

Call to Order – 9:34am, July 14, 2014 | MBC 2292

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

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

Society Staff

Build SFU General Manager..... Marc Fontaine
Campaigns, Policy, and Research Coordinator Pierre Cassidy
Communications Coordinator..... Stijn Daenens
Executive Director..... Colleen Knox
Minute Taker Dion Chong

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION EXEC 2014-07-14:01

Kopahi

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

Unfinished Business - Boddie Report added.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION EXEC 2014-07-14:02

Potvin

Be it resolved to approve the following minutes:

Exec-agenda-2014-07-07.pdf

CARRIED

4. Unfinished Business

a. Ohlala Mobile App

When requested, Ohlala had provided statistics from one American university. A number of Canadian Student Unions are listed as partners on the company website, however few of the universities actively promote the availability of the app, which resulted in committee confusion as to how the membership within those partner universities was finding the application. The Communications Coordinator attempted to contact multiple Canadian student unions listed as partners, none of which had replied, The company also employed extremely persistent sales tactics and had repeatedly contacted multiple executives and staff members within the Student Society.

The Executive was recommended to invest into the mobile website, and continue to investigate the feasibility of a mobile app. A free alternative app was considered. However, concerns were raised around exposure to advertising. Corporate affiliation policy needed to be considered, and the organization would have to conduct a discussion on advertising through online channels. The Board in the past had made a stance to avoid advertising through the SFSS website.

IT Services was planning to finance a similar centralized system with apps within 4 to 5 years, thus one member felt that it would be desirable to avoid creating multiple campus apps.

MOTION EXEC 2014-07-14:03

Potvin

Whereas the Executive Committee continues to find value in developing a mobile app but Ohlala did not fulfill the needs of the organization;
Be it resolved to task the Communications Coordinator to seek alternative mobile app developers.

CARRIED

b. Fixed Committee and Board Meeting Times

The President had requested a more even spread of committees to avoid back-to-back meetings. There was also a desire to avoid Mondays and Fridays to avoid missing meetings due to statutory holidays.

c. Boddie Report

Within the report, there was a perception that problems identified stemmed from a lack of understanding regarding the Society governance model. Solutions presented would be time and resource intensive. Overarching governance issues were being investigated by the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator with staff. A number of the recommendations were to be integrated through smaller policy initiatives rather than one mass policy change. Procedural manual was to be brought to the staff meeting the next day as a priority area.

Major Themes Identified within the Boddie Report

- The lack of training and expertise of the Board member were highlighted repeatedly in the report, while staff was hired to provide such expertise.
- Development of a 3 to 5 year strategic plan
 - May be problematic where an exiting board determines the priorities of an incoming board, similar to incumbent budgeting concerns.
 - CRP Coordinator planned to re-envision the orientation process with an overview of governance model and providing for a yearly strategic planning process conducted by the Executive Director
 - CRPC and ED were working on the development of orientation, and the strategic planning session was to be a trial run for the proposed orientation process.
- Development of code of conduct
 - In progress – Discussion occurred later in the meeting
- Student at-large appointment process
 - Although concerns had been raised internally on the matter in the past, the proposed solution was questioned
- Alumni positions
 - Proposed provision of voting seats for a period of 2 years in COMSERCOM and FASC to alumni with expertise in the fields
- Necessity for an Executive Director office and assistant

- Potential for a Subcommittee for a three year plan for implementation of organizational changes

Adjournment at 9:56am with the departure of the Build SFU General Manager and the Vice President Finance

Recalled at 9:59am with the arrival of the Vice President Student Life

The President would be in contact with Paula Boddie to potentially schedule a Board session, such that staff could have a session without Board presence given the contents of the report.

5. New Business

a. Student Union Development Summit – Hosting Other Student Unions

[MT Note: SUDS in the context of the discussion does not refer to the Students United for Disabilities Support (a constituency group within the SFSS), but the Student Union Development Summit (a conference organized by the UBC Alma Mater Society)]

University of Regina Student Union was interested in touring the SFU campus and speaking with SFSS Executives and discuss best practices while their executives were in the Vancouver area for SUDS. The opportunity existed for the Executive to extend an open invitation to other SUDS participants to visit SFU for an informal meet and greet, social, and discussions. SUDS participants in the past have expressed great interest in visiting SFU and the SFSS.

While the Executives were in favour of establishing open lines of communications, there were some concerns around scheduling given the intensity of event planning in August. However, the informal nature of the tours and the limited timeframe would allay such issues.

An Executive Officer proposed establishing a theme for the event in order to structure discussions.

It would be necessary to provide a presentation on the services offered by the Student Society. The Highland Pub may also be closed in August, which may impact how services are offered.

Action Item The President requested that the Executives confirm their availability, and would contact and provide an invitation to the University of Regina Student Union and SUDS Organizer to be forwarded to the attending universities.

b. Student Union Development Summit – Presentation Pitch

The SFSS had an opportunity to apply to become a keynote speaker during the conference. The application was due on August 3rd and the SFSS would be informed of the status of the application by August 13th.

In the previous years, SFSS delegates provided a presentation on operation of student society pubs, including events and services. Keynote events operated concurrently and SUDS participants were free to choose which presentation.

It may be desirable to provide a presentation only on topics that the Executives feel that the organization does exceptionally well, since it may be odd to provide best practices without having them tested. However, Student Unions may be seeking all alternative perspectives and their respective pros and cons, regardless of their successes and failures. The goal was not to sell the organization but to share tested practices and strategic directions.

Potential Topics of Discussion

- Youth voter engagement (in light of federal and municipal elections, integrating Elections Canada workshop information)
 - Given low voter turnout at the last general elections, concerns were raised around the topic.
- Student union policy and governance (may not be the most appealing topic despite its necessity)
- Building a Student Union Building.
- Effective orientation sessions
 - A majority of student unions were perceived to lack orientation programming for their Board of Director equivalents.
- Membership engagement and student life
 - SFSS success in development of social media presence
 - Modernization of processes – shift from newsletter to social media content.

There was a recommendation that the Executives attending SUDS should be the primary. AMS is organizing the entire conference and therefore there was a desire to step up and come up with an awesome workshop

Action item: As the committee was unanimously in favour of presenting, Executive Officers would provide the next EXEC with a draft presentation proposal.

c. Draft Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures

The CRPC was tasked to draft a code of conduct. However, the project was extensive given various board and referenda decisions over the years. Requirements of the various decisions already exist in the policy manual.

The creation of a code of conduct may be redundant as much of the information was sourced from existing policies and the Societies Act, although the code may provide for an opportunity to consolidate disparate conduct policies into a central document and delete a number of policies which would no longer be necessary.

Disciplinary procedures were the other half of the assignment. The proposed system was to be handled by Council, which would involve a shift in the power dynamics of the organization. CRPC would speak to the Student Union Organiser to consider the various interactions of the grassroots level prior to considering allowing Council the power to impact stipends etc. The Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator provided an overview of the proposed code of conduct and its sections.

Disciplinary measures would be impacted by discussion of the governance model.

Vice President Finance reentered 10:28pm

Breaches of Code of Conduct relating to staff and the Collective Agreement may need to be considered. AP-1 and R-6 and R-7 already provide the Council with power to consider Board Member Status, which would expand their responsibility and authority of Board oversight.

Concerns were raised around the ability of Council to handle the role of bpa

- It would be necessary to enhance the training process of Council, potentially including operating manuals etc., prior to implementation

- It will become necessary to create a stronger and more involved Council with greater understanding of the organizational governance for the disciplinary process to be successfully implemented
- The relationship and level of contact and dialogue between the Board and Council may have to be reconsidered.
 - The Board’s advisory body having the ability to discipline Board may become an area of contention
- Council attendance in the past was highlighted as an issue.
- Parallels were drawn to Council structures at other student unions which have impacted the ability of their Board of Directors to conduct projects.

Board being more clearly accountable to the membership through the Council may be a positive development with the introduction of such powers to the Council.

Extensive review of the organizational relations were necessary and the Executive Committee was requested to be involved in the process of consultation and consideration of how Department Student Unions, Faculty Student Unions, the Board of Directors, and the Council would interact in the future.

6. Attachments

OOHLALA_RES.pdf

2014_06_27_board_code_of_conduct.docx

7. Adjournment 10:40pm