1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 1:32 PM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that this meeting is being conducted on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples; which, to the current knowledge of the Society include the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lo, and Tsleil-Waututh people.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 Accessibility Committee Composition

VP Student Services *(Chair)*..Jimmy Dhesa
VP University Relations ....Erwin Kwok
Faculty Representative (Communications, Art, & Technology) .....Juvina Silvestre
Faculty Representative (Education) ....Jamie Zhu
Student At-Large ....Paige Nock
Student At-Large ....Vivian Ly

3.2 Society Staff

Administrative Assistant ....Zoya Nari
Accessibility Worker ....Alyssa Chan
Campaigns, Research, & Policy Coordinator ....Pierre Cassidy

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 MOTION AFAC 2017-11-27:01
Juvina/Jamie
Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

Erwin Kwok arrived at 1:33 PM

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 MOTION AFAC 2017-11-27:02
Vivian/Juvina
Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:
- Accessibility Committee 2017-11-15.pdf

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Accessibility Definitions – MOTION AFAC 2017-11-27:03
Jamie/Erwin
Be it resolved to recommend to Board the proposal in the briefing note regarding definitions of accessibility at the next Board meeting.

CARRIED
- Refer to attachment
- Options for definitions are laid out with the recommended definition chosen at the bottom

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Committee Duties for Accessibility Movie Night
- To occur on Wednesday, November 29th
- Popcorn to be provided
- Committee currently working on promoting the event

8. UPDATES

8.1 Disability Peer Space in the SUB
- The Build SFU Committee was contacted regarding a possible peer space for differently abled members in the Student Union Building
- The Accessibility Committee will be updated at the next meeting regarding the possible space availability
- Suggestion:
    - Some committee members to possibly attend the Build SFU committee meeting to discuss the details of the peer space
- A google document will be created for members to brainstorm before the next meeting

8.1.1. MOTION AFAC 2017-11-27:04
Erwin/Vivian
Be it resolved to table this item to the end of the meeting.
CARRIED

8.2 Advertising Accessibility Fund and Making it More Accessible
- Chair will update the committee as soon as further information is provided

8.3 Updates from the Accessibility Designated Assistant
- Low attendance confirmation for the Accessibility Movie Night may be due to the late notice near the end of the semester
- Facilities was contacted regarding the maps that was drafted
    - Interactive maps to possibly be updated on the SFU website
- Note:
    - Accessibility Worker is focusing on the Movie Night as it is approaching
    - The Closed Captioning Project will be worked on gradually due to the extensive work required from it
    - Accessibility Designated Assistant to focus mainly on events to increase on awareness
- Suggestion:
    - To have targeted strategies for small scale events that is meant to raise awareness by contacting specific student groups

- o To reach out to members requesting for possible uses of the Accessibility Fund
- Concerns:
  - o Committee members to create a metric that will establish what tasks and events are to be completed
    - Short-term and long-term goals

9. ATTACHMENTS

- Definition of accessibility - briefing note.pdf

10.   ADJOURNMENT

MOTION AFAC 2017-11-27:05
Vivian/Erwin
Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 PM.
CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE
DEFINITION OF ACCESSIBILITY

ISSUE
In order for the Accessibility Committee to effectively serve SFU students with disabilities and promote accessibility around campus, it is necessary to have a working definition of accessibility, disability, barriers to accessibility, and other terminology.

BACKGROUND
At the October 30th AFAC meeting, the need to define terminology related to accessibility and disability was brought up in order to make AFAC's objective clearer.

CURRENT STATUS
The AFAC has agreed to recommend definitions of disability, accessibility, and barriers to the Board for endorsement. They suggested using the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Personals with Disabilities) definition of disability, which states that "persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".

KEY CONSIDERATIONS
- Universal design should also be defined. According to the Disability Act 2005, it is "the design and composition of an environment so that it may be accessed, understood and used… in the most independent and natural manner possible… by any persons of any age or size or having any particular physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual ability or disability".
  - Universal design in a university setting can include recording lectures and creating a more inclusive environment in general
- Definitions should avoid stigmatizing language like "impairment" and "handicap", which suggest that there is something inherently bad about having a disability, or that people with disabilities are not normal.
- Definitions should be detailed but not too long or needlessly wordy.

OPTIONS
- Retain the definitions suggested by AFAC, which are as follows:
  - **Disability:** Disability includes long-term or episodic physical, mental, intellectual, sensory or communication needs, visible or invisible, which in interaction with barriers may hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

- o **Barriers:** Attitudinal, environmental, and organizational structures and practices that prevent a student with a disability from participating in activities, accessing services, and being accepted by others, as much as students without disabilities.
  - o **Accessibility:** Countering and eliminating barriers by providing specific accommodations; changing attitudes, environments, structures and processes; and implementing practices of universal design.
- Use the WHO (World Health Organization) definition of disability – WHO defines disability as "an umbrella term covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions"
  - o **Impairment** is a problem in body function or structure
  - o **Activity limitation** is any difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action
  - o **Participation restriction** describes any problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations.
- The social model of disability defines disability as "the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others due to physical and social barriers"
  - o Also states that disability is caused by the way that society is organized
  - o Using the term "normal" may also be stigmatizing, as it suggests that people with disabilities are abnormal

RECOMMENDATION

The AFAC recommends retaining the CRPD definition of disability, but also expanding on the term "universal design" – only the definition of accessibility would be slightly altered. The updated definition of accessibility is as follows, with the updated part italicized:

- **Accessibility:** Accessibility includes countering and eliminating barriers by providing specific accommodations as well as changing attitudes, environments, structures and processes. In addition, it encompasses practices of universal design, *which involves designing an environment or device to be used independently by anyone, regardless of age, size, or disability status.*

The term "impairment" from the WHO definition of disability and the term "normal" from the social model of disability's definition are both stigmatizing, as they suggest that people with disabilities are abnormal and that there is a "problem" with them. As a result, it is better not to use the WHO definition or the social model of disability definition.

Next Steps

- Formalize the working terminology; inform the Board of the decision
- Include the definition in the committee mandate and in the Terms of Reference
  - o Bring a recommendation to Board