

The 2017 Independent Electoral Commission

Commissioners:

Ali Najaf

Shirley Chu

Bailey Burrell

Marjan Beikzadeh

Chief Commissioner:

Morgan Sinclair McKee

OFFICIAL RESULTS

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

President

Hangue Kim (Elected)	YES: 1186
	No: 493

VP FINANCE

Baljinder Bains (Elected)	741
Archit Bansal	473
Tawanda Masawi (Suavé)	518

VP STUDENT SERVICES

Jimmy Dhesa (Elected)	YES: 1160
	No: 452

VP STUDENT LIFE

Alam Khehra (Elected)	YES: 1049
	No: 390

VP EXTERNAL RELATION

Prab Bassi (Elected)	YES: 1104
	No: 413

VP UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Erwin Kwok (Elected)	YES: 1113
	No: 399

NON-EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

Raajan Garcha (Elected)	785
Jaskarn Randhawa (Elected)	733
Dedarul M Chisty	263
Robert Hanson	436
Cody Leung	389

COMMUNICATION, ART AND TECHNOLOGY FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Jovina Angelica Silvestre (Elected)	YES: 80
	NO: 18

APPLIED SCIENCES FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE:

Jeffrey Leung (Elected)	106
Ekjot Billing	74
Sina Khalili	69
Hanieh Zahiremami	29

BUSINESS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Gini Kuo (Elected)	174
Braeden Alexander Peterson	113

ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Jackson Freedman (Elected)	328
Mason Taykandy	144

EDUCATION FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Jamie Zhu (Elected)	YES: 55
	NO: 5

ENVIRONMENT FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Yun Oh (Elected)	YES: 72
	NO: 18

HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Aarushi Sharma (Elected)	95
Natalia Gretskaia	65

SCIENCES FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Parham Elmi (Elected)	263
Nikki Dumrique	206

REFERENDA

Health & Dental

Whereas the actual cost of the SFSS Extended Health and Dental Plan, launched in 2008, varies every year given increases in the cost of health and dental services, and increases in the number of claims made by undergraduate students;
 Whereas the Student Society Fee collected to provide all members with health and dental insurance cannot be adjusted to keep pace with the increases in the cost of coverage;
 Whereas the fixed Student Society Fee risks requiring a reduction in the level of coverage and service available to undergraduate students who have repeatedly described the Health and Dental Plan as one of their most valued SFSS services;
 Whereas the Board will communicate the value of, and reason for making any change to the fee;

Do you grant the SFSS Board of Directors the authority to raise or reduce the SFSS Health and Dental Student Society Service Fee to a maximum of up to 5% in any given year for the next 5 years?

Pass	Yes: 1090	No: 822
-------------	------------------	---------

By-Laws

Whereas some of the proposed changes are required by the new Societies Act and amendments to the University Act;
 Whereas other proposed changes will improve the Society's ability to achieve its vision of improving the undergraduate student experience;
 Whereas the change to the new Bylaws will require a transition period;

Be it resolved to adopt the new SFSS Bylaws, as attached as Attachment 1 to this referendum question, to take effect on May 1, 2018.

Fail	Yes: 869	No: 711
-------------	----------	----------------

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Days of Election: 4

Tabling Contact: 1,500 students

Facebook Likes: Increase of 40, organic impressions for results reached 8, 100

Snapchat Debate Filter Usage: 698 Impressions (those swiping through filters), 622 Views (those who saw a friend’s story with the filter), 76 Conversions (those who used the filter)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ACCOUNT NAME	ANNUAL BUDGET	EXPENSE	BUDGET REMAINING
STIPENDS	14,375.00	7,645.21	2,871.60
ADVERTISING	6,000.00	1,577.90	2,787.92
TELEPHONE	240.00	0	240.00
COPIES/PRINTING	1,150.00	287.53	695.42
OFFICE SUPPLIES	350.00	228.93	99.80
CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES	4,850.00	781.73	3,394.01
TOTALS	26,965.00	10,521.30*	10,088.75**

*To date of this report

**Includes 2016 by-election expenses provided by accounting, having occurred prior to Chief position acquisition

TIMELINE

Chief Self-Orientation Period (familiarizing with process and regulations):

January 19 – January 30, 2017

Commissioner Hiring Period (interviews):

January 30 – February 10, 2017

Notice of Election Period (communications and planning):

February 13 – February 26, 2017

Nomination Period (communications and planning):

February 27 – March 12, 2017

Campaign Period (communications, planning, debates, and complaints):

March 13 – March 26, 2017

Voting Period (handling complaints):

March 27 – March 30 & April 3, 2017

Results Announcement (communications):

April 3, 2017

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Issue: Stipend Hours Limitations

Existing stipend policy specified a limitation on the number of hours available to a Chief and Commissioners. This policy has been suspended in the past, and consistently has served as a hindrance to Chiefs in their operations. Requesting a policy repeal with an extensive documentation to support the change resulted in a year long suspension, with the assumption that a by-law pass or electoral reform would occur.

Recommendation

The stipend policy should be indefinitely repealed.

2. Issue: No Orientation Process

An orientation process, or lack thereof, required self-guidance and intuition to familiarize oneself with the expectations and necessities of the election. A short viewing of passwords as well as copies of relevant regulation documents fell grossly short of adequately supporting a Chief with the appropriate resources to prepare them for job duties. A number of items such as booking room spaces, event plans, staff demands, schedules and meetings, were not disclosed ahead of time, creating inefficiencies and disruptions to electoral processes.

Recommendation

The development of appropriate protocols or professional guidelines would dramatically improve the overall efficiency, and effectiveness of the election.

An orientation with each staff member in contact with the IEC outlining their needs for effective and efficient job performance (Copy Centre, Communications, Campaigns, Research & Policy Coordinator, the General Office for Burnaby/Vancouver, and the General Office member for Surrey).

3. Issue: Debate Accessibility

Accessibility services for auditory input or hearing impaired members has consistently required an expensive cost, with unmeasured confirmations of use. In approaching this, a number of services were assessed to determine a cost effective alternative. Previously, a \$1,600 CART verbatim transcription service or \$600 ASL interpreters have been used. The ASL service does not provide support for auditory input needs. Therefore, a notice was distributed to the student body requesting that accessibility concerns be brought to the IEC's attention for prior arrangement of services. Should a retrospective request be made, a transcription could still be arranged. The Centre for Disabilities at SFU uses this organizational process for examination processes. In researching auditory transcription, a software program Dragon appeared to be the most appropriate service to address this with 99.9%

accuracy, a post-event hard copy of speech, with an annual cost of \$200. This information was provided to the Accessibility Fund Advisory Committee, however implementation for the debates was not available given the month and a half time frame.

Recommendation

A policy directing the IEC on how to approach accessibility at debates should be created. In addition, the Dragon computer transcription software should be implemented for IEC access, and could also be available for other SFSS events where auditory access may be needed. This will provide a record keeping mechanism with the post-event hard copies.

4. Issue: Debate Organization Policy

Space acquisition for events on SFU campuses is in short supply. This requires early booking by a Chief, despite limited knowledge of candidates running and the lacking orientation process of how to effectively arrange a debate. A maximum of three hours is a reasonable time frame for debates to prioritize audience attention, and thus attendance. The debates were therefore allocated a period of three hours for each campus. Event structure had timed replies, and maximum responses to ensure efficiency and fairness.

Recommendation

The development of a policy describing how debates should be structured during an event. The frequency of them should also be addressed and reflect the number of candidates running, with a duration limitation.

5. Issue: Elimination of Fines

Fines are described but lack the formal accounting processes to administer them. Relevant policies were therefore not utilized, and instead a strict standard of disqualification was implemented.

Recommendation

The policies around fining should be repealed, and replaced with a disqualification policy that could be extended to restrictions on future electoral candidacies in extreme circumstances.

6. Issue: No Social Media Policies

Social media campaigning is unaddressed in existing policies. The IEC therefore requested all links used for campaigning must be submitted prior or within 15 minutes of going live for campaign monitoring. Candidates were responsible for maintaining a comfortable online election environment. Any

social media connections to inflammatory content would be liable for disqualification.

Recommendation

A policy created which discusses how the IEC should approach campaigning monitoring on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) and to what extent of social media connection to inflammatory content should be tolerated.

7. Issue: Ambiguous Poster Policies

There are a number of limitations on poster placement, depending on university facilities, SFSS club expectations, and the IEC. Most discrepancies existed between SFSS General Office communications and facilities. Advising candidates on poster placement where no comprehensive consolidated list exists created frustrations and a waste of society resources. SFU Facilities was responsible for removing some posters until they were advised of the election, and refrained doing so during the campaigning period. The IEC is not permitted to contact SFU services directly and must obtain access exclusively through the General Office to communicate electoral periods. This wasted society resources and frustrated candidates.

Recommendation

The creation of a policy which requires the General Office to communicate election details to SFU Facilities in a timely manner during the Notice of Election period.

A comprehensive list created in cooperation between facilities and the student society to communicate clearly expected poster placements.

A policy that cites the list as appropriate for candidates campaigning to use.

8. Issue: No Process for IEC Support

A number of technological, policy, organizational, financial, and communication skills are required by the Chief, and some Commissioners. With limited capacities, areas that the IEC must approach staff for support with is an informal process that the IEC is still accountable for, despite lacking knowledge about.

Recommendation

Developing a process for the IEC to receive support on areas that they may need assistance with.

9. Issue: Late Hiring of Chief

The hiring of the Chief, and consequently Commissioners, occurred late in the semester. This had a direct impact with a condensed election schedule, and likely affected voter turn out with examination period competing with the voting period.

Recommendation

A policy that addresses the hiring of the Chief Commissioner must occur by November of the previous year.

The Commissioners should be hired by January or September for a by-election.

The hiring process for the Chief must therefore initiate by the end of September of the year preceding (or four months prior in the event of a by-election hiring).

The hiring of the Commissioners should initiate by the end of November or July in the event of a by-election.

10. Issue: Holding Vancouver Debates

The policies recommend a Vancouver debate should be held where possible. With strategic goals prioritizing student resources, justification could not be met to hold such a debate. The IEC considered historically low or no student attendance, the availability of Burnaby and Surrey debates with live streaming, post debate records, and the ease of student access to the skytrain lines through the Compass Program. Communications in advance also provided advance notice of the times and locations of the alternative debate options. The cost for a debate is in the few hundreds of dollars.

Recommendation

The policy surrounding the Vancouver debate should be struck and replaced with debates held exclusively at the Burnaby and Surrey campuses.

11. Issue: Technical Debate Set Up

During the debates, a live stream and camcorder for records are used. The audio and visual institution technicians at both campuses assisted in set up and operations of the microphones and speakers. The technical set up required for the camcorder by the IEC creates additional complications to manage, and could be accommodated by the university staff to ensure a smooth and reliable source for back up.

Recommendation

The efficiency and reliability of technical operations at the debates could be improved with support from institution staff.

12. Issue: All Candidates Meeting Change

An all candidates meeting was held to expedite to the campaign process. The advantage to holding this allowed all competitors to meet each other, network, and hear inquiries others had that they may not have learned about otherwise. This also created a fair and consistent understanding of campaign expectations, and reduced costs associated with holding multiple individual sessions. Attendance by the CEO and Campaigns, Research & Policy Coordinator was appreciated. Only one member was present via the Facetime application due to an exam. The issue is that due to last minute form submissions, the location and date of the meeting had to change to accommodate these despite an earlier date having been advertised at the start of the nomination period.

Recommendation

The development of a Chief handbook or orientation manual would help prepare a Chief for the job they are expected to perform, discussing recommended approaches for overall execution. Including the all candidates meeting on the nomination forms within these guidelines as mandatory would be beneficial. Anticipating a number of late submissions should also be taken into account. Statement of consent forms should be filled out during the nomination period to be eligible for nomination. Critical time sensitive facts to be aware of, such as implications of the hiring timeline upon voting, or space bookings. Legal and professional responsibilities to be met should also be included. Prioritization of Facebook supporter recruitment to invest in long-term communications between the IEC and the student body. The promotional options available such as CCTV, tabling, lecture hall reach outs, campus media, and all forms of social media.

13. Issue: No Policies About Slates

The topic of slates is not addressed in existing regulations, as past reports have also noted. This left the IEC to determine whether they would be permitted or not. There are a number of arguments to support or deny their presence. Ultimately they were allowed on both the ballots and on the website, given their traditional presence.

Recommendation

A policy created to address whether slates are to be permitted, and if so, under what limitations.

14. Issue: No Results Reveal Policy

Tradition has encouraged a midnight reveal of results. The past IEC did not follow this for obvious safety considerations. Despite pressures from candidates, the IEC was hesitant to even remotely disclose results at midnight following the close of

the voting period. This was to provide the IEC a buffer period in the event of complaint investigations and disqualifications, as well as any counting or electronic complications. With a ballot closing nine minutes early, a re-opening of the voting period for nine minutes resulted in the results being delayed. The expectation is receive results instantly, at midnight, is not a requirement or reasonable.

Recommendation

A policy developed that requires the IEC to release election results within 72 hours after the close of the voting period.

15. Issue: No IEC Conflict Management Policy

During the election, a social media attack was directed towards the IEC. There is currently no policy which protects or informs the IEC of how to handle such aggression in a manner consistent with society expectations. While independence of the IEC is important, some direction should be provided to avoid explosive confrontations being mishandled.

Recommendation

A policy developed that informs the IEC how best to respond to aggression, and a mechanism for accountability.

16. Issue: No Media Relations Policy

Given the controversial and exciting nature of elections, it was most natural for the Peak newspaper publication to seek out contact with the IEC. Without any regulations dictating how such communications should be handled, the IEC was left to assume how to respond. While openness with the student body is a priority, the IEC must retain autonomy from becoming too invested with media communications.

Recommendation

A policy that describes the extent, or lack thereof, to which the IEC should communicate with the media during an election period. This will alleviate existing liabilities of impartiality.

17. Issue: IEC Stipend Hours Record Keeping

The IEC must record their working hours in the form of an individually recorded time sheet. While providing a documented source describing performance, this creates a confusing, time consuming, and inconvenient method. To update an entry for the numerous ongoing communications which occur, is exceedingly challenging. Society resources are being wasted in using this inefficient system. Considering the Commissioner and Chief positions are task completion based, it would seem more appropriate for compensation to reflect a regular salary based on

duties completed. E.g. Assuming each campus has pre-voting tabling for a period of four hours on each day of the week, this could render a higher salary than an IEC team that does not perform such a duty. This would also put an emphasis on delivering productivity given a set salary, as opposed to fluctuating hours under the IEC's own control.

Recommendation

A policy that restructures the existing compensation scheme, instead providing set salaries based on task completions.

18. Issue: No Training or Support

Without an orientation process, or a handbook for performance assistance, reaching out to former Chief Commissioners was a highly valuable source of information. While they were generous enough to share their knowledge and time, they were under no obligation to do so. This demonstrates a gross lack of continuity between past and current elections, operating under entirely different regulatory interpretations, traditions, and inherent student society expectations. Given this position is filled by a student, assumptions about experience and education should be mitigated with a training process. This would also reduce labour expenses in self-orientating ones' self.

Recommendation

Assuming the Chief is hired by the deadlines as earlier recommended in this report, this would accommodate a training and transition process between the existing and new Chief, to assist in the continuity of elections.

19. Issue: No Policy on Errors

Given the lack of position training, orientation, or handbook access, the expectations to effectively perform the job do not account for errors. This resulted in issues with the ballot. Without a policy to clearly direct the IEC how to handle such complications, this left the IEC to assume how best to react or respond.

Recommendation

A policy created to address the event of errors, (human, technical, or otherwise), that recommends the IEC to respond as they best see fit.

20. Issue: No Record Keeping Processes

With the electronic records available through email accounts, this does not reflect a reliable method of record keeping. Hard copies of election data and documents either lack in their existence, or are disorganized. Any future Chief could potentially wipe valuable information from the electronic sources. The current IEC

filing cabinet that does possess some records is not locked, and is located in a public space, exposing important documents.

Recommendation

An administrative individual directed to organize and clear electronic accounts, provide hard copies of all important election documents, and organize existing election materials.

A locked cabinet of records, accessible by only the IEC and staff members of the SFSS, to ensure records are safe and available for future use.

21. Issue: Copy Centre Dependency

In order for the IEC to print any document, the IEC must convert the document to PDF form on a computer with this program, download a Copy Centre PDF form, fill it out with the relevant information (number of copies, item description, deadline, department, etc.), and send both PDFs to the Copy Centre. Then when the Copy Centre is open, these documents will be printed and must be picked up. A task that would normally take one second to complete with a self-sufficient printer is drawn out in a lengthy process that is time consuming for the society spending money on labour both with the IEC and Copy Centre. This also creates workflow issues for the Copy Centre to balance accommodating walk in requests with time sensitive IEC demands.

Recommendation

The IEC should have access to a printer that will record the amount of ink and paper used for accounting purposes, saving the society labour expenses associated with existing printing processes.

22. Issue: Expenses Charged to Budget Without Approval

The existing structure of accounting processes has enabled various departments within the SFSS to charge expenses to IEC line items. While intended to improve efficiency, this results in items being billed without Chief approval or knowledge. This fundamentally challenges basic financial accountability, and is exposing serious liabilities in the event of financial complications.

Recommendation

The development of a policy that requires all IEC associated departments to provide invoices to the IEC with a sign off mechanism, before being billed to IEC line items.

23. Issue: CEO Acronym

The acronym CEO is often referred to as Chief Executive Officer in many organizations, including the SFSS. Therefore designating the Chief Electoral Officer the acronym CEO as well creates confusion for students and accounting.

Recommendation

The development of a policy that changes the position Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to Chief Returning Officer (CRO) or Chief Commissioner (CO) to avoid confusion.

24. Issue: IEC Demands on Communications

For the duration of the entire election, a number of tasks require support from the Communications Department. With a number of time sensitive deadlines to meet in electoral policies, such as posting candidates running within 72 hours after the close of the nomination period, this creates a stressful workflow upon the Communications Department. A vital asset to the success of the IEC, perhaps the dependency on the Communications Department could be reassessed to ensure efficient operations are being met without excessive stress on staff.

Recommendation

Providing the IEC with the tools or skills necessary to edit or create communications to reduce reliance on the Communications Department, or adjust existing posting policies to reflect a distinction between electronic and hard copy communications. Hard copy posters could be distributed 96 hours after the close of periods instead of 72, with electronic communications of the same information still due within the 72 hour frame. It should be noted that electronic communications appear to be received with greater breadth of coverage.

25. Issue: Elimination of Campaigning Restricted During Voting

Existing regulations restrict candidates from campaigning during the voting period. This creates a number of complaints regarding posters being re-posted by other competitors during the voting period. Elimination of this would reduce complaints, and potentially improve voter turn out.

Recommendation

A change of the existing regulatory framework that would accommodate candidates to campaign during the voting period, while describing the limitations to campaigning in close proximity to a member voting.

26. Issue: Bylaw Ballot Box Voting Change

The existing bylaws reference a ballot box, despite recent uses of the electronic voting system. This change should be reflected to ensure the bylaws are up to date.

Recommendation

Replacement of the ballot box voting section in the bylaws to an online system.

27. Issue: Definition of Candidate Eligibility

Definitions of an eligible member are implicit and ambiguous in the existing regulatory infrastructure. These describe an active member, a member in good standing, as registered in a program, among others. This lacking clarity created interpretive subjectivity in determining member eligibility for the IEC.

Recommendation

A clearly defined description of eligibility to run in SFSS elections.

28. Issue: Minimum Campaign Period Expanded

Current regulations require a two week minimum for the campaign period. With nomination confirmations, communications to the student body, the all candidates meeting, debates, media interviews, platform submissions, complaints and campaign inquiries, this leaves limited time for actual campaigning outside of school and personal life obligations. With the implementation of an earlier hiring of the Chief, a thirty day minimum for the campaign period would be reasonable to accommodate. This would assist voter turn out through campaigning by both the IEC and candidates, as well as decrease the stress.

Recommendation

Assuming a policy change initiates an earlier hiring of the Chief, the existing campaign period minimum time length should be replaced with an increase to a thirty day minimum.

29. Issue: No Policy on Acquisition of More Than One Position

While an issue from the by-election in 2016, there lacks a policy describing limitations on running for or holding more than one position. Segregation of duties would dictate more than one position should not be held by any member at a given time.

Recommendation

A policy created that limits a member from running or holding more than one position at once.

30. Issue: No Policy of Tie Breaking

An issue faced in earlier elections, this is still unaddressed in election polices.

Recommendation

The creation of a policy addressing ties.

31. Issue: No Privacy for Sensitive Matters

Without access to a private space or a laptop computer to transport elsewhere, vote tabulations, complaints, and passwords of sensitive natures were exposed to confidentiality breaches. This demonstrates the lacking impartiality that exists in the current structure.

Recommendation

A policy insulating the IEC a private society space for independent election processes to occur or availability of a laptop for access on other private campus areas.

32. Issue: No Policy Regarding Sustainability

Over the course of the election period, a number of documents are distributed to staff, the IEC, the student body, and candidates. As much as possible, the IEC emphasized using electronic documents.

Recommendation

A policy developed that directs the IEC to use electronic documents wherever possible in consideration of sustainable interests.

33. Issue: No Policy Describing Line Items

Some of the current line items are self-identifying, however the categories of Advertising, Campaign Expenditures, and Copies & Printing often overlap in their content. No clear definitions exist to express their breakdowns.

Recommendation

A policy developed that explains exactly which expenses are to fall under what line items.

34. Issue: Overall Policies

Given the previous expectation for office hours, the IEC tried to accommodate this as much as possible considering stipend hour limitations, with different members of the IEC. It was unrealistic however, to expect that students with varying backgrounds should all become fluent in SFSS policies and regulations under such a short period of time without the society spending an excessive amount of stipends. As Chief this responsibility is a necessity, but creates a disparity between Commissioners and the Chief in approaching electoral inquiries. With a number of confusing, and ambiguous policies, this required constant consultation with the Campaigns, Research & Policy Coordinator, delaying the efficiency of the election, and inherently increasing society expenses. This created frustrations for many groups, including the IEC.

Recommendation

An overall re-evaluation of relevant regulations and policies to improve efficiency, frustrations, and financial costs.

35. Issue: Hiring Process & Office Hours

When interviewing for the position of Chief, the need for an open availability was disclosed. However this did not reflect performance expectations, with a request to have regular daily office hours held. The dramatic influx of hours depending on the election period was also not shared, creating a number of work-life balancing challenges. The critical distinction is that a flexible availability anytime is not the same as an availability of Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. With many tasks utilizing staff dependent resources, business hours are important to efficiently manage job expectations. There also exists an expectation that candidates should be able to drop in for inquiries. The issue though, is that there is no accountability of communications between the IEC and candidates. Regularly checking and responding to emails provides a detailed account of discussions, and of the Chief's (or IEC's) performance. This disparity in inherent expectations created complications and frustrations by many of those affected. Though the dependency upon staff is likely to save the society of election expenses that could be outsourced externally, it creates a number of complications. Negligence of impartiality is the most outstanding concern, without an independent source providing support. This is compounded with an influx in workload upon the various society departments. Not only does this create a very stressful environment unfair to staff and the IEC, but it creates challenges in effective performance to meet the standards, which can directly impact electoral outcomes. As a Chief, the gross demand of hours during the campaign period required many personal sacrifices to meet job expectations.

Recommendation

When hiring for the position of Chief, and Commissioners, availability should be recommended with a minimum of three business days between the hours of 9am to 4pm. It should also disclose the effect this will have on ones' personal life with dramatic demands from a minimum of ten hours per week to as much as fifty, depending on the election period.

The expectation for office hours to be held should exclusively be for staff contact, to mitigate undocumented exposure between candidates and the IEC.

A restructuring or reassessment of election administrative processes to reduce reliance upon staff support. This will improve impartiality, effectiveness, and stress for many different groups.

36. Issue: Lacking Impartiality, and Board Members for Re-Election

A number of candidates running for re-election are existing board members. When the matter of the IEC stipend hours policy repeal was brought to the board for consideration on March 20, 2017, the board had to vote on whether the IEC would receive further stipend funding. A number of inquiries were communicated, including office hours presence, due diligence in monitoring Commissioner timesheets, among others irrelevant to the motion on the table. There were only two abstentions on the amended motion that eventually passed, though a number of current candidates as Board members should have abstained, to avoid any appearance of lacking impartiality. This is concerning as the IEC should be an independent body, but with the accountability to and dependency on the Board for policy changes or performance updates mid-election this demonstrates a level of corruption by virtue of vested interests. This was compounded with existing Board members as candidates who did not abstain on the motion's vote.

Recommendation

A policy developed that restricts the Board from considering electoral policies during an election period, and instead directs Council to conduct or intervene in the election for performance reviews to reflect true independence.

A policy developed that restricts current electoral candidates from voting on any current electoral related motions, should they possess an office which could render them biased in performing their official duties.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

When managing the election in accordance with policies and bylaws, as well as maintaining impartiality, additional strategic goals were set. These included maximizing voter turn out, minimizing operational costs, and recognizing opportunities for improvement. I strongly advise of a thorough examination of the existing electoral processes at the Simon Fraser Student Society. The existing IEC structure reflects one of a committee, as opposed to an independent body. Given elected officials are entrusted with voting abilities interacting with a budget of over a million dollars, it is imperative to ensure adequate impartiality is being maintained in elections. The current structure lacks appropriate formal processes to mitigate exposure to legal liabilities. The most outstanding of which is the lack of governance impartiality and system of checks & balances. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have worked as the 2017 General Election Chief Commissioner, and hope this feedback may constructively bring attention to members the serious implications that could ensue under the existing conditions. I appreciate the work of the supportive IEC team members Marjan, Ali, Bailey, and Shirley who were critical to election operations, particularly in adjusting personal life commitments and being flexible with fast paced changes. Handling stressful workloads, the staff was a valuable asset to the success of the election, thank you Pierre, Sindhu, and Nancy! I also wish the incoming Board an exciting and successful term ahead!

Thank you,

Morgan Sinclair McKee

May 7, 2017