

Call to Order – 12:29 pm, March 26, 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 (*late*)  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Brady Wallace (*late-BOD*)  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Rebecca Langmead  
Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara  
Councilor ..... Melissa Lee  
Councilor ..... Andy Untawala  
Out On Campus Representative .....  
Women’s Centre Representative ..... Anjali Biju  
Board of Governors Representative ..... Deven Azevedo (*late-meeting*)  
Senate Representative .....  
Student At-Large .....  
Student At-Large ..... Arjan Mundy

### Society Staff

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

### Guest

Academic Freedom ..... *Anonymous*  
Member ..... Michael Carbonnier

### Regrets

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*academic*)  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang (*academic*)

### Absent

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### MOTION ADV 2015-03-26:01

Langmead

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.*

### CARRIED

## 3. Ratification of Regrets

### MOTION ADV 2015-03-26:02

Biju

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:*

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi (*academic*)  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang (*academic*)

### CARRIED

A reminder would be sent to the Vice President Student Life if they have been repeatedly absent.

#### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

##### **MOTION ADV 2015-03-26:03**

Langmead

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-03-15*

**CARRIED**

#### 5. Guest Speakers

##### **a. Support for Academic Freedom in Burma/Myanmar**

*Fatoba and Azevedo entered 12:32pm*

Myanmar/Burma has recently transitioned to a “democratic” government. The Government recently moved an education bill, which would centralize higher education under the national government control. This would also prevent students selecting which subjects they enter.

Concern has been raised by students of impact to academic freedom, the lack of international recognition of such degrees, and that degrees do not match skills needed for jobs.

In discussions, the government was in talks to reach an agreement. However, a few days before, police and thugs arrested and attacked protestors. Further, both politicians and journalists have been arrested for charges of inciting instability.

A movement has been growing online to support the students of Burma as well as academic freedom [“We Support Myanmar Students” on facebook]. Online hate speech has been significant, and the movement has sought to encourage negotiate.

Violence is violence no matter the aggressor.

It was expressed that students can establish an advocacy club for the matter. ADV could also establish a working group. However, no students were currently working with the student presenter and they would be in Burma for the entirety of the Summer semester.

*Wallace entered at 12:37pm*

The student was seeking to raise awareness on the issues in Burma. Information was requested for the committee, as committee members were likely not going to be as up to date on the situation compared to the presenter. A plan could also be circulated for any action until summer semester.

Additionally, the student could write an opinion piece for The Peak.

The student expressed that they wished to remain anonymous, as a result of the political atmosphere in Burma and fears of repercussions for the student and their family.

#### 6. Updates

##### **a. Meeting with Minister of Advanced Education**

The President, Vice President External Relations, and Arts and Social Sciences Representative had a 35 minute meeting last Thursday with the Minister of Advanced Education. In addition to the primary points of discussion, the delegation also delved into other issues enumerated within the SFSS submission to the Select Standing Committee On Government Finance, which was being reviewed by the Province.

The Minister commended the SFSS for being vocal on the deferred maintenance issue. In bringing up issues of Louis Riel House, the Minister offered to discuss the matter with President Petter during their advanced education trip to China but did not make any commitment on student housing on the Burnaby Campus.

As a newer minister, the minister was not very aware of the Open Textbook programme (although their staff was knowledgeable on the programme), although they knew of the provincial contribution to the project. They did not realize that research intensive institutions had not adopted the programme and expressed an interest in funding research grants to further the programme. The SFSS discussed opportunities for the province to support the programme and enhance the savings already experienced by students in teaching institutions. The delegation saw the minister as being more open to student engagement than other encountered ministers in the recent past. They had expressed interest in meeting again in Fall to discuss issues, which would be an opportunity for the next ADV.

Ministry of Finance has put in legislation that withholds insurance from individuals who do not pay back student loans, which would essentially make it illegal to drive. UVICSS recently delivered 5000 signatures in a petition to the Advanced Education Critic. It was likely late for the SFSS to meaningfully engage the matter at this time.

The SFSS has scheduled a meeting with the Advanced Education Spokesperson tomorrow at 2:30pm. Langmead and Bueckert would both attend the meeting, along with the CRP Coordinator.

During the provincial budget review, the issues of student loan and debt, deferred maintenance, and Louis Riel House were discussed.

#### **b. Board of Governors Updates**

Board of Governors had a meeting in the morning—budget was passed unanimously as expected. Fortunately, tuition consultation policy was also passed. SFSS President was hoping to attend but went downtown by accident.

Louis Riel residents was present and fostered a discussion at the Board relating to the situation—increased pressure on the university administration to report back to the Governors on the file. The Chair asked the administration to keep the Board up to date, and an idea was entertained to assist the residents in moving costs. No concrete actions came of the discussion but the discussion was felt as positive.

International Student Tuition Fee Increase—One BOG member brought concern around the increases. The Degree Completion Fund was not brought up at the meeting, other than within a comment. No further information has been received, but the hope was that a firm commitment was received in the next month since the budget was now passed.

**Action item:** Board of Governors Undergraduate Representative was tasked to request commitment in writing for the Degree Completion Fund.

#### **c. Budget Update**

Invoices for much of the activity from this semester would be received during the summer semester and thus dealt with by the next committee.

Given the impact of the referendum questions to the overall Society budget, the Vice President External Relations has requested that the Advocacy Committee budget proposal be placed near the end of the budget presentation process. All members will have the opportunity to review the presentation before presentation at FASC.

**d. Exit Reports**

Vice President External Relations was writing their exit report—section on ADV will be sent to the committee prior to submission. All members were invited to write a short piece on successes and recommendations for the next Advocacy Committee.

**e. Lobby Days**

Lobby Days report has been circulated to the Committee.

**f. Alliance of British Columbia Students**

The Sciences Representative (and potentially the Arts and Social Sciences Representative) would attend the next ABCS board meeting on behalf of the SFSS.

**g. SFU Read / Digital Learning Resource WG**

Arts and Social Sciences Representative attended a meeting of the Digital Learning Resource Working Group of the university. The SFU Read initiative has been postponed indefinitely, including the summer Physics course pilot project, as a result of SFSS concerns. The working group was currently planning how to proceed with the provision of digital learning resources. The physics course pilot project has been stalled as a result of SFSS concerns. Another meeting was upcoming.

The Arts and Social Sciences Representative was engaging with GSS University Relations Coordinator.

**h. Kinder Morgan Dialogue**

Currently in process of analyzing data, with a report that will be submitted to the committee by the Environment Representative. Between 20 to 50 participants were present at any given time.

**i. Cultural Awareness Day**

Event went well. Students who went to school in cultural attire expressed that they wished to have a larger event with food etc. This may include ISG, which is currently receiving training and may manage the event next year.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**j. Alliance of British Columbia Students Lobby Days Funding**

**MOTION ADV 2015-03-26:04**

Wallace

*Whereas* ADV of 2015-02-05 under budgeted for Lobby Days

*Be it resolved to* approve an additional \$531.90 to cover the necessary costs.

The delegation had underbudgeted for attendance at lobby days. The fixed \$90 cost for the hotel was per day as opposed to for the weekend. Taxes were also not accounted for in the initial quotes. These changes had been included in the Lobby Days Report. The President took responsibility for not having reviewed all quotes thoroughly. Another member expressed that trips typically include taxes in quotes, but this did not occur for the quotes received for lobby days.

**CARRIED**

Abstention: Bueckert

**8. New Business**

**a. BC Open Textbook Summit—May 30 to 31<sup>st</sup> at SFU Harbour Centre**

**MOTION ADV 2015-03-26:05**

Wallace/Amended Wallace

*Be it resolved to* appoint Brady Wallace, Melissa Lee, Pierre Cassidy, and Darwin Binesh/Arjan Mundy as the SFSS delegates to the BC Open Textbook Summit (subject to change)

*Be it further resolved to* approve up to \$500 from line item 820/23 Campaigns for registration fees for the delegates

*Be it yet further resolved to* task the SFSS VP External to draft and send formal invitations for other student unions in BC to attend

The timing of the event would make it the responsibility of the next Advocacy Committee. While registration for the event did not have a hard deadline, there was a desire to ensure that the Society would have representation and secure the best possible deal for registration costs. The committee agreed to 4 delegates subject to change. \$500 may cover all four delegates. Those affiliated with universities have also received student rates in the past.

The summit would be a local opportunity to meet many student leaders, leaders within the field of open educational resources, and politicians (including the Minister of Advanced Education) within the province, country, and continent.

A session will take place on student advocacy efforts, with Bueckert spearheading the talk.

**Action Item:** Wallace would register the delegates for the conference

**CARRIED**

**9. Discussion**

**a. Committee Budgeting**

**Requested Areas for Budgeting**

- Lobbying training—CRPC would follow up
- Doubling of budget
  - This was sought for the current ADV budget, but the Society was in a tight financial situation during the previous year's budgeting process.
  - Advocacy campaigns this year have been restrained significantly to ensure that other campaigns could have funding. There was a desire for more effective and larger campaigns over all three campuses for the next year.
- ADV conducted a social in the past—allowed opportunity to informally discuss advocacy issues.
  - Students have been interested in networking events for students involved in social and environmental justice
  - Free food tends to make or break student events, and catering is expensive.
- Enhanced conference funding

- The SFSS did not budget for travel and conferences for budgeting for the current fiscal year, which meant that Advocacy Committee was the only source of such funding.
- The Student Union Resource Office has a separate travel/conference funding pool primarily for academic purposes and limited to \$100 per member per fiscal year.
- Contingency funding for advocacy initiatives that are outside the capacity/scope of the Advocacy Committee, such as that of the Burma/Myanmar Academic Freedom issue.
- Prizes for campaigns
- Deferred maintenance photo contest
- Federal Election in the fall—comprehensive Get Out the Vote campaign.
  - If the Society would like to budget for consistent voter engagement, this may be an opportunity to empower a year-round Independent Electoral Commission to spearhead any such campaigns for greater continuity.
    - However, Society elections were the focus of the IEC, and other elections may fall outside its purview as per bylaws and policy
- Potential Bill C-51 conference

### Expenditure Trends

- ¼ has been for travel and conference
- 1/3 of costs have been for facilities, including space booking and table setup.
- Remainder has primarily been for printing of shirts, flyers etc.

**Action Item:** all committee members were tasked to review opportunities for expenditures to inform the budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

### 10. Announcements

#### a. Transit Plebiscite Event —Thurs April 2, 12- 12 30 pm, Freedom Square

A rally is being held to promote the Yes Side of the transit plebiscite. Mayors Council and other regional mayors have been invited, with the goal of having a large presence to encourage media attention and student engagement. Free food and coffee would be provided. Computers would be set up to get students registered.

If students had yet to received their package, students should update their profile on the Elections BC site.

### 11. Adjournment 1:22pm