

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10.05 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<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), S<sup>k</sup>wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əłəm (Kwikwetlem) and q̓ic̓òy̓ (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 Committee Composition

President ( <i>Chair</i> ).....	Giovanni HoSang
VP External Relations .....	Jasdeep Gill ( <i>via phone</i> )
VP Finance .....	Tawanda Chitapi
VP Student Life .....	Jessica Nguyen ( <i>via phone</i> )
VP Student Services.....	Christina Loutsik
VP University Relations.....	Shina Kaur ( <i>via phone</i> )

### 3.1 Society Staff

Executive Director .....	Sylvia Ceacero
Executive Assistant.....	Shaneika Blake
Finance Manager.....	Rowena de la Torre
Building Manager .....	John Walsh
General Manager.....	Alejandro Reyes
Build SFU General Manager .....	Marc Fontaine
Administrative Services Manager.....	Shubhangi Jain

*\*The meeting was recorded, and minutes were taken subsequently\**

## 4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

### 4.1 MOTION BOD 2020-03-13:01

**Tawanda/Giovanni**

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Christina Loutsik.*

**CARRIED**

## 5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### 5.1 MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:02

**Tawanda/Giovanni**

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

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**5.1.1. MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:02-01**

**Giovanni/Tawanda**

*Be it resolved to add regrets for Christina Loutsik to the agenda.*

*Be it further resolved to add agenda item for Young Women in Business Event.*

**CARRIED**

**5.1.2. MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:02-02 (done after the recess)**

**Giovanni/Shina**

*Be it resolved to amend the agenda by including a New Business section 6.1 SFSS Covid-19 Response Plan.*

**CARRIED**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS (done after the recess)**

### **6.1 SFSS Covid-19 Response Plan – MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:03**

**Giovanni/Shina**

*Whereas the SFSS has been reviewing and monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and that the matter has reached the level of a global pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization, Whereas the SFSS has to ensure that all staff, clubs, departmental student unions, faculty student unions, constituency groups and all of our membership are safe,*

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee mandates the closure of all SFSS offices, with an expected return date of March 30,2020 and that the Executive Director administers such a closure,*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee directs clubs, departmental student unions, Faculty Student Unions and Constituency groups to cancel all scheduled on-campus activities, and that all new event approvals by SFSS Departments are halted until further notice,*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee mandates all currently scheduled Board and Board committee meetings be done remotely as necessary, and that these be recorded and kept for corporate records purposes,*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee have the Executive Director work remotely as available,*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee invite the SFU Administration to take the appropriate measures required to maintain the health and safety of all students, staff, visitors and the campus community at large; taking into account the academic integrity of all students.*

**CARRIED unanimously**

- This motion is the outcome of the discussion before the recess.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Covid-19 Plans and Board Business Continuity**

- There is coronavirus pandemic that many people and the SFSS are concerned about.
- A lot of other student unions are cancelling their front-line work.
  - Services and food operations are closed.
  - Peer support has moved online.
  - For example, McMaster Student Assistant plan is closed at least for the next two weeks, and Seneca College in Ontario sent everybody home.
    - Classes are online.

- Some governments are voluntarily asking clubs and DSUs to cancel their events.
  - It was pointed out that not all students are taking this very seriously.
- Erin Biddlecombe, Senior Director of the Office of the Vice Provost, Students & International has been giving daily information to ED:
  - SFU has cancelled classes that have 250 or more students.
  - They are looking for options for these students right now, because SFU currently does not have the infrastructure to move everybody online.
  - They are asking SFSS and GSS to cancel all events, including the ones that are less than 250 people.
- An email was sent to the clubs recommending that all events that are SFSS funded should be postponed or cancelled.
  - Other events mostly at hotel venues will still take place, because hotels are still receiving people.
- It was brought out that the Young Women in Business organizers are not planning to cancel the event.
  - They are expecting less than 200 people.
  - It was pointed out that this event can be forced to cancel at some later point, because the government can ban events that have less than 200 people.
- It was pointed out that we need to reimburse students who have bought things for events out of their pockets as soon as possible. For the vendors, the same will be done in timely basis.
- SFSS management has a plan to pay its employees, but do not have a plan yet to pay the students and vendors because the cheques need to be approved.
- For the grants that have already been approved, a follow up email was sent recommending cancelling the planned events.
  - The grants can be stopped.
- It was pointed out that the SFSS does not have an enforcement mechanism and can only give recommendations to cancel external events.
- SFSS is not approving any more events as of today.
  - This will be re-evaluated in two weeks.
- Executives are going to reconvene online on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- It was pointed out that the risk register motion was passed – it was asked how much it could have mitigated this risk if there was one place.
  - Regular Risk Registers are for emergency preparedness, which are more related to oil tanks and earthquakes.
    - One in a lifetime events such as pandemic, are usually not put into Risk Registers.
  - It was suggested that pandemics should go into risk registers from now on.
- Implications to the staff – service workers, management staff, on-call workers
  - Service workers
    - CUPE executives sent a letter which stated that if SFU shuts down, all union members wages would still be in place.
    - Joint Health and Safety Committee suggested that if the Student Centre remains open, only one member should be there at a time.
      - It was suggested to shut down the student interaction and communicate only via email.
    - It was also pointed out that there should be more supplies for all the offices.
    - ED suggested that the contact should be shut down.

- It was pointed out that if we are advocating for SFU to be proactive about this situation, we should be an example.
  - The Events Committee is shutting down all the events for the next two weeks or more.
- It was suggested to shut down student facing for the next two weeks to minimise the risk.
  - Social interaction should be prevented even in between employees.
  - It was emphasised that if the office is shut down, people cannot be asked to work from home, because they may not have access to the Internet at home or have no equipment to do any work.
- It was decided that if the management can call in for the meetings during the next two weeks, they should call, however, it cannot be compulsory.
- On-call and hourly staff:
  - Meetings will be recorded.
  - It was suggested to get an average of hours and pay the salary accordingly.
    - Students staff schedules are made on monthly basis.
  - It was suggested to take a stance to take care of the hourly staff and pay them during the lockdown by semester schedule.
- Board and Committees:
  - There is a Board meeting scheduled for the next meeting.
    - Although the Board is not subject to labour cuttings, it was suggested that the Board is not exempt from the office closure.
  - Essential meetings will be moved online – no in person meetings.
    - The meetings have to be recorded and the recordings be given to the staff for transcription.
    - This also applies to the Council.
- Policy, Research, and Communications office, and IEC:
  - The voting Period is from March 17 – 19, 2020 and IEC is supporting this process.
    - It was suggested that online elections can still take place – the web service is already created.
      - Voting online
      - IEC cannot be forced to work when the office is shut down.
    - It was suggested to postpone the voting period and to pause the campaign period.
  - It was suggested to extend the campaign period until after opening the office again and there will be new voting period accordingly.
  - It was pointed out that this will show leadership to the students, volunteers, staff, and visitors.
    - We want to show solidarity to the whole community by showing leadership by telling the SFU to shut down everything to ensure that everyone is safe.
  - The aim is to put the infrastructure in place where the semester can be complete while the safety of everyone involved is considered.
- It was suggested to reconvene the meeting at 3 PM and vote on this.

- It was pointed out that if the elections take place in April, the new Board can still take office as of May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- If the shut down will be longer, the old Board has to remain in office.

## 7.2 Fall Kickoff Audit

- There was a presentation about audit options on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Based on the presentation, forensic audit and financial audit are not recommended.
  - The appropriate action would be to have the internal audit.
- ED suggested to have MNP carry out the internal audit right now so that the report could be given within the next few weeks.
  - MNP has specific student union experience.
  - The presenters focused on internal audit, because they thought that the forensic audit is not necessary for the society.
  - The audit is necessary so that the students who asked for the audit would feel that they are heard.
  - MNP gave the estimate that the internal audit is going to cost about \$35,000
  - MNP also pointed out that those who made the accusations, are also going to be investigated in the audit report.
    - All the accusations are recorded.
  - All the wrongdoings and negligence have to be told to the students.
- Several Executive committee members pointed out that they do not support having the audit, because it costs a lot of money.
  - However, if the Council wants to have the audit, then their position will be taken into account.
  - Nothing malicious was done, thus the audit would not hurt, but it costs a lot.
  - If students want the audit, then this will be recommended to the Board.
    - The Council is the point of information to the Board.
    - The Council is the concrete contact with the students.
- ED recommended having the audit and having it without the RFP, because RFP takes a lot of time and the current Board will finish their year before the audit results.
  - The students may accuse the Board of trying to delay the processes.
  - She suggested to have the audit with MNP, because then the audit report could be received before the end of the Board year.
- VP Finance pointed out that since this is the recommendation coming from the ED, we should move to put this to the Board.
- The Executives decided that no motion will be coming out off this discussion.
  - This discussion item will be added to the Board table.
- The President is agreeable with the internal audit and suggested that this should be discussed with the Council.

*\*Shina leaves the meeting\**

*\*Osob joined the meeting\**

## 7.3 Surrey Game Space Plan

- The space has been used by SFSS for a number of years without a lease.
  - The space is utilized for eating and convening meetings.
  - SFU has more and more requests by individuals who need accommodations for exams.

- Therefore, SFU is taking back the space that the SFSS is using on Surrey campus.
  - Erin Biddlecombe explained that SFU has the right to take the space and it is a legal obligation, they have to accommodate students with disabilities.
- This is the one student space that SFSS has on Surrey campus and SFU is taking this away.
  - It was pointed out that the Board should not be agreeable to this.
  - It was insisted that there should be some visibility regarding this issue.
- It was pointed out that SFU needs this space only for two years until their new building is built.
  - Arguably SFU has promised to look for other spaces that might be available for SFSS.
- There is also a plan to renovate the area where the register is right now.
  - There is a big counter that takes up a lot of space.
  - They want to renovate the entire area and the SFSS offices can be within that space and that office can be used as a gaming room.
  - They don't know when the renovations would be finished.
- SFU has stated that they want their space by March 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - It was said that this is not an appropriate action on behalf of the university.
  - The SFU students are using this space right now.
  - There have to be conversations about what the university intends to do about the students who are using this space right now.
- SFU has the right to take the space, because we don't have a lease with them.
- SFU pointed out that this is for the right reason, for the students with disabilities.
  - It was pointed out that the way SFU is doing it is not appropriate.
- The action: it will be brought to the Board
  - We need more people, the mandate from the students.

#### **7.4 Meeting with Lawyers on HR**

- The meeting was cancelled for next week Tuesday.
- The Board meeting is cancelled, and this meeting with the lawyers has to be postponed.

#### **7.5 Gaglardi Partial Blockade in Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and possible communications**

- There are several concerns regarding the partial blockade in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en:
  - Some people were late for classes, because of the traffic.
  - Some cars did not do the U-turns at the intersections.
- It was suggested not to craft a response until the concerns are sent via emails.
  - We recognize there was inconvenience.
  - It is shifting Canadian political landscape on a massive level.
  - The SFSS stands in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en hereditary chief.
- However, it was suggested that we should respond to the concerns regardless of whether the situation escalates and apologize for these inconveniences
  - The protest was done in good faith and it was justified, but some people were inconvenienced.

#### **7.6 Life Line**

- The SFSS received an email about a petition with 156 names.
- They are asking to have a conversation with the SFSS.
- They ask for a formal appeal.
  - This is something that can be facilitated.

- It was brought out that this is an online petition, and we could verify that these are SFU students.
  - They can be external people.
  - There is no formal appeal process.
- It was suggested to debrief with them first from the legal standpoint.
- It was suggested to send an email inviting them to have a conversation, however due to Covid-19, the meeting will be scheduled after return to the office.

## **7.7 YWIB**

- A student who was nominated for the Women of the Year award put forward a concern about one of the YWIB panelist as their company is associated with the pipeline project.
  - Conversations were held with the organizer to withdraw the invitation of the speaker, but the organizers declined.
  - The option is to withdraw our partnership.
  - The other option would be to revoke the motion for the solidarity with Wet'suwet'en.
- An email was sent to the organizers on behalf of the SFSS and asking to withdraw the invitation of the speaker who is one of the chief lobbyist for Energy Canada and not just an employee who spoke against the Hereditary chiefs.
  - It is a solidarity issue and it is also an opting out issue, because if we pull out from the event, we have to state the reason.
    - This is not the main panelist for the event, and this would be a low effect on turnout.
    - SFSS will continue to partner if the invitation is withdrawn.
  - So far there is no answer to the email.
- There is also the possibility that the event not taking place due to Covid-19.
- ED received an email from one of the YWIB organizers stating that the President of the SFSS has shared classified information to the media regarding the partnership and the potential of the SFSS pulling out from this event prior to speaking with YWIB representatives.
  - Peak reached out to YWIB organizers.
  - From now on the organizers only want to correspond with ED.
    - ED will respond to this email.
    - There are accusations in the email without evidence.
- It was stated that it would be contradictory to in solidarity with the Hereditary chiefs and the Energy Canada lobbyist attending the YWIB Gala.
  - Although this is a business event, business makes political statements and these two cannot be separated.
- ED pointed out that the Board either has to rescind the motion of solidarity with Wet'suwet'en or they cannot support the YWIB event.

## **8. RECESS**

### **8.1 MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:04**

**Tawanda/Giovanni**

*Be it resolved that the Executive moves to recess until 3:00 PM.*

**CARRIED**

*\*The recess is ended, and the meeting comes back to order at 3:10 PM. Persons present via phone are Jasdeep, Christina, and Tawanda; persons present in person are Giovanni, Shina, Executive Director and Executive Assistant. \**

## 9. ATTACHMENTS

- Recap and suggested communication re Wetsuweten action.pdf

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

### 10.1 MOTION EXECUTIVE 2020-03-13:05

**Shina/Giovanni**

*Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 PM.*

**CARRIED**



Recap Note: Wet'suwet'en Partial Blockade Communication  
Prepared by Giovanni HoSang

As a background, a post was tagged in Reddit - a center for anonymous and sometime, problematic discussion forum (including when it comes to this type of issue for example talk about running over people and killing or running over Indigenous folks are in there).

Emails came in via the SFSS that were prompted here  
([https://www.reddit.com/r/simonfraser/comments/fdmzpz/how\\_is\\_this\\_allowed\\_sponsored\\_by\\_sfss\\_none\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/simonfraser/comments/fdmzpz/how_is_this_allowed_sponsored_by_sfss_none_the/)).

Recap of the action:

- Most folks were in support who were actually really supportive on the ground - which is not what folks organizing had expected.
- An opportunity was provided for cars to reroute via U-turn to the UniverCity to exit campus
- Most drivers were in support
- at some point 2 cars refused to uturn as a power move and the rest of the drivers came out in support of the blockade and got angry with those two vehicles' drivers
- It was communicated that we would be there until 5.
- Folks arrived at the intersection at 4.25.
- 5pm came and moved to song as Indigenous organizers led us in song
- 100 people in overall attendance at Convo Mall, 40 in attendance at the partial blockade.

<https://www.burnabynow.com/news/sfu-students-block-burnaby-traffic-in-solidarity-with-wet-suwet-en-1.24090735>

<https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/wetsuweten-student-walkout-draws-crowd-of-around-100-to-convocation-mall/>

<https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/113640/>

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/49-cambie-closed-wetsuweten-demonstration>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.cbc.ca/amp/1.5485663>

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Suggested communication if the emails persist:

The SFSS stands in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and actions happening across the country.

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) stands in resolute solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and the hereditary chiefs, whose representative role is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, as they have indicated a lack of consent for the Coastal GasLink pipeline development on unceded territories.

Simon Fraser University (SFU) students attended the National Student Walkout on March 4, 2020 in solidarity as well as sent a letter to the Premier and the Prime Minister of Canada alongside UVSS, UBC AMS, and the UVSS.

While we recognize the inconvenience and recognize that this affects and causes delay in the lives of students, we ask for patience from our membership. Indigenous communities have been patient regarding these matters for multiple years - and we stand in solidarity with the Indigenous communities on campus and call on the Governments of Canada and BC to meet the demands of the Wet'suwet'en First Nations and their Hereditary chiefs.

Please refer to the statement in the following statement and the letters to the Premier and Prime Minister respectively. We invite you to stand in solidarity with our Indigenous communities especially Indigenous organizers and allies on campus taking action.

Statement: <https://sfss.ca/the-sfss-stands-in-solidarity-with-wetsuweten/>

Letter:

<https://sfss.ca/student-organizations-across-bc-stand-in-solidarity-with-the-wetsuweten-and-their-hereditary-chiefs/>