

Call to Order – 4:42 pm, November 26, 2014 | Forum Chambers

The Council acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lo, and Tsleil-Waututh people.

The Council Chair provided an introduction to Council for guests and an explanation of Roberts Rules of Order.

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### **SFSS Directors (*non-voting*)**

President .....	Chardaye Bueckert
Vice President External Relations.....	Darwin Binesh
Vice President Finance .....	Adam Potvin
Vice President Student Life.....	Kayode Fatoba ( <i>late</i> )
Vice President Student Services.....	Zied Masmoudi
At-Large Representative.....	Jeremy Pearce ( <i>late-BOD</i> )
At-Large Representative.....	Rebecca Langmead
Faculty Representative (Applied Sciences).....	Ben Rogers
Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences) .....	Brady Wallace
Faculty Representative (Business).....	Shadnam Khan
Faculty Representative (Communication, Art & Technology) .....	Shirin Escarcha
Faculty Representative (Education) .....	Katie Bell
Faculty Representative (Health Sciences) .....	Ayla Kooner

### **Student Union Representatives**

*New Councilors that need ratification will be denoted \*\*\**

Archeology.....	Madisen Hvidberg
Arts and Social Sciences.....	Andy Untawala*
Behavioral Neuroscience .....	Alysha Damji
Biology.....	Gurinder Saroya
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology.....	Debbie Wong
Business.....	David Chapman ( <i>late-academic</i> )
Business.....	
Chemistry.....	Pipreesh Gaind
Cognitive Science .....	Aaron Richardson
Communications.....	Gino Cutri
Criminology.....	Erwin Kwok
Dance.....	Cori Baldwin
Earth Science.....	Gleb Moiseyenko
Economics .....	Thomas Budd
Education .....	Melissa Lee
Engineering.....	Michael Fujiwara
English.....	Stephanie Hall
Environmental Science.....	
French.....	Nick Poullos
Geography .....	Jared Busse
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies .....	Caroline Doerksen
Health Science.....	Sana Javaheri
History.....	Brandon Matheson

Humanities.....	
International Studies.....	Tina Bachl
Labour Studies .....	
Linguistics .....	Gloria Mellesmoen
Management System Science .....	
Mathematics .....	Charles Turo
Mechatronics System Engineering .....	Gursher Sidhu
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry .....	Marija Jovanovic ( <i>late</i> )
Philosophy.....	Karen Abramson
Physics.....	Jesse Velay-Vitow
Political Science ( <i>chair</i> ).....	Kathleen Yang
Psychology.....	Yasmin Meawad
Sociology and Anthropology .....	
Statistics and Actuarial Science.....	Grace Lam
Sustainable Community Development.....	
Theaters.....	
Visual Arts.....	
World Literature .....	
<b>Constituency Group Representatives</b>	
International Student Group (ISG).....	
Out on Campus Collectives (OOC) .....	Jason Wang
Students United for Disability Support (SUDS).....	Anthony Janolino
Residence Hall’s Association (RHA).....	Brett Payne
Women Centre Collectives (WCC) .....	Anjali Biju
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).....	Ryan Dhillon
<b>Society Staff</b>	
Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator.....	Pierre Cassidy
DSU Outreach Worker.....	Katie Mai
Minute Taker .....	Dion Chong
<b>Guests</b>	
SFU AVP Students .....	Tim Rahilly
Chief Electoral Officer .....	Stephanie Munez
Board of Governors.....	Devan Azevedo
Residence Hall Association.....	Arsalan Anwar
Member .....	Ivy Li
Member .....	Ziyun He
Member .....	Mengmeng Li
Member .....	Jiaqi Lu
Member .....	Jia Guo
Member .....	Ziying Liang
Member .....	Pipreesh Gaind
Member .....	Nicole Liang
Member .....	Dahai Zhang
Member .....	Di Wang
Member .....	Weiqian Wang
Member .....	Elena Guo

Member .....	Zhixing Yu
Member .....	Moon Wang
Member .....	Carol Lu
Member .....	Joyce Yu
Member .....	Xianchu He
Member .....	Chenjie Li
Member .....	Raymond Zhang
Member .....	Tony Yu
Member .....	Alison He
Member .....	Ruiming Jia
Member .....	Yunne Chi
Member .....	Wanlin Xiong
Member .....	Hongchao Cui
Member .....	Munatsi Mavhima
Member .....	Sarah Le
Member .....	Ahmed Lebuo
Member .....	Ting Luo
Member .....	Linda Lin
Member .....	Juifu Chen
Member .....	Ailsa Cao
Member .....	Ruramai Munyanxi
Member .....	Min Tang
Member .....	Lin Liang
Member .....	Crystal River
Member .....	Fang Xin
Member .....	Mingtao Kong
Member .....	Chenxing Zhang
Member .....	Hanyao Guo
Member .....	Mouham Biam
Member .....	Miao Wang
Member .....	Xing Zhang
Member .....	Niloufar Aseamni
Member .....	Baker Al-Makib
Member .....	Yingjie Wu
Member .....	Jiahui Yao
Member .....	Yan Zheng
Member .....	Alfonso Diaz
Member .....	Billy Chen
Member .....	Keran Zeng
Member .....	Yaluu Ji
Member .....	Bingwia Li
Member .....	Lin Deng
Member .....	Chenfei Peng
Member .....	Stephanie Feng
Member .....	Jeaug Carol
Member .....	Chelsea Leung

Member .....	Tianyang Hu
Member .....	Xudong Jiang
Member .....	Ziling Tang
Member .....	Mengdan Liu
Member .....	Yu Wang
Member .....	Jinghan Bi

**Regrets**

Business.....	Jessica Gutierrez
Interactive Arts and Technology.....	Amanda Poh
Faculty Representative (Sciences) .....	Deepak Sharma
First Nations Student Association (FNSA).....	Maren Thompson

**Absent**

Computing Science .....	Rahman Kadirin
Operations Research .....	Michelle Baillet

**On Leave**

Faculty Representative (Environment) .....	Tesicca Truong
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**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION COUNCIL 2014-11-26:01**

Saroya/Amended Kwok

*Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.*

*Cocurricular Record Guest Speaker Struck*

*Referendum Result Motion added*

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**3. Guest Speakers/Presentations**

**a. International Student Tuition Fee Increases**

As a result of funding gaps coming from the provincial government core institutional funding cuts, SFU has instituted three international student fee increases. The third and final installment would begin as of January 2015. To discuss the matter, the Associate Vice President Students, with responsibility over SFU residences, as well as Financial Aid and Awards (both need and merit based awards), responded to a request from the Council to speak to the issue. The planned tuition fee rise would begin at the start of the university fiscal year (January). Domestic student tuition has been capped at 2% per year by provincial legislation. Since there was no similar cap for international students, international students would be seeing both the 2% and an addition 8% increase on top. This annual increase had been ongoing for the past two years. Contextually, it was stated that 6 years ago, domestic tuition were increased for 3 years without impact to international tuition.

Questions were raised around the compensation for students who would be incurring this massive increase.

As part of increase to tuition, there was planned financial and service support for international students. 25% of the tuition increase would be allocated to support international students. Of this 25%:

- 75% would be allocated to scholarships, awards, and bursaries.

- Of this, 75% was being allocated towards students in need, while 25% would be based on merit.
- The bursary application process was the same for domestic and international students, although the differential between international and domestic tuition levels was not considered for practical reasons. SFU has had issues identifying students and groups that require more financial support as a result of different financial documentation from different countries.
- 25% would be allocated to administrative support, such as the Global Student Centre, Health and Counseling Services, career advising, visa advising within International Services for Students etc.
  - There was recognition that the international student population was not homogenous in nature, but were in general more service demanding as a result of the greater number of pressures exerted by virtue of their status and their move to Canada.

In response to concerns that the 2% annual tuition increases was not advertised in anyway to the student population and to prospective students. It was expressed that SFU tended not to make any commitment for cost of education, and that operating costs generally exceed the 2% increase.

The university budget process was set by the Board of Governors, which typically approved the budget in March. The BOG was aware of the intention for the budget increase, but administration is conducted on an annual basis.

There was concern that international students were not informed of the incoming increases. It was expressed that the increases still needed to be approved by the Board of Governors. As such, it is difficult to make guarantees on what will and will not be approved, and impacts the type of notification that could be made to the student body. The third and final increase was to go before the BOG in Spring. University has a policy around the budget consultation to ensure that a public input was considered, of which a number of student leaders were in attendance. In the initial stages of planning for the three years of international student fee increases, the goal was to maintain a similar position in international student tuition fees in relation to other universities, and SFU has maintained steady compared to other universities. Additionally, it was necessary to consider currency fluctuation, particularly given international currency payments. Questions were raised around use of relative price. It was expressed that currency was one of many factors in considering the tuition changes.

SFSS President and international community had written a letter to the university – university was currently drafting a response.

The President of the SFSS and the international student community at SFU had written a letter on the matter and was currently awaiting the formal response being drafted by SFU administrators. Within the letter, the SFSS had made four requests:

- To ‘grandfather’ in all currently enrolled international students at the current tuition free.
- A five-year freeze on international student tuition fees.
- Commitment to a comprehensive notification and consultation protocol relating to any changes to the tuition.

- Establishment of a degree completion fund – ensuring that current students who might otherwise not be able to complete their degree have the financial support to do so.

Beyond the letter, the SFSS was also engaged in a number of other initiatives. Council Chair Yang and the student union representatives have extended invitations to the SFU President, Vice President Academic, and AVP Students to address the undergraduate student population via Council. The SFSS was also connecting its members to the student representatives on decision-making bodies such as the Senate, and Board of Governors.

At the end of the three years of tuition increases, there would be a 30% international increase compared to 6% compared to domestic increases. As such, questions were raised around caps on tuition. The province has a cap on domestic tuition and mandatory fees, however university costs are not capped at 2% as well; this places a budgetary pressure on the university. Without a legislative cap, international student tuition fee has more flexibility in narrowing budgetary gaps for the university. SFU has considered how it receives through provincial grant, as non-citizens do not receive a grant from the province. Additionally, it has to take into consideration overall costs, and providing access to infrastructure paid for by the taxpayers of British Columbia. The university is trying to consider the costs across the country, as other institutions are also facing increases. A member indicated dissatisfaction, citing that international students were also taxpayers and students were not expecting this.

Questions were raised on why 30% was selected despite university cost increases not reaching this level. It was indicated that the university faced an overall budget shortfall and the goal was to price the tuition in such a way to ensure continued or enhanced services, or cut services and programmes at the university.

Alternative solutions were sought by the membership to alleviate the funding gap, although this cause issues for any financial modeling.

Financial Aid and Awards has received additional funding as part of the tuition increases, and additional funding has been put forth to recruit international students who may not otherwise consider SFU as an option. Approximately \$1.5 million would be injected for this purpose. SFU was considering how it can identify students who were most in need of the assistance that the university could provide, particularly given differences in financial need documentation outside of Canada. Additionally, it was considering options to assist students who may not be able to prove financial need, such as job creation on campus. Degree completion funds were considered difficult to procure, although emergency funds were available for students in emergency.

In the past, as a result of rapid tuition increases, a commitment was made by the university to grandfather students into their tuition tier. The AVP Students expressed that such a commitment was administrative nightmare, and may cause issues in the future for students who spend significant time completing their degrees, when it was no longer feasible to continuing charging the grandfathered fee. Programming also faced difficulties in different amounts of funding. Given the inability for the university to grandfather students in, the injection into financial aid was seen as a suitable alternative. The university indicated that they were committed to transparency in the process. However, members expressed dissatisfaction at this prospect, pointing to arrangements being made at UBC to grandfather existing international students into their current tuition levels, thus allowing existing students to finish their degree without unforeseen increases to fees.

Concern was expressed by a member around the lack of broad consultation on the services and areas of funding coming from the increases to tuition. It was expressed that discussions were conducted with some student society directors and international student leaders, and that dialogue would be useful in framing how services would be allocated.

In analyzing the impact of fee increases, it was expressed that no broad trends were found in the two to three years without any fee increases, although there was an overall increase of international students at institutions across the country. Additionally, the partnership with Fraser International College provided a pathway to enter the university for students who may not have the prerequisite skillset to immediately enter SFU.

\$1.5 million was being earmarked for student support services for international students, however such services benefitted both domestic and international students. International Services for Students supports both international students during their time in Canada and domestic students pursuing study-abroad. Health and Counseling Services supports mental health initiatives for all students. All of these also recognize that international students benefit from services supported by domestic student funding. Further, SFU has invested in EAL (English as an additional language) and other programming through funding outside of the tuition fee increases.

Questions were raised around the notification process from the university around the tuition increases. There were questions whether students were expected to look up the fee increase themselves on an annual basis to determine whether tuition fee increases were incoming. One of the major ways the university addresses the issue is through the budget consultation process. There are sessions on each campus, and typically student leaders are aware and do attend, although the SFSS has expressed interest in better notification and an online consultation process.

Student input had been received through budget consultation, and through the SFSS and GSS. Typically, the BOG has been aware of the concerns of the community, and makes decisions based on broader plans, including programmes to support students affected by tuition fee increases.

At SFU, international students are not charged differential fees at the graduate level. The university has looked into the matter several times, and recognizing recruitment of graduate students is complex and it was felt that increasing fees would require increased corresponding support. In the AVP's understanding, international graduate students would not have access to the international undergraduate student funded financial aid.

Question was raised as to why it was important for the university to be in a comparable position to other universities. The university reviewed tuition fees for institutions across the country and across the world on an annual basis to determine its own tuition fee standing, amongst a number of other factors. This was to ensure that the value of the educational product remained competitive.

The BC Government has instituted a \$25 million cut across the higher education sector, which resulted in a \$2.5 million cut from SFU.

Questions were raised around alternatives to financing the cut. The university was legislatively capped in the majority of fees, and SFU could not borrow funds as a result of its listing as a

Government Reporting Entity. SFU has sought to remove itself from this status in order to allow to better finance some projects, including providing support for Build SFU. In addition, a number of fees could not be increased, even if the hard costs are higher (ex. Field school tuition compared to actual costs). Fees are proportionally to market pricing for comparable services. SFU cannot borrow funds for services and maintenance. A portion of the increase would also be going towards services for international students, which are services which are likely to be cut if fees were not increased.

Questions were raised around the opportunity for SFU to engage the world through international funding towards international students. In Canada, higher education is under the purview of the provincial government, which impacts the tuition fee changes. It was expressed that statements of principle from UNESCO and the UN around accessibility of tertiary education tended to do little in tangible support for institutions. The university continued to help students find funding opportunities, such as government sponsorship of international students.

Local students are often students choosing to go to a prestigious university for a lower cost than moving elsewhere. A councilor indicated that it was desire to ensure that SFU could still fulfill its function for the local student population.

During the budget consultation, there was a section in options on how to offset fees. Questions were raised around whether alternatives were considered. AVP Students was not aware of any new opportunities to offset the increases to tuition. The Administration viewed the tuition increased as the best possible option. There were no plans for further subsequent tuition fee increases after the three years of increases, although the continued 2% increase for inflation would continue.

The university was accountable to students and to the province and taxpayers. The university want international student, and wanted domestic students to engage in an internationalized student experience. SFU continues to be highly ranked across the spectrum in this regard.

There was a request to put forward a motion at the Board of Governors meeting to cap tuition for international students. The membership was reminded that the BOG Student representative could be contacted with a request for bring forth such a motion.

Students asked for transparency in the timeline for tuition increases and the types of services available to offset the increases, pointing to issues of students not knowing where fee increases were being sourced from. The University has tried, for both international and national students, to provide orientation and informational programming. Departments conduct outreach on its services. It was expressed that the university faced difficulty in communicating services that where not needed immediately by new students, but would be needed in the future.

Members expressed a desire to review the reasoning for the tuition increases and a detailed explanation of where the increased funding would be allocated towards. The membership understood the need for increased university funding, but exact numbers on percentage spending for services and rational would provide better information for students. The AVP indicated that the university was audited on an annual basis.



The AVP wished to focus on the amount of money being spent on students at SFU, as the increased tuition amount was significantly lower than the services available to the student body.

UBC uses Vantage College to generate additional revenue. Questions were raised around funds raised through the FIC partnership. In reply, the AVP indicated that the FIC/SFU arrangements were very different from that pursued by UBC, and that revenue generated from the partnership allowed the university to deal with funding gaps in services and maintenance, which was of interest to the entire university community.

Further questions could be directed to the SFSS Board of Directors. A followup email would be sent to all members in attendance.

**b. Residence Issues – Louis Riel and Affordable Student Housing**

Council had brought concerns to the current state of affordable housing at the university. Louis Riel will have to be replaced in the future as a result of mould and other issues. Clarity was sought on the timeline for construction of a replacement building, its design, and target demographic. SFU was currently assessing Louis Riel with respect to mould, which was different from any other building as a result of water ingress caused by the building design, as well as the age of the building. Louis Riel replacement was currently being considered through a partnership with UniverCity to build low-end market housing. The hope was to create a serviceable building in an apartment-style, given different family structures. A suitable lot had been identified within UniverCity and efforts were underway to pursue the project. The developer would build the new building and turn it over to SFU to manage, with a percentage of revenue generated being remitted to the developer. The hope was to open the new building prior to closing Louis Riel.

Questions were raised around Maintenance Requests. An example was provided where significant populations of students within a building were unable to access showers. Silverfish and moths were identified within the accommodations on campus but not being prioritized by SFU maintenance. Facilities Management was the sole contractor for such issues at SFU, and members were invited to advocate on their issues to the department. The AVP requested that students followup with the university should their maintenance needs not be met, such that the university can deal with Facilities management and find solutions or provide information to affected students.

Questions were raised around immediate action from SFU, given issues of the conditions of heating, silverfish and mould, and the resulting living condition and health impacts for SFU students. Facilities requests are often ignored as well, and efficiency in dealing with issues. It was expressed that older buildings had different issues from newer ones. The AVP expressed that SFU was committed to the health and wellbeing of its students, and testing was being conducted on Louis Riel. There was no desire to have students health and safety impacted by the actions of the university. Aesthetics of buildings were secondary.

Immediate plan for Louis Riel was to relocate any units with air quality issues into one that had already been tested and cleared. The goal was to remediate all units to ensure adequate capacity for students. New students were not being admitted into Louis Riel to units were available for

existing residences. The university has yet to have to move a student into another building, but has facilitated moves between units.

Questions were raised around the lack of information being made available to the remainder of the student population. SFU has been communicating directly with students living on residences that are affected and hosting meetings to address issues. Administrators responsible for Residences could also answer questions.

Corners of the Towers residences had water ingress issues. These were separate issues from a building erected in 1966 with longer issues, and could be dealt with at a faster rate.

Members raised questions around the increasing residence costs, which compounded with the increasing international student tuition fees. It was indicated that the university Board of Governors approved market-level fees for all residences, and an independent third party consultant considers the locations and quality of residences and advises the university on the market level cost. The increased funding was necessary to do both preventative and remedial work.

Residence Dining Hall capacity – capacity has been raised as an issue at peak time. There has been considerable success in raising the quality of food in residences with favorable pricing. SFU has been working with food service provider to consider options available to the student body.

The AVP Students thanked the members for their questions. They indicated that they have heard the concern around residences and international tuition, and will continue to work to ensure residences are healthy and safe, and expressed that the community was of utmost priority.

#### **4. Elections, Appointments, Resignation and Excuses**

##### **a. Ratification of Regrets**

*Excuses or regrets will be kept track of by the chair of council. Missing two meetings in a row without sending excuses (that are approved) will result in the removal from Council.*

#### **MOTION COUNCIL 2014-11-26:02**

Saroya

*Be it resolved to ratify the regrets from:*

Business..... Jessica Gutierrez (*family issue*)  
Interactive Arts and Technology..... Amanda Poh (*work commitment*)  
Faculty Representative (Sciences) .....Deepak Sharma (*volunteering*)

**CARRIED**

##### **b. Appointments to Council**

#### **MOTION COUNCIL 2014-11-26:03**

Jovanovic

*Be it resolved to ratify the appointment of the following Councilors:*

Arts and Social Sciences.....Andy Untawala\*

**CARRIED**

**5. New Business**

**c. Fall 2014 Referendum Result Ratification**

**MOTION COUNCIL 2014-11-26:04**

Lee

Be it resolved that the results for the Fall 2014 Referendum be ratified:

Do you approve establishing the Business Administration Student Society (BASS) as the Faculty Student Union (FSU) of the Beedie School of Business as of 2015-01-01?

**Passed**

Are you in favour of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) being established as the Faculty Student Union (FSU) for the Faculty of Science as of 2015-01-01?

**Passed**

**CARRIED**

**6. Adjournment 6:31pm**