1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 11:32AM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that this meeting takes place on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem) and Katzie Nations, on which we are privileged to live, work and play. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 Board Composition

VP Student Services *(Chair)* .... Christina Loutsik
VP Finance .... Tawanda Chitapi
VP External Relations .... Jasdeep Gill
Board of Directors Representative .... Fiona Li
Board of Directors Representative .... Osob Mohamed

3.2 Society Staff

Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator .... Sarah Edmunds
Student Union Outreach Assistant .... Samantha Li

3.3 Regrets

VP External Relations .... Jasdeep Gill

4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

4.1 MOTION GOV 2019-07-02:01
Tawanda/Fiona
Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Jasdeep Gill.
CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION GOV 2019-07-02:02
Tawanda/Osob
Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Priorities of the Year
- VP Student Services talked about the priorities of this year and set a couple of key topics
    - Elections Report

- o Group Policies – Tiers system
- o Terms of Reference for Committees – changing the purpose of our committees
- o Finance Policies – VP Finance believes that there needs to be finance policies in place to better the entire organization

6.2 Post-Election Report Review
- Board of Directors (FCAT) raised the concerns of slates
  - o VP Student Services explained that the removal of slates was to have more informed voters
  - o VP Student Services suggested that with the new SUB building, there can be limitations on where campaigning can happen, which will limit slates/teams
- VP Student Services suggested that the SFSS holds an orientation in order engage students to run for Board
  - o CPRC suggested that Board could have election events leading up to the nomination period
- Staff will work on how to get Board candidates more knowledgeable on expense reports
- VP Finance suggests that we review what "campaign materials" entails

6.3 HR Committee
- This committee could be part of Governance committee; to evaluate the Executive Director and review of salaries
- VP Student Services indicated that Executive Committee could also take on the role as a HR Committee
- The terms of reference could be changed to include the HR committee in Executive or Governance committee

6.4 Transparency on Board Motions
- Board of Directors (Health Science) asked if there was any way to take minutes verbatim, without putting too much stress on the staff
  - o Board of Directors (FCAT) believes that there needs to be more context if voting results are recorded in minutes
- VP Finance brought up the issues of Board transparency and Board solidarity to the SFSS
  - o Board of Directors (Health Science) indicated that there needs to be a balance between what we understand as "board solidarity" and still making sure we prioritize student interests.

7. ATTACHMENTS
- 2019_Elections_and Referenda_Report.pdf
- Improving_Voting_Practices.pdf

8. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION GOV 2019-07-02:03
Tawanda/Osob
Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 12:31
CARRIED/NOT CARRIED/CARRIED AS AMENDED

This report is intended to meet the requirements as contained in the SFSS Bylaws for a final report on any election or referendum held by the SFSS.

Elections and Referenda Report

2019 General Elections and Referenda

Simon Fraser Student Society

The 2019 Independent Electoral Commission

Commissioners:
Sarah Chan
Jason Thiara
Arsal Ijaz
Takunda "TK" Chisvo

Chief Commissioner:
Arr Farah

This report has been Prepared by Chief Commissioner Arr Farah with recommendations from the IEC commissioners

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is the purpose of this report to provide a high-level overview of the 2019 SFSS General

Elections and Referenda. The election saw a total of 33 candidates vying for 16 positions on the

society's board of directors. There were also 3 candidates who were forced to withdraw their

candidacy for various reasons. The Referenda had two questions; one about extending the

Universal Transit Pass all SFU student have access to and the other serving as a non-binding

plebiscite regarding choosing a name for the upcoming Student union building. This report

provides official results, an election timeline and the various issues the IEC came across and

recommended solutions.

TIMELINE

Electoral Period	Start Date	End Date
Notice of Election Period	February 4th	February 17th
Nomination Period	February 18th	March 3rd
Campaign Period	March 4th	March 18th
Voting Period	March 19th	March 21st
Post-Election Period	March 22nd	April 9th

CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Giovanni Ho Sang	1396	N/A	☒
Kia Mirasalehi	405	N/A	☐
Amrita Mohar	852	N/A	☐
			☐

VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT SERVICES

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Prince Cheema	904	N/A	☐
Christina Loutsik	924	N/A	☒
Simran Randhawa	817	N/A	☐
			☐

VICE-PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Harman Batish	374	N/A	☐
Russell Dunsford	983	N/A	☐
Shina Kaur	1028	N/A	☒
			☐

VICE-PRESIDENT FINANCE

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Tawanda Nigel Chitapi	1903	325	☒
			☐
			☐
			☐

VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Jasdeep Gill	1418	N/A	☒
Ali Versi	940	N/A	☐
			☐
			☐

VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Balqees Jama	955	N/A	☐
Jessica Nguyen	1386	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – APPLIED SCIENCES

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Sheldon Bond	131	N/A	☐
Nick Chubb	143	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Simran Bining	298	N/A	☐
Jennifer Chou	361	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – BUSINESS

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Willson Leong	80	N/A	☐
Abhishek (Abhi) Parmar	38	N/A	☐
Andrew Wong	227	N/A	☒
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – COMMUNICATION, ART, AND TECHNOLOGY

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Silke Minami Billings	53	N/A	☐
Fiona Li	94	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – EDUCATION

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Emerly Liu	54	5	☒
			☐
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – ENVIRONMENT

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Lex Grandan	78	N/A	☐
Julian Loutsik	83	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – HEALTH SCIENCES

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Roopan Garcha	134	N/A	☐
Osob Mohamed	135	N/A	☒
			☐
			☐

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE – SCIENCE

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Jason Spence	219	N/A	☐
Kasey Stirling	101	N/A	☐
Simran Uppal	228	N/A	☒
			☐

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

Candidate Name	Votes in Favour ('Yes' votes if uncontested)	Votes Against ('No' votes if uncontested)	Elected
Maneet Aujla	1474	530	☒
Rayhaan Khan	1496	438	☒
			☐
			☐

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

Question 1: U-PASS 2019 REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

Question	
	BACKGROUND:

BACKGROUND:

The cost of a current monthly adult transit pass for the Metro Vancouver region is $95 for one zone, $128 for two zones, and $174 for three zones.

The Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) BC program represents a discounted transit fare for students in Metro Vancouver and has existed since 2011.

The current U-Pass BC program price is $41.00 per month and has not changed in 2 years, and the current contract is set to expire at the end of December 2019.

There is a proposed five-year agreement between the Province of BC and TransLink to continue offering the U-Pass BC program starting January 2020 at all Metro Vancouver public post-secondary institutions.

The proposed structure extends the current rate of $41.00 per month until April 30, 2020, then adjusts the rate to $42.50 per month beginning May 1, 2020. Thereafter, the rate would increase by up to 2% per year rounded to the nearest $0.05 (see the proposed fee schedule below). This structure could continue past April 30, 2025, upon renegotiation or renewal of the agreement.

The U-Pass BC program will be discontinued for SFU undergraduate students if a majority of SFU undergraduate students vote "No".

QUESTION:

Are you in favour of continued participation in the U-Pass BC program beginning January 1, 2020, at the following monthly rates?

January 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020 – $41.00
May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 – $42.50

	May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022 – $43.35 **May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023 – $44.20** **May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024 – $45.10** **May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 – $46.00** **May 1, 2025 onwards: annual increases of up to 2% per year rounded to the nearest $0.05**
Votes in Favour	2671
Votes Against	407
Threshold for Passing	50%
Results *Pass/Fail*	Pass

Question 2: NEW SFSS BUILDING NAMING REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

Question	**BACKGROUND:**
	
	The new SFSS building is under construction between the AQ and MBC and is currently known as the Student Union Building. The building will be devoted to student activities and will include lounges, game rooms, and indoor and outdoor spaces for independent and group study, as well as all SFSS programs and services.
	
	The SFSS Board of Directors would like to survey students to determine whether the name "Student Union Building" should stay or if a new name should be chosen instead.
	
	The following options were shortlisted from a list of student submissions:
	
	• Student Union Building (Building code: SUB)
	   "Student Union Building" is the name traditionally used for this type of building on Canadian campuses.
	• The Den (Building code: DEN)
	   This name is meant to evoke a cozy feeling where you can sit by the fire after class, hold a study session in a team room, or unwind in the gaming lounge. "The Den" is where you can kick back and hang out.
	• The Hive (Building code: HIVE)
	   This name suggests a building alive with activity – whether you're in a club, student union, or with a group of friends, "The Hive" is filled

	with ideas, events, and people who make this campus their home away from home. • The Treehouse (Building code: TREE) This name reflects SFU's natural environment and elements of the building's design: wood, scenic views, outdoor patios, and a focus on sustainability. "The Treehouse" is your place to escape, right here on the mountain. **QUESTION:** **Select your preferred name for the new SFSS building:** • **Student Union Building (SUB)** • **The Den (DEN)** • **The Hive (HIVE)** • **The Treehouse (TREE)**
Votes in Favour	Student Union Building (SUB): 1134 The Den (DEN): 600 The Hive (HIVE): 720 The Treehouse (TREE): 601
Threshold for Passing	Non-binding plebiscite
Results *Pass/Fail*	Student Union Building (SUB): Pass

RECOMMENDATIONS

NOTICE OF ELECTION PERIOD/PRE-ELECTION PERIOD

The Notice of Election Period was from February 4th to February 17th. During this period the IEC was being hired, mapping out the election, planning the debate, and drafting IEC Regulations.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – HIRE IEC EARLIER

Issue:	This year the IEC chief and two commissioners were hired in the last week of January. The other two commissioners were hired mid-way through March. The society typically begins the hiring process in January, leading to a rushed election process.
Recommendation:	All though this years IEC team had previous experience with the society that may not be the case in future years. I recommend that the society begin the hiring process of the IEC Chief in November, ideally having someone in the role before the winter break will give them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the society and the relevant governing documents.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – IEC HIRING PROCESS

Issue: .	For the last two election cycles the IEC chief and commissioners have been hired by society staff. However, in past years it was the responsibility of the chief to hiring their commissioners. Having society staff hire commissioners then seldomly interact with them is a mistake. The chief is required to work with and manage the commissioners throughout the election.
Recommendation:	I recommend the IEC chief be hired and orientated separately from the commissioners. Then the chief along with society staff hire the remaining commissioners on the IEC hiring committee.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – ELECTION SCHEDULE

Issue:	Since the family day holiday and SFU reading break has been changed, I think the election schedule should be changed as well. Specifically, the nomination period no coincides with reading break, giving potential candidates less time to submit their nomination.
Recommendation:	I recommend the society and future IEC's increase the nomination period by one week. The society bylaws require a minimum of two weeks, but do not prohibit a longer period.

RECOMMENDATION 4 – DEBATE PLANNING

Issue: .	In previous years there has been as many as 4 debates. Hosting a debate at the Vancouver campus is simply irresponsible as attendance is awful among students and candidates. The Surrey campus also has a poorly attended debate. However, simply having only one debate with all 16 positions does not do the society justice.
Recommendation:	I recommend the IEC and society plan two debates in future years. One debate for faculty and At-large representatives and a second debate for President and Vice-Presidents. This way there will be enough time for candidate's questions and all audience questions.

RECOMMENDATION 5 – DEBATE ACCESSIBILITY

Issue:	It is unreasonable to expect the IEC (a group of undergraduate students) to be able to account for all possible accessibility needs or have any formal training to deal with accessibility needs. It is also unreasonable for the society to rely on students with disabilities or student groups to enlighten them on accessibility concerns and best practices.
Recommendation:	I recommend the society invest in ensuring that a staff member, ideally the events coordinator, has relevant accessibility training. That way they would be responsible for ensuring the debate (and all other society events) are accessible to all students.

RECOMMENDATION 6 – DRAFT IEC REGULATIONS

Issue	The Society's bylaws are very outdated and need to be changed as soon as possible. The Elections portion of the bylaws doesn't account for technology or social media. Moreover, the society's policies are for the most part written by society staff and board members and tend to either contradict the bylaws or are like the bylaws are not feasible.
Recommendation	In the event the society is unsuccessful in changing its bylaws. I recommend the IEC draft their own IEC regulations that will account for how they wish to administer the election in all the areas the bylaws and policies don't give enough guidance. This way candidates will know in advance the rules of the election, and the IEC won't have to make new rules as the election goes on, which has happened the last few years.

RECOMMENDATION 7 – SLATES

Issue	Between the 2014 and the 2018 SFSS elections the IEC has allowed slates. Throughout this period several IEC's have at the conclusion of their election cycles recommended slates not be allowed. Slates tend to breed conflict, make it difficult to hold individuals accountable for their actions during an election and give large advantages to some candidates. For these reasons this year the IEC implemented that recommendation and did not allow slates. The society still had a high voter turnout and a new board was elected.
Recommendation	I recommend future IEC's do not allow slates. I also recommend the society put that in its policies or bylaws.

Nomination Period

The Nomination Period was from February 18th to March 3rd. During this period the IEC began tabling and hosting office to ensure potential candidates were aware of the election process and answered any question individuals had. The IEC along with society staff also held two candidate orientations.

RECOMMENDATION 8 – STUDENT CENTRE

Issue ·	Throughout the election the student centre distributed and received candidate orientation packages and expense forms. However, in previous years candidate only interacted with the IEC. The student centre is not trained to know much about student eligibility, or any of the rules that govern the election. When they are asked election related questions there is the increased likelihood that they would give in correct information when compared to an IEC member.
Recommendation	I recommend cutting the student centre out of the election process entirely. With the society moving to the SUB they should be able to house the IEC in their own office like in previous years. All nomination packages, expense forms and related election documents should be given directly to the IEC. That way the IEC who is specifically trained to administer an election can answer questions with the appropriate information.

RECOMMENDATION 9 – OFFICE HOURS & TABLING

Issue ·	The IEC commissioners tend to spend much of their time between office hours and tabling.
Recommendation	Tabling is not very effect, however office hours to answer candidate questions during the nomination period and campaign period is. Especially if the IEC receives all the nomination packages. I recommend the IEC hold office hours Monday to Friday 10-4 during the nomination and campaign period.

RECOMMENDATION 10 – ELECTION OUTREACH

Issue ·	The IEC does not gain much traction through tabling. The Society overall does not get much traction on its social media.
Recommendation	I recommend the IEC and society should use sponsored Facebook advertisements to increase awareness of the election through all the election periods.

Campaign Period

The campaign period was from March 4th to March 18th. During this period the IEC continued to table in the AQ and host regular office hours. The IEC also began to receive and process complaints from candidates. Lastly, the IEC also began to approve election material for all candidates.

RECOMMENDATION 11 – COPY CENTRE

Issue ·	With the copy centre closing this year, the society will need to be prepared to hold elections without the copy centre.
Recommendation	I recommend the society develop SOP's to address how candidates are reimbursed by the society.

RECOMMENDATION 12 – SPENDING LIMIT

Issue ·	The spending limit is designed to ensure that all candidates are on an even footing. The spending limit is enforced largely through an honour system of candidates reporting their own spending for reimbursement from the society.
Recommendation	I recommend the society increase the spending limit to $80 or $100.

RECOMMENDATION 13 – HANDBILLS/LEAFLETS

Issue	During the campaign period candidates litter the campus with handbills/leaflets. This practice is a waste of paper and money as they are left on tables and the floor.
Recommendation	I recommend the IEC and the society ban handbills and leaflets. The society needs to be more environmentally friendly.

RECOMMENDATION 14 – SOCIAL MEDIA

Issue	Currently the society bylaws and policies do not adequately address social media.
Recommendation	I recommend the society creating relevant bylaws and policies.

Voting Period

The Voting period was from March 19th to March 21st. During this period the IEC continued to approve online material and receive and process complaints.

RECOMMENDATION 15 – CAMPAIGNING DURING THE VOTING PERIOD

Issue	Currently the bylaws require campaigning with physical material be stopped prior to the voting period, but nothing is said of non-physical material i.e online.
Recommendation	The society should allow candidates to continue to campaign online during the voting period.

RECOMMENDATION 16 – EMAILING LISTS

Issue .	The use of email list has been disallowed in some years as they can present an unfair advantage as only some candidates have access to certain email lists.
Recommendation	The society should not allow candidates to send any reminder emails during the voting period regardless of it's a single email or an email list.

Post-Election Period

The Post-Election Period was from March 22nd to April 9th. During this period the IEC dealt with complaints, expense forms and ensuring candidates received reimbursements from the society.

RECOMMENDATION 17 – UNOFFICIAL RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Issue .	Currently the unofficial results are released to the membership a day after the election. However, the society receives many complaints after the results are announced. Also, many candidates do not provide expense forms. Both of which are issues that can affect the official results.
Recommendation	I recommend all unofficial election results should be held until the at least the following Monday. During that holding period: - All expense forms should be handed in - All complaints should be filed.

RECOMMENDATION 18 – OFFICIAL RESULTS

Issue .	There currently is now mentioning of when the IEC must have official results ready for board ratification.
Recommendation	I recommend a policy be draft that requires the IEC to have official results provided to the board for ratification no later than 10 days after the announcement of the unofficial results.

Complaints Process

Currently the society's election complaints process as outlined in bylaws and policies needs reform.

RECOMMENDATION 19 – FILLING OF COMPLAINTS

Issue ·	Currently complaints by anyone through a JotForm. Complaints can be submitted at any time.
Recommendation	I recommend that only candidates can submit complaints. I also recommend that complaints can only be submitted between the opening of the campaign period and 24 hours after the voting period. Candidates should not be able to submit complaints with the prior knowledge of if they one ore lost he election.

RECOMMENDATION 20 – NO FINES

Issue ·	Currently as part of the discipline process candidates can be fined up to $100 by the IEC. However, if the candidate were to lose an election there is no way to force them to pay that fine. The society can only deem them to be members not in good standing which isn't an adequate form of punishment. If candidates are fined and win, they would likely pay the fine.
Recommendation	I recommend the society remove the IEC's ability to fine candidates as found in the bylaws and policies. I recommend the IEC no longer fine candidates.

RECOMMENDATION 21 – SEVERITY OF INFRACTIONS

Issue ·	Currently the IEC is required to determine how severe an infraction is. The IEC has little useful guidance on dealing with complaints.
Recommendation	I recommend the society establish a new discipline schedule that clearly lays out what are minor and major infractions and depending on what period of the election and infraction takes place if it should be elevated to a more severe form of discipline.

RECOMMENDATION 22 – APPEAL PROCESS

Issue ·	During this election the idea of an appeal process was raised. The IEC offered in person meetings with candidates seeking appeals or further clarification of events.
Recommendation	I recommend an appeal process be built into policy something that would also offer candidates an in person meeting with the IEC.

Final Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 23 – CHANGE IEC NAME

Issue ·	Currently the name Independent Electoral Commission implies that the body is or ought to be completely independent from the society, which it is not. The body is made up of undergraduates not professional electoral officers. As such the body must rely on various staff members in order to conduct their work. The body is higher by staff and work with staff they are independent from the board as they should be. But to be independent from a society they are part of is illogical.
Recommendation	I recommend the society change the IEC's name to The Elections Commission which will be comprised of: - Chief Commissioner (1) - Commissioners (4)

RECOMMENDATION 24 – CREATE A POLICY FOR THE EVENT OF A TIE

Issue ·	Currently the society has no bylaw or policy in place to deal with a tie. I created an IEC regulation to deal with it if a tie occurred during this election cycle. There were 4 positions that were within 20 votes, including one position decided by a single vote.
Recommendation	I recommend the society change adopt a policy to account for a tie, the IEC regulation that was developed is a good starting point. -

Final Thoughts

Having prior experience with SFSS elections as a candidate twice and referendum lead, I felt I that I brought a unique perspective to the role of IEC Chief Commissioner. I was aware of much of the glaring loopholes in the society's governing documents and in good faith did everything in my power to ensure the election ran as smoothly as possible. I strongly encourage the society and the newly elected board of directors conduct a thorough examination of the existing electoral processes as outlined in the society bylaws and policies. The IEC as currently structured is not and independent body it severally relies on the expertise of staff. The IEC does not need to keep up a charade of independence instead it should simply be a body comprised of 5 students that strive to administer a student society election, while displaying professionalism and impartiality. I hope that the issues raised in this report are reviewed extensively, and that the recommendations are taken seriously. Lastly, I appreciate the work of my dedicated and professional IEC commissioners Sarah, Jason, TK, and Arsal. I wish the incoming board of directors the very best.

Thank you,

Arr Farah
IEC Chief Commissioner

Osob Mohamed
Health Sciences Representative
Board of Directors

healthrep@sfss.ca
Tel 778-708-4648

Maggie Benston Centre 2220
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Unceded Coast Salish Territories

sfss.ca

Improving Voting Practices: A Few Options

Option 1: Option to include comment with abstention/opposition
- Applied in a similar way to minutes at the end of last Board term
- Additionally, board members would potentially be given an opportunity to speak on their decision if they choose to do so
  - By including commentary, any members would be able to read/understand the context behind each individual decision
  - Board members would be given the choice to elaborate if they felt it was necessary

8.2 BOD Meeting Voting – MOTION BOD 2019-02-01:05
Kia/Jasdeep

Be it resolved to note all Board members abstaining or voting against a motion in the minutes for all future motions.

CARRIED

- To increase transparency of who votes for each motion in order to better display the relationship between members and Board members
- Concerns:
  - Board members may change their answer/perspective to vote since it will be noted, even though Board meetings are public meetings for all members to attend
- Current procedure allows Board members to choose if they want their abstentions noted in the minutes
- Note:
  - Board meetings are public to members, hence votes from each member are visible regardless
  - Board members are elected by members, so members should be aware of how decisions are made and who votes for what to increase accountability
- 1 abstention

(Excerpt from SFSS BoD Meeting 2019-02-01)

Pros: Increased transparency/communication between board and students
  Members would have a better understanding of how/why a decision was made

Cons: Board members might feel uncomfortable making a comment/having their voting noted

Option 2: Option to flesh out minutes to have more content, and not list voting
- We could list voting ratios (see below)
- 2 people taking minutes, with one additional staff member for commentary

Osob Mohamed
Health Sciences Representative
Board of Directors

healthrep@sfss.ca
Tel 778-708-4648

Maggie Benston Centre 2220
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Unceded Coast Salish Territories

sfss.ca

JUDICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Judicial Recommendations on Elections Complaints

Dan Tran says shout out to the Judicial Committee for spending until 1:30 AM delivering on these issues. He says that 10 hours was spent between everyone in the committee to work on this report. He says for conflict of interest reasons, he would like to give the opportunity for Board members who were part of candidacy to disclose that.

Kevin Mendez says me.

Dan Tran says that he speaks on these recommendations on behalf of the committee, not himself.

Dan Tran reads Complaint 1: Vincy Fok v. ZeZe Sun. The complainant accused the respondent and affiliates of intimidation and harassment of a group of students. This was allegedly a result of prior communication about an online post. The Committee's Recommendation: The EPP lacks a policy on harassment, intimidation, and what constitutes as such. Thus, the Judicial Committee was forced to make an objective judgement based on the hearing and assess whether a person actively involved in an election would characterize the interaction as harassment or intimidation. The Judicial Committee is fully against harassment and intimidation and believes an accusation should be taken seriously. However, due to insufficient and inadequate evidence and testimony, the Judicial Committee could not rule that a violation had occurred. **Therefore, the Judicial Committee recommends that this complaint be dismissed.** The Judicial Committee strongly recommend that a new section be added to the EPP regarding harassment, intimidation, and what constitutes as such. This additional section would strengthen complaints regarding harassment and intimidation and allow a broader range of what constitutes or defines harassment or intimidation for the decisions the Judicial Committee makes.

Casey Duff says if he remembers correctly, the complaint wasn't against the candidate but about the alleged harassment from volunteers.

Riley Grace Bordan says harassment was spoken about five volunteers.

Dan Tran says he will be going through each of these complaints one by one, so there should be a motion to accept these.

Casey Duff motions to accept JCC Recommendation on Complaint 1.

VOTE: Motion passes 7-0 with no abstentions.

(Excerpt from ASUW BoD Minutes, 2019-5-30)

Pros: Much more context for students who choose to read our minutes, easier to read and understand

Cons: Potential strain/increased workload on staff, we would need to determine if this is a plausible route we can take first without straining staff/board relationship

Option 3: Option to flesh out minutes to have more content, and list voting
- Similar minute-taking practices as above
- Replace ratios w/names of abstentions & oppositions

Pros: Much more context for students who choose to read our minutes, and anyone who has further questions can contact board member in question with the knowledge provided

- Students would know who to contact regarding their concerns

Osob Mohamed
Health Sciences Representative
Board of Directors

healthrep@sfss.ca
Tel 778-708-4648

Maggie Benston Centre 2220
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Unceded Coast Salish Territories

sfss.ca

- Builds trust between board and membership

Cons: Potential strain on staff, we would need to determine if this is a plausible route we can take

Option 4: Continue current practices
Pros: Less work for the staff, no single individuals held accountable for a "group decision"

Cons: Students are unable to know/keep track of how individual members vote, very little transparency/student engagement

- Gives us the ability to "hide" behind a group decision, even if that isn't our intention

Next Steps: We narrow down the options/edit/combine as we see fit, and bring a motion to the board to make a final decision.