

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 2:32 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 Committee Composition

VP External Relations ( <i>Chair</i> ) .....	Prab Bassi
At-Large Representative .....	Raajan Garcha
Board of Directors Representative .....	Jamie Zhu
Board of Directors Representative .....	Aarushi Sharma
Board of Directors Representative .....	Parham Elmi
Student At Large .....	Natalia Gretskaia
Student At Large .....	Kailyn Ng
Student At Large .....	Megan Dally
Student At Large .....	Kia Mirsalehi
Student At-Large .....	Susana Ruiz
Student At Large .....	Ramsha Farooqui

### 3.2 Society Staff

Administrative Assistant .....	Christina Chen
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### 3.3 Absent

Student At-Large .....	Susana Ruiz
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## 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### 4.1 MOTION ADV 2017-10-02:01

**Raajan/Aarushi**

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.*

- To remove Presentations: Sexual Violence Office Awareness Events

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 5.1 MOTION ADV 2017-10-02:02

**Raajan/Aarushi**

*Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:*

- Advocacy Committee 2017-08-10.pdf

**CARRIED**

## 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 6.1 Advocacy initiatives

- Sub-committees were formed for each advocacy initiative
  - By the end of next week, the Chair will be having a meeting with each lead to start preparing for the initiatives
- Sexual Health:
  - Sexual Violence Awareness event is happening on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 12PM-4PM in convocation mall
    - Concern: Committee members do not have professional knowledge regarding sexual violence
    - Suggestions: Committee to act as a supportive group, distribute consent boxes, and redirect students with sexual health questions to the appropriate professional staff members
    - Action Items: Advocacy Chair to arrange a potential training session next Monday and provide committee members with more information regarding the event
- Mental Health:
  - Sub-committee is looking into creating an active program pertaining to mental health
  - Potential events include tai chi and meditation

*\*Kia Mirsalehi arrived at 2:37PM\**

### 6.2 Stretch and Connect

- Happening on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:20AM – 11:30AM and 12:20PM – 12:30PM outside B9201
- Purpose is to end mental health stigma
- Potentially lead students to the Lorne Davies Complex to teach students how to use gym equipment to promote active lifestyle

### 6.3 BC Provincial Budget Consultations

- SFSS asked for 3 things:
  - Increase in mental health funding
  - Long-term standing U-Pass contract
  - Need-based grant funding: financial funding for students who have financial need
- Potential lobbying at Parliament of Victoria at the end of October or sometime during the spring semester

## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- Advocacy Initiatives 201718.pdf
- Final2017ExecutiveSummary- SFSS (1) (1).pdf
- Oct 13 invite.png
- The SVO awareness event .pdf

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION ADV 2017-10-02:03**

**Jamie/Natalia**

*Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM.*

**CARRIED**

# Advocacy Topics for 2017/18

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief insight on the 2017/18 Advocacy campaigns. The synopsis and the timelines are subject to change. Each topic requires a lead and support of *at least* 2 people. The lead and support will be considered as a working group/sub-committee and must report back to the Chair of the Advocacy committee before bringing the proposal to the committee.

## **Stretch and Connect:**

- Lead: Parham
- Support: TBD

### *Synopsis:*

Exercise is the solution to many student problems. There are two courtyards in between both C9001:B9200 and B9200:B9201. We want to use these spaces to offer a yoga/stretch program in between class times, to expose incoming students to fitness, and also to promote several services. The goal of this program is ultimately to create a sense of community, have an opportunity for an active lifestyle and promote mental health and wellness.

### *Timeline:*

- Sept: Report for Advocacy Chair (Prab)
- Sept 25: Launch

## **Translink:**

- Lead: Aarushi
- Support: Parham, tbd

### *Synopsis:*

The Translink Advocacy campaign will consist of surveying students and asking what their problems with Translink are. The campaign can also promote the [U-Pass Referendum Questions](#) at the same time as the survey. This would make campaigning for the U-Pass Referendum more impactful and meaningful for students.

### *Timeline*

- Oct 2: Form Subcommittee
- Oct 16: Survey Questions due
- Oct 30: Report to Chair

- Oct 30: Final Proposal moved at advocacy committee
- November 6- 17: Campaign

### **Sexual Health**

- Leads: Raajan + Aarushi
- Support: Susanna, Ramsha, Jamie, tbd

#### *Synopsis*

Promoting consent culture on campus via handing out Consent toolboxes at pub nights and collaborating with SFU on their consent campaigns. Implementing a condom dispensary somewhere on campus.

#### *Timeline*

- Sept 22: Give out consent toolboxes at Fall Kickoff Afterparty
- Oct 2: Form Subcommittee + Lead set up meeting with Prab
- Oct. 17: SFUs Sexual Violence Awareness Event tabling
- Oct: setup active Bystander training
- Oct- march: Campaign

### **Mental Health:**

- Leads: Raajan + Aarushi
- Support: Megan

#### *Synopsis*

Promoting mental health awareness on campus via de-stressing activities and other ideas

#### *Timeline:*

- Oct 2: Form Subcommittee for Mental Health + set up meeting with Prab
- Dec: De-stressing week
- Jan - march: Campaign during spring semester

### **Consistent TAs:**

- Lead: Jamie
- Support: Aliya, Susanna, Ramsha, Parham

#### *Synopsis:*

It can be said that TA's contribute to our educational experience here at University almost as much, or sometimes even more than our professors. The overall student concern about the quality of TA's at SFU is something that has come up year after year. Due to the society's knowledge that Masters and PhD students are given preference in hiring over more qualified undergraduates, we can assume that knowledge in the subject is being valued over teaching ability. Proficiency in a subject does not equate to the ability to teach it well. The goal of this campaign would be to lobby SFU administration for higher hiring standards teaching assistants as well as regular and ongoing training.

*Timeline:*

- Oct 2: Form Subcommittee + set up meeting with Prab
- Spring semester campaign

**Open Educational Resources:**

- Lead: Parham
- Support: Farooqui, + TBD

*Synopsis:*

The BC Open Textbook Project was created in 2012 and, the program produces free open source resources for students to replace standard, costly textbooks. Open textbooks can be accessed for free digitally or produced in print for about \$30. Currently there have been 588 known adoptions of Open Textbooks at 31 BC institutions and 12823 downloads (BC Campus, 2016). It is currently reported that 17,187 students use open textbooks in BC (BC Campus, 2016).

*Timeline:*

- Sept 5 - 8: Social Media launch of #TextbookTips
- Sept 11 - 15: In person campaigning
- Sept 25 - 29: Launch the video from the campaign during this period
- October: Start working group meetings
- Oct- march: Campaign

**Needs based Grants**

- Lead: Prab + Jamie
- Support: Ramsha, Susanna

*Synopsis*

The majority of students from middle- and lower-income families need to take out student loans to pay for their education, and these students are more likely to come

from marginalized backgrounds. This means that due to the interest rates on student loans, a poor student will pay more for their education than someone coming from a more privileged background. BC is the only province without a needs-based grants program for low income students.

*Timeline*

- Sept 22-30: Present at Provincial Budget Consultation
- Oct- Spring: Campaign

**(TBD) Rental Rights**

- Lead: Prab
- Support: Everyone

*Synopsis:*

Advocating rights for students who rent + increase student housing

*Timeline*

- TBD when other universities are advocating

**(Completed) Tank Farm**

- Lead: Prab
- Support: everyone

*Synopsis:*

Implementing safety plan for SFU evacuations.

*Timeline*

- Completed
- No need for campaign
- Recontact MP Terry Beech

## Executive Summary

### Preface

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) represents 29, 994 undergraduate students attending Simon Fraser University (SFU or the “University”) across three main campuses in Burnaby, Surrey, and Vancouver. We would like to thank the Government of British Columbia for the following investments:

- \$1.98 billion for advanced education
- \$2.6 billion in capital spending over three years by postsecondary institutions across the province in Budget 2017 (pg. 32)
- \$24.5 billion in support of infrastructure investments for hospitals, post-secondary, transit and roads over the course of the fiscal year (pg.31)
- The U-Pass BC program
- Maintaining the Tuition Limit Policy and limiting increases for tuition and mandatory fees at 2% per year.
- \$90-million investment for Energy Systems and Environmental Engineering Program by the federal and provincial governments

Now that the Provincial Government has realized a \$2.8 billion surplus for this fiscal year (2017/18), we would like to recommend that the committee take the following recommendations into consideration:

### Recommendation 1

**The creation of needs-based grants program for low-income students attending a BC post-secondary institution.**

#### *Background:*

- Eligible full-time students who are low income income holders will receive non-repayable needs-based grants that enable them to access post-secondary education.
- offering students living in unaffordable housing marker a real educational opportunity that will improve their economic standing

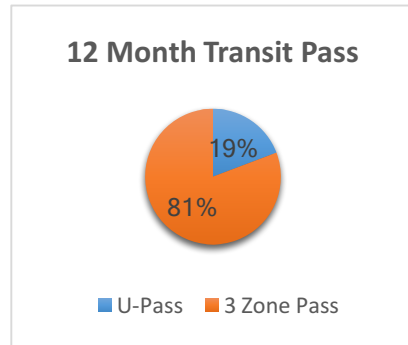




## Recommendation 2

### Long term funding for the U-Pass BC program

*Background:*



**Saves students over \$1500 on public transit every year**

**94.0% approval rate at Spring 2016 U-Pass referendum**

**Student Loan program calculated student living allowance for public transportation in BC was \$105**

U-Pass provides a critical service to post-secondary students in the Metro Vancouver region and it is vital that the provincial government commits to continuing this program.

## Recommendation 3

### Provide targeted funding to post-secondary institutions for mental health support services for students.

*Background:*

Simon Fraser Student Society Advocacy Survey (Simon Fraser Student Society, 2017):

- Over 61% of 492 students surveyed consider mental health very important.

StudentCare Survey (Simon Fraser Student Society, 2017):

- 76.0% say mental health is very important
- 71.4% placing mental health at the same level of importance as their physical health
  - 26.2% ranking their mental health above their physical health.
- 97.2% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that our society needs to reduce prejudice and discrimination against people experiencing a mental illness.
- 51.2% have personally experienced a mental illness
  - 52.4% have been treated negatively or unfairly in the past because of a mental health problem.
- 194% increase in claims for Psychology and Counselling services.

#### SFSS Mental Health Claims: Detailed Analysis Over 5 Years

Total Psychology Benefit Claims Analysis (All Eligible Practitioners)							
	Number of claims	Amount Submitted	Amount Submitted % Change	Amount Paid	Students' Out of Pocket Costs	% Out of Pocket	Enrollment
2011-2012	Not Avail	\$ 57,051	N/A	\$ 8,646	\$ 48,406	85%	20,434
2012-2013	81	\$ 30,530	-46%	\$ 5,360	\$ 25,170	82%	20,075
2013-2014	154	\$ 41,290	35%	\$ 6,340	\$ 34,950	85%	20,162
2014-2015	215	\$ 52,105	26%	\$ 30,141	\$ 21,964	42%	19,706
2015-2016	633	\$ 88,361	70%	\$ 64,337	\$ 24,024	27%	19,559

The SFSS encourages the government to strategically allocate funds across post-secondary campuses and highly encourages government to openly destigmatize mental illness by creating a mandate for every university to create a comprehensive mental health strategy

SFU

*It takes  
all of us!*

GAMES, MYTH-BUSTING, SELF-CARE, SUPPORT & SERVICE PROVIDERS, SURVIVOR STORIES, HOT DRINKS, SOUL FOOD, FRIENDSHIP, HOPE, CULTURE CHANGE, EMPATHY, RESILIENCE, UNITY, AND SO MUCH MORE.

FRIDAY  
OCT 13

CONVOCATION  
MALL

12 NOON -  
4 PM

[www.sfu.ca/sexual-violence](http://www.sfu.ca/sexual-violence)

Sexual Violence Support & Prevention Office Ask:

The Sexual Violence Support & Prevention Office will be hosting an awareness raising event on **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon – 4pm in Convocation Mall**. Titled #ItTakesAllOfUs, the event is a call to action, delivered by leaders of the SFU community, to help us in fostering a culture of consent and respect at SFU. We will be featuring survivor stories (enclosed on the stage with content/impact warnings prior to entry and support staff available to debrief at the exit), games and self-care stations, hot drinks and snacks, as well as information on GP 44: *Sexual Violence & Misconduct Policy* and other community engagement activities.

**We are inviting key service providers and culture-change agents on campus like yourselves to come and be a part of this day with us.** If you are interested in having your department represented at our event, please do let me know. A rolling board, table cloths, table, and chairs will be provided for you, as well as any other large items that you may need in order to be present on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Attached is a digital invite for you and your team to pass along to members of the SFU community. We can also provide printed invitations and posters if you would like to promote the event in your space.