

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 12:01 PM

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 ḡícəy̓ (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

VP University Relations (<i>Chair</i>)	Gabe Liosis
VP External Relations	Samad Raza
Faculty Representative (Science).....	WeiChun Kua
Faculty Representative (Health Sciences)	Nafoni Modi
Faculty Representative (Education)	Emerly Liu
Faculty Representative (Environment)	Anuki Karunajeewa
President	Osob Mohamed
At-Large Representative	Phum Luckkid
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At-Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>

3.2 Society Staff

Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator	Sarah Edmunds
Executive Assistant	Shaneika Blake
Administrative Assistant	Kristin Kokkov

3.3 Guests

Student Senator	Alan Wong
Student Senator	Abhishek Pamer

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 MOTION UAA 2020-05-22:01

Samad/Anuki

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED unanimously

4.1.1. MOTION UAA 2020-05-22:01-01

Gabe/Weichun

Be it resolved to add discussion item 6.6 Covid-19 Discussion and Issues to the agenda.

CARRIED unanimously

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 MOTION UAA 2020-05-22:02

Samad/Emerly

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- UAA 2020-04-06

CARRIED unanimously

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Including Senators as UAA Members, Overview of UAA TOR

- Undergraduate Student senators are non-voting members of the committee.
 - They have speaking privileges and can participate in committee affairs.
 - They are part of the mailing list
- It was pointed out that this relationship between the SFSS and the Senate is important not only at the committee level, but also in working groups.
 - Especially amidst Covid-19, academic advocacy is going to take a lot of time both at the SFSS and the SFU Senate and shared goals are hold.
- Even though senators are non-voting members, they still have speaking privileges.
- It will be continued to encourage senators to attend the meetings.
- A senator brought out that senators often do not attend UAA meetings, because there are clashes with classes and other meetings and UAA meetings often are not the priority to senators.
 - The senators asked if there are any ideas how to give senators the incentive to come to the meetings.
 - It was brought out that a lot of the goals are similar and if the UAA and the Senate could work together, they could streamline the work that they both try to accomplish.
 - The senator feels that the connection is useful – instead of having two groups working separately on the same things, they could streamline their work.
- It was proposed to use the UAA as a channel to create unity and encourage people to communicate.
- It was pointed out that if people have a reason to be invested, they have the incentive to attend the UAA meetings.
 - It is important to have the feeling of making a difference and having an impact.

6.2 At-Large Application Criteria for UAA Committee

- As per TOR there are 6 seats allocated to students at large and they serve as voting members and volunteers.
 - Each committee establishes their own applications criteria.
- Last year the application process changed from interview structure to the structure where the committee chairs had hands-on say how the members are chosen, and the application was questions-based.
- The aim is to figure out the criteria for the application this year.
 - It was suggested to change some of the questions.

- For example, the question about “Describe your background on leading or being involved in campaigns” – a lot of people do not have experience being part of campaign and it is hard to get this kind of experience.
 - The SFSS would be the place to gain the experience.
- In addition, it was suggested to have a word limit, because last year some people wrote very long answers.
 - It was pointed out that the software that is used does not allow to set the word limit, but the word limit can be indicated in brackets.
- It was suggested to add the question about what campaigns the applicants would like to be part of or what initiatives they would bring to the UAA.
- These notes will be included when communicating with the Nominating Committee.

6.3 Working Group on Student Engagement and Emergency Response (Samad)

- It was brought out that since the SFSS is working online, and the school is online, it is necessary to think about how to improve engagement with the students and how to provide emergency support to students.
- It was suggested that there is a need for a working group or a subcommittee that would think how we could engage students and improve the fall semester.
 - This working group could bring problems forward to the UAA committee.
 - The plan would be to ask questions from the students and interact with them.
 - Help students solve to problems and empower the students.
- There was a question, what this working group could look at and if it is worth establishing another working group instead of bringing these things to the UAA and the Executive committee.
 - It was explained that this working group could prepare for fall semester and put a plan together.
 - Fall semester is mostly online too.
 - It was proposed to get feedback from students who are taking summer online courses.
 - For example, have a survey about the courses with labs and what students think should happen to these courses – should the fee be cheaper or should they not be paying the lab fees, for example.
 - The working group could collect that data and tell what the students are saying.
 - All the recommendations would come back to the UAA committee and the committee would decide how to proceed.
 - It was decided that the working group would be meeting up to twice a month.
 - Samad is the lead, the members are Gabe, WeiChun, Phum, and Abhishek.

6.4 Member-At-Large Applicants

- This is a duplication of the discussion item 6.2 and was skipped.

6.5 Update from On-going Projects from Last Board Year

- Open Education Resources working group had a few projects last year.
 - There was a meeting with OER Grants Committee earlier this month.
 - The committee has suspended taking grant applications because the pool of money is depleted at the moments.
 - They are not getting extra funding from the VP Academic at the moment, and are looking for different avenues for funding.

- Last year the OER video was worked on – students were interviewed and asked how much money they spent on textbooks for the semester and how much the most expensive textbook cost.
 - OER working group committee members were also interviewed about what OER is and how it benefits students with textbook affordability.
 - The video is completed; however the student testimonials are not usable, because of the bad quality of the audio.
 - The testimonials need to be refilmed.
 - There was a letter drafted last year to advocate for more adaptation and adoption of OER resources from faculty, but this was suspended until next semester because of the Covid-19.
 - Since the fall semester will be online as well, it is an opportunity to push the faculties to adapt more freely available online sources.
 - It was suggested to edit the draft letter to include more relevant information about the Covid-19 and about the students who are struggling.
 - It was pointed out that a lot of professors have been using OER in their classes, but they have not reported it and shared the experience
 - It was pointed out that the initial plan was to do tabling, but now it is not possible, and digital option should be looked at.
- In addition, it was suggested to look at the Advocacy Initiatives Annual report that was jointly done last year by the UAA and ECAC – this allows the committee to map out some of the yearly plan.
 - The UAA and ECAC committees have the same budget and the report is the same, but there are different sections for the two committees.
 - In the report there were several priorities that should be continued.
 - The ongoing initiatives in the report include creating student advocacy office.
 - There was a motion to hire a student advocate who is similar to an ombudsperson, but can advocate on student’s behalf.
 - The job description is currently being worked on.
 - Another ongoing initiative is the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project.
 - It was pointed out that the Translink might want to delay the project because of Covid-19.
 - Translink can not say the status of a lot of their projects at the moment, but this project has received political support.
 - This project is probably not the priority and it is not known when the consultations start.
 - In addition, there is the tuition budget consultation working group.
 - It was brought out that last year the SFU sent the budget last minute and did not give much time to comment on the budget.
 - This was a working group where the president of SFSS worked together with the president of GSS.
 - If this year the SFU gives the students more time to look over the budget, the committee would meet and review the budget along with the staff and submit the comments back to the SFU.

6.6 Covid-19 Discussion and Issues

- Some time ago the SFSS sent out a survey to the membership about the Covid-19 and the impact it has had on the students.
 - That information is being compiled into a report and will be finished soon.
 - This report also contains the SFSS’ demands to the SFU:

- Further financial relief for the students (suspending late penalties and other fees and fines)
- Freezing tuition for the coming year for both domestic and international students.
- Extending general emergency programs into the summer semester.
- More academic accommodations including requiring asynchronous course delivery and recognizing the challenge of working from home.
- Providing greater academic accommodations for students with disabilities.
- Extending the pass/fail grading system throughout the summer semester.
- Improving mental health support and ensuring mental health resources available to students.
 - Improving the process of checking in with and responding to students who may be in distress.
- The question is which of these demands are being asked for the fall semester as well.
 - It was pointed out that it is necessary to contemplate that the Covid-19 situation may last a while and that it is necessary to think about that the long-term demands.
 - This survey will be brought forward to the Joint Operations Group and it will be discussed there as well.
- About the long-term goals, it was brought out that in terms of the tuition freeze, the students have already paid their fees for the summer semester.
 - However, this conversation will be pushed hard over the course of the semester.
 - Several other universities in Canada have announced tuition freeze for this year.
- It was suggested that the pass/fail option should be a long-term option.
- In addition, the 2% penalty fee will be pushed as well.
- It was brought out that the SFU staff and administration is not interest in continuing the pass/fail option.
 - Their attitude is that last semester they were forced to implement this, because there were changes made that were not in the course outline.
 - Now the course outlines describe all the requirements.
 - This has been brought up in the Senate and there is no support to continue with the pass/fail option.
- It was pointed out that the SFSS has received a lot or requests for refunding the SFSS membership fees.
 - The SFSS is not able to refund most of the activity fees and this is difficult for the students who feel that they are paying for something but are not getting a lot out of it.
 - It was suggested to show what values the SFSS is still offering to students and to communicate all the financial resources that have been created.
 - It was suggested to have an engagement and communication strategy for sharing the information with the students, so that they would not feel that they are paying the fee, but not getting anything out of it.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

7.1 Next UAA Meeting Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 3PM-5PM (New Meeting Time)

- This will be the new biweekly committee meeting time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1 MOTION UAA 2020-05-22:03

Samad/WeiChun

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 01:12 PM.

CARRIED unanimously