

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 2:03PM

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^kwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓icəy̓ (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 Board Composition

VP University Relations (<i>Chair</i>)	Gabe Liosis
President	Osob Mohamed
VP External Relations	Samad Raza
VP Finance	Corbett Gildersleve
VP Student Services	Matthew Provost
VP Student Life	Jennifer Chou
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

3.2 Society Staff

Transition Manager	Lawrence Jones
Out on Campus Coordinator	Ashley Brooks
Operations Organizer.....	Ayesha Khan
Communications Coordinator	Sindu Dharma
Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator.....	Sarah Edmunds
Administrative Assistant.....	Brianna Mau

3.3 Guest

Council Representative	Ryan Vansickle
Co-founder of MeaningfulWork	Raaj Chatterjee
MeaningfulWork Supporter.....	Evan McFee

3.4 Regrets

President	Osob Mohamed
Faculty Representative (Applied Sciences).....	Harry Preet Singh

3.5 Absent

Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences).....Sude Guvendik

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:01

Gabe/Corbett

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- Add New Business 8.2 Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading System Board Action.
- Add Discussion Item 9.3 SFSS Townhall.
- Add Section 5 Ratification of Regrets to include motion to ratify regrets from Osob Mohamed and Harry Preet Singh.

5. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

5.1 MOTION BOD 2020-01-15:02

Balkees/Corbett

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Osob Mohamed and Harry Preet Singh.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- President had an academic obligation as she had to complete a deferred exam. There was no other time slot available to do so.
- Faculty Representative (Applied Science) cited a family matter.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Board Minutes-MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:03

Anuki/WeiChun

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

- BOD 2020-11-27

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 Committee Minutes-MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:04

Jennifer/Emerly

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

- EXEC 2020-07-08
- EXEC 2020-07-15
- EXEC 2020-08-26
- EXEC 2020-09-24
- EXEC 2020-10-22
- EXEC 2020-11-05
- EXEC 2020-11-26
- EXEC 2020-12-10
- EVENTS 2020-12-02
- ACCESSIBILITY 2020-12-08

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- Add EVENTS 2020-12-02 and ACCESSIBILITY 2020-12-08.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 MeaningfulWork

- Recommends skilled-based volunteering positions at non-profits and charities to businesses and corporate employees. Also measures the impact of the exchanges created for companies to pull for their impact reports and social media.
- Ran focus sessions with 10+ clubs and challenges that came up include
 - new students finding it hard to get involved,
 - club recruitment is time-consuming,
 - hard to measure impact of small events from clubs.
- SFU Meaningful Opportunities Hub
 - Idea is it will match students to club opportunities that align with their skills and passions.
 - Clubs can recruit and interview for executive roles and receive mentorship from alumni.
 - Students can track their personal growth and club/SFSS can share impacts.
- Benefits
 - Creating a platform like this can engage 4000 students and 800 alumni.
 - Reduces time spent recruiting for clubs which boosts productivity across the board.
 - Impact is also measured, and there is a tool for SFSS to access a student's profile to understand what they're interested in.
- It wouldn't replace the club portal but is an addition to it.
- Demo website page
 - Students can sign up for volunteer opportunities by providing general information, and interests.
 - They can also just browse and apply directly to opportunities, and custom tags can be created to sort these.
- Discussion
 - What kind of learning curve is there for students to adapt to this platform and how are you going to convince students to use this platform?
 - Plan to get more partnerships on board like Career and Volunteer Services.
 - Directed at first-year students.
 - What is the price point?
 - Pricing depends on what SFSS is looking for. There are options for MeaningfulWork to just provide the platform, or they can also take on the engagement with clubs and provide a service.
 - SFSS has difficulty getting buy-in with students, clubs and student unions no matter what they've done with the club portals. It's unclear how often students use it.
 - Did two one-hour sessions with 12 clubs because they sought MeaningfulWork out because they want something like this.
 - Will also want to do more engagement with other clubs to see what they are looking for.
 - Perk of having a centralized website to look up club and opportunities.

- There are a variety of clubs in different faculties and some require longer and more detailed applications.
 - There is option to have a basic application for pre-screening, and if there are additional requirements you can move them on to the next step which can be either another, more detailed form or an interview.
- Is there a way to keep track of outdated applications as clubs often forget to take things down or become inactive?
 - Filters based on semester.
 - Easy to deactivate a posting for clubs as well, and there are automated reminder emails to remind clubs to do so.
- Next steps: MeaningfulWork will provide a proposal with price points and connect with Club Coordinators and Board members in a smaller meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Out on Campus Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee-MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:05

Gabe/Matthew

Be it resolved to appoint Phum Luckkid and Emerly Liu to the Out on Campus Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee.

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- The position is unionized so we need two Board members to represent the employer on the hiring committee.
- The hiring is a moving target right now, because the current Administrative Assistant has not submitted his notice, but just looking to prepare first which includes reviewing job description, talking about what we're looking for in candidates, and how we advertise the role.
- One of the employer positions can be taken by a community member if needed.
- Hiring committees are a good opportunity to get involved and learn new skills. It is highly recommended by multiple members of the Board.
- This hiring committee is a boarder hiring which has room for evaluation of how a job fits into the community.
- Being on hiring committee is part of the responsibility of the Board, and it's important for everyone to take on parts of the workload.
- It's manageable and not too much work. Synchronous hours commitment would be about 6-7 hours.
- Faculty Representative (Education) and At-Large Representative (PL) motivated.
- Replace X with Phum Luckkid and Emerly Liu.

8.2 Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading System Board Action-MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:06

Gabe/Balqees

Whereas, the SFU Senate approved the implementation of a pilot grading scheme called Pass/Credit/NoCredit at its January 11th, 2021 meeting.

Whereas, this grading scheme provides students with the option to request a "P", "Cr", or "Nc" for up to 12 credits of elective courses during the pilot period.

Whereas, Senator Mohamed introduced an amendment to expand the scope of the grading scheme to include all courses, not just elective courses.

Whereas, this amendment failed to receive a majority vote from senators.

Whereas, the memo provided to Senators states that "within the 12-unit maximum, individual programs may allow, on a restrictive basis, the utilization of a P/CR/NC grading system for certain program-specific requirements".

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors direct the Vice-President University Relations and Faculty Representatives to call on individual departments to expand the utilization of P/Cr/Nc grading to include program courses.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Students have been calling for Pass/Fail grading scheme to come back with little luck until a few weeks ago.
- Student senators have been able to work with SFU admin and Senate members to come to a consensus that would provide students with enough relief during the pandemic.
 - Three types of non-numerical grades that you can request for a maximum of 12 credits towards the electives within a student's program. Use of this scheme on any level means that the course grade will not go towards the student's GPA.
 - Pass means that credit is awarded to the students for a grade of C- or higher.
 - Credit means that they passed the course, but it wasn't a high enough grade to complete a prerequisite requirement.
 - No Credit is equivalent to fail, and student will not receive credit.
- Main concern is that this scheme only applies to elective courses.
- There was an attempt to amend this to all courses at the Senate floor, but that failed. However, each program can decide to allow for the grading scheme to apply for certain courses.
- Next step can be to work with individual faculties and bring forth concerns of students with department chairs and faculty deans to get them to implement this for their courses.
- Faculty Representatives should have a meeting with faculties and demonstrate the need for this. Also getting students unions involved by writing a letter to the faculty.
- Concerns over the grading scheme effecting funding and loans for students were expressed, but it should not because it does not count as a withdrawal, and is applied retroactively.
- The vote on the grading scheme at Senate was done by secret ballot which allows Senators to dodge accountability.
- The Senate Committee for Undergrad Studies (SCUS) is the one who will be sorting out the details.
 - How would this work for General Studies and undeclared students?
 - What about if you have P/C/NC for a course that you didn't intend to be your major, but now is?
 - Need to map out different solutions and see what the ideal solution is.
 - VP University Relations is part of SCUS so will bring up these concerns.
- Helps a few students but does not help the ones who really need it.
- Next steps include creating an email template that can be forwarded to DSUs who can then forward it to their respective departments.
 - This can be further discussed at the next FARM meeting.
- This topic has also been added to the next Council agenda.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 SFSS 2021/2022 Budget Development Process

- Starting next fiscal year's budget process early because the Stadium and SUB will be accessible by students soon.
 - It's a good opportunity to take time to consult with groups and investigate the financial status of the SFSS to develop recommendations for future Boards.
- There will be follow up information and consultation sessions with the Board, Council and outreach/surveys for SFSS Membership in the coming months.
- VP Finance has already had an initial meeting with SFSS Finance Coordinators, administration and President as SFSS will be making significant payments soon due to stadium construction wrapping up.
- VP Finance has also reached out to department coordinators to have them start drafting their budgets for programming, wage costs etc.
- SFSS has a general fund and main operating fund which is where building operating costs, wages, programming costs and bursaries are paid out of. There are also several restricted funds associated with specific fees that have been approved through the referendum ex. Health and Dental Plan, Accessibility Fund etc.
- There will be a specific conversation about Board costs due to new government structure.
- Revenue is around \$3.2 million a year for the general fund, and 95% of that comes from student membership fees.
 - Expecting SFU enrollment to remain the same this year, but FIC is less predictable as their enrollment has fluctuated due to the pandemic.
 - FIC enrollment does impact SFSS as there was a loss of about \$100,000 in revenue this year due to drop in enrollment.
 - The rest of revenue comes from rent revenue, advertising revenue and interest, and there is opportunity to increase revenue with the SUB though there are considerations to be made with this. Interest is also expected to increase but will need to look at information from investment managers regularly.
- Operating expenses is around \$3 million a year.
 - Around 2/3 goes toward staffing, administrative and Board cost.
 - The rest go towards building operating, office, and programming cost.
 - Future costs include:
 - Increase in staffing for advocacy and equity support services with an Accessibility Coordinator, a Black Students Support Office Coordinator, and student advocates.
 - There will also be more Executive and Council stipends which will be mostly covered by the current Faculty and At-Large Representative stipends but there may be additional costs as well.
 - Stipends haven't increased since 2018.
 - Must keep service coverage in mind and may need staff for evening events; also, potential need for staff who supports the building overall.
 - The union will also be entering bargaining for collective agreements so that may bring cost changes too.
- Investment plans have shifted to get more increased rate of return and have more ethical investments, but it's low risk.
 - Exploring using the interest from the Accessibility Fund for an Accessibility Bursary as grant system is not where we want it to be.

- Potential expansion includes a Campaign and Social Justice Fund to support students if there is room in the budget.
- Currently reviewing different costs to make sure there is exact payment plans for the SUB and Stadium over a long period so there are no surprises for current and future Boards.
- This board must approve a preliminary budget before their term expires, but new Council must approve a full budget when they come to term and can make adjustments.
- Board Members should think about different funding options or changes, and things that the SFSS should move towards or away from to help create a three-year financial plan to go with the three-year strategic plan.
 - If specific information is needed about current or past budgets, contact VP Finance.
- VP Finance has reached out to staff and Board to work on Participatory Budget Project but has not received much response. The funding for this will come from an unrestricted surplus as it is a pilot project. A working group is needed to help develop this but will need to encourage next Board to merge it in for next year.

9.2 Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading System Spring 2021

- There was not enough support from administration and SCUS for a compassionate pass to retroactively apply the grading system to Summer and Fall 2020 semesters.
- However, there is a retroactive WE option as SFU is expanding scope of withdrawal under extenuating circumstances process to include pandemic-related reasons.
 - There would be a WE on transcript, but grade would no longer count towards GPA and can retake the course.
- There are restrictions and specific requirements on WE in current system, and it's unclear if these restrictions will loosen or not as the new system hasn't been implemented yet.
 - Memo from Senate outlines that SCUS will be working on this, so VP University Relations will bring up these concerns and advocate for changes.
 - If there are any other concerns that the Board has and wants VP University Relations to bring up at SCUS table, please get in contact with him.

9.3 SFSS Townhall

- VP Student Life wants to host a townhall for students to bring up concerns and engage with SFSS but was not a part of the C19 Townhall so not sure how to plan this type of event.
- At Large Representative (BJ) can provide support and share planning documents from C19 Townhall.
- Faculty Representative (Science) may be able to help as well.
- Suggestion to make sure the timing of the townhall does not clash with the elections, so do it before or after.
 - More realistic to plan it for after the Executive election, and before the Council election.
- VP Student Life will be a lead for this event, and Faculty Representative (Environment) and Faculty Representative (Health Sciences) is interested in helping as well.
- C19 Townhall had troubles with captioning. There is now live captioning on Zoom through VP Student Life, President and Council Chair's account.

10. GUEST 30 MIN Q&A

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.1 Next Board meeting on January 29th, 2PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT

12.1 MOTION BOD 2021-01-15:07

Corbett/Balqees

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 4:11PM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY