

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 3:02 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), S^kw^xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selíłwíłh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and qícəy (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
The President.....	Osob Mohamed
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
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At-Large	<i>Vacant</i>
Student At Large	<i>Vacant</i>
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3.2 Society Staff

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

3.3 Guests

At-large representative	Phum Luckkid
At-large representative	Balqees Jama

3.4 Regrets

Faculty Representative (Education).....	Emerly Liu
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4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

4.1 MOTION UAA 2020-06-16:01

Nafoni/WeiChun

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Emerly Liu (pre-existing appointment).

CARRIED unanimously

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION UAA 2020-06-16:02

Nafoni/WeiChun

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED unanimously

5.1.1. MOTION UAA 2020-06-16:02-01

Anuki/Gabe

Be it resolved to add the discussion item 8.3 Anti-Racism Mandatory Courses to the agenda.

Be it further resolved to replace discussion item 8.1 Conversation Around Course Delivery for Fall 2020 with the discussion item 8.1 Academic Advocacy.

CARRIED unanimously

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 MOTION UAA 2020-06-16:03

Nafoni/WeiChun

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- UAA 2020-06-02

CARRIED unanimously

7. UPDATES

7.1 COVID-19 Coalition (Osob and Samad)

- There are no major developments at the moment.
- Now the focus is shifting from this semester to what can be done for future semesters.
- Meetings will continue to take place.

7.2 Joint Operations Group (Gabe and Osob)

- The meeting will be on Thursday and the agenda items are as follows:
 - Student Affordability Project
 - University budget: reported “carry forward”
 - There was a \$48 million dollars carry-over from last year and it will be discussed where this came from.
 - Updates from student societies
 - The SFSS update about the SUB opening and how the Covid-19 may change the plans.
 - Anti-Black racism on campus
 - This is sparked by the statement by the SFU president about the SFU stance on anti-black racism and students think that this statement was not enough.
 - Student enrollment – summer & fall terms
 - Lab re-openings: safety measures in place?
 - International students’ & work
 - Concerns about transportation costs

- One of the attachments to the agenda is from the GSS about the universities budget.
- It was asked if there are any point on these topics that the committee members feel that needs to be brought to the JOG table.
 - It was suggested to add fall reading break and asbestos to the agenda
 - It was pointed out that new agenda items cannot be added, and the discussion will be restricted to these items that are on the table.
 - It was suggested to work on these topics with the Senate.
 - It was suggested to add the question of ensuring black students' safety on the campus.
 - It was suggested to emphasise the financial wellbeing of the students – tuition should be lower.
 - The SFU should not be profiting on students at this moment.
 - The quality of the education has decreased.
- The updates will be continued to be given.

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

- It was pointed out that the food hub program sign-up form will be hosted on the SFSS website.
 - The students' privacy will be protected.
- At the next Board meeting there will be a motion about asking to allocate the Forum Chambers for this program and \$5000 for reserve funding.
- There are talks about the possibility of opening up the food hub in Surrey as well.
 - More information will come next week.
- The game show – the development is still in the process.
 - The deadline is July.
 - There is a plan to get a list of Board members who can host the game show programs.
- The logistics of the food program is under work.
 - The meeting with chief safety officer will be set up.
 - It was explained that there are no problems as long as the food is not stored overnight or eaten on site.
 - Social distancing will be kept in mind.
 - This program will be communicated to the membership.

7.4 Working Group on the SFSS Student Town Hall (Balqees)

- There have been communications with different groups to sort out the details.
 - A new townhall account will be set up – townhall.sfss.ca.
 - The test run will be done tomorrow and with the other groups next week.
- It was asked for suggestions about polling questions
 - It was suggested to ask the students what they need.
 - What are the financial and academic needs?
 - How can courses be delivered in equitable way?
 - How have students/workers adapted?
 - Do the students feel that the quality of the education has decreased?
 - Do the students feel that they should pay less tuition?
 - Are the professors compassionate?
 - It was suggested to look at the Facebook discussion about the townhall organised by the SFU.

- It was suggested to ask how students feel about having anti-racism mandatory courses.
- Groups that have been reached out – GSS, C-19 Coalition, Tuition Freeze Now, TSSU.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Academic Advocacy

- It was suggested that now a lot of the efforts should be focused on the fall semester which will be online.
 - It is necessary to ensure that the fall semester is not like the summer semester was.
 - Implementing the asynchronous teaching in equitable way.
 - Recorded lectures and also alive lectures.
 - Decrease tuition to reflect the change of the education quality.
 - The quantitative data shows that the quality of education has decreased.
- It was suggested to have a survey in department-wise to know what needs to be accommodated in each department.
 - Different departments have different issues about individual courses.
- However, there was a suggestion that we do not need any more data, because enough data has been collected.
 - It was suggested to approach individual administrators in different departments to get information about how different departments have adapted with the teaching online.
- It was pointed out that there is a group that potentially goes to the province about the transit – to get free U-Pass for the year.
 - It is difficult to take away the U-Pass.
 - It has been hard to work with these contracts especially because nobody knows when people are going back to work and school.
 - It is difficult, because the SFU codes courses in a certain way
 - It was suggested to look into why they code courses in the certain way and how we can use this knowledge in the SFSS' advantage.
 - This influences the decisions they make about the courses.
 - It was pointed out that the SFU will be resistant about meeting the demands.
 - The SFU does not want to lose their funding.
- It was asked if the students are charged extra fees now that the courses are online.
 - It was explained that the courses are still coded as in person courses and all the fees are still collected as if they were in person courses.
 - If the courses were online, there were less fees, because certain fees would not be collected.
- It was suggested to focus on getting the survey results out.
 - There are certain number to focus on – e.g. students who do not have reliable Wi-Fi.
 - It was pointed out that there are indigenous students who do not have access to internet at all.
- It was proposed to use the survey results and have campaign actions that show the SFU that this, what they are saying, is not true.
- Action items:
 - Email campaign – amplifying the campaign through hashtags and photos of people holding up signs.
 - Taking the quantitative data and turning that into graphics and post to social media.
 - Emailing the deans and program chairs.
 - Taking the concerns to the SFU administrator.

- Looking into the Campaign Gears software.
- Send email to SCUS.

8.2 Issues regarding RA-SFU Agreement

- In spring there was a campaign to unionize the Research Assistants.
 - It was successful and they had an agreement with the SFU.
- Since then there have been some challenges.
 - The promise was that the RAs are recognized as employees of the SFU.
 - However, there is no list of RAs and no bargaining has not begun.
- It was pointed out that the SFU tries to narrow the definition of RA, which makes it difficult for the RAs to unionize.
- The SFSS endorses the RA campaign.

8.3 Anti-Racism Mandatory Courses

- It was brought out that the students from department of education try to get the SFU to implement mandatory anti-racism courses.
 - The students reached out to the SFSS asking for support and help to create working group by September 2020 to lobby the SFU.
 - They are going to draft a petition to the president of the SFU and ask the SFSS to sign this and circle it around.
 - Their aim is to have the anti-racism courses as a mandatory requirement implemented by September 2021.
- Committee members agree that this is something that the SFSS should be working on.
- It was pointed out that a lot of students did not receive this kind of education in secondary schools and therefore it is important to implement this in the university.
- It was suggested to push for inclusive policy and address gaps in curriculum.
- The SFU says that making anti-racism courses mandatory makes people more racist, but this does not go in line with the research-based evidence.
 - It was suggested that the SFU should be held accountable for this statement.
- The next steps will be having a meeting with the students to discuss what they ask from the SFSS and how the SFSS can help.
- It was suggested to discuss this in the BIPOC committee as well.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT

- **Next UAA Meeting Tuesday, June 30th, 2020 at 3PM–5PM.**

10. ATTACHMENTS

- JOG agenda 18-June-20.pdf
- JOG minutes 28-May-20.pdf

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1 MOTION UAA 2020-06-16:04
WeiChun/Nafoni

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 PM.

CARRIED unanimously

Joint Operations Group Agenda

June 18, 2020

Via Zoom

Chair: SFSS (Gabe Loisis)

Agenda:

1. Student Affordability Project 10:30-10:45am
 - a. Review project goals
 - b. Identify areas of focus for this year

2. University budget: reported “carry forward” 10:45-11:00am
 - a. Where did the carry forward come from?
 - b. Where is it allocated?

3. Updates from student societies 11:00-11:10am
 - a. GSS
 - b. SFSS

4. Anti-Black racism 11:10-11:30am

5. Student enrollment – summer & fall terms 11:30-11:35am

6. Lab re-openings: safety measures in place? 11:35-11:40am

7. International students’ & work 11:40-11:50am

8. Concerns about transportation costs 11:50am-12:00pm

JOINT OPERATIONS GROUP MEETING
MAY 28, 2020
(10:30-12:00) - VIA ZOOM

Present: Erin Biddlecombe | SFU
Gabe Liosis
Jeff Derksen | SFU
Jon Driver | SFU
Matt MacDonald | GSS
Mona Mehdizadeh | GSS
Osob Mohamed | SFSS
Rummana Khan Hemani | SFU
Pierre Cenerelli | GSS
Shaneika Blake | SFSS
Sonia Parissenti | SFU
Sylvia Ceascero | SFSS
Tracey Mason-Innes | SFU
Wade Parkhouse | SFU

Regrets: Martin Pochurko | SFU

Documents: SFSS COVID-19 Survey Report
SFSS COVID-19 Survey Results (full)

The Chair (M. MacDonald) called the meeting to order at 10:36 am

Agenda: → approved

1. Updates:

GSS/Matt

- Worked with three other Graduate Student Societies in BC on letter for provincial funding.
- Emergency funding \$35,000 this summer
- Thanks to Erin and Jeff for their assistance with Grocery Card Program. They are flying out the door (issued over 100 cards in May).

SFSS/Osob

- SFSS COVID-19 Survey Report
- SFSS COVID-19 Survey Results (full)
- SFSS COVID-19 Survey – 2,500 responses (10% of undergraduates) / one response per student.
- Students struggling financially.
 - Travel expenses/study spaces/reliable Internet/ tutorial/ classes

- Lots of individuals laid off / caretaking/ not eligible for funding
- 50% mental health issues / 25% aware of sources
- Instructors – some being unfair / asking students to install spyware / compassion to students.
- 42% ill equipped to finish the spring semester

Jon/SFU

- Inquired why response rate so low
- Petition from SFSS/TSSU - contact the TSSU about instructors
- TSSU direct line – why not contact directly / guidelines not the same from TSSU

5. Library – concerns about access:

- Slowly re-opening

Jon/SFU

- Cannot communicate details yet
- Waiting on Province for guidelines
- Now making our own
- Limited opening
- Needs to know safety guidelines
- Scan on Demand – questioned whether an option
- Currently scanning material for courses

6. U-Pass – concerns about Summer and Fall terms:

Mona/GSS

- U-Pass suspended for summer term
- GSS was hesitant
- Surveys
- 10% graduate students still using public transportation for research
- 75% main source
- 60% if labs open
- Not sure if Translink will agree
- \$200-\$500 subsidize extra burden/ research
- \$15,000 in relief fund
- Labs opening in June

Osob/SFSS

- Undergraduates not interested in U-Pass
- Keep the suspension

Jeff/SFU

- More localized
- R/A included
- Happy to speak to GS

2. Questions regarding funding:

a). Late fees for Summer term

- Payment plan
- 2% late fee
- Graduate students questioning this

SFSS/

- Happy about payment plan
- Change for SFU to make money
- 2% fee does not come of well

Jon/SFU

- Questioned how to pay employers
- Similar to credit card bill
- Tuition with no penalty / relax to pay fees / late fee incentive for students

Rummana/SFU

- Paying tuition allows students to enroll for Fall
- Majority pay by deadline
- Know about the setbacks
- Extension in place to recover from setbacks
- This was a way to do this
- Creates incentives

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- Reflect better on the university /flat rate?

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- Understand finance
- Emergency funding – International students – leading the way
- Rather than flat – better to focus extra on greatest need

b.) Tuition fees for Fall 2020 – quality of education?

Osob/SFSS

- Reflect in survey.
- Covered in Town Hall.
- Interaction limited with TA/professor
- More complicated.
- Not same as in person.

Matt/GSS

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- Online delivery not the same.
- Letter sent to Jon Driver and Martin Pochurko.
- Fells like students have lost an entire semester
- Government | pandemic | not SFUs fault
- Overwhelming
- Committee commented on graduates having option to take leave if interrupted | permits etc...leave not an option
- Thank you to Jeff Derksen for all of his hard work

Jeff/SFU

- In a bind with tuition – but have increased bursaries
- Thesis completion fellowship created / hump of funding long term
- Continuity the focus / planning

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- Remote method not necessarily lower
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- Not in agreeance with remote delivery vs. in person
- Difficult transition
- Lots of problems need to be addressed

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- Substantial financial need
- More that can be done
- SFU not doing enough – have to pass this along

c.) Emergency funding for Summer and Fall term?

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- Questioned whether emergency funding will continue into the fall?

Rummana/SFU

- \$3 million dispersed in middle of May
- Big chunk put towards technology
- Moving back to bursary model
- Complex financial situation
- Finished third week of June if need for any further funding
- Federal kicked in
- Best way - students need most via bursary, address through bursary program
- SFSS/Government – well into institutional funding

Jeff/SFU

- Graduate level
- \$6000 research training award / 25 of those
- Working with department
- Special request – don't qualify (for funding awards)
- Reallocate funds

d.) Students who do not qualify for CESB & SFU funding:

SFSS/

- International students / unable to return home
- Cannot apply for funding

Rummana/SFU

- ISS/Case Manager identify proactively with students in trouble
- Broad safety net
- Case manager right away / connect with resources
- Disbursed a lot to international students
- Doing very best to capture everyone (student_support@sfu.ca)

e.) Efficiency with processing funding – delays?

Pierre/GSS

- Thank you Rummana's point
- Devil in details by Government

- Better communications with members
- How much need for funding out there?

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- Delayed then caught up
- Finding other sources beforehand
- Regular bursary mechanism for summer (good shape)
- We got slammed / kudos to Financial Aid team

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- One hour across Western Canada / working remotely
- Content of courses
- Qualitative worked on at graduate level

3. Questions regarding course delivery

a). Issues with synchronous delivery

Jon/Wade/SFU

- No in-person classes in Fall
- Access courses – access capabilities / education goals met
- Accessibility by beginning of term
- Faculty / Dean to approve then Fall Planning Committee
- Direct Studies – specialized equipment
- Provincial guidelines pending
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- Will bring to Senate
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- Academic freedom – admin should stay out / advise not great
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- notes some are receiving emails that lbs are open from instructors
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- Safety plans approved by Dean
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- RA agreement/ bargaining

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- Not moving along
- Abuse – instructors hide behind “academic freedom”
- Strong position GSS
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- Working extremely hard on this
- 1700 different positions
- No specific details

Meeting adjourned 12:02 pm

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