

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 4:36 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^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), S^kwx̄wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwíkwetlem) and qícóy̓ (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

1.1 Council Composition

Student Union Representatives

Archeology	Clara Wilmot
Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies	
Bachelor of Environment.....	Bradley Sarandi
Behavioral Neuroscience	Ramsha Farooqui
Biology	Nicolas Bonilla
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology	Joshua Ham
Business	Mohnish Farswani
Chemistry	Gwen Bui
Cognitive Science	Rollin Poe
Communications	
Computing Science	Ryan Vansickle
Criminology	Charlotte Taylor-Baer
Dance	
Data Science Student Union	Myckland Matthew
Earth Science.....	Alex Kristinsson
Economics	Sandra Pal
Education.....	Adrienne Blas
Engineering Science	Alvin David
English.....	Liz Giardin
Environmental Resource.....	
Environmental Science	Caitlin Heide
Film Student Union.....	
First Nations Studies Student Union	
French.....	Kylee Pocrnich
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.....	Devynn Butterworth
Geography	Nicole Hekl
Gerontology Student Union.....	
Global Asia Studies Student Union.....	
Health Science.....	
History	
Humanities	Sara Wong
Interactive Arts and Technology	Bryan To
International Studies	Alea Mohamed

Labour Studies	Justin Chen
Linguistics	Brianne Limb
Mathematics	
Mechatronics System Engineering	Kimia Rezaeian
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Kyle Newcomb
Music Student Union	
Operations Research	Ashutosh Dubal
Philosophy	Tony Yu
Physics	Manuel Rojas
Political Science (Vice-Chair)	Helen Pahou
Psychology	Tiffany Liu
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) (Chair)	Zaid Lari
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Simran Jir
Sociology and Anthropology	Kayla Chow
Software Systems	Mahek Khan
Statistics and Actuarial Science (SASSA)	Stephanie Chung
Sustainable Community Development	
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	Maven Sera
Theatre Student Union	
Visual Arts	
World Literature	Ksydalg Henry

Constituency Group Representatives

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)	Serena Bains
First Nations Students Association (FNSSA)	Kali Stierle
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	Victor Yin
Residence Hall's Association (RHA)	
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	Ryan Stolys
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Juanita Julius Ndyamukama
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	Nisha Manhas

Board of Directors

SFSS Directors (non-voting)

President	Osob Mohamed
VP External Relations	Samad Raza
VP Finance	Corbett Gildersleve
VP Student Services	Matthew Provost
VP Student Life	Jennifer Chou
VP University Relations	Gabe Liosis
At-Large Representative	Balqees Jama
At-Large Representative	Phum Luckkid
Faculty Representative (Applied Sciences)	Harry Preet Singh
Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences)	Sude Guvendik
Faculty Representative (Business)	Mehtaab Gill
Faculty Representative (Communications, Art, & Technology)	Haider Masood
Faculty Representative (Education)	Emerly Liu
Faculty Representative (Environment)	Anuki Karunajeewa
Faculty Representative (Health Sciences)	Nafoni Modi
Faculty Representative (Science)	WeiChun Kua

3.1 Regrets

Sociology and Anthropology	Kayla Chow
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Simran Jir
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	Victor Yin
Business	Mohnish Farswani

3.1 Society Staff

Administrative Assistant	Somayeh Naseri
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3.2 Guests

Student	Jessica Stewart
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3.3 Absents

Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology	Joshua Ham
Computing Science	Ryan Vansickle
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies	Devynn Butterworth

4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

4.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:01

Zaid/Caitlin

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Kayla Chow, Simran Jir, Victor Yin, and Mohnish Farswani.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Add regrets from Kayla Chow, Simran Jir, and Mohnish Farswani.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:02

Zaid/Sandra

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- Add a new motion to section 9.2: SFSS Accessibility Committee and SFu Disability Neurodiversity Alliance Joint Letter
- Add a discussion item to section 10.3
- Add a new motion to section 9.3

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Council Minutes-MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:03

Rollin/Sandra

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minute(s):

- COUNCIL 2020-06-24
- COUNCIL 2020-08-05
- COUNCIL 2020-08-19
- COUNCIL 2020-11-18

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

7.1 Council Liaison

7.2 Board Liaison

- Board had a presentation for the Student Union Building accessibility audit
 - They emphasized that they were very flexible and willing to work with students
 - Board passed a motion to appoint them as the auditors of the Student Union Building to make sure everything's accessible.
- There's an update from student care
 - Student care travel program has been enhanced.
 - Student care will provide coverage for canceled flights quarantine meals and accommodations starting from September 1 2020
 - If you had to travel from September to now, you can send a request for reimbursements
- Board voted to endorse Emancipation Day campaign petition
 - Check your email after you sign the petition.
- Board voted to approve a letter of support to eliminate the sale of prefilled water bottles at SFU campuses on December, 31 2020.
- There was consultation from SFU DNA.
 - There will be a buy request option that would be advertised so disabled students can still request plastic options.
- There is an elections day change
 - Because SFU Senate voted to push back the start of spring 2021 by one week.
 - Election date change impacts the SFSS election timeline.

8. REPORTS FROM BOARD EXEC DIRECTORS

8.1 Executive Directors

- SFSS on going EVENTS:
 - Giveaways on December
 - \$1000s of gift cards
- This week a Starbucks gift card and a parodies chocolate gift cards.
- In the future hellofresh, skip the dishes, Spotify, Netflix, etc.
- check out SFSS events on Instagram to find out how to enter this highlight called December giveaways
- Draw for the winners will be on Friday
- Accessibility committee is working on making the Student Union Building more accessible
 - Having gender neutral washrooms
 - Appointing auditors.
- There was progress on the psycho educational assessments.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 FSU and DSU Space Campaign- MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:04

Catilin/Kyle

Whereas student union common rooms are vital, and essential for students to thrive everywhere on campus,

Whereas the current eviction of the Environmental Science Student Union (EVSCSU) and Bachelor of Environment Student Union (BESU) from their TASC 7470 common room serves as a reminder of the ongoing and real threat of student space eviction,

Whereas a joint effort between all Faculty Student Unions (FSUs) and Departmental Student Unions (DSUs) will show solidarity, power in numbers, and provide a support network for all student unions to acquire space from their department, and faculty,

Be it resolved that Council formally support all FSUs and DSUs to acquire accessible and adequate common rooms on any of SFU's 3 campuses, provide any resources needed, and launch a space campaign called "#StudentsDeserveSpace",

Be it further resolved that Council writes a joint letter in line with the briefing note attached and that Council signs as a representative body, as well all student unions voting in favour has their signatures appended, and that this letter be sent to all respective department and faculty within the University

Be it further resolved that this letter outlines that every student union deserves common room space, and in the event that a student union has common room space - that it is the priority of student unions to enter into agreements with their respective department to make sure that this space is secured and permanent.

CARRIED

In Favour: %78

Against: %5

Abstain:0

- Majority of the members are strongly in support of the motion and expressed their views for the necessity for having a common room and adequate space for all DSUs.

9.2 SFSS Accessibility Committee and SFU Disability Neurodiversity Alliance Joint Letter - MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:05

Serena/Helen

Whereas the SFSS Accessibility Committee and the SFU Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance have written a letter together expressing their strong support of increasing the wage for all designated assistants as defined under Article 4.8 in the collective agreement,

Whereas the current posting for the position of SFSS Accessibility Assistant has a wage of \$15.63 per hour,

Whereas the average wage for accessibility assistant positions are over \$20.00 per hour, whereas the living wage in the Metro Vancouver area is \$19.50 per hour,

Be it resolved that council sign onto the letter written by the SFSS AC and SFU DNA stating their support of increasing the wage for all designated assistants at least to the living wage of \$19.50 per hour, that designated assistant wages be indexed by inflation and that the wage be set closer to the average for assistants in disability and accessibility fields.

CARRIED

In Favor: 80%

Against: 5%

Abstain: 0

- Wage increases have to go through the collective agreement, and we will be at the board.
- The collective agreement is going to be renegotiated early spring.

- For any questions about the collective agreement, renegotiation, or the wage changes send an email to president@sfss.ca
- Collective agreements will update in spring 2021.
- DNA requested the Council as a single body to endorse the letter.

9.3 - MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:06

Helen/Zaid

Be it resolved that Council commit to drafting a letter in support of the FNSA's Let Us Speak Campaign

Be it further resolved that Councillors sign onto this at its next scheduled meeting

Be it further resolved that Councillors sign onto this letter at Council's next scheduled meeting

be it further resolved that councillors and their DSUs sign the Let us Speak petition on change.org before the next scheduled council meeting

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- To include the last clause on the amended motion.

10. DISCUSSION

10.1 Indigenous Consultation

- First Nation Student Association is running a campaign currently.
- The campaign is called the lettuce speak campaign.
- By signing the petition, you can see FNSA letters of support and public letters regarding the consultation process.
- Consultation was not done properly by leaving the Indigenous students out.
- They were skipping over FNSA voices and also the voices of the host nations on ceremonial space.
- So, this was something that definitely we were alarmed about and when we tried to talk to SFU about it and they did not give a proper answer so FNSA decided to take it publicly and ask for support.
- VP Student Services of Simon Fraser Student society brought this up to Helen on November 19 and is looking for council support on this campaign as a crucial factor to reconciliation efforts to be fully fulfilled by SFU.
- The campaign has already started. There is a sample letter templates and there's a lot of other resources. There's a lot of support letters that can be used.
- FNSA wanted the council support to their campaign and willing to answer any questions regarding this.
- There is only one indigenous person on the reconciliation working group, and two indigenous people on the first peoples gathering house building committee. Both of these groups have no representation of Indigenous students. Indigenous women or elders, there's no community representation meetings or invite that had been invited or informed and there were only three Indigenous students and 26 SFU administrators at the Aboriginal steering committee. So, just reading this over, so the Council should take a quick look over the petition and show their support.
- As the first step there is a need to center indigenous voices through this campaign. expecting everyone to support and amplify Student Voices but right now. Indigenous students need the support from counsel. There is a template for the support letter. Make sure everything is being shared and circulated and also anyone else on different working groups and committees to get

more people support.

- VP Student Services suggested to prioritize this action item to write an open letter of support by the council since too many times indigenous issues get put on the backburner and no action in practice have been taken to solve their issues. This is directly impacting students and future generations of Indigenous students who will come to SFU.
- Sandra on behalf of the Economic students society is in strong support of this petition.
- Nisha had signed the petition and will let the head of the Women's Center to follow up.
- Serena from DNA is in support of the petition and suggested to support Indigenous students on campus and in general with our own campaigns.
- Clara briefly discussed this with their president of the Archaeology student's society. The archaeology student's society will always support the FNSA. So ASS is going to have a meeting to discuss a letter of support and you can directly connect to ask for anything specific we can do.
- Kylee on behalf of the French Student Union expressed their full support. FSU reposted what you FNSA have posted on Instagram and Facebook to try and help spread the reach and can definitely ask FSU to write a letter in support you all.
- Charlotte expressed her support from Criminology and talked to their president and they shared this entry on Criminology's discord and going to add it to their email.
- Caitlin will go with her union about this and get a lot of support
- VP Student Service suggested the ways to get more support from admins as well as the students and departments.
- **Action Item:** Council make a motion (9.3) for all counselors to sign a petition for Change, creating a letter based on the templates that Matthew provided through the link tree, and making sure all counselors, bring this item to their DSUs and speak on it and making sure their DSUs show their support for it.

10.2 Tuition Increase

- Postponed to the next meeting

10.3 P/F Petition & DSU Online Learning Survey

- Postponed to the next meeting

11. ATTACHMENTS

11.1 Space Campaign Briefing Note

12. ADJOURNMENT

12.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2020-12-09:07

Kali/Nisha

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Briefing Note: FSU and DSU Space Campaign

Submitted by: Kyle Newcomb (Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Council Representative)

Prepared by: WeiChun Kua (Science Representative)

Background

BESU and EVSCSU Eviction

On October 31st, the Environmental Science Student Union (EVSCSU) and Bachelor of Environment Student Union (BESU) announced that the School of Environmental Science is seizing their current shared common room in TASC 7470 to be turned into a laboratory space by the end of the semester. Although the school has expressed commitment to find alternate space for both student unions, this was still done without any advance notice or prior consultation with BESU or EVSCSU. We believe that the university is taking advantage of the fact that students are not on campus to rightfully protest against this eviction happening in the middle of a global pandemic.

BESU and EVSCSU have written a [statement](#) to condemn this decision by the School of Environmental Science. The SFSS Board of Directors have also issued a [letter](#) to the school in solidarity with BESU and EVSCSU.

Students Need Space

To paraphrase BESU's and EVSCSU's statement, a common room is the lifeblood of student unions, and the heart of student life. It's where a student union engages new students, builds a community, and shares a space to collaborate and support each other. Student union spaces also work to create a sense of belonging and can foster positive mental health. In an unprecedented time of online learning where new students are already starting their first year of their university being disconnected from their peers and community, it is vital that Faculty Student Unions (FSUs) and Departmental Student Unions (DSUs) have access to their common rooms when we transition back to in-person learning. A university needs to

prioritize and make space for its students to thrive. What is a university without its students? What does it say about a university if it does not create space for us?

The eviction of student union spaces can be dated back to the 1980s. Common room spaces are always the lowest priority for the university when it comes to allocating and utilizing space. Common rooms are also precarious because there lacks any form of agreement between student unions and departments on how long students will have access to the space. This means departments are allowed to allocate rooms at will and take them back without the consent of students, as this case exemplifies. In [1988](#), the English Student Union found a lock on their common room door without any notice, and in the prior weeks, the Philosophy, Economics and Archeology common rooms were also taken to be used for office space. There were protests, and pushback from the English Student Union (ESU) as well as backing from the SFSS, but ultimately the common room was lost. Fortunately, the ESU currently has a common room but this goes to show how precarious common room spaces are for students. There have been countless evictions since then and now we are seeing that nothing has changed, which is why it is time for students to let the university know that we will not be shoved around any longer. We have seen from the [“Save Our Space”](#) campaign that student activism works in fighting for student space on campus. Students deserve space.

Key Considerations

Current Existing Common Rooms

On Nov 4th, a survey was sent out to all 62 student unions regarding their common room space. The results of the survey indicate that 61% of student unions, including the **49% that are active** in the Fall 2020 semester, **do not have access to a common space or office**, shared or otherwise. Just four of the student unions without these meeting spaces also have a storage locker or room. It is also reported that **11%** have an **office but no common room**, and just **15%** of active student unions have dedicated storage space. For three student unions, this space is in addition to their common area or office, and for the other four, it is their only form of dedicated space. In September 2018, the **Political Science Student Union lost their space** when it was converted into a teaching assistant office. Previously, they shared a space with the History Student Union and the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Student Union. Most importantly to note, all of the existing common rooms have no guarantee that their space will not be taken away at any time.

Accessible and Adequate Space

The School of Environmental Science justified BESU's and EVSCSU's eviction, by stating that there were spaces in the new Student Union Building (SUB) for them to book and have their meetings or events. This is not a valid reason to evict BESU and EVSCSU. The SUB already houses constituency groups, and provides bookable spaces to hundreds of student clubs and students, which means that BESU and EVSCSU will have to compete for these spaces and lack consistent access to a shared space to meet the needs of students they serve. Student unions also need storage space to store their equipment. Additionally, student union common rooms need to be in a central location within their departments, to maintain a good connection with their departments and to be located closer to their labs, classrooms, and support offices such as the advising office or the department front desk.

More importantly, the common room also needs to be in an accessible location to meet the needs of disabled students. It cannot be tucked away in a far corner of a department that creates barriers for disabled students, and not having a designated space further exacerbates factors that hinder disabled students from accessing the services and supports that these student unions provide. Lastly, the size of the common room needs to meet the needs of each student union. All in all, student unions need a permanent, accessible, and adequate space.

Recommendations

Council to Write a Letter for all FSUs/DSUs to Sign-on and To Be Sent to All Departments and Faculties

A joint letter from Council and signed by FSUs and DSUs to express the support and stance of Council regarding the common space issue to all faculties and departments. This will provide more leverage for each FSUs and DSUs trying to keep or acquire space by having the backing of other student unions, and set clear demands and expectations across all faculties and departments.

Striking A Letter of Agreement Between FSU/DSU and their Respective Faculty/Department for Space Security and Longevity

Student unions should enter into an agreement with their respective department to ensure that if an adequate and accessible common room is allocated to them, that they have it

permanently, this includes student unions that are satisfied with their existing space. Students deserve to have a secured and permanent space for continuity and longevity of their community.

The letter of agreement should outline the following clauses guaranteeing spaces for a predetermined time, space and location:

1. **Time clause:** The given space cannot be revoked or changed and shall perpetually stand, unless both parties enter into a new agreement.
2. **Location clause:** the common room must be located in an accessible location within the FSU/DSU's respective faculty/department. If the department does not have any available spaces, it must be the next closest available space within the faculty.
3. **Size clause:** the common room must be of adequate size to hold meetings and events. Storage must be provided as well that is in close proximity to the common room.

Recommended Motion

Whereas student union common rooms are vital, and essential for students to thrive everywhere on campus,

Whereas the current eviction of the Environmental Science Student Union (EVSCSU) and Bachelor of Environment Student Union (BESU) from their TASC 7470 common room serves as a reminder of the on-going and real threat of student space eviction,

Whereas a joint effort between all Faculty Student Unions (FSUs) and Departmental Student Unions (DSUs) will show solidarity, power in numbers, and provide a support network for all student unions to acquire space from their department, and faculty,

Be it resolved that Council formally support all FSUs and DSUs to acquire accessible and adequate common rooms on any of SFU's 3 campuses, provide any resources needed, and launch a space campaign called “#StudentsDeserveSpace”,



WeiChun Kua | SUB 3100
Science Rep | Simon Fraser University
Board of Directors | 8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
sciencerep@sfss.ca | **sfss.ca**
778-887-4936

Be it further resolved that Council writes a joint letter in line with the briefing note attached and that Council signs as a representative body, as well all student unions voting in favour has their signatures appended, and that this letter be sent to all respective department and faculty within the University

Be it further resolved that this letter outlines that every student union deserves common room space, and in the event that a student union has common room space - that it is the priority of student unions to enter into agreements with their respective department to make sure that this space is secured and permanent.

References

[BESU and EVSCSU Eviction Statement](#)

[SFSS Letter of Support for BESU and EVSCSU](#)

[Peak Archive: English Student Union Common Room Eviction in 1988](#)

[Student Union Common Room Analysis Report](#)