

Call to Order – 11:37 am, July 2, 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 University Relations..... Brady Yano
Board of Directors Representative Arr Farah
Councilor
Councilor Erwin Kwok
Councilor Blaise Crisologo
Councilor
Women’s Centre Representative
Board of Governors Representative..... Deven Azevedo
Senate Representative Arjan Mundy
Student At-Large..... John Ragone
Student At-Large..... Muhsin Suleiman

Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator Pierre Cassidy
Communications Coordinator Irma Arkus
Student Union Outreach Worker Katie Mai

Guests

Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union Laura Scheck
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union Kaayla Ashlie
Member..... Amir Ali

Regrets

Board of Directors Representative Deepak Sharma (*meeting*)
Out On Campus Representative Russell Kanim (*sick*)

Leave of Absence

Board of Directors Representative Christine Dyson

3. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2015-07-16:01

Mundy, Amended Azevedo

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

4. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION ADV 2015-07-16:02

Farah

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Board of Directors RepresentativeDeepak Sharma (*meeting*)

Board of Directors RepresentativeChristine Dyson (*on leave*)

Out On Campus RepresentativeRussell Kanim (*sick*)

CARRIED

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2015-07-16:03

Farah

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-07-09

CARRIED

Abstention noted from Mundy

6. Committee Member Updates

a. 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. SFSS VP Finance has share at the open forum the concerns expressed by the undergraduate population about missing qualities from the candidate search. Azevedo will be following up with the SFSS VP Finance on behalf of the ADV committee. SFSS VP University Relations suggested that Azevedo also follow up with the SFU Sustainability Office.

7. Discussion

a. GSWSSU—Sexual Assault Support Centre Initiative

Representatives from the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union presented a proposal for a Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) Initiative at SFU. They are requesting for the SFSS to support the creation of a working group for this initiative.

SFU currently does not have a SASC on any of the campuses. This service is common at other campuses, for example, UBC. The only support SFU currently provides for sexual assault cases is through the Women’s Centre, Out on Campus, and an informal website page where readers are directed to the Vancouver General Hospital, counseling, or SFU security. This is informal and inadequate – as any person who was to search “sexual assault SFU” online will find an informal run-down of support services, be directed externally, and not receive any follow-through by the University. The available services are currently silo’d and are not fit to serve all students comfortably. For example, folks who do not identify as women, or queer, or are uncomfortable with going to VGH, are excluded from the current system. These resources are also not properly budgeted and equipped to serve as a SASC. However, the creation of a SASC would draw all of these existing resources together and work in tandem to serve the SFU community.

There is no method in place to report or track incidences, so these numbers are unknown among the SFU population and community.

The benefits of having a SASC include:

- Support from alumni as this service shows SFU to be a progressive campus; something for alumni to be proud of
- Support from future students and parents
- Shows SFSS to be a proactive society; taking measures of prevention rather than reaction

The SASC is especially pertinent now given the impending shift in campus culture with the Student Union Building, potential Greek life, NCAA status, and new stadium. Statistics have shown that sexual assault is more common in environments that are more conducive of drinking, partying, hazing-like activities, and have a greater presence of sports culture. SASC would serve as a preventative measure in these environments and also track whether these factors increase the risk of sexual assault on campus.

Overall, a SASC would provide the SFU community with a convenient and comfortable place to find support. People will be more likely to seek help under these circumstances.

The SFSS can support the creation of a SASC by:

- Formally supporting and endorsing a working group, and eventually, the SASC
- Provide connections to the University and other stakeholders
- Offer potential financial support
- Facilitate the SASC working group

Links to information regarding the impact of athletics and Greek culture on sexual assault numbers are found on the last page of the attached presentation. This data is based on Canadian universities. Another resource that speaks to sexual violence in higher education contexts is the documentary *Hunting Ground*.

Committee member asked about the working group composition. Presenters responded that the structure is not formalized at this point in time, but would ideally have a representative from each service to show that many groups at SFU endorse this project.

The presenters were recommended to connect with:

- A sexual assault temporary staff position who is currently conducting research on the SFU athletics population
- SFSS legal assistance
- SFU Human Rights Office

Concern was raised around the available space for this centre, as lack of space at SFU is currently a big problem. Since this is an issue, it was recognized that a SASC would likely not materialize in the near future.

Question was raised around whom the SASC would serve. The presenters responded that the SASC would be inclusive of all genders and all folks, including students, staff, and faculty.

Given that this topic is not time-sensitive relative to the other committee priorities, this conversation will be revisited in October after a formal proposal is created.
Noted that this is one of the committee's priorities for the year

b. Federal Election Campaign Follow-up

The Canadian Alliance Student Associations (CASA) is a national not-for-profit organization composed of student associations from across the country. They are offering a communications plan to student associations that will help boost voter turnout. SFSS VP External Relations and Arts Representative are seeking direction from the committee on whether or not they would like to adopt this. The most recent email from the VP External to the committee gives context to their offer.

This service requires a \$5,000 fixed initial buy-in fee, which covers all promotional materials (ready for printing), marketing materials, and access to Nation Builder – a program for confidentially storing information and sending it out efficiently. Nation Builder can execute the voting campaign for the SFSS and then destroy the information upon our request. This fee does not include the cost of sending an SFSS representative to travel to Ottawa, the cost of hiring a project worker if the SFSS decides to, and the printing costs. Overall, \$5,000 covers the cost of the campaign structure, and the costs of executing it are up to the SFSS. Other universities who are a part of CASA and are using this program include Kwantlen and Capilano. Membership in CASA will allow the SFSS to work collaboratively with these two institutions, as the messaging would be consistent.

It is unknown whether these materials will be branded with CASA. VP External Relations will find out and get back to the committee.

The committee was concerned about the heavy fee of \$5,000 for this software, especially because the printing costs will need to be covered by the Society. It was also raised that the current members of CASA are smaller than SFU. As such, they have less capacity than the SFSS does and require the extent of support provided by this program.

It was suggested that the committee first explore other options that are cheaper than CASA and may provide the same or more functionality. It was also suggested that the committee connect directly with Groundforce Digital, which powers Nation Builder, for access to this software. This may be a cheaper alternative than accessing Nation Builder through CASA.

Elections Canada can send free pamphlets and materials. Committee member will look into getting them.

Another organization that can help the SFSS with increasing voter turnout is Check Your Head, a non-profit, non-political group based in Vancouver. It was raised that this organization addresses 5 key issues: climate change, gender inequality, health care, income

inequality, and migrant justice. That said, if the committee's mandate is just to encourage students to vote, it is important to take this factor into consideration.

A general reminder from the Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator that committees do not have the authority to sign contracts and memoranda of understanding on behalf of the SFSS. Any individuals who sign such documents would be making themselves personally liable.

The committee discussed their stance on partnerships with external issue-based organizations in general. Members collectively agreed that this was a good idea. A future conversation to be had is around the types of organizations that the committee would like to collaborate with.

8. Attachments

CYH Partnership Proposal.pdf
GOTV Recruit Long - final.pdf

9. Adjournment 12:36 pm

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