

Call to Order – 2:31 pm, July 16, 2014 | MBC 2294

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Executive Officer (*chair*) Darwin Binesh
Board of Directors Member Shadnam Khan
Board of Directors Member Shirin Escarcha
Board of Directors Member Adam Potvin
Board of Directors Member Rebecca Langmead
Councillor Kathleen Yang
Student At-Large Michael Carbonnier (late)
Student At-Large

Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator Pierre Cassidy
Minute Taker Katie Mai

Guests

Board of Directors Member Deepak Sharma

Regrets

Councillor Melissa Lee

Absent

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:01

Potvin

Be it resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:02

Langmead

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Councillor Melissa Lee

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:03

Potvin

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-07-09

CARRIED

5. Goalsetting and Priority Settings

CRP Coordinator met with Financial Coordinators regarding how Society funds will be dispersed, spent, reported, and approved. Would like all Board and Society members to provide input on what services they would like to see provided by the Finance Coordinators (i.e. formally request Finance Coordinators to recommend a money motion instead of having individuals represent themselves at committee meetings.) Currently, most money

motions receive informal advice from the Finance Coordinators. By developing a policy, it creates a formal process instead of having a discussion at the Financial and Administrative Services Committee each time.

Agreed to re-discuss the proposed policy and financial process outside of meeting.

6. Business

a. New Policy: AP-44 Media Relations **MOTION CPR 2014-07-16:04**

Langmead

Whereas CPR tasked the Vice-President External Relations to conglomerate committee member recommendations for AP-44 into a single draft for committee review;

Be it resolved to recommend AP-44 as presented to the Board of Directors.

AP-44 has been edited for grammar, spelling, and has been looked over by committee members.

Changes made to Clause 1.a to state that the President would be the primary spokesperson of the Society rather than the Vice President of External Relations. The by-laws state that that is the function of the President.

Change made to Clause 2, which states where media inquiries will be forwarded.

Change made to Clause 3, which states that the responsibility of drafting messaging falls on the Communications Coordinator. The content will come from the Board of Directors.

Concerns raised around having all of the Society's messaging go through one individual, as there are different ways to speak on behalf of the SFSS. For example, each committee should be able to speak on behalf of what the committee has been doing without having to go through the Board of Directors.

That process was found to be a risk because no individual member of the Board of Directors has any authority outside of the Board. Outside of the Board, every Director is a Society member just as any member. All branches of the Society, including committees, represent the Society as a whole. If the Board feels comfortable delegating the task of representing the Society to individual members, it can be done, but the risk should be known.

Question raised around whether Directors should go to the Vice President of External Relations with their messaging, or to bring it to the Board of Directors. It was suggested to have a delegated authority approve the messaging and a well-trained person to filter it before it is released. This responsibility best fits the Communications professional's job description.

Concern raised around the amount of time needed to issue a public response if we followed this process, especially through modern means of communication (very rapid). It was brought up again that though it is more efficient to place the responsibility on one individual, there are possible consequences of the individual misrepresenting the Society. Often, if an external group is approaching the SFSS for a response, it will be for an opinion. If they wanted facts, they can find it through other means.

Requested clarification on the Vice President of External Relation's role. Understood that the VP External represents the Society with factual responses. In terms of developing a stance, the Board needs to give approval.

It was pointed out that every year's Board will be different, so CPR committee members should be mindful of what the best policy would be for diverse personalities.

Langmead

Be it resolved to postpone this motion until next week.

Be it further resolved to task the Vice-President Finance, in conjunction with the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator, to create a new draft.

CARRIED

b. Amendment: AP-20
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.*

Recommendation for the period of time between employment and election changed many times over the years.

President previously expressed concern that this recommendation contradicts SFSS by-laws by putting barriers to students by privileging those who do not need to work to pay their education and living expenses.

Action item: Committee members to read past minutes to familiarize themselves with last year's discussion around AP-20.

Question raised around what the risk is for a Staff member to run, especially since they would understand the Society better. Response was that it would create a grey area between the Union and the Board. For example, if a staff sits on the Bargaining Committee from the union side, and then is elected onto the committee as a Board member, the individual could act upon self-interests rather than represent the Board.

There was disagreement on whether that concern is valid, as there is not much inside information that Union members could have that would harm the Board of Directors. The risk of loss also needs to be considered: In a society with 9% votership, the loss of participation does not weigh out the possible disadvantage of having bargaining intents exposed. Board and Union intents are generally clear.

While it can be agreed upon that intents are clear on each side, the concern is not around the intents, but the actions of an individual in a position of power. The SFSS is moving into a more detached level of management with the creation of the Executive Director position. There is a history of differing interests regarding how to manage staff. With the changing governance, this might not be an issue over time.

Also brought up that this policy needs to extend to Food and Beverage staff as well. The information they have there could be different from what the office staff have here. In regards to Board members transitioning to Staff members, the risk is that a Board member could serve their own interest in bargaining by favoring union members, and then taking a position in the union.

At this point, this discussion does not take precedent because the second clause contradicts By-Law 15, which states that any student in good standing with the Society can run for a Board of Directors position. An attempt to change the duration would need to first change the by-law.

The purpose of the first clause is to avoid allowing a Board member favor a former Board member during the hiring of a staff position. The second clause contradicts the by-laws. It was discussed that the first clause makes sense, but the second clause should be struck so that one can be employed by the Society until they are elected. Will check to see that nothing in the Collective Agreement disallows this.

Sharma left at 3:26pm

CRP Coordinator recommends either voting the motion down, or amending the proposal to strike the second clause, then voting to recommend fixing it.

Suggestion rose to clarify AP-20.2, which says that 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.

CARRIED AS AMENDED.

7. Attachments

AP-20 Analysis.docx

AP-44 Media Relations draft.docx (from 2014-07-04, including fixes from CRP Coordinator)

8. Adjournment 3:34 PM

KM /CUPE 3338