

Call to Order – 12:30 pm, March 5, 2015 | MBC 2290

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*) Darwin Binesh
President (*ex officio*) Chardaye Bueckert
Vice President Student Life Kayode Fatoba (*entered late*)
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace
Councilor Kathleen Yang
Councilor Andy Untawala
Councilor Melissa Lee
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

Regrets

Board of Governors Representative Deven Azevedo (*BOG*)
Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi
Board of Directors Representative Rebecca Langmead
Councilor Michael Fujiwara (*illness*)

Guests

Media Democracy Days Murial
Member Brandon Wong
Member Arr Farrah

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2015-03-05:01

Mundy

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

All discussion items added

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION ADV 2015-03-05:02

Bueckert

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Board of Governors Representative Deven Azevedo (*BOG Meeting*)
Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi
Board of Directors Representative Rebecca Langmead
Councilor Michael Fujiwara (*illness*)

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2015-03-05:03

Mundy

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-02-26

CARRIED

5. Guest Speakers

a. Media Democracy Days—www.mddcollaboratory.com

Media Democracy Project was a research organization and civic organization funded by the School of Communications and the SFU VP Academic.

The project was launching an interactive speaker series, creating a community space for dialogue on the social forces—in particularly media—shaping people’s lives. Four weeks of sessions were planned, with 2 to 3 speakers/presenters, interactive discussion, and student-led projects. The latter would be publically displayed projects, such as interactive bulletin boards, zines, video and film production to engage fellow students on issues

- Week One—Public spacing in media; how different groups are harassed.
- Week Two—Inspirational women; how women and other vulnerable groups can work through public sphere harassment, and how to avoid internalizing harassment from the public sphere.
- Week Three—SFU student initiatives—fat shaming, aboriginal harassment etc.
- Week Four—Project presentations

The MDD is seeking promotion through SFSS channels, as an opportunity to educate students on issues, and to bring a wide range of students into the dialogue from beyond Communications. The group was currently looking at spaces for some sessions, some of which may carry costs. As such they may request space assistance in the future.

MOTION ADV 2015-03-05:04

Bueckert

Be it resolved to endorse the MDD Collaboratory.

Be it further resolved to assist with space bookings as necessary and to promote events through regular channels.

CARRIED

6. New Business

a. International Student Tuition Campaign—Action & Updates

BOG Action—All members had conflicts that made the coordination of an action at the BOG meeting of today impossible. However, the upcoming Finance and Budget Review meeting for the BOG was also an opportunity to organize.

- The Board of Governors Representative has been working closely with the SFU VP Academic to finalize the tuition consultation policy. The draft has been accepted by SFU Administration and would be approved at the BOG meeting of 2015-03-26.

- Considering the original outright refusal to implement any changes, the change in tone and the willingness to implement recommendations from the SFSS was a welcome change.
- Originally the SFSS had requested an anonymous online portal for students to provide comments. The Administration was concerned about flaming and negative responses through such a portal
 - The SFSS could simply operate its own portal and include received comments into the submission to the VP Academic for review by the Board of Governors, rather than having SFU operate the portal. This would provide for a more fruitful and formal mechanism for student involvement.
 - The Communications Office could potentially consolidate all student consultation initiatives online.
 - **Action Item:** Vice President External Relations would contact the Communications Coordinator.
- BOG Representative met with the SFU AVP Students—University plans to create a degree completion fund assessed on top of international bursaries. No further information at present.

The President, UG BOG Rep, and others who have contributed to the university lobbying work in this matter for their efforts and success.

It was expressed that, given the stage of the budgeting process for the university, that a grandfather clause would be unlikely to be implemented, as was a 5 year freeze on international student tuition rates, although a more realistic proposal could involve indexing to CPI or domestic tuition fees. Action from the SFSS could simply provide an opportunity to demonstrate to the university the consequences of their decisions.

The committee was reminded to be aware of Canadian-born privilege in campaigning for international students, given the risk for such students for backlash from family and community, access to education etc. and that further campaigns and materials should be explicit in this regard.

Action is only possible if a volunteer is willing to put in the effort to organize, otherwise these will be wasted resources.

The Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator was planning to provide an orientation to the next ADV to equip the committee with base knowledge and tools to continue and develop campaigns, including that of the actions against tuition fee increases.

The SFSS may wish to issue a press release after these items are announced by the university to reinforce the value of student advocacy.

Action item: Vice President External Relations would contact the Communications Coordinator on a potential press release; President would provide the documents to craft into the press release.

b. Lobby Days funding

POSTPONED TO NEXT ADV

7. Discussion

a. Food Education Days

The event was being organized by the Graduate Student Society, Sustainable SFU, Food Bank Working Group, and SFU Dining Services. Assistance is requested from ADV members to table and educate students on Thursday March 12 from 10:30am to 3:30pm in the AQ North Concourse.

The Food Bank Programme dealt with emergency hunger issues, but the event was designed to address medium and long term causes of hunger, and assist in skill development and education to alleviate hunger issues, such as budgeting, cooking skills etc.

If consolidation of the Food Bank Working Group into the Advocacy Committee was being planned, the committee was recommended to begin getting involved with Food Bank initiatives. The Working Group was reminded to get in touch with the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator for the development of a portfolio.

b. Debrief on SFU Read Presentation

The ADV conducted a roundtable debrief of the SFU Read presentation at the previous ADV meeting. The following is a summary of members findings from the presentation.

- The presence of the SFU Ancillary Services Executive Director was interesting, and the individual was rather aggressive during the presentation
- Ancillary Services was not seen as acting maliciously, but it was also not seen as having an entirely altruistic motive.
 - Ancillary Services is quite proud of the success in having Starbucks serve a single fair trade coffee. It was felt that Ancillary Services, despite posturing as an objective support structure for the university, was very invested in the project.
 - The bookstore is losing money on a yearly basis—this may simply be the university trying to cut its losses.
- The committee took note of the continued insistence that student support was vital for the continuation of program development.
- In the meeting on BC Open Textbook campaign and in open education resources, it was felt that the Dean of Library Studies has been a rich resource and the committee was recommended to reconnect with the Dean on the matter.
 - The Bookstore reiterated constantly that the university currently has leverage—speaking of students as a controlled market. Its leverage was selling exclusive rights to a publisher to access the market. This went against other options available as expressed by the Dean of Library Studies
- The Committee was reminded that the work of the ADV in pushing for open learning resources has been having an effect at the highest levels of university administration, which has placed pressure on the university department.
- The idea itself was valuable in providing 100% student access to all books needed for courses. However, the primary issue came from the mandatory opt in.
 - As the programme is a mandatory fee, they may request that the Student Society collect the fee in a similar model to the UPass as a result of the 2% cap.

- Student expressed issue with online course materials in general, given different learning styles.
- The program would have no benefit for students taking specialized courses with textbooks sourced from smaller publishers
- Such a program may degrade the purpose of the library, as students can often access educational resources through the library as opposed to purchasing the content.
- One of the major reasons for adoption of online resources was access to quizzes and tests, which were often simply being levied through Canvas.
 - Differential access will continue to be an impact to the student body, such as through differential access to IT resources.
 - It was felt that if a student pays for the education, they should have to option on how to access the content.
 - A member expressed discomfort with the processes and lack of student representation directly on the proposal.
 - Overlap with the mandate of the SFSS push for open educational resources.
 - Issues around privacy—Pearson had been on record publically bragging of having the largest repository of student information in the world.
 - Student information and habits can be tracked and likely used by corporations.
 - This reflect concerns raised by the open resource community.
 - No provisions currently were in place to protect student privacy.
 - Inclusion of Pearson as a notoriously predatory company—research has been done on the problematic business practices of Pearson in the United States.
 - Concern of setting precedent for other universities. At present, the only example was Algonquin College as a small college which had adopted the program. SFU would become a new precedent and example, regardless of whether the program was beneficial for the students.
 - In some instances, this programme would present a cost savings as students are already enrolled in classes where a substantial portion of their grades are calculated through quizzes.
 - It may not be wise for the SFSS to be excluded from the continuing conversation on the proposal.
 - Ancillary Services has an opportunity to be a champion of Open Education Resources.

The Advocacy Committee would collate the concerns and provide them to Ancillary Services to provide them with an opportunity to address them at the next meeting, reiterating that the SFSS saw importance in the proposal.

The matter would also be recommended to Council for discussion, given the large crosssection of students from various disciplines.

Fatoba entered at 1:22pm

Action Item: President would reconnect with Library Studies and Ancillary Studies and invite conversation through Arts and Social Sciences Representative and others.

Action Item: Councilors Yang and Lee would prepare for a discussion at the Council table.

c. Louis Riel Residence Update

MEETING EXTENDED BY 10 MINUTES

Bueckert

Louis Riel House was in bad conditions and residents were fearing eviction once their contract expires. This was a particular issue as residents of the building often are pursuing their university education while their children attend University Highlands Elementary. Louis Riel houses both undergraduate and graduate students with children, disabilities, as well as mature students.

A declaration has been created to outline the stance of the residents, and a petition is being circulated to raise the issues of affordable family housing for students at SFU.

The issue had been brought to the forefront of government advocacy during lobby days

- Little traction had ensued from the proposal to allow universities to borrow funds to construct residences
- Residential Tenancy Act—missing protection for students on residences
 - Has been discussed with the Minister of Housing
 - Jane Shin and other NDP MLAs have expressed interest to meeting with the residents.
 - MLA David Eby, who represents Vancouver-Point Gray, is the current Housing Spokesperson. Has also expressed interest in speaking at any event planned by the SFSS.
 - Has requested a copy of the tenancy agreement

One point of contact needed for the matter, and record keeping for all the contact that has occurred. This could be consolidated under the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Office to avoid issues of transition.

The Committee reviewed the actions that had ensued leading to the current situation.

- October 2014—Concerned residents had contacted the SFSS President regarding mold in Louis Riel.
 - SFSS Vice President University Relations and Vice President External Relations did not pursue the matter extensively
- December 2014—ADV discussed changes to the Residential Tenancy Act or the creation of new legislation to protect students on residences, combined with media followup and support from the City of Burnaby. Little traction on the initiative.
- Matter was discussed at the Joint Operations Group meeting. Louis Riel mold and air quality assessment tests results were recently released
- Louis Riel and Shell House are not represented by the Residence Hall Association—President was asked to be involved in the meeting, although not all residents were SFSS members.
- ABC AMS contacted the SFSS about residential tenancy act work—the matter became a priority during Lobby Days.

Steps forward:

- The ADV was reminded that the Louis Riel Working Group and the SFSS were not affiliated and that the SFSS should not be paternalistically dictating the actions of the

independent group—it could continue to provide recommendations on possible courses of action.

- The SFSS could continue to refer the group to housing officials to bring the matter to provincial attention.
- SFSS would continue work with the AMS on the Residential Tenancy Act.
- ADV could support the group through space bookings, in kind donation of food for meetings, recruitment of volunteers for social media/graphic design/outreach etc.

MOTION ADV 2015-03-05:05

Bueckert

Be it resolved to approve up to \$100 from 820/23 Campaigns to support the Louis Riel Community Association printing costs.

Concern was raised around the Society being liberal with promoting non-BOD initiatives through social media and were reminded that a pattern of such actions could impact the efficacy of the Society's social media outreach.

It was felt that the committee should not endorse the petition until such time that they have had the opportunity to review the document.

Funding would allow the advocacy efforts of community members to be enhanced, which was under the ADV mandate

CARRIED

8. Adjournment 1:50pm

DC | CUPE 3338