaborated on an ad hoc basis for a number of initiatives, including the Vote Education campaign, as well as both of the ABCS-organized lobby days which provided connections with legislators and support staff, as well as connections to other student unions.

Policy documents had not been completed yet, but the primary themes of the coming session would be the following:

- Student loan interest rates and forgiveness period for interest upon graduation
- Course fees for adult basic education
- Amendment to Residential Tenancy Act or the creation of new legislation specific to university residences which could assist with issues at Louis Riel.
 - This includes legislation on fixed rates for student housing

SFSS has been invited to participate - \$500 flat rate for the delegation (for booking space for training, printing, staff time spent coordinating and booking etc.). Additionally, room and board had been negotiated at \$90 per room (two double beds housing two delegates) per night), with \$10 additional for breakfast. Transportation costs (ferry) and SFSS per diem also would have to be budgeted.

ABCS has no fee for membership. As such, there was confusion around the status of observer schools in relation to the coalition and the value of the \$500 delegation fee, particularly given that printed documents submitted to the MLAs were likely only reflecting the member schools. It was the understanding of the President that the ABCS had formally been established as a Society, and that the \$500 would offset the in kind support of a number of Student Societies which have provided staff time for policy analysis, group and space bookings etc. There was value seen in establishing connections with decision makers, political support staff and student union executives/staff, as well as soft lobbying training (with policy that has been pre-researched, support staff, etc.). Past participants expressed their support for the initiative in building experience in the development of legislation. In the past, delegate fees were per delegate as opposed to delegation.

As the themes for the coming session were in line with issues that the Committee and the Society had been advocating for, the committee had consensus that there would be value in the SFSS participating in Lobby Days. The President would convey to the ABCS that the Society would be interested in attending.

Given the fixed delegation cost, it was felt that a minimum of 4 delegates should be sent by the Advocacy Committee.

The Committee was reminded that other opportunities existed to develop skills and experiences in government relations, such as through meetings being planned with the Minister and the Critic of Advanced Education.

The chair would issue an email with details of a potential Government Relations working group, as well as government relations training.

MOTION ADV 2015-02-05:04

Bueckert

Be it resolved that up to \$1500 from 820/23 Campaigns be approved for participation to the ABCS lobby days

Be it further resolved that the funding be allocated to delegation fees, room and board, travel, and per diem.

Be it further resolved to appoint 4 delegates, to be finalized at ADV 2015-02-29

CARRIED

d. Transit Referendum Updates

Sharma represented the SFSS at a number of meetings of the Better Transit and Transportation Coalition, which officially launched today.

- Friday – Surrey City Hall meeting held by Better Transit and Transportation Coalition including a number of student unions and civil society groups.
- Monday – Held by Better Transit and Transportation Coalition student representative, who arranged a meeting at SFU Harbour Centre. Provided an opportunity for student leaders to discuss steps moving forward.

At the meetings, participants were reminded that the referendum results would be highly impacted by the vote south of the Fraser River, which would be of interest given SFU's Surrey Campus presence and student base in the region. The City of Surrey will be launching their Yes side campaign next Wednesday. Committee members would be invited via email to attend. Specific outreach plans would be developed over reading break.

Sustainable SFU was commended for their outreach efforts. They had been involved with UPass machine tabling as well as classroom talks. Committee members were requested to assist with physical outreach to encourage students to register and vote.

At JOG 2015-02-03, Student Services has committed to assist in registering students to vote, without taking a stance

e. Louis Riel Situation

A confidential internal update was found by residents of Louis Riel house. 9 rooms were condemned out of the four floors of 45 units each. Petition is currently being circulated to express to the university that the community had an interest in maintaining the building. At the JOG Meeting, the university administration indicated that low end of market housing (unsubsidized) were being developed, with no current indication of whether it would be for undergraduate or graduate. Louis Riel would eventually be closed due to its age, and suites were no longer being leased to new tenants. 225 spaces within the building have been tested and

results have been provided to the individual tenants. All results would be compiled in a report addressed to the SFU AVP Students and VP Finance on 2015-02-17. It would not be shared, although the university indicated that it could be requested through a Freedom of Information request.

Meeting between tenants of Louis Riel and interested community members was scheduled for 2015-02-13 at 5pm at Louis Riel House. Further details will be forwarded to the committee.

The Society may wish to reach out to the municipal government support through the preparation of a formal presentation. This may be a matter for ADV in the next year in collaboration with the SFU Community Trust student representative. Requests could include a percentage of the suites being developed in UniverCity to be for low-market housing.

f. SCI 2015 Conference – Validating and Valuing Digital Scholarship

Conference at Duke University in October with a series of workshops and a forum seeking to bring together individuals to address needs and opportunities for academic communication. Open opportunity primarily for graduate students, but seeking students from all disciplines. Interested parties could attend the Open Textbook working group meeting for further details

6. Adjournment 1:30pm

DRAFT: proposed revised version of SFU policy B10.15 Consultation with Students on Tuition Fees

Prepared by Jon Driver, VP Academic, and Pat Hibbitts, VP Finance and Administration,

3rd February 2015

1. Policy

1.1. In order to have full information in making decisions about changes to tuition and student fees, the University will engage in open consultations with students and their elected leadership.

1.2. The administrative consultation process shall:

- a. Provide as much information as possible to students about the University's current and projected financial situation and proposed changes to tuition and student fees.
- b. Provide an opportunity for the elected student leadership to directly consult their members in a dedicated student budget consultation process in concert with the University administration and to submit responses to proposed changes to tuition and student fees.
- c. Be undertaken annually, regardless of whether multi-year fee changes have been announced in previous years
- d. Be initiated as early as possible in the overall public budget consultation process

1.3. The President shall take the opinions and advice submitted from the students into consideration prior to making a recommendation regarding tuition and student fees to the Board of Governors for approval.

2. Definitions

“Tuition and student fees” are mandatory fees approved by the Board of Governors that students are required to pay in order to complete an academic program. Fees collected on behalf of the undergraduate and graduate student societies are not included in this definition.

3. Procedures for consultation with student societies

3.1. Meetings with Student Societies

- a. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration (VPFA) shall set a schedule of dates for meeting with the Simon Fraser University undergraduate and graduate student societies for the fall semester of each budget year as soon as possible during the budgeting process. Further informal consultation may be requested, and shall not be unreasonably denied.
- b. Prior to the meeting, the Societies shall be provided with copies of budget consultation documents, a statement of any proposed fee changes and anticipated revenue increases, and a statement of revenue increases resulting from the prior year’s approved fee increases.
- c. The Societies shall be given an opportunity to provide written responses to the proposed changes to tuition and student fees.
- d. The Societies’ responses provided to the VPFA by the end of the first week of February shall be provided to the Board of Governors for their consideration prior to taking any decision related to fee changes.

3.2. Changes to draft budget

- a. If the proposed tuition and student fees appearing in a draft budget to be presented to the Board of Governors differ from those presented in the fall consultations, the VPFA shall inform the Societies of the changes in advance of the Board of Governors budget approval meeting date(s).

b. As much information as possible about the need for changes to tuition and student fees from the fall consultation process to the draft budget shall be provided to the Societies in time for written responses to those proposed changes.

c. Societies' responses received by the VPFA by the end of the first week of February will be sent to the Board of Governors prior to the administration's final budget presentation to the Board.

3.3 Communication with the student body

a. The University will inform all students of tuition and student fee increases proposed during budget consultations, and of the role of student societies in budget consultations.

b. The University will provide information about proposed tuition fee increases on a website or similarly accessible media.