Simon Fraser Student Society
Advocacy Committee Meeting
July 15, 2014 – Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

Call to Order – 12:32 pm, July 15, 2014 | MBC 2292

1. **Roll Call of Attendance**

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations *(chair)* ..... Darwin Binesh
Vice President Student Life (MSO *pro tem)* ..... Kayode Fatoba *(late)*
Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi
Board of Directors Representative ..... Tesicca Truong
Board of Directors Representative ..... Brady Wallace
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang
Councilor ..... Rahul Rajanala
Board of Governors Representative ..... *vacant*
Out On Campus Representative ..... *vacant*
Women's Centre Representative ..... Anjali Biju
Senate Representative ..... Athina Pilarinos
Student At-Large ..... Muhsin Suleiman
Student At-Large ..... Japreet Lehal

Society Staff

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

Guests

Board of Directors Representative ..... Ayla Kooner
Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) ..... Reagan Belan
Member ..... Arjan Mundy
Member ..... Nicole Dagenais

Regrets

Councilor ..... Ali Najaf

Absent

Councilor ..... Michael Fujiwara

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION ADV 2014-07-15:01

Truong

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended

Presentation from the TSSU added

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. **Ratification of Regrets**

MOTION ADV 2014-07-15:02

Kopahi

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Councilor ..... Ali Najaf

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2014-07-15:03

Truong
Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-06-24

CARRIED

5. Guest Speaker

a. **TSSU – Guard.me**

Guard.Me is a mandatory international student insurance plan and became active Spring 2013. It was designed to provide basic medical coverage for international students between their arrival in Canada and the commencement of BC MSP coverage, which made the automatic reenrollment puzzling. Although the TSSU recognized the good intentions, Guard.me costs were extremely expensive compared to comparable plans offered by other universities in the area. Unlike other plans, they do not assist in MSP enrollment. SFU receives 5% of premiums back, which the TSSU perceives as a backdoor tuition hike on international students who already are facing higher fees, particularly given automatic reenrollment.
In reviewing documents and contracts, graduate students can receive a partial refund if they opt out early, but undergraduates cannot. There were concerns from the TSSU that the wellbeing of international students was not being cared for by the university.
TSSU information binder was immense due to access requests that have not been processed yet, including the guard.me plan being the most expensive of the 4 proposed plans. The Committee thus requested a research report from the TSSU and would conduct a discussion at next ADV.
Belan left at 12:44pm

6. Committee Priority and Goal Setting

The Chair facilitated a goal setting session. Members proposed priority areas and assigned priority based on existing Society Issues Policies and other large areas.
Kopahi left at 12:49pm
Committee members introduced themselves and expressed excitement for the level of attendance at the meeting.
Fatoba entered at 1:00pm
The committee was reminded that, should they be passionate about a certain project outside the priority scope of the committee.

<u>Priority Areas as Identified by ADV 2014/2015</u>
In order of importance to committee members

1. Making the SFSS more accessible and more visible to the membership
    a. Student Society should be representing and providing services to the students, who should be made aware of the availability of such services
        i. Important given the proximity to Fall Semester and thus opportunities to engage with the membership in a powerful manner.
        ii. Informing students that they can walk into offices and request meetings, ask questions etc.
    b. Recognizing the multiple facets of society promotion

        i. Utilizing Events and Promotions Committee, Granting Committee, Accessibility Fund Advisory Committee, and other collaborations.
    c. More comprehensive and user-friendly website
    d. Promotion of student groups on campus
2. Improving voter turnouts at SFSS elections, as well as promoting voting in general (municipal/provincial/national)
3. IP-10 – Promotion of Public Transportation - Transit Advocacy
4. Course Selection – Academic Advocacy
5. Kinder Morgan/ Northern Gateway Tanker/Pipeline
6. Mental health
7. Sex Week
    a. Collaboration with Residence to promote safe sex, gender equality, gender norms and ideals, and sexual inclusivity in academic and professional world
8. IP-3 Differential Tuition Fees
9. IP-7 Funding Cuts
10. IP-6 BC Grants Programme
11. Food Bank Advocacy
12. Lobby Training
13. Tap SFU

ADV and ECOM were proposed to alternate timeslots in order to share resources and expertise in the Fall semester.
Action Item: The Vice President External Relations was to collate the priority areas and share the resulting document with the committee.

7. **Adjournment 1:29pm**

DC | CUPE 3338