

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10:03 AM

2. TERRITORIALACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəł^əm (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 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
Student At-Large	Jess Dela Cruz
Student At-Large	Pariya Zabihi
Student At-Large	Priyanka Dhesa
Student At-Large	<i>Vacant</i>

3.2 Society Staff

Operations Organizer	Ayesha Khan
Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator	Sarah Edmunds
Administrative Assistant	Christina Kachkarova

3.3 Absents

Student At-Large	Pariya Zabihi
Student At-Large	Jess Dela Cruz

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 MOTION UAA 2021-02-05 :01

Anuki/Priyanka

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 University and Academic Affairs Committee Minutes-MOTION UAA 2021-02-05:02 Emerly/Anuki

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

- UAA 2021-01-22

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Burnaby Mountain Gondola Campaign (Gabe/Osob)

- VP University Relations mentioned that committee members have been working on many action items since the last meeting including: setting up a New Mode campaign, Board approval for incentives for students to talk about why the gondola is important to them, creation of infographics.
- VP University Relations discussed a meeting hosted by Katrina Chen (MLA) on February 2nd where many Forest Grove Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the Gondola project. He mentioned that this is concerning considering the proximity to the Burnaby City Council meeting. VP University Relations highlighted the importance of Student voices to be included in this conversation.
- VP University Relations mentioned that the Burnaby City Council would be hosting a meeting in-Camera next week. The Burnaby City Council public meeting – originally scheduled Feb 22nd – might be pushed later.
- VP University Relations discussed his meeting with the Head of Public Affairs at Translink on February 4th. Concerns were raised about how most of the opposition was based in disinformation and inaccurate information about the Gondola.
- VP University Relations mentioned that the SFSS is currently working on a video campaign of students talking about why they support the Gondola, and how it would benefit their commuter experience and educational experience. This would allow students to share personal anecdotes and struggles about commuting. He mentioned that the current goal is to post 3 student videos a day to highlight student voices.
- Operations Organizer encouraged committee members to attend lobbying development session after the meeting.
- VP University Relations discussed a letter writing campaign by FSUs and DSUs to the City Council as to why they support the Gondola. He mentioned that VP Student Life has been working with DSUs and FSUs on this issue and has created a toolkit along with other Board Members to help with letter writing (see Attached file)
- VP University Relations encouraged committee members to reach out to any student groups that might be interested in writing a letter in support of the Gondola. He encouraged Committee Members to film a video and for Faculty Representative to reach out to their FSUs and DSUs.

6.2 Sick Notes at SFU (Anuki)

- Faculty Representative (Environment) mentioned that students at the University of Alberta students don't need to provide medical notes when their health interrupts their education. They can miss class or an exam and inform their professors afterwards and receive the

needed accommodations. She mentioned that this system is based on trust and wouldn't exhaust valuable medical resources.

- University of Alberta link to policy: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-guidelines-for-students/what-to-do-when-you-are-sick.html>
- Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator stated that the goal would be to encourage SFU to follow suit. She also mentioned that sick notes can be hard to get access and put pressure and stress on students who are already sick. Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator mentioned that this policy is in place in Saskatchewan as well.
- VP University Relations spoke in favour of the honour system. He mentioned that students know what is best for them and should be able to receive accommodation when sick. VP University Relations mentioned the importance of looking at other University policies for guidance.
- VP University Relations highlighted connection with paid sick leave - if you're sick you shouldn't have to go to work, therefore if you're sick you should not be worried about going to school.
- Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator explained that as Faculties and Departments tend to set the policies, but instructors oversee enforcement. The Committee should reach out to individual instructors as well.
- Faculty Representative (Environment) suggested starting a campaign on this issue with Faculty Representatives reaching out to their respective faculties. She suggested starting a survey to collect information about relevant student experiences.
- Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator suggested reaching out to SFU to if they are interested in this policy.
- Faculty Representative (Science) suggested reaching out to SFU Health and Counselling to discuss this issue. He highlighted how it would be a burden on the medical system and increases wait times for students who have medical concerns.
- Student At-Large (PD) mentioned that UBC has a self-declaration policy for some circumstances when missing an exam.

7. UPDATES

7.1 Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (M.A.R.E.) Working Group (Nafoni/Anuki)

- Faculty Representative (Health Sciences) discussed the M.A.R.E Survey will become available on February 8th through 12th. She explained that the goal of the survey is to see what topics people are interested in learning about, and what speakers they might have in mind. Faculty Representative (Health Sciences) asked for support from Committee Members in sharing the survey once it is released.
- Faculty Representative (Health Sciences) mentioned the need of having honorariums for speakers and stated that a budget will be needed.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Next UAA Meeting: Friday, February 19th, 2021 at 10AM (PST) via Zoom

9. ATTACHMENT

9.1 Gondola Campaign Toolkit

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 MOTION UAA 2021-02-05:03

Emerly/Priyanka

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 AM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GONDOLA CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

Main points to mention

Sustainability of the gondola

- In the 2018 feasibility study, it was quoted that 50,000 hrs of diesel bus operations would be eliminated, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by **1700 tons a year**

Reliable transit

- No more getting stuck on the mountain when it snows
- SFU doesn't always cancel classes or do snow days
- Less people on the roads during treacherous weather is the safest option

Cost-effective

- Gondola will cost less to run than the current fleet of diesel buses
- Saves taxpayer money (\$35 million over a 30-year period)
- Gondola cost is **\$54.2 million less in bus operating costs** of 89.3 million without the gondola
- The 26 buses from the current routes will be redeployed in the region
- Not only supports the growth of transit in the Burnaby Mountain region, but also in the greater Metro Vancouver area.

Current Status of the Project

Opposition from some Forest Grove residents - even if they are the minority their voices are VERY loud right now so we need to ensure that student voices are heard too

Burnaby City Council will vote on this soon (tentatively Feb 22)

Goals

Get the gondola

Make sure that student voices are heard by Burnaby City Council before their vote later this month!

What can I do?

Write a letter in support from your DSU

Reference: SFSS Letter

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1461NsUGgaNrayDODEd2DYtpZ8E5Mb148EjSYweViQEk/edit?usp=sharing>

TEMPLATE LETTER:

Dear Mayor Hurley and Members of Council,

We are writing to you on behalf of the [YOUR DSU HERE] at Simon Fraser University. We would like to express our continued support for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola.

[can add a personal perspective from your DSU - talk about how this will impact your life and improve your future]

As students at SFU, we have experienced first-hand what transiting to campus on Burnaby Mountain is like. During the winter months, there was always a sense of dread as we feared getting stuck on the mountain due to heavy snow. Even getting up the mountain to attend our classes was difficult - there would often be long line-ups, and busses would be delayed as long as thirty minutes. This can and has caused some students and community members to miss classes and exams.

Our education is important to us, and it is very disheartening to see that our access to education is impeded by lack of effective transit options. The Burnaby Mountain Gondola is a clear solution: it's sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective. In the 2018 feasibility study on the Burnaby Mountain Gondola, it was quoted that 50,000 hours of diesel bus operations would be eliminated, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,700 tons a year.

Not only is the gondola a sustainable option, it is also reliable, safe, and cost-effective. The gondola would prevent students' lives from being put at risk with the treacherous winter roads, and Route 1 (Production Way) can be a viable and fast route off Burnaby Mountain in case of a tank farm explosion or another emergency. Students' lives are put at risk every winter, and we are disappointed that there continues to be opposition to the Burnaby Mountain Gondola despite its clear benefits. In addition to being a safer option, the gondola costs less money to run than the current fleet of diesel busses. It would save \$35 million of taxpayer money over 30 years, and costs \$54.2 million less in bus operating costs. The 26 busses from current routes up Burnaby Mountain could be redeployed, which would support the growth of transit in the Burnaby area.

This letter outlines some of the reasons why we support the Burnaby Mountain Gondola. We implore you to listen to student voices and keep us in mind when voting on the Burnaby Mountain Gondola.

DSU signature/name and logo

SEND THE LETTER HERE: mayor@burnaby.ca; pietro.calendino@burnaby.ca; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca; dan.johnston@burnaby.ca; colleen.jordan@burnaby.ca; joe.keithley@burnaby.ca; james.wang@burnaby.ca; clerks@burnaby.ca

Message from Aliya from Translink (Head of Public Affairs):

What we need from sfu is to find students to personify why this matters, beyond student government types.

We need students from key departments - education (especially those who focus on early childhood education), computer science, engineering, health sciences (public health, virology).

Faculty and staff from those departments too. How will this project make their lives easier? How will the four days of commute savings allow them to do x?

What do they hope to do in the future/how do they want to shape the future of BC/Metro Vancouver with what they've learned at SFU