

Call to Order – 11:30 am, July 9, 2015 | MBC 2296

1. Territory Acknowledgement

The Advocacy Committee acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, which included the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lo, and Tsleil-Waututh people to the current knowledge of the Society.

2. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*) Kathleen Yang
Vice President Student Life Deepak Sharma
Vice President University Relations Brady Yano
Board of Directors Representative Arr Farah
Councilor
Councilor Erwin Kwok (*late*)
Councilor Blaise Crisologo
Councilor Alicia Blimkie
Out On Campus Representative Russell Kanim
Women’s Centre Representative
Board of Governors Representative Deven Azevedo
Senate Representative
Student At-Large John Ragone

Society Staff

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

Guests

Member Arjan Mundy
Member Marija Jovanovic

Leave of Absence

Board of Directors Representative Christine Dyson

Absence

Student At-Large Muhsin Suleiman

Action Item: The Chair would follow up with absent members.

Kwok entered 11:35pm

3. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2015-07-09:01

Yano, Amended Yano

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2015-07-09:02

Kwok

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-07-02

CARRIED

5. Committee Member Updates

Surrey Campus Committee Surrey Affairs Officer, Surrey Liaison, and Vice President University Relations discussed Fraser Library hours of operation with the SFU Surrey Executive Director and the Head of Fraser Library. Committee will continue to be updated as discussions and action items progress.

Vice President External Relations and President had a meeting with the Government Relations Office and the SFU Vice President External Relations. SFU's current government relations priorities included open textbooks, gondola, and deferred maintenance, which aligned with many of the previous advocacy initiatives of the committee, although these have not been prioritized by the current ADV. They also provided tips on effective government lobbying, and has expressed that the University has no intention to take any donations from Kinder Morgan.

In the previous year, the former SFSS President Bueckert had meetings around the Skybus (Gondola) project. The matters have been under discussion for the past 30 years on campus. This prioritization of the Gondola project could integrate with a wider campaign on how transit can be improved for SFU in conjunction with the university administration, particularly considering focus at present on transit improvements for UBC students.

A report procured by Translink in the past has indicated that the Gondola project being the most financially responsible project proposed. However, it was likely that the gondola project was not included in the Mayors Council 10 year transit plan as a result of various closed-door meetings relating to the attempts to pass the Metro Vancouver Transit Plebiscite.

Student Senators would be selecting their representative for the committee over the weekend.

6. Working Group Updates

The Committee was reminded that the Society had a Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator who could assist with research for advocacy campaigns as prioritized by the Board.

Open Textbook Working Group

- Basecamp project has been created and interested members have been invited.
- Fall plans were discussed
 - Display outside the bookstore for the first week of September
 - Bookmarks with details on the campaign would be circulated to the membership
 - #textbookbroke campaign on Twitter and Facebook
 - Working Group was in the process of determining which key policymakers and administrators to tag in those posts.
 - Collaborating with the UBC AMS on the campaign, as well as other student unions that express interest.

- The Vice President University Relations of SFSS and AMS would be developing a simple toolkit to be discussed and distributed at the Student Union Development Summit
 - Meeting with the SFU Digital Resource Librarian—planning open access week for the library. Discussed potential collaborations with the Committee.

7. New Business

a. ADV Tablecloths

MOTION ADV 2015-07-09:03

Yano

Be it resolved to allocate X for 2 Advocacy Committee Tablecloths

During the Open Textbook meeting, it was expressed that it would be valuable for the Committee to have tablecloths for outreach purposes. Previously purchased Society tablecloths (which have since been lost) had fairly small logos and it was recommended that the next batch order have significantly larger logos.

POSTPONED TO NEXT ADV

Action Item: the Communications Office would look at options.

b. Open Educational Resources Printing

The Working Group would like to feature select chapters from open textbooks versus traditional textbooks for Open Access week, which would allow the Committee to generate feedback and awareness. Textbooks from the most popular SFU courses would be selected for printing.

It was expressed that the most rigorously reviewed textbooks would be the most valuable to encourage further dialogue with instructors and administrators.

Open Textbooks from BC Campus are focused on the 40 most popular disciplines within post-secondary education institutions in BC, including teaching intensive and trade institutions.

MOTION ADV 2015-07-09:04

Yano

Be it resolved to allocate up to \$100 from 820/20 Advocacy for the printing of OERs for the BC Open Textbooks Working Group.

CARRIED

8. Discussion

c. Guard.Me International Student Mandatory Medical Insurance

Guard.me is an automatically enrolled mandatory medical insurance plan provided to international students to cover the gap between arrival and enrollment eligibility for Medicare. Concerns have been raised by the Graduate Student Society and Teaching Support Staff Union regarding the plan, as SFU receives a percentage of revenue from the program, optout was extremely difficult, fees were significantly higher than comparable plans at other institutions, and the plan automatically renews despite being supposedly for a single short period.

An email from the SFU AVP Students regarding changes to the Guard.Me plan was circulated to the Committee. These have a number of cost savings, which reflect the success of the awareness campaign by GSS and TSSU. Concern was raised that the Guard.me program would continue to function, the issue of opt outs would not be addressed. A member of the Committee expressed frustration with the various mandatory coverage and the resulting costs on international students.

d. Federal Election Awareness Campaign

A number of SFU political party clubs have expressed interest in partnering with the committee on an awareness campaign, which may result in perceptions of partisanship. However, it may also assist in encouraging candidates to attend an all-candidates debate. Partnership could be limited to the debates and leverage networks to encourage student participation in events, while maintaining neutrality for the awareness campaign to ensure that the Society does not seem like it is affiliated with any party. It would also be possible for tabling to be conducted in close proximity such that interested individuals could go to the clubs for more details. The club could also be updated on committee plans and actions.

The Vice President External Relations would follow up on Elections Canada by next ADV on the proposed all-riding polling station. Communications received thus far was that it would be possible for out-of-province voting would be possible on campus.

The Councilor from International Studies would begin discussions with the International Studies Student Association. They and the Arts and Social Sciences Representative would also begin to determine the feasibility of expanding the campaign to the Vancouver campus.

Communications Coordinator was interested in setting up media monitoring for the campaign. Logistics were discussed on the start date and frequency.

It was recommended that members post interesting articles onto Basecamp.

Action Item: Committee members would propose names for the campaign on Basecamp.

e. SFU Vice President Finance and Administration Search

The Vice President Finance and Administration position has become vacant and the university has set up a search committee to fill the position. SFU 350 and Sustainable SFU would be putting together a proposal to request the position profile include necessary experience in responsible investment. Given the Advocacy Committee and the Simon Fraser Student Society's previous support for the fossil fuel divestment campaign, the support of the committee was requested.

Concern was raised that having the item within the position description was unrealistic, and rather the matter should be raised through the undergraduate representative on the committee.

While Bylaw 6.1 indicates that Board was the exclusive source of external communications, it was unclear whether committees—as bodies endowed with Board powers—may also communicate on the organization's behalf.

Committee was reminded that the members of the Search Committee establish the interview questions and the position profile collaboratively, and that it would be important for the undergraduate representative to be well briefed on the matter as opposed to simply sending out letters.

The Committee was reminded that the Sustainability Office had a representative on the Search Committee and therefore the issue of sustainability would be well represented within the search process.

9. Adjournment

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