

Call to Order – 2:32 pm, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 | MBC Atrium

**1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by SFSS president Humza Khan.

**2. Appointment of the Chair**

The members nominated and appointed a Chairperson for the General Meeting.

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:01**

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*Be it resolved that* Humza Khan be appointed as the chair of the 2013 SFSS annual general meeting.

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

An explanation of Roberts Rules was provided to the membership.

The meeting considered the agenda prepared by the Board of Directors. As the meeting did not reach quorum of 250 attendees, agenda items could not be amended.

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:02**

Tamayo/Thiara

*Be it resolved that* the agenda be adopted as presented.

In relation to the October 11<sup>th</sup> incident, an individual on the floor proposed a motion signed by 516 students requesting that:

*Simon Fraser Student Society...in order to develop and adopt a harassment and conflict policy and process similar to those put in place by other student unions/societies, taking place in a democratic oversight committee to meet no less than once a month....to be in session the meeting must contain a two-to-one student to staff faculty.... board members who have allegations of harassment against them cannot be involved in this process until their case has been resolved. The chair of the committee shall be an externally hired staff member. The SFSS board of Directors will act in good faith to make sure the policy is robust...furthermore, the SFSS Board of Directors will act in good faith to ensure the committee is adequately funded... the anti-harassment policy will be guided by the standards of the Human Right Act and the Employment Standards Act. This policy will concern any issues taking place fully...or in actions of a representative of SFSS...as a motion to be passed by vote before the end of this term....if not passed...brought back to forum until an absentee harassment policy....is adopted*

They further recognized the Constitution and Policy Review [CPR] Committee's existing work on such a policy and that as quorum was unmet, the proposal could not be considered.

Bueckert explained the work that the CPR Committee has been doing on drafting an antidiscrimination policy since the Summer of 2013, and that work was continuing in relation to changes in the British Columbia Worksafe Legislation. She further recognized the importance of the issue to the membership and the inclusion of feedback into the process

The individual declared that the point of the motion was not out of distrust of the individuals working on the committee, but that allegations against board members of harassment are being left to the board to determine appropriate action, which he felt was not appropriate and informal. He urged people to do something about this

Khan reiterated the board of directors' commitment to resolving the issue and invited all undergraduate students interested in policy to sit in the CPR meetings

**CARRIED**

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Copies of minutes from the previous AGM were available for consideration by members.

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:03**

Thiara/Girodat

*Be it resolved* that the minutes of the October 24, 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**5. Receipt of Report from Board of Directors and Treasurer**

A report was presented detailing the activities of the Board of Directors from October 24, 2012 to October 23, 2013.

The Student Society Treasurer provided an overview of the Student Society's finances from October 2012 through October 2013.

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:04**

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*Be it resolved* that the 2012- 2013 report from the board of directors be adopted.

Khan began introducing various board projects of the current year. He noted that notice has been served to the union to pursue bargaining for the collective agreement for Food and Beverage Services which expired in 2010.

Verzosa introduced the Hi-FIVE Movement as a campaign aimed at mental health perceptions on campus. To date, the movement has produced a video, diary campaign, and have outreaches and events planned. She invited anyone interested in getting involved to contact herself.

Bueckert presented the food bank pilot programme of food certificates for students who self-identify as in need. These certificates come in \$25 denominations for Nester's Market for food items. The pilot project was created in response to the food bank closure, which was postponed for one semester in order to allow for the pilot project to be tested. She said that the programme thusfar had been well received, but that the working group was cognizant of the many issues of hunger on campus and thus will be working to expand the programme to include more community outreach opportunities and hopefully to be a longstanding attitude changing project in a similar vein to the Hi-FIVE Movement

Chapman spoke of the various events planned by the Events Committee, such as the pub events, SFU's Got Talent, and supporting initiatives including the Terry Fox Run and Clubs Days. He also pointed to the Power Rangers around campus as an events initiative.

Khan delivered an update on the granting committee financials. He also spoke to the new society staff hired. This include a new Campaigns, Research and Policy Coordinator to strengthen internal policy and procedures, as well as a new part-time student position of communication and social media, which has resulted in a 40 percent overall increase in audience across social media platforms. Further, Khan spoke to the Fall Kickoff Concert, which was held on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It featured international artists and had an attendance of over 1800.

Shahid delivered the Treasurers update, noting that a significant percentage of the deficit related to one time expenditures incurred in the last fiscal year. The hiring of a new General Manager for FBS has greatly reduced losses in the Food and Beverage Services. The Society has been successful in gathering a large unrestricted fund over the last two years used to cover any unexpected expenses necessary to keep Society operational. The Build SFU levy, as was voted in by referendum, will begin in January 2014 and will cap at \$90 maximum, with a bursary system being processed through SFU Financial Aid and Awards. After explaining the role of FASC, Shahid expounded on the two key goals: that of the three new food vendors in the Atrium and the decrease of FBS deficits while maintaining services and student employment. Shahid furthered that management advised that FBS is on track for improved results, although improvements in staffing levels can still be made.

A question was raised on the specifics of how the deficit has been reduced. Shahid highlighted two specific actions. The first is scheduling of staff based upon projected revenue and sales by hour. The second was cost reductions through new contract negotiations with supplies, purchasing in bulk, and seeking better discounts. These two have contributed alongside smaller improvements to make a major difference in financials.

A question was raised on the labeling by suppliers of GMOs organics and other concerns, which Shahid deferred to the management of FBS.

Another member raised a point of information over allegations of embezzlement last year; that during pub events, particular board members were pocketing amounts of money.

Shahid spoke to the Board investigation of the matter, which showed no proof of embezzlement and offered to share the board meeting findings after the AGM.

Bueckert began the Advocacy report by inviting interested members to attend Advocacy meetings as the membership has full speaking rights and are welcome to bring agenda items. Financial Literacy Workshops were held and continued to be held. These sessions are presented by certified financial planners. Tax workshops were also being planned for tax season. Student Governance 101 workshops were also planned, as well as Women in Politics event, which is being cohosted by the GSS, Political Science Student Union, and the Women's Centre. Further, Advocacy has been working on transit improvements and deferred maintenance issues.

Fontaine, Build SFU General Manager, presented a report from Build SFU. After quickly explaining the goals of the Build SFU Project, he explained the purpose of the Build SFU Think Tank as the project headquarters and a place for students to learn about the project during all phases. Site selection and space programming has been ongoing since early summer 2013 to identify sites on campus. Although the original vision was to place the building within the existing Lorne Davies pool space, the space proved too challenging. 3 other sites have been identified as potential candidate sites. A massive outreach campaign is in progress and the hope is that most students now understand the project scope and the sites. Students participated in

focus groups and 4166 students participated in the surveys to work towards choosing the most appropriate sites for students. Further, Board created the Build SFU Student Advisory Committee, which has assisted staff and the project office in designing a campaign targeting SFU students. Looking forward, site selection is on schedule for Spring 2014. From Spring 2014 to 2015, architects will be working on design development to create a building appropriate for students. Construction will begin in Spring of 2015 and will take 20 to 24 months for construction, with an anticipated opening in Spring 2017.

An individual from the floor inquired as to why millions of dollars were being spent on a student union building in the face of the deferred maintenance issues faced by the university. Fontaine explained that the funding for the Build SFU project was approved by students specifically for this purpose and cannot be transferred to deferred maintenance, which is important and an issue that the SFSS was advocating for university. A speaker from the floor further clarified that deferred maintenance funding comes from the provincial government, and that provincial cuts to institutional grants were the cause of the deferred maintenance issues seen on campus, which is completely separate from the student society and Build SFU as a project of the society.

Another speaker inquired into the committee progress of seeking private sponsorship for the building, which was considered a possibility by board members during the referendum to give student relief from the levies. They also inquired into whether the architect has presented a design for the new stadium.

Fontaine answered that sponsorship search was ongoing and that the Society met with the University's vice president of advancement and alumni engagement, since the Society is unable to issue tax receipts. The Society was informed that sponsorship search assistance could begin once site selection was completed and preliminary designs were available. Further, the stadium has been the major focus up until this point as it is the larger and more complex piece to the project and that discussions about the stadium would begin in November.

An individual requested that Fontaine explain the values of the Student Union Building. Fontaine explained that the primary complaint from SFU students about the university was the lack of community. The goal of the SUB and Stadium therefore are to help the society and students to create community. Other student unions and societies around the world support students outside the academic context, but the university is unable to financially provide a large space for student groups, organizations, and students not engaged in either of these to come together and create the sense of community that is lacking on campus. The student society further is trying to create a space where students can gather, make friends, enjoy themselves, and have a better university experience.

Khan furthered that the Student Society recognizes the need for better student spaces and this goal has driven the renovations within the Maggie Benston Centre, which have become always busy.

Another individual inquired, in line with the university by-law that requires new buildings to include a parking lot, how much space would be reserved in the SUB for a parking lot

Fontaine explained that previous attempts to create a SUB back in 2006-2007 were hindered by the university insistence of a parking lot being built, which the Board did not agree with. For the Build SFU project, the university has an understanding that the space is to be a student society building and therefore Student Services is not to be a part of this building. The Student Society will have its administrative offices in the building, but that will account for six percent of the space. The university is not being allocated any space. They have also backed off on the parking issue

Following another question, Fontaine explained that the SUB would be leased by the university to the Student Society for a long term, between 70 to 99 years, but it would be impossible to own the building as the university is built on provincial property and it would be impossible to own a piece of property in the middle of campus due to various risks. It was Fontaine's opinion that working in collaboration with SFU is necessary.

Another individual asked about the details of the lease. Fontaine answered that the annual payment would be a dollar and that students will pay for operating costs and construction and thus the students would have a say of how it is managed.

Nadine Chambers, the Women's Centre Coordinator stepped up to provide an update on the Women's Centre. She began by acknowledging all the first year students who just began their university career and were willing to come out to an AGM already. She explained the Women's Centre's almost 40 year old role as a place of partnership and personal development, which works with students from all gender expressions and participates in forum and advocacy. She further invited everyone to visit the office and the Women's Centre Library, located within the rotunda area and thanked generations of board members for supporting the work and the services of the Women's Centre after nearly 40 years of work.

Kristen Foster, Special Director of Studentcare Networks, delivered an update on the SFSS Health and Dental Plan, which covers over 70% of the membership. She stated that Studentcare manages the ihaveaplan website, all exchanges of data with the university encrypted to bank-grade standards, and internal databases and resources to answer questions and provide the information to allow students to take advantage of the health plan.

Ali, Studentcare manager for SFU explained the role of the Studentcare office at SFU, which was opened in January and renovated in August. The office helps students save time and money by submitting claims and advocating on students behalf. They can also answer questions on claims, the insurance plan etc.

Foster furthered that Studentcare also manages the health and dental networks to negotiate lower rates with dentists, optometrists, physiotherapists etc. both to save money and to ensure that students can visit practitioners who understand the Studentcare process. She explained that plan usage has increased since 2008 as more students have enrolled and more students are using the plan. However, claims have increased to over \$2.5 million per year without any changes to plan fees since 2008. The original referendum question specified a fee ceiling of no more than \$198, which is the second lowest in BC despite the many benefits of the plan. Studentcare has been able to work within that to have a reserve fund and cost control, but cost of drugs and therapy have increased and now the plan is facing restrictions. In 2010, the SFSS asked Studentcare to begin researching options to control costs and make plans to fit the fee ceiling, since the priority at the time was to not increase student fees, which resulted in benefit reductions. As of last year, the plan also went through competitive marketing, where a two year premium guarantee was negotiated to ensure that the competitive bids were stable. Research was also completed on the student priorities in a plan. From this, 80% of student surveyed believed that the health plan was an important benefit from the student society and 40% of students do not have any other coverage, and 75% would be willing to increase the plan cost to stop further benefit cuts and restore previously lost benefits. A referendum question will have to be considered soon to raise the fee ceiling.

Further, Studentcare has developed a partnership with Medeo to allow students to videoconference with a doctor through a computer or smartphone and even have prescriptions sent to a pharmacy. Students can even get a videoconference with a specialist such as psychiatrists and dermatologists. It is a free service covered by provincial health care.

A member asked why international students who have access to drugs or treatment in their home country for a low price or for free should not opt out of the service. Foster replied that while in Canada, there may be unforeseen circumstances where urgent care is needed where it may not be feasible to wait until the student returns to their own country. The plan was thus formulated to benefit all students regardless of whether they have provincial or international coverage

A speaker from the floor inquired about the referendum for raising the fees, in whether it will be necessary to raise fees again and again. Foster replied that this was what the SFSS would have to decide, although options could include empowering the board to increase by percentage or within a range such that more elasticity is given for the plan

A member inquired about the costs of the Fall Kickoff Concert, since there were budget figures of both \$63,000 and \$56,000.

Khan replied that the approved budget was \$63,000 but the working group limited themselves to \$56,000 as a goal. Although the final figure may go past \$56,000, the goal was to limit expenditures.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:06**

Tamayo/Bagar

*Be it resolved* that the 2012- 2013 report from the Treasurer be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**6. Receipt of Report from the Auditor**

The Society's auditor, Gary Wozny from Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co., provided an overview of the Student Society's audited financial statements.

**7. Appointment of the Auditor**

The auditor responsible for the coming year's audited financial statements was appointed. The Board of Directors recommended the re-appointment of Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co.

**MOTION AGM 2013-10-12:08**

/Martin

*Be it resolved* that Tomkins, Wozny, Miller & Co be appointed as SFSS Auditor for the 2012-2013 year.

**CARRIED**

A representative of the Out on Campus Collective asked the SFSS as a body to fulfill its responsibilities as employers and offer its employees a living wage. It further asked the SFSS to make elections a priority, as there were 2 seats vacant on the board and the general student

populace would also like to see those seats filled. The Collective believes that the advantages of having the positions filled negate any drawbacks of the them only being filled for a shorter period of time.

Khan clarified for the membership that the 2 seats in question were the position of FCAT representative which was uncontested, and the URO where the elected individual was ineligible to hold office as a result of their student status. SFSS by-laws require that board directors must be an active student in good standing in order to hold office.

A member enquired as to the possibility of a by-election should further seats be vacated within the year, to which the President opted not to speculate on.

A representative of the Out on Campus Collective indicated that having all seats filled were preferable, despite being filled for a shorter period of time.

#### **8. Adjournment 4:05pm**

*MT Note: These minutes were generated from the AGM verbatim transcript provided by Georgina McCallum, the RCR retained by the Student Society,*

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DC /CUPE 3338