

Call to Order – 3:33 pm, January 19, 2015 | Executive Conference Room

**1. Roll Call of Attendance**

**Committee Composition**

President (*chair*)..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Vice President Student Services ..... Zied Masmoudi  
Vice President External Relations ..... Darwin Binesh  
Vice President Student Services ..... Kayode Fatoba (*late*)  
Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi

**Society Staff**

Build SFU General Manager..... Marc Fontaine  
Communications Coordinator..... Stijn Daenens  
Executive Director..... Colleen Knox  
Student Union Organiser..... Antonio Daling  
Minute Taker ..... Dion Chong

**Guests**

**Regrets**

Vice President Finance..... Adam Potvin

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION EXEC 2015-01-19:01**

Masmoudi/Amended Kopahi

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.*

*SGM Discussion added*

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**MOTION EXEC 2015-01-19:02**

Kopahi

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-12-18*

**POSTPONED TO NEXT EXEC**

**4. Ratification of Regrets**

**MOTION EXEC 2015-01-19:03**

Binesh

*Be it resolved to ratify the regrets of:*

Vice President Finance..... Adam Potvin (*family emergency*)

**CARRIED**

**5. Unfinished Business**

**a. Special General Meeting**

Nearly all preparations for the Special General Meeting are complete. A significant number of information packages and voting cards have been printed, above and beyond space capacity to ensure that all members in attendance will have access.

6 staff members would be responsible for member registration. SFU Meeting, Event, and Conference Services [MECS] will provide three laptops, while the Society will furnish the other three. The EXEC was reminded that student lists should always remain on the USB drives provided, as university computers wipe all data after each session. Due to issues with SFU wifi, Google Drive may not be a suitable alternative.

Important announcements to be circulated tomorrow – Locations of SFU Surrey and Vancouver livestream rooms, as well as eligibility details for voting. Executives were asked to circulate this information on Facebook. Student Union Organiser and At-Large Representative Pearce were tasked to provide accessibility assistance.. Copy Centre Retail Assistant will be monitoring Vancouver livestream space, and Surrey Campus Coordinator for Surrey livestream space. Staff have been reminded of the administrative side closure for the duration of the SGM, as well as the task assignments for the day of the event

SFSS and SGM Facebook pages – Communications Coordinator monitors occasionally, but Communications Assistant would be reviewing any posts over Tuesday and Wednesday. Build SFU staff continues to monitor the page for concerns.

Executive Officers indicated that they had been speaking to classes and canvassing multiple campuses, as well as communicating with previous club and student union executives to encourage promotion of the SGM through their well-developed networks.

It was raised that the Board should be fully prepared to summarize discussions which take place at the SGM and explain the ramifications of voting yes and voting no on all motions on the agenda. It was desired to clear up misconceptions around the meaning of the debenture question (i.e. Build SFU as a project would end if the vote was no), particularly since a no vote would simply delay the project and result in cost overages. The Build SFU website had been updated with financial information, including lending institution name and approximate interest rate given market fluctuations. This information had been provided through campus media outlets, and the Vice President Student Services would endeavor to clear up misconceptions during continued SGM outreach.

Members have raised concern around the Build SFU levy coinciding with increasing international student tuition fees from the university.

Further concerns have been raised around whether the Society had been seeking opportunities to mitigate costs, such as through advancement. However, advancement is typically conducted by professionals and requires a long term investment which in itself was risky, given require funding for both the advancement team contract and the building simultaneously. Build SFU had sent requests for proposals to fundraising professionals in the past, and based on the proposals and high costs associated with any such investments (without guarantee for returns), the Society opted not to seek advancement at the time. At this stage, the project has not progressed to a stage where advancement could be sought. The Society would likely continue to seek advancement opportunities in the future.

Substantial work has been done in this regard, but there are limitations and the Vice President External Relations would be prepared to answer any question

A number of members have expressed dismay that students were paying for the building entirely. The Board was to be prepared to provide examples of other unions where this was the case (UBC's current and previous student union building projects, as well as stadium seating project), although Executives were warned to avoid drawing from examples of Ontarian or American schools, where systems were entirely different. Further, the Board had an opportunity

to bring up the issue of core institutional funding cuts at the provincial level that has resulted in an inability for the university to even repair current buildings, much less build new ones. As such, the Student Society has had to take matters into their own hands. The SFSS continues to push for further provincial funding for postsecondary education, and demand governmental accountability.

EXEC was reminded that an amendment to the Bylaw Addition motion would be proposed to provide a specific number and name to the bylaw (Bylaw 23 – Student Society Fees).

The SGM team was prepared to deal with a request for secret ballot vote by simple majority vote, but such a request would be problematic in such a space to ensure that each member only receives a single ballot. Such a process would likely take upwards of 30 minutes.

Food and Beverage Services plebiscite – campaign materials have been produced and distributed at campus events, enumerating the benefits of the FBS. The union has been producing such materials and encouraging students to participate in the SGM.

The Vice President Finance (FBS finances) and the Vice President Student Services (informative benefits of FBS) had planned to speak to the material, and would present the matter in an impartial manner, with an explanation of the reasons such information was being provided. President could also provide a summary/conclusion to facilitate the opinion poll.

At present, the Board of Directors has not taken a position on FBS operations, and there are no plans moving forward regardless of the vote. Management consultant has indicated that it was to gauge the memberships opinion and individual members of board should not take a public stance on the issue.

Discussions ensued around the desirability for Board members to vote. EXEC recognized that board members, as members in good standing of the Society had the right to vote, and board members were elected on individual mandates. While board members participated in voting during the Annual General Meeting, concerns were raised regarding the impact that public stances of public figures would have on skewing votes (particularly given personal relationships members may have to the Student Society and to board members). Further, logistical questions ensued around how to deal with Faculty and At Large Members who wished to vote, as they were currently largely assigned as floor captains counting votes. While the Executive Committee could not make a decision on whether the Board should be allowed to vote, this presented logistical and optical issues.

**Action Item:** The President would send an email to the board to determine who wishes to be a floor captain. If they wish to vote on items at the AGM, they would be barred from being a floor captain.

Additional issues were raised around board members being prepared to motivate for agenda items, but may be abstaining from the vote. Although as hosts of the event, it would be a legitimate point for a board member not to vote, there was a desire to ensure that board members are not in a position where the validity of their vote is questioned. The President would review Roberts Rules for any such prohibition.

The Executive Committee reiterated that the employer has no plans to change FBS operations. This is simply a nonbinding plebiscite and there is no call to action within the motion. The Board has no formal position on the matter. The goal is simply to gauge the membership's opinion. Additionally, members have expressed interest during the AGM to discuss the matter.

The desire was for the membership provide an opinion on the matter philosophically, as opposed to being attached to a set of actions resulting from the vote.

**Actions Items:**

- Vice President External Relations will distribute an answer to questions of advancement and provide a summary of the discussions from EXEC.
- President will contact FARM regarding voting and role as floor captains, as well as research on motivating for a motion while abstaining.

**6. Executive Officer and Staff Updates**

**Executive Director**

- Cleaning desk – continued process of digitizing all documentation
- Research for collective bargaining
  - Finding rooms on the campus given space constraints at SFU
- Budget information around management and organizational structure
- Ongoing staffing relations
- Collation of all collective agreements for both admin and FBS sides since beginning of the organization
- Updating job description files
- Preparing for large number of incoming hiring committees

**Communications Coordinator**

- Working on SFU's Got Talent
- Going through a list of tasks from the President
  - Revisiting board goals
- Engaging staff and resource office staff on budgeting process.
  - Ensuring that contractual needs are taken care of in order to avoid unforeseen budget increase requests.
- Last minute SGM matters

**President**

- Scheduling of EXEC was difficult but has been completed.
- Ongoing collective bargaining – session restart after SGM.
- Preparing to chair SGM – taking care of possible issues and scenarios
- Continued advocacy work in the following areas
  - Open textbook campaign
  - Regional transit referendum
  - International student fee increases
  - Issues on Residences - met with Residence Hall Association President.
- Advising SFU on SFU's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign.
  - Last chance for SFSS to provide input on role and any potential holes in programming plan.
  - Reached out to Out on Campus and Women's Centre to consider programming, given their rich histories on campus.

- Looked to Communications Office to provide throwbacks Thursdays and flashbacks Fridays opportunities.
- Surrey food bank expansion continues to be an issue – matter had be escalated to Safeway national office.
- Submission to NEB on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline
  - Submission deadline has been moved to 2015-09-01
  - Environment Representative meeting with stakeholders. ADV has a working group to prepare the submission. Callout for volunteers would occur soon to engage community interest and expertise.
- AP-11 childcare policy work continues.

### **Student Union Organiser**

- Continued work with council and student unions, providing training.
- Student unions are now approaching the Society for academic advocacy support.
- Co-Curricular Record – progress continues, with a trial run being conducted for some student unions
  - Questions around whether the board would like to be recognized as well.
  - 2 sets of verifier – general (attending nuts and bolts, attend DSU meetings, contribute at least 6 hours in event planning etc. ) and specific (ex. President completing tasks as per the constitution etc.) evaluated for each position on a semesterly basis.
  - At present, there are no workload issues as eligibility verification was opt-in. Additionally, many of the verifiers are already being collected by the Student Union Resource Office.

### **Vice President External Relations**

- Townhall series completed – very few participants with many good ideas
- Collective bargaining continues
- Special general meeting outreach
  - Meeting student groups
- Communications Work - enhancing the internal workings of the Communications Office
- Emails
- Classwork
- Advocacy Committee budgeting – much data entry. ADV allocated significant amounts of money recently.
- No time sensitive matters for the Constitution and Policy Review Committee

### **Build SFU General Manager**

- SGM Logistics
- Legal agreements have been put on hold since December as a result of SGM focus
- Commitment letter for financing - bank updated two parts of the letter.
- The board will host an emergency meeting immediately after the SGM.
- Partial surrender of lease – SFU has agreed to pay any applicable tax for the surrender amount

- Money has already been spent to pay for working drawings.

#### **Minute Taker**

- Committee applications have been extremely slow. Board members and staff were requested to recommend students to apply

#### **Vice President University Relations**

- SGM outreach – meeting one on one with members and contacting previous club and student union executives.
- Participation in hiring committees.
- Finishing assigned committee tasks.
- Enhancing Vice President University Relations portfolio to provide more transitional support for future individuals in the position.
- Progress report will be completed after SGM

#### **Vice President Student Services**

- Special General Meeting planning
- Concert paperwork and contracts
  - Concert tickets to be on sale by next week
- Continuing discussions on the implementation and communications strategy for the Compass Card

#### **7. Adjournment 4:32pm**