

CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 September 28, 2005

I. RATIFICATION OF THE CHAIR

The Board of Directors is recommending that Maya Russell be ratified as the Chairperson for the General Meeting. Maya Russell is a senior account manager with a social marketing firm and was Treasurer and President of the Student Society from 1996 - 1998, chairing Forum and various committees of the Society.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEETING RULES

The meeting will consider the agenda prepared by the Board of Directors. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

The Chairperson will provide a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order, a system of meeting rules and procedures that the Student Society employs for the general meeting. The Board of Directors is recommending that debate at the meeting be limited to three speakers in favour of a motion and three speakers in opposition to a motion.

III. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS' MINUTES

Minutes from the October 12, 2004 general meeting are available for adoption.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The following items may only be considered if the quorum of 500 students is present.

a. Motions Submitted by the Board of Directors

i. Quorum for General Meetings

Member/Chairman

Be it resolved that Bylaw 19 be amended as follows:

9. Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting shall be one hundred (100) members in good standing of the Society.

ii. Amending Bylaws via referendum

Member/Chairman

Be it resolved that Bylaw 13 be amended as follows:

1. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by special resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting, or by indirect voting via a referendum held in accordance with Bylaw 17.

2. Notice of a proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws shall be given in accordance with Bylaw 10(3) providing notice of the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting, or in accordance with Bylaw 13(6) for a referendum system, and shall include the actual wording of the proposed amendment.

3. Amendments to be voted on at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting may be initiated by:

a. The Board

b. Forum

c. Any member in good standing of the Society if twenty-one days notice of the actual wording of the proposed amendment is given in writing to the Society prior to the Annual General Meeting.

d. Any member of the Society requesting a Special General Meeting for the consideration of a proposed amendment, provided that the proposed amendment

shall be accompanied by a petition setting out the text of the proposed amendment and requesting a Special General Meeting for its consideration and accompanied by the signatures of not less than five percent of the members in good standing of the Society.

4. Amendments to be voted on by referendum may be initiated in accordance with Bylaw 17.3.

iii. Attention for uncontented positions in General Election
Handwritten:

Be it resolved that Bylaw 14.17 amended as follows:

- a. If only one valid nomination is received for a particular office, the name of the nominated candidate shall be placed on a ballot with the options of yes or no. If the candidate receives more yes votes than no votes, the candidate shall be declared duly elected.
- b. Should the candidate receive more no votes than yes votes, the office shall be considered vacant, to be filled in accordance with Society Bylaw.

iv. Campaigning during General Election voting period
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Be it resolved that Bylaw 14.15 be amended as follows:

- a. During the balloting period, a "no campaigning zone" shall be established 25 metres around each polling station, within which no campaign posters, signs or notices may be displayed or distributed and no personal delegated campaign activity may take place.
- b. No candidate or representative from a yes or no campaign may enter within the "no campaigning zone" as set out in 14.15a.
- c. All campaign materials must be removed within the 24 hours immediately following the close of polls.

v. Motions Submitted by Members of the Society

The following motions were submitted by members of the Student Society with due notice for consideration at this meeting. Most will require secondaries at the meeting.

i. Changes to Board of Directors Structure - Appointment of Executive Officers, Multiple Faculty Representative

Category

Whereas there are currently fourteen separate offices on the Board of Directors that one may run for, leading to cases where some offices may be left vacant, others may be won by acclamation, and others may have several candidates running for them;

Whereas the Executive Officers and their duties are built into the Bylaws, making it difficult to add, delete or amend these positions as may be necessary;

Whereas it is advisable to separate the legislative and the executive branches of the Society;

Whereas it may be more efficient to appoint, rather than elect, the Executive Officers;

Whereas the fact that all candidates for the Board of Directors must commit to essentially working one year at least for the Society may severely limit the number and diversity of candidates for office to the Board of Directors;

Whereas the current structure currently in office, solely drawn from those from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, including all of the Executive Officers, therefore;

Be it resolved that By-Law 4 be amended by replacing the definition of "Executive Officers" with the following:

"Executive Officer(s)" means the Executive Officer(s) of the Society appointed or elected in accordance with By-Law 4.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 4 be amended by repealing sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7, and by replacing sections 1, 2, 4, and 8 with the following:

1. The Executive Officers of the Society shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, and such other Executive Officers that may be designated by resolution.

2. The Board may, by resolution, determine:

- a. the manner in which the Executive Officers are appointed or elected
- b. the manner in which the Executive Officers may be removed from office
- c. the period to be given to the Executive Officers
- d. the powers, duties and obligations of each of the Executive Officers

3. The Executive Officers shall be members in good standing of the Society and shall not miss more than one registration during terms of office. A member in good standing who is not registered during a semester in which an Executive Officer is not registered that member shall pay all Society fees for that semester at a rate equal to the prorated part-time student rate.

4. a. Executive Officers may, but need not, be members of the Board.

b. An Executive Officer does not become a member of the Board simply by virtue of being an Executive Officer.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 5, section 2 be amended to read as follows:

2. The Board shall consist of:

- a. the faculty and graduate representative elected in accordance with By-Law 14
- b. the Campus Committee representative appointed in accordance with By-Law 6, section 5.1

Be it further resolved that By-Law 6, section 12 be amended to read as follows:

12. Quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be a majority of the seats filled.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 6, section 6 be amended to read as follows:

- a. In the event a faculty or graduate representative position on the Board becomes vacant, a person may, by their direct majority vote, replace an acting member to assume the powers, and fulfill the duties and obligations of the position so vacated.
- b. To be eligible as an acting faculty representative to the Board, the nominee must be eligible to run as an election for that position.
- c. To be eligible as an acting graduate representative to the Board, the nominee must be eligible to run as an election for that position, and must be nominated by the Society's Graduate Issues Committee.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 14, section 4 be amended to read as follows:

4. Any student who is an active member in good standing of the Society and who is a registered graduate student may run and may vote for the position of graduate representative to the Board.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 14 be amended by adding sections 8.1 between sections 8 and 9 to read as follows:

8.1 Each faculty and the collectivity of graduate students shall be represented by one voting representative on the Board for every 1,000 students or portion thereof, provided that each faculty and the collectivity of graduate students shall be represented by at least one person. The necessary calculations shall be made during the Spring semester.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 5 be amended by adding section 4, to read as follows:

4. The Board of Directors elected in Spring 2005 continues to hold office until April 30, 2006.

II. Creation of Campus Committees

Category

Whereas graduate students are represented through the Graduate Issues Committee and through two representatives on the Board of Directors;

Whereas students from satellite campuses at SFU currently have no substantive means of representation through the Society;

Whereas students from satellite campuses at other universities and colleges have achieved representation by organizing and forming independent student societies, or by forming autonomous 'campus councils' and achieving representation on their student society's Board of Directors; therefore,

Be it resolved that By-Law 6 be amended by adding section 5.1 between sections 5 and 6, to read as follows:

5.1

a. The Board shall maintain no standing committees Campus Committees for each of the satellite campuses of the University;

b. Each Campus Committee shall be made up of student members from the respective campus and be charged with discussing issues of specific importance to students at the campus and advising the Board and other agents of the Society as necessary;

c. Each Campus Committee shall have the power to appoint one voting representative to the Board of Directors;

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10, sub-section 3(a) be amended by adding the words "and the Surrey Campus" at the end of the sub-section;

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10, section 3 be amended to read as follows:

5.

a. Each member in good standing of the Society shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and at any Special General Meeting. In order to exercise her or his vote the member shall be present at the meeting at the time the vote is put, and no vote by proxy shall be allowed;

b. General Meetings may be conducted in order to allow students at multiple campuses to participate, provided that each participant is able to vote and to hear every other participant;

III. Abolition of Forum

Category

Whereas Forum, under the current By-Laws, has very few powers;

Whereas Forum does not have the ability to hire or direct staff, adopt policy, create committees with substantive powers, or communicate its political convictions in any other manner to that member of the University, the membership, or the general public;

Whereas the sole real powers that Forum has are the power to recognize new department student unions and constituent groups, the power to appoint replacement Board members, and the power to create honorary members of Forum or of the Society;

Whereas Forum is extremely expensive to operate;

Whereas there are superior means of maintaining communications between the Department Student Unions and Graduate Unions and the Society; therefore,

Be it resolved that By-Laws 7 and 8 be repealed;

Be it further resolved that the phrases "of Forum" and "and Forum" be deleted in every instance in which they appear in these By-Laws;

Be it further resolved that the definitions of "Forum" and "Honorary member of Forum" in By-Law 1 be repealed.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 9, section 2 and sub-section 6(a) be amended by replacing the word "Forum" with "the Board".

Be it further resolved that By-Law 10, section 2 be amended by removing the word "Forum".

Be it further resolved that By-Law 13, sub-section 3(b) be repealed.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 14 be amended by removing the word "either" in section 3 and by repealing section 6.

Be it further resolved that By-Law 9 be amended by adding sections 15, 16, and 17, to read as follows:

15. The Board may recognize a constituency group within the University community through a vote requiring two-thirds majority and providing that three weeks notice of such a vote at a Board meeting has been given in notice of notice to the Board.

16.

a. In the event a faculty or graduate representative position on the Board becomes vacant, the Board may by two-thirds majority vote appoint an acting member to assume the powers and fulfill the duties and obligations of the position so vacated, providing that three weeks notice of such a vote at a Board meeting has been given in notice of notice to the Board.

b. To be eligible as an acting faculty representative to the Board, the nominee must be eligible to run as an election for that position.

c. To be eligible as an acting graduate representative to the Board, the nominee must be eligible to run as an election for that position and must be nominated by the Society's Graduate Issues Committee.

d. Notwithstanding the provisions of By-Law 16(a), a member of the Board removed from office in accordance with By-Law 16(2) shall be replaced by way of election or by appointment by ordinary resolution to serve during the balance of the term.

17. The Board may appoint honorary members of the Society at its discretion.

iv. Availability of Financial Statements

Original

Whereas section 39 of the Society Act stipulates that every society must mail a copy of their financial statements to each of their members unless the By-Laws of that society specify an alternative method of providing notice.

Whereas it would be very costly to mail the financial statements of the Society on a yearly basis to the Society's members;

Whereas the Society may currently be in violation of the Society Act; therefore,

Be it resolved that By-Law 10 be amended by adding section 31 between sections 3 and 4, as follows:

31.

a. In the case of an Annual General Meeting, the notice in section 7 must contain a statement that the financial statements of the Society may be reviewed at the offices of the Society during business hours for the 10 days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.

b. The financial statements of the Society may be reviewed at the offices of the Society during business hours for the 10 days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.

c. This section is intended to fulfill the requirements of section 39 of the Society Act.

v. **Single Transferable Vote System for Student Society Elections**
Category
Whereas students are currently elected to the Board of Directors through the First Past the Post system, which encourages the formation of clubs and tends to reduce proportionality of representation;
Be it resolved that By-Law 14, sub-section 2(c) be amended to read as follows:
c. Positions shall be elected using the Single Transferable Vote method (or multi-seat election) or the Alternative Vote (or single-seat election) provided.
Be it further resolved that By-Law 14, section 16 be amended to read as follows:
16. _____ The term of the ballot shall be decided by the Independent Electoral Commission.

vi. **Ombuds Officer: Autonomy and Disclosure**
Category
Whereas the By-Laws need to state that the Ombuds Officer was independent of the Society, but no longer do so;
Whereas advising the Society on university procedures is not an appropriate function of an Ombuds Officer; therefore,
Be it resolved that By-Law 19, section 1 be amended to read as follows:
1. The Ombuds Officer shall be an autonomous agency of the Society, independent and autonomous of all existing administrative structures of the University and the Society.
Be it further resolved that By-Law 19, section 4 be amended by replacing sub-section b and by inserting the word "primary" in sub-section a.
Be it further resolved that By-Law 19, section 5 be amended to read as follows:
5. The Ombuds Officer shall not disclose any information provided to her or him in confidence by a complainant.

vii. **Foreign Policy**
Category
Whereas the Society has, in the past, consumed large amounts of time, energy, and money on foreign policy questions;
Whereas the members of the Society are not of one mind on foreign policy questions;
Whereas the members of the Society are competent persons, and are entirely capable of spending their own money and resources towards political advocacy on foreign policy questions;
Whereas foreign policy questions do not substantially affect the general student body as a whole; therefore,
Be it resolved that the Society shall have an officially neutral stance on political questions regarding foreign policy, including but not limited to issues concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

viii. **International Student Representation**
Category
Whereas international students are becoming a more and more significant presence at Simon Fraser University;
Whereas international students are largely being marginalized or ignored by university policy;
Whereas integration of international students into the SFU community is desirable, but at the same time the current policies often create the specific situation that they face adjustment to a new culture, language difficulties, housing, legal restrictions,

When a major increase in tuition and differential fees create a situation in which international students are being asked to subsidize other activities not related to education, studying at SFU is no longer affordable for 50% of the world's population, and the financial well-being of current international students at SFU is severely threatened;

When international students happen to be a legally defined subgroup of students at Simon Fraser University with diverse differences in their needs and issues from the rest of the student population;

When current bylaws need to be amended to guarantee an effective and just representation of such a significant minority of our student population through the creation of a specific At Large representative position reserved to international students;

When the Board of Directors is the highest decision-making body in the Simon Fraser Student Society where decisions affecting international students at SFU can or can be made;

When direct international student representation on the Student Society Board of Directors will be a significant improvement for international student issues and will be effectively consistent with making decisions;

Be it resolved that Bylaw 1 be amended to include the definition of International Student as follows:

International student means 'international student' as defined by Simon Fraser University.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 5.2 be amended to read:

The Board shall consist of:
The Executive Officers
One student representative from each University faculty
Two At Large students
One At Large graduate student
One At Large international student

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.4 be amended to include 'v' and to read:
Any student who is an active member in good standing of the Society and who is a registered international student may run for the 'At Large International Student' position on the Board. Any student who is an active member in good standing of the Society and who is an international student may vote for the 'At Large International Student' position on the Board.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 6.6 be amended by adding 'g' to read:
To be eligible as an acting At Large International Student representative to the Board, the nominee must be an active member in good standing of the Society and a registered international student. In case no nominee is there to run, the position would be taken up by a regularly elected member of a forum nominated by the International Students' Consultancy Group (ISC). If there is no active International Student Consultancy Group, the nominee must be an active member in good standing of the Society, a registered international student, and a regularly elected member of a forum.

h. Membership in the Canadian Federation of Students
van Buren

Be it resolved that the Board be directed to undertake the process to withdraw membership (debarato) from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), in accordance with all relevant By-Laws of the CFS, and:

Be it further resolved that significant staff resources and funds be allocated for work on the debaration process, and:

Be it further resolved that a consultant referendum be held to reduce the CFS membership fees to the Simon Fraser Student Society, and:

Be it further resolved that a student at large committee be struck, whose mandate will include coverage of the administration process, and appointing students to the post administration vote committee (per CFS by-laws).

k. Election Request Request Deadline
Established
Whereas the current bylaw requires candidates to request a recount of votes cast before all votes have been tallied;
Whereas there is no provision for an automatic recount in the case of a close race;
Whereas there are no limits on who may request a recount;
Be it resolved that Bylaw 14.21 be amended as follows:
When a contest results in one or more candidates being within twenty votes of the prevailing candidate, the Chief Electoral Commissioner shall call for a recount within 48 hours. Candidates may request a recount of votes cast within 72 hours of the announcement of results; provided a candidate withdraws 100% of the prevailing candidate. After that time, the ballots for the election shall be destroyed under supervision of the Chief Commissioner.

ii. Election Spending Limits
Established
Whereas it is desirable to create an equitable election where no candidate is disadvantaged due to personal finances;
Whereas the Student Society has a responsibility to mitigate the costs of participating in the election;
Whereas the election spending limit has been at the same level for over a decade;
Whereas it is preferable to use Student Society services for the production of materials;
Be it resolved that Bylaw 14.14 be amended as follows:
The campaign expense limit shall be determined through Administration Policy and may not be exceeded following the notice of nomination period. Each candidate shall receive a \$50 credit towards the printing of materials at the Student Society press shop.
Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors set the spending limit through policy, with the amount to be announced in the notice of nomination for the upcoming election.

iii. Polling Period and Location
Established
Whereas most members of the society do not attend Burnaby Mountain campus;
Whereas the bylaw provides no requirements for on-campus polling for Surrey and Harbour Centre Campuses or other campuses where similar numbers warrant;
Whereas polling at all campuses may require differing polling hours and days;
Be it resolved that Bylaw 14.9(b) be amended as follows:
Polling for all positions shall occur for a minimum of 6 hours per day and shall not exceed 12 hours.
Be it further resolved that Bylaw 14.8 be amended to include subsection c as follows:
Polling stations shall be established at the SFU Burnaby, Harbour Centre and Surrey campuses. The Independent Electoral Commission may establish polling stations at other campuses where numbers warrant.

l. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
A report will be presented detailing the activities of the Board of Directors from October 12, 2004 through September 22, 2005.

1. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The Student Society Treasurer will provide an overview of the Student Society's finances from October 12, 2004 through September 27, 2005.

2. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

An overview of the Student Society's audited financial statements will be provided by the Society's Auditor - Tompkins, Wenny, Miller & Co.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR THE COMING YEAR

The auditor responsible for the coming year's audited financial statements will be appointed. The Board of Directors recommends the re-appointment of Tompkins, Wenny, Miller & Co.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING 2004