

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10:02AM

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), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ic̓óy (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
Ex-Officio	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	Jess Dela Cruz
Student At-Large	Pariya Zabihi
Student At-Large	Priyanka Dhesa
Student At-Large	Helen Araghi

3.2 Society Staff

Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator.....	Sarah Edmunds
Administrative Assistant.....	Brianna Mau

3.3 Regrets

Student At-Large	Helen Araghi
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3.4 Absent

Student At-Large	Pariya Zabihi
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4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 MOTION UAA 2021-01-22:01

Gabe/Emerly

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- Add Section 5 Ratification of Regrets to ratify regrets from Helen Araghi.

5. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

5.1 MOTION UAA 2021-01-22:02

Nafoni/Priyanka

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Helen Araghi.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- This time does not work for Student At-Large (HA), but have not declared her seat vacant yet, as there are two vacant seats and the meeting time may change.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 University and Academic Affairs Committee Minutes-MOTION UAA 2021-01-22:03

Jess/Priyanka

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

- UAA 2020-08-11
- UAA 2020-10-29
- UAA 2020-11-26

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 P/CR/NC Grading Scheme for 2021 Semesters (Jess)

- 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 in early January to come to a consensus on an alternative grading scheme.
- Three types of non-numerical grades that you can request for a maximum of 12 credits towards the electives outside of a student's program during the pilot period (all 2021 semesters) depending on how many credits you are taking in any given semester. 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 was not 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.
- The current understanding is that students will be able to request this change through goSFU.
- This grading scheme has been at the Senate floor for many years, even pre-COVID, so if the pilot project shows success, the Senate will be considering whether to implement it permanently.
 - Other universities have a similar grading scheme.
 - Not sure what the criteria for success would be. VP University Relations will ask, and it would also be good to get student feedback and input on the grading system at SCUS or a townhall.
- The grading scheme is helpful outside of COVID because it allows students to explore new topics without worrying about affecting their GPA. However, it's not that helpful during COVID where students need relief with their required courses.
- There was an attempt to amend this to all courses at the Senate floor, but that failed.
 - The vote on the grading scheme at Senate was done by secret ballot which allows Senators to dodge accountability.
 - 30% in favour, 70% against which translates roughly to student senators in favour, and faculty and admin against.
 - The exclusion of required courses with the restrictions that have been placed bring

- up many issues ex. changing majors, WQB etc. that will need to be discussed.
- Ideal situation would be if required courses was included in this pilot project and scrapped later if needed.
 - Each program can decide to allow for the grading scheme to apply for certain courses.
 - Next step will be working with individual faculties and bring forth concerns of students with department chairs and faculty deans to get them to implement this for their courses.
 - Suggestion from faculty senator at SCUS meeting that instead of making it a restriction, flip this to make it a blanket statement where everyone can use this grading scheme unless specific programs decide not to allow it to be applied to certain courses.
 - VP University Relations will reach out and work with the faculty senator to develop the above suggestion.
 - Certain faculties like Applied Science have been worried about accreditations but based on information released by CEAB there should not be any issues as they would be accommodating to Pass/Fail grades.
 - Definition of elective is ambiguous, but in a draft policy from SCUS, it is noted as “any undergraduate course not used to satisfy a student’s specific program requirements as listed in SFU’s calendar examples are a major, a joint-major, honours, minor or any combination thereof. Normally, electives will also be also be considered a course outside the subject area of a declared program of study OR any undergraduate course designated as WQB.”
 - Minors are included in this definition of what is not considered as an elective, but they are often used for fun, like electives, or accidentally completed. However, this grading scheme cannot be applied to minor courses.
 - VP University Relations had asked at SCUS if there is a way to separate minors, extended minors and double minors in lieu of a major from people who have declared a minor just for the sake of it so that the latter would be able to apply this grading scheme.
 - He did not receive a definitive answer but will follow up.
 - VP University Relations will create a document to compile the questions from this meeting.

7.2 WD Withdrawal Payments and Fees (Jess)

- Proposal to eliminate student fees and charges in the withdrawal of classes during the first week of a semester because the first week is generally just an introduction, and there is a lot of pressure on students to decide whether to take a course quickly to avoid losing money or risk getting a poor grade.
- This has brought up at JROG before when a lot of people missed the deadline last semester, and there was discussion about moving the deadline for a 100% refund to the end of the second week.
 - Main concern was around course hoarding where students remain in a course with no intention to take it but keep it as a back up which makes it difficult for students who need and plan to take the course.
 - There was an action item to do research into what other schools do, but not sure if there was follow up.
 - President will bring this conversation back up at JROG.
- SFU is often a follower rather than a leader, and it would be nice if they took some initiative.
- UAA can help by doing some research before the next meeting and come up with a more comprehensive proposal.

7.3 Burnaby Mountain Gondola Developments (Gabe/Osob)

- TransLink has completed two phases of public engagement, and there is huge support for the

- gondola.
- The large majority who participated were students which makes their voices very prominent in the feedback that was received.
 - Next step is approval from Burnaby City Council.
 - They will be having an in-camera session at the end of January and following that near the end of February (tentatively Feb. 21), there will be a public meeting where stakeholders in the Burnaby Mountain area can present their support of the gondola.
 - SFSS needs to help get students out to that meeting to share their stories of long wait times, getting stuck due to the snow etc. in support of this gondola.
 - Need to create a campaign about using student voice one last time so that the Burnaby City Council will recommend TransLink to go forth with this.
 - City Council has their own internal political disputes, and some will support while others will not. The main concern will be the Forest Grove neighbourhood where some councillors will be hesitant to vote for the gondola because it can alienate part of their constituency.
 - They are also less transparent than Vancouver and Surrey so reaching out to them regularly is good.
 - Really want to push the fact that there are voters at SFU and within Burnaby that go to SFU.
 - Getting the help of Faculty and Council Representatives to bring this to the DSUs and potentially bring the initial team that started this campaign to attend meetings if they're allowed to.
 - Track who has contacted who, and if actions have been taken in an Excel document as well.
 - Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator sits on a council with TransLink about getting youth voices involved in their 2050 plan.
 - CRPC will need to conduct an engagement session with youth in March which is a good opportunity to get more student voices as information will be directly shared with TransLink.
 - SFSS will need to do an email campaign and get students to commit to attending the meeting.
 - Potentially providing incentives to get students to come. There is money available to do so because the SFSS has budgeted to pay for lunch and parking for students to attend meetings.
 - Check with VP Finance on the Advocacy Initiatives Budget for this.
 - Share your Transit story or why you think the gondola is important and create a hashtag to be used.
 - Even just being able to say that the SFSS got engagement online is helpful too.
 - #ShareYourSFUTransitStory
 - Potential to have an open letter written by the SFSS that students and faculties can just submit a Google Form to sign.
 - Emails are really annoying, which is why they are so effective, and SFSS Board can discuss renewing the NewMode subscription.
 - Potential to do a video with testimonials from students too.
 - Surrey-Langley Skytrain is a student issue that SFSS should be following too.
 - Faculty Representative (Environment and Science) will help with email template.
 - Once date is confirmed for meeting, VP University Relations will develop some infographics, and get in touch with Communications Coordinator as well.
 - Student At-Large (JDC) will take on the social media campaign.
 - Board has already written a letter but can make it public if needed.
 - Suggest to Council to draft a letter as well as it would be on behalf of more students.
 - Will likely only do either the email campaign or the open letter.

7.4 Lobby Days (Samad)

- SFSS has joined in every year on Lobby Days either with BC Federation of Students or Alliance of BC Students with the option to go in on our own as well.
 - We have been invited by Alliance of BC Students this year.
- Happening in February, with registration closing Jan. 29th.
- It is feasible for SFSS to join in by themselves this year because everything is online.
- Timeline
 - Before Reading Break: Prepare lobby topics, documents, agendas and start contacting relevant MLAs and MPs.
 - After Reading Break: Start lobbying.
- After the provincial lobbying there would also be a need to contact federal representatives too.
- What topics should the SFSS lobby on?
 - Post Secondary Funding
 - Increasing needs-based grants for low income students
 - Tuition Freeze
 - Student Housing
 - International Student tuition increase cap
- President has documents from previous efforts if anyone is interested at looking at those.
- Many Board members from ECAC and President are already registered to lobby so it should be easy to get things done on the SFSS side, but it is also easy to add people who are interested in lobbying to the list. Reach out to VP External Relations if interested.
- Message VP External Relations if you come up with other topics.

7.5 Textbook Bursary Program (WeiChun)

- Faculty Representative (Science) found out that Concordia has a bursary program for students to help cover up to \$250 in textbooks.
 - Application is very straightforward.
 - https://library.concordia.ca/about/news/?fbclid=IwAR2rLvDkEx_njWK-ShhQ6n6lBeyRYi3ADktToNLRnxBlSk1ZWFPeI2LVBd8#guid=https://library.concordia.ca/about/news/#i11_Jan_2021_13:39:00_EDT
 - Collaboration between the Student Union, the Library Services Fund Committee and the Financial Aid and Awards Office.
- This is different from the OER campaign, but this would be a great idea that could tackle issues that are currently happening.
- Faculty Representative (Education) is willing to bring this up to the OER Working Group and Grants Committee.
- VP External Relations left at 11:53AM.
- Student At-Large (PD) is happy to help as well.

8. UPDATES

8.1 Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (M.A.R.E.) Working Group (Nafoni)

- Going down a different road for MARE so that it can do something tangible in the next four months.
- Creating workshops for students to join including topics such as racism, anti-Black racism, how to be anti-racist and one on other oppressive types of racism.
 - Faculty Representative (Health Sciences and Environment) would be there at workshops to run it but hoping to get appropriate people to facilitate the workshops.
 - Will need to get a budget on honorariums.

- Potential to reach out to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and Sociology professors as well.
- From there, they will create tool kits to disperse amongst students.
- Hope that this can kickstart the movement for the Board next year to move towards a mandatory educational resource.
- MARE should prepare a proposal around speakers and budget for UAA.

8.2 Student Affordability Project Working Group (Gabe/Osob)

- The financial predictability and food security focus areas are coming to a close.
 - Looking for other projects to work on such as student housing, expanding health services for students etc.
 - Perhaps bigger projects to work on going forward.
- Reach out to VP University Relations and President if you have any idea on what they should be bringing forward.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next UAA Meeting: Friday, February 5th, 2021 at 10AM (PST) via Zoom.

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 MOTION UAA 2021-01-22:04

Jess/Priyanka

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 12:02PM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY