

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10:38 AM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wík^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations. 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 Accessibility Fund Committee Composition

VP Student Services (<i>Chair</i>).....	Christina Loutsik
Board of Directors Representative.....	Jennifer Chou
Board of Directors Representative.....	Emerly Liu
At-Large Representative.....	Maneet Aujla
At-Large Representative.....	Rayhaan Khan (<i>via phone</i>)
Student At-Large.....	Serena Bains
Student At-Large.....	Vivian Ly (<i>via phone</i>)
Student At-Large.....	Anastasiia Lozitskaia
Student At-Large.....	Mikaela Basile (<i>via phone</i>)

3.2 Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, & Policy Coordinator.....	Sarah Edmunds
Administrative Assistant.....	Kristin Kokkov
Executive Assistant.....	Shaneika Blake

3.3 Regrets

Student At-Large.....	Serena Bains
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4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

4.1 MOTION AFAC 2020-02-11:01

Emerly/Maneet

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Serena Bains and Anastasiia Lozitskaia.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Amendment:

- Regrets from Maneet Aujla removed.
- Regrets from Anastasiia Lozitskaia added.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION AFAC 2020-02-11:02

Emerly/Maneet

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Amendment:

- discussion item '7.3 Psycho-Educational Assessments Update' added.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 MOTION AFAC 2020-02-11:03

Maneet/Emerly

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- AFAC 2020-01-21

CARRIED

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Accessibility Policy

- The updated policy was sent out as a work order.
- It was pointed out that the policy is a high level piece, and additional appendixes can be later added to the policy.
 - The policy can be passed knowing that the appendixes are going to be changed.
 - There is one year for passing the initial policies.
- Once SFSS moves to the SUB, the project worker position will be created for supporting the work on the Accessibility Fund.
- It was brought out that it is not easy to assess the SUB's accessibility situation right now;
 - The building is legally accessible, but the real situation is unknown at the moment.
 - It is necessary to move in first and then evaluate the situation.
- It was proposed to have annual training for staff (instead of one time training) regarding the Accessibility Grant.

Mikaela Basile left at 10:51 AM

Vivian Ly left at 10:58 AM

7.2 Incentives for note-takers, walkers

- Trying to find a way to help student on note taking.
 - More information coming soon.

7.3 Psycho-educational assessments

- Research was done to see how other universities have handled this question.
 - Either Studentcare or Green Shield Canada provide health and dental plan to most student societies in Canada.
 - Green Shield Canada does not provide coverage for psycho-educational assessments.
- The University of Victoria Students' Society is the only student society in Canada that

offers coverage for psycho-educational assessments.

- The service at UVSS is provided through Studentcare.
- Capilano University does not provide coverage, but provides links to websites about government financial aid.
- The options are:
 - Continuing discussions with the Studentcare to add the assessment to the benefit packages.
 - If the Studentcare asks for additional funding, then this question would go to a referendum.
 - Lobbying the provincial government to make it easier for students to get funding for the assessment.
 - An additional option would be that the Studentcare covers 80% and 20% is covered by the students.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1 MOTION AFAC 2020-02-11:04

Emerly/Maneet

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 AM.

CARRIED

BRIEFING NOTE

PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS IN POST-SECONDARY EXTENDED HEALTH PLANS

ISSUE

Currently, the extended health and dental plan offered to SFU undergraduate students through Studentcare does not provide coverage for psycho-educational assessments, also known as learning disability assessments. These assessments are required for students to receive academic accommodations due to accessibility barriers at SFU. This BN will examine other student unions in Canada that provide this coverage.

BACKGROUND

Studentcare, the largest student health and dental plan provider in Canada¹, is partnered with the majority of student unions across Canada, including the Simon Fraser Student Society. Green Shield Canada covers most other student societies. Plans still vary widely from school to school, even those that both utilise Studentcare. Studentcare offers extended health and dental coverage that supplements primary medical coverage provided to British Columbians through the Medical Services Plan (MSP). It acts as an enhancement to provide essential services not provided by the government.

Psycho-educational assessments can provide students with an official and specific diagnosis of a learning disability, which is required for students applying to Student Aid BC for disability-related financial assistance or accessing individualized accommodations at their post-secondary institutions². Accommodations can include extra time for assignments and tests, provision of low-distraction test environments, and use of a note-taker or reader. Learning disability assessments are not covered by the provincial MSP or the SFSS' Studentcare plan.

CURRENT STATUS

Currently, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is the only student society in Canada that offers coverage for psycho-educational assessments³. This coverage has been available since at least November 2016. The coverage provides an 80% reimbursement, up to \$3,000 annually. It is not available to dependants. The learning disability assessments can be conducted by an external psychologist, or arranged with the University of Victoria's Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL).

¹ [Studentcare, Get to know us](#)

² [Psycho-educational assessment Vancouver](#)

³ [Coverage for Learning Disability Assessments, UVSS](#)

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Although Capilano University does not provide coverage for assessments, they provide a website with [links](#) to government financial aid for psycho-educational assessments as well as scholarships, which could be useful to share with students for the time being.
2. BC students who are approved for student loans may qualify for government funding that covers the full cost of their assessment, through the BC Learning Disability Assessment Bursary. This bursary covers up to \$1,800, and students are eligible if:
 - a. They qualify for StudentAidBC funding,
 - b. They are enrolled full-time or part-time at a post-secondary institution in B.C., and
 - c. They have been recommended to have a learning disability by a Disability Service Provider at their school

OPTIONS

1. Continue conversations with Studentcare about adding psycho-educational assessments to their benefit package for SFSS students.
2. Submit a referendum question requesting students increase the annual cost of the Studentcare plan to include coverage of psycho-educational assessments.
3. Lobby the provincial government to make it easier for students with disabilities to qualify for the Learning Disability Assessment Bursary.

RECOMMENDATION

I would recommend pursuing Option #1, and if Studentcare does not want to include this benefit at-cost, begin discussing what the cost increase would be per student if the SFSS were to add psycho-educational assessment coverage, at various coverage levels (e.g. 80%, 100%). Once we are clear on the cost of including psycho-educational assessments in the Studentcare extended health plan, the SFSS Board can pursue Option #2 and can bring forward a question for students to approve a fee increase on their plan to better serve their fellow classmates with learning disabilities. Option #3 can be explored by a joint initiative between the AFAC and the FPMALC.

NEXT STEPS

1. Continue discussions with Studentcare.
2. Explore cost and coverage options within the committee once more details are provided.