

Call to Order – 2:31 pm, July 23, 2014 | MBC 2294

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

Executive Officer (*chair*) ..... Darwin Binesh  
President (*ex officio*) ..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Board of Directors Member ..... Shadnam Khan  
Board of Directors Member ..... Shirin Escarcha  
Board of Directors Member ..... Rebecca Langmead  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang  
Student At-Large .....

### Society Staff

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

### Guests

Chief Electoral Officer ..... Lorenz Yeung

### Regrets

Board of Directors Member ..... Adam Potvin  
Councilor ..... Melissa Lee  
Student At-Large ..... Michael Carbonnier

### Absent

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

### MOTION CPR 2014-07-23:01

Escarcha

*Be it resolved to approve the agenda as amended*

*Reconsideration motion, election policy discussion added*

## 3. Ratification of Regrets

### MOTION CPR 2014-07-23:03

Escarcha

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:*

Board of Directors Member ..... Adam Potvin  
Councilor ..... Melissa Lee  
Student At-Large ..... Michael Carbonnier

Potvin and Lee had academic commitments, and Carbonnier had a mandatory staff meeting.  
Further details would be requested in the future.

### CARRIED

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### MOTION CPR 2014-07-23:03

Langmead

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-07-16*

**CARRIED**

**5. Business**

**a. New Policy: AP-44 Media Relations**

Potvin was tasked to work on a new draft but was not present at the meeting. Given proposals from the Vice President Finance, the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator no longer felt that the policy was necessary; as such a policy may impede the Society from responding in a sufficiently expedient manner. The end goal for the policy seemed to be rapid response by persons equipped to receive and respond to requests, in light of unauthorized contact with the media in the past.

The desire was for the spokespersons to be provided with the authority of speaking, as the bylaws demand that the Board of Directors be the only body representing the organizations. Messaging was identified as a concern; as such a policy may allow an authorized individual to create the messaging which may not align with the views of the Board of Directors. While the Board always has the authority to vest power in a board member to speak on their behalf, the Board of Directors may be in a difficult position if an individual with such vested power misspeaks. However, if the society had established a stance (i.e. through an Issues Policy), any member of the board may be able to speak to the issue in the media.

Further, Building rapport with the media was a desire of the previous board.

**Action Item:** Langmead and Bueckert would create the next draft of the policy with the CRP Coordinator. They would also contact Potvin.

**b. New Policy: AP-11 Childcare**

Remunerations Advisory Committee was called, however, the committee had special terms of quorum which required a student at-large who was not a member of Council nor the Board, and therefore existing members were not eligible. No staff were named to the committee in the standing orders, which may assist in reviewing legal ramifications.

General consensus was that childcare did constitute remunerations. Members began to begin research and follow up with board and council members on impact and feedback of childcare funding.

RAC would provide a report and recommendations to CPR in the near future, at which point the committee could reconsider the issue.

**c. Reconsideration: AP-20**

**MOTION CPR 2014-07-23:05**

Khan

Be it resolved to reconsider MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:05

There was concern that the CPR discussions were hasty and a principled discussion did not occur. There were concerns around conflicts should an incumbent board member run in an election and have to compete against a staff member, or a member of the society competing against a staff member for fear of creating a culture of mandatory laddering.

However, bylaws allowed all members in good standing to run in elections, and the bylaw would have primacy. Being staff and a board member simultaneously was already prohibited under the collective agreement. Under the proposed policy change, any staff member who won a position

on the Board would be required to resign prior to the beginning of their term. Any requested restrictions would have to occur at the Collective Agreement or Special Resolution levels. The Independent Electoral Commission had never prevented anyone from running while a staff member, but recommended to the Board in the past not to ratify individuals violating AP-20 as it currently stood. There was concern that to allow an individual to run but not to ratify the position may violate the spirit of allowing all members to participate in the Student Society.

### **QUESTION WAS CALLED ON RECONSIDERATION**

Khan

### **MOTION FAILED**

#### **FOR REFERENCE: MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:05**

Langmead/Amended Potvin

*Be it resolved* to recommend to BOD that AP-20 be revised to read:

1. *No Board of Directors Member shall be employed by the Society during, or for a period of two years following, her/his term of office.*
2. *An employee may not be an elected student member of the Board of the Directors, but employees may become and maintain membership in the Simon Fraser Student Society.*

## **6. Discussion**

### **a. Election Policy**

The document presented to the committee was a substantial change from the original document and therefore a tracked changes document was not provided. A number of campaigning restrictions were removed including cross-endorsement and social media usage, allowing all forms of campaigning within limits of good taste. Independent Electoral Commission procedural items were shifted into an IEC procedures manual. A discussion may be necessary around changes to the bylaws. IEC could and has provided administrative support to FSU elections in the past given their limited size.

### **Principled Issues for Consideration**

- Issue of the bylaw requirement of Board appointing an Independent Electoral Commission. Boards in the past have not been able to find a solution to the issue.
  - Incumbent CEO could potentially vet and appoint the CEO
    - May bring its own set of interests
    - CEOs tend to leave after election period, which may affect feasibility of such a solution
  - **Action Item:** Chief Electoral Officer would find and forward the minutes of the most recent CPR discussions on the matter to the Committee
  - Board could appoint a person through a recommendation from the CEO.
    - If a recommendation was not accepted, this may result in perceptions of mistrust or incompetency of the IEC.
  - Potential of having external appointment
    - Another body of interests may ensue
  - Appointment by a committee of students at large drawn by lottery

- Council could potentially appoint the CEO
  - Would be one step removed from the Board of Directors
  - Would be expedient particularly if Council was also to be imbued with monitoring Board conduct.
  - As a stopgap measure, practices could be changed such as Council vet the CEO applicants and Board would approve the recommendation such that it fulfills bylaw requirements until such times that changes could be ratified.
- Desirability of continuing to allow slates.
- \$50 campaign spending limit
  - Would require a change to the bylaws
  - Low voter turnouts may be attributable to limited spending allowance
  - Inflation has changed the buying power of the \$50 limit, given the age of the limit.

The committee was recommended to review electoral policies of other student unions. Given the resources being placed on the AGM, any desire to change the bylaws would require concentrated board efforts. An omnibus proposal may be desirable for future ratification. Lack of visibility and engagement had been highlighted as an issue by the current Board of Directors. Solutions increasing student engagement was encouraged by the committee.

**Action Item:** All members would read the documents and provide feedback on the principled concerns to the committee. The members would also consider acceptable changes within the current which the committee could choose to recommend to Board. Issues with bylaws would also be identified.

Recommendations would come for changes to current proposals, and a second set of recommendations for future changes upon bylaws, and recommendations for practice changes until such time that the bylaws were

**Action Item:** Langmead would provide the committee with some election policies.

## 7. Attachments

2014\_07\_18\_elections\_policy\_request.pdf

2014\_07\_18\_elections\_policy.docx

## 8. Adjournment 3:32pm

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DC /CUPE 3338