

Call to Order – 4:34 pm, September 30, 2015 | Forum Chambers

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Council acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, which included the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Musqueam, Stó:lo, and Tsleil-Waututh people to the current knowledge of the Society.

2. Roll Call of Attendance

Student Union Representatives

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

Archeology	Cameron Pollock
Behavioral Neuroscience	Alysha Damji
Biology	Wade Vanderwaal***
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology	Jake Kemp
Business	Daniel Love
Business	Ashley Chan
Business	Chancey Wu
Chemistry	Jordan Chia***
Cognitive Science	
Communications	Kelly Furey
Computing Science	Mircea Ioan Taras
Criminology	Erwin Kwok
Dance	Elise Kronquist***
Earth Science	
Economics	
Education	David Lee***
Education	
Engineering Science	Melissa Mosavi***
English	
Environmental Resource	Grayson Barke***
Environmental Science	
French	
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	Kaayla Ashlie
Geography	Jordan Catton***
Health Science	Elena Jiang Su
History	
Humanities	
Interactive Arts and Technology	Matthew Fong
International Studies	Alicia Blimkie
Labour Studies	
Linguistics	Eric Hedekar***
Mathematics	Charles Turo
Mechatronics System Engineering	Sterling Wiseman
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Marija Jovanovic
Operations Research	
Philosophy (<i>chair</i>)	Karen Abramson
Physics	
Psychology	Stephanie Ly
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)	Tomas Rapaport
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Arjan Mundy

Sociology and Anthropology	
Statistics and Actuarial Science	Adelaide Wu***
Sustainable Community Development	
Theaters	
Visual Arts	
World Literature.....	Pardeep Barn
Constituency Group Representatives	
First Nations Student Association (FNSA)	
International Student Group (ISG)	Declan Tran
Out on Campus Collective (OOC).....	
Residence Hall’s Association (RHA)	Mohammed Ali
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	
Students United for Disability Support (SUDS)	Tony Janolino (<i>late</i>)
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	Anjali Biju
Society Staff	
SFSS Directors (non-voting)	
Vice President Student Life	Deepak Sharma
At-Large Representative	Curtis Pooghkay
Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences).....	Arr Farah
Faculty Representative (Education)	Melissa Lee
Society Staff	
Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator	Pierre Cassidy
Student Union Organiser.....	Antonio Daling
Minute Taker	Dion Chong
Guests	
Member	Edward Ning
Regrets	
Management System Science	Nic Bacani (<i>illness</i>)
Political Science	David Lu (<i>employment</i>)

3. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION COUNCIL 2015-09-30:02

Ali

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted.

Added: SFU Proposed Tuition Increases

CARRIED AS AMENDED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION COUNCIL 2015-09-30:03

Ali

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-07-29 and 2015-09-16

CARRIED

5. Guest Speakers/Presentations

a. Advocacy Committee—BC Open Textbook Campaign

The Arts and Social Sciences Representative

The Advocacy Committee formed a working group to lower the costs for college and university textbooks through supporting the expansion and adoption of open textbooks coordinated through BC Campus. There are currently 17 Open Educational Resources [OERs] available, with none currently adopted at SFU. A number of other universities have already adopted a number of the OERs for classroom use.

The working group had been pursuing the #TextbookbrokeBC campaign during the beginning of the semester with bookmarks on the campaign handed out to students exiting the book store. The WG was now determining next steps for the campaign, including continued collaborations with the UBC Alma Mater Society to develop Open Access Week, which would include speakers and opportunities to push towards more greater adoption of OERs at all post-secondary institutions.

Councilors were asked to circulate information regarding the campaign to their membership, as well as signing and circulating the petition. Further, interested members could also attend the meetings of the Working Group or those of the Advocacy Committee. Finally, students could assist in addressing the limited support from faculty by bringing up the matter with instructors and with academic departments.

Clarification was provided that the Open Textbook Campaign was separate from the 'SFU Reads' program SFU Reads would have required students to pay a mandatory fee with their tuition fees to access electronic copies of all of their courseware, while Open Education Resources are freely available to all. The SFU Read program was brought to Advocacy Committee in the past, but the Student Society was not in favour of a mandatory fee to access textbooks.

Janolino entered at 4:48pm

Questions arose around the reasoning behind professors not supporting the initiative. It was expressed that professors often receive kickbacks from publishers for writing for and for using certain textbooks, which may not be a desirable culture to cultivate. Upon further enquire, it was expressed that more information was likely available online.

6. 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 2015-09-30:04

Jovanovic

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets from:

Management System Science Nic Bacani (*illness*)
Political Science David Lu (*employment*)

CARRIED

b. Appointments to Council

MOTION COUNCIL 2015-09-30:05

Ali

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

Biology Wade Vanderwaal

Chemistry	Jordan Chia
Dance	Elise Kronquist
Education	David Lee
Engineering Science	Melissa Mosavi
Environmental Resource.....	Grayson Barke
Geography.....	Jordan Catton
Linguistics.....	Eric Hedekar
Statistics and Actuarial Science	Adelaide Wu

CARRIED

c. Appointment to Society Committees

The Criminology Councilor provided an overview of the Advocacy Committee’s role and the various advocacy areas which were being pursued.

MOTION COUNCIL 2015-09-30:06

Taras

Be it resolved to appoint Elena Jiang Su to the vacant Councilor seat on the Advocacy Committee

CARRIED

7. Committee Updates from Council Representatives

d. Advocacy Committee—Federal Election

The Criminology Councilor provided information on the upcoming federal election on behalf of the Advocacy Committee. The committee recognized that youth voting turnout has been a substantial issue and was seeking to encourage students to participate in the democratic process. The Committee has been working with some non-profit organizations to support outreach efforts.

The Committee would be hosting an all candidate debate 2015-10-02, with all candidates in the Burnaby North-Seymour riding invited (all accepted and would be attending except the candidate from the Conservative Party of Canada).

8. New Business

a. Formation of Working Group—Budget Allocation

The Council had a budget of \$1,500 for the current fiscal year, and a working group was being sought to determine the most effective use of the funds.

Farah and Pooghkay left at 5:01pm

Question arose of whether there would be equal representation of faculties to ensure that the funds would be used appropriately for the enjoyment of all. It was expressed that the working group was open to all Councilors and would have no decision making authority. They would only bring forward a recommendation for Council to consider.

The Board of Directors has provided Council with a budget as part of the Society’s yearly budgeting process—the Council would determine on its own the best way to make use of the budget. The Council had the authority to spent the budget as they saw fit. It was expressed that the remainder of the Society’s budget was unnecessary to consider, as the funding was already

available. Audited financial statements are available to the membership if they had an interest in reviewing the SFSS finances.

Orientation for Council had been absorbed into the Student Union Resource Office department, and as such the Council continued to have the full amount available for the fiscal year. It was recommended that Council conduct a fall semester orientation to support new councilors. The orientation would not be mandatory.

It was raised that the options would be discussed by the working group.

MOTION COUNCIL 2015-09-30:07

Jovanovic

Be it resolved to strike a budget allocation working group

CARRIED

9. Discussions

a. Advocacy Initiative—Time to Graduation

Member Ning, a computing science student affiliated with OpenSFU (a student initiative to create a better version of SIS), Dota2 Club, and C-LAN, provided a presentation on the issue of time to graduation for SFU students.

- Students understood the issues which arise each semester during course selection time
- A substantial number of students currently self report within SIS that they are unable to access all the courses that they need
- The average student takes 5.36 years to complete a degree at SFU, from the time they are admitted to the time they complete their credential. 30% of SFU students graduate within 4 years, with 64% students taking over 7 years.
- 50% of students at SFU are considered part-time students (under 9 credits)
 - This may be caused by pursuit of employment and extracurricular opportunities, or simply a desire for a slower pace in their education
- Faculties and departments often provide suggested schedules which are based on a 4 year degree completion. As courses are planned around such a theoretical schedule, deviation can substantially impact students.
- No central authority schedules classes, which can result in course conflicts.
- The Student Information System has been an suboptimal system, with no degree planner, and no long term course offering schedule. The system also does not collect data on course popularity.
- Ideally, students may wish to determine whether the lengthy graduation time was acceptable to students at SFU.
 - While some SFU staff are aware of the issue, they lack resources and information they need.
- Students interested in additional information were directed to the SFU Institutional Research and Planning department.

With the presentation concluded, question period was opened to the Council

- A councilor raised that certain courses are determined by the department while others are determined by the faculty. As such, it may be desirable to look towards faculties for more information.

- A councilor expressed interest in requesting that the Board of Directors request information from the university regarding the potential replacement of the Student Information System/SIMS.
- The Executive Director met with the SFU Registrar today—particularly with concern around data on students between various campuses— and more information would be available soon.
- SIS was overhauled in the early 2000's, and is also used for Human Resources and legal affairs at the university. It would be a substantial project to undertake. Compared to Canvas, which only impacts students and professors.
 - The Registrar was currently looking into a wholesale replacement of the system, while OpenSFU has also been working towards supporting such endeavors.

Cassidy and Daling left at 5:28pm

- SIS was enhanced recently with a course shopping cart to allow for bulk course registration.
- It is important to poll students to determine reasons why students take longer to complete their degree, as reasons could vary substantially.
- The end goal of this would be to push towards some advocacy campaign for improvements on this front.

b. SFU Proposed Tuition Increases

In the previous year, President Chardaye Bueckert and the Advocacy Committee lobbied the University to ensure that students were consulted and informed when tuition increases were proposed by the university administration, particularly in light of the 10% increases to international student tuition which occurred for the past three years. This resulted in the creation of a university policy which required SFU to email all students when tuition increases were proposed. Currently, provincial legislation caps domestic tuition increases to 2% to account for inflation. While the Bank of Canada has been targeting a 2% inflation rate, actual inflation rate may deviate from this target.

A consultation process would be hosted by the SFSS, the Graduate Student Society, and the SFU administration. All three stakeholders were at the table and the university would be justifying themselves on the increases to tuition.

Another email would be circulated amongst all undergraduates soon to announce the venue for a larger scale student consultation on 2015-10-29.

In the previous year, consultation was conducted by the university and Council with international students, which resulted in a formal letter being drafted and sent to the university on the matter. Similar actions could be taken by the Council this year.

Concern was expressed that, like the previous year, the consultation session was scheduled to conflict with periods where many exams generally land, thus posing a barrier to student participation.

The SFSS could also create a system to collate student comments and complaints, or an independent townhall. The Council was reminded that student input would be extremely important as the SFSS and GSS would both be submitting comments and speaking to the budget proposal at a meeting of the SFU Board of Governors.

All councilors were asked to poll their respective memberships on this issue.

10. Announcement

a. Students United for Disabilities—Disability Awareness Week

Disability Awareness Week was being planned from October 19 to 23. The week would include workshops and presentations from groups such as SFPIRG, OOC, and external organizations to create more accessible spaces on campus and enhancing independent living for students with disabilities. Further, discussions would ensue around the objectification of peoples with disabilities. Tabling opportunities were still open for groups with an interest in these issues.

b. Mechatronics System Engineering—Pub Crawl – swiseman@sfu.ca

MSESS was planning a pub crawl and offered opportunities for other student groups to participate or potentially cohost the event. Tickets were currently set for \$20, which would cover entry into four pubs and a drink at each.

Questions arose from Councilors around the lack of a report on Board activities from the Council Liaison to the Board during the summer semester. The Council Liaison (The councilor from Philosophy) indicated that they would provide one at the next meeting.

11. Attachments

12. Adjournment 5:44pm

Time to Graduate

IS SIX YEARS OKAY?

About Me

- ▶ Computing science student
- ▶ Founder of SFU DOTA2 Club, C-LAN
- ▶ Contributor to OpenSFU

Course Enrollment

SFU Confessions July 24 · 🌐

#8728

lyyk dis if u cri alwaz

Message	Status
Error: Class 5334 is full. If a wait list is available, click Add Another Class to return to step 1. Click the class link, select the wait list option and resubmit your request.	✖

Like Comment Share

151 people like this. Top Comments ▾

SFU Confessions July 28 · 🌐

#8755

This is how I imagine everyone during open enrolment



Like Comment Share

Jeff Fu and 209 others like this. Top Comments ▾

Getting what you want

3. How successful are the students in getting all the courses they want?

The success rate of students registering for the courses they want has fluctuated for both Fall and Spring terms over the last three years (see Table 3), with rates around 57 – 62%. The success rate in the Spring term increased by 2% from 2009 to 2010, but dropped by 4% from 2010 to 2011. A similar pattern occurs for Fall terms over the last three years.

Table 3:

	Spring			Fall		
	1091	1101	1111	1097	1107	1117
Responded to Part 1	7,940	7,730	8,278	9,654	9,150	8,626
Part 1: Yes	4,678	4,713	4,701	5,697	5,687	4,929
Success Rate	58.9%	61.0%	56.8%	59.0%	62.2%	57.1%

End result?

9. Graduation Rate of Simon Fraser University Undergraduates

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Four (4) Year Graduation Rate	34%	35%	36%	33%	30%
Seven (7) Year Graduation Rate	65%	69%	66%	67%	64%

10. Time to SFU Baccalaureate Degree Completion (by SFU Completion Year)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
All Completers:					
Average Years to Complete Degree	4.41	4.42	4.42	4.44	4.50
Average Semesters to Complete Degree	13.22	13.27	13.27	13.31	13.50
Completers Admitted from Secondary:					
Average Years to Complete Degree	5.31	5.31	5.40	5.31	5.36
Average Semesters to Complete Degree	15.94	15.94	16.19	15.92	16.08
Completers Admitted from Post-Secondary:					
Average Years to Complete Degree	3.50	3.52	3.42	3.51	3.54
Average Semesters to Complete Degree	10.49	10.55	10.25	10.52	10.60

Time to Graduate

11. Time to SFU Graduate Degree Completion . The number of semesters to complete the degree is a simple count of the semesters from admission to graduation, including semesters of non-registration. For students who transferred between masters and doctoral programs within the same department, the time to completion is calculated based on entry into the earlier program. Completion year is based on fiscal year in which the degree was awarded. Special Arrangements students are excluded..

Observations

- ▶ **Average** graduation time of nearly **six years** from admission
- ▶ Why do people take so long to graduate?
- ▶ Are people happy with this statistic?

Possible factors

- ▶ Part-time status
- ▶ Poor scheduling optimization
- ▶ Insufficient planning resources

Part-time status

3. Undergraduate Headcount	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Full-time	13,833	14,911	14,761	15,001	14,825
Part-time	14,644	14,786	15,330	15,034	15,357
Total Undergraduate Headcount	28,477	29,697	30,091	30,035	30,182
Headcount of New Undergraduate Admits to SFU	7,377	7,447	6,807	6,780	7,129

The numbers represent unique headcounts for the full fiscal year.

Part-time status (Cont.)

10

- ▶ Pursuing extracurricular activities
- ▶ Working to pay for tuition
- ▶ Wish to go at a slower pace

Poor Course Scheduling by SFU

- ▶ Faculty's suggested schedules may not reflect reality
- ▶ Courses frequently conflict with each other
- ▶ No central authority to schedule classes

Poor Planning Resources

- ▶ SIS
- ▶ No degree planner – What to take?
- ▶ Often no long-term course offering schedule
- ▶ No data on course popularity

What to do about it?

More information is needed

Raise Awareness

- ▶ Find out how students feel about the time to graduation
- ▶ Learn more about what students what
- ▶ Determine whether the current situation is acceptable to students
- ▶ Gather more information on student's course scheduling habits
- ▶ Provide information needed for SFU to revise their policies if needed

Sources:

- ▶ http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/departments/sfu_tables.pdf
- ▶ http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/courses/coursefullturnway/Report_1091%20-%201117.pdf