

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10:05 AM

## 2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓əm (Musqueam), S<sup>k</sup>wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əłəm (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

President ( <i>Chair</i> ).....	Gabe Liosis
VP Events and Student Affairs ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ).....	Jess Dela Cruz
VP External and Community Affairs .....	Matthew Provost
VP Equity and Sustainability .....	Marie Haddad
VP Finance and Services .....	Almas Phangura
VP Internal and Organizational Development.....	Corbett Gildersleve
VP University and Academic Affairs .....	Serena Bains

### 3.2 Society Staff

Operations Organizer .....	Ayesha Khan
Board Organizer .....	Emmanuela Droko
Administrative Assistant.....	Christina Kachkarova
Women's Centre Coordinator .....	Athena Gurten
Member Services Coordinator – Clubs.....	Nancy Mah
Member Services Coordinator – Clubs.....	Melanie Ling
Member Services Coordinator – Events .....	Dipti Chavan

### 3.3 Regrets

VP Equity and Sustainability .....	Marie Haddad
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### 3.4 Guests

Associate VP Events and Student Affairs .....	Akum Sidhu
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## 4. CONSENT AGENDA

### 4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

*Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.*

**CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-Executive Minutes-MOTION EXEC 2021-06-22:01**

*Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:*

- EXEC 2021-06-08

## 5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### 5.1 MOTION EXEC 2021-06-22:02

**Matthew/Jess**

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.*

**CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Add New Business Item 7.4 Extending the Delegated Authority to VP Internal and Organizational Development
- Add New Business Item 7.5 Appointing Employer Representatives to The Out on Campus Hiring Committee
- Add New Business Item 7.6 Appoint Employer Representatives to the Building Coordinator Hiring Committee
- Add New Business Item 7.7 SFU Climate Emergency Declaration Letter
- Add Section 6. Ratification of Regrets

## 6. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

### 6.1 MOTION EXEC 2021-06-22:03

**Matthew/Corbett**

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Marie Haddad.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Marie Haddad was feeling ill and therefore unable to attend the meeting.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Appointing an Associate to the President -MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:04

**SUBMITTED BY: President "Gabe Liosis"**

**Gabe/Jess**

*Whereas, as per Council Policies, R-17 (Associate Vice-Presidents), "Vice-Presidents may appoint Associate Vice-Presidents to assist in the duties of their respective Executive Office" by "nominat[ing] a Member in good standing of the Society for the position";*

*Whereas, as per Council Policies, R-17 (Associate Vice-President), "[n]ominations for the position of Associate Vice-President shall be ratified subject to approval by the Executive Committee by a majority vote";*

*Whereas, R-17 (Associate Vice-Presidents) says that "Associate Vice-Presidents under the Office of the President shall be referred to as an Associate to the President."*

*Whereas, President Gabe Liosis has nominated Kirtana Menon to serve as Associate to the President;*

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee ratify the nomination of Kirtana Menon as Associate to the President.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- President stated that he had worked with Kirtana Menon before and believes that Kirtana would be a good fit for the role of Associate to the President.

**7.2 Guidelines for Hybrid Meetings During COVID-19 -MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:05**  
**SUBMITTED BY: President “Gabe Liosis”**

**ATTACHMENTS: COVID-19 Guidelines + Robert's Rules Tips - Hybrid Video Conferencing Gabe/Corbett**

*Whereas, the SFSS has entered Phase 2 of our COVID-19 Safety Plan,*

*Whereas, provincial health orders now allow for small in-person meetings to occur in workplaces,*

*Whereas, the Student Union Building has two meetings rooms with video conferencing equipment that allow us to hold hybrid virtual / in-person meetings.*

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee establish guidelines for hybrid meetings during COVID-19 as attached in the document titled "COVID-19 Guidelines + Robert's Rules Tips - Hybrid Video Conferencing"*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- President stated that these guidelines would be beneficial for a transition to in-person meetings during the transition period. These guidelines detail how to use Robert’s rules in a hybrid format, how to book rooms for meetings, etc.
- President highlighted that these rules will be reviewed on August 23rd. September 7th is the official start of Stage 4 of the BC Restart Plan. President emphasized that the Plan does not define what size small in-person meetings should be.
- President explained that Executive Committee members, Councilors, and Staff who wish to attend the meeting must fill out the SUB access sheet and fill out an online COVID self-assessment form. Emphasized that hybrid meetings would allow those who are sick to attend from how if they have symptoms. President explained that hybrid model can be used beyond COVID to increase accessibility to meetings for membership.
- High support from Committee for Hybrid meetings.
- VP External and Community Affairs suggested creating a list of what is needed for a hybrid meeting for Chairs and Staff and providing training for Chairs on how to lead in-person meetings.
- Committee members mentioned how in zoom meetings, we use "++" in the chat to demonstrate support for the member speaking at the time. Committee members suggested alternatives for showing support for in—person meetings, such as wiggling fingers or jazz hands instead of “++”.
- VP Internal and Organizational Development explained that the staff meeting room has a camera that can zoom in to faces, but it is a smaller room and harder to maintain social distance. Mentioned that the SUB has 3 rooms that have video conferencing equipment that can be used for hybrid meetings.

**7.3 Non-Exec Councilor AVP Hours-MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:06**

**SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal and Organizational Development “Corbett Gildersleve”**  
**Corbett/Jess**

*Whereas R-2.5 states that non-executive council members contribute an average of 10 hours semi-monthly;*

*Whereas R.17-5 states that Associate Vice-Presidents must contribute at least 15 hours a week;*

*Whereas the SFSS Council policies does not clearly lay out the hour contribution when a non-executive council member also serves as an Associate Vice-President;*

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee approve that the hours a non-executive councillor can count towards the Associate Vice-President's hours;*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee task the Governance Committee to develop a policy to account for this scenario.*

**CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

- VP Internal and Organizational stated that there is a policy gap and a lack of clarity as to if these hours are separate or not. These issues will be revisited at Governance Committee and then proceed to Council. This is a temporary measure to provide clarity on combining AVP and Councilor hours.
- VP Events and Student Affairs mentioned that this motion will be beneficial to the Associate Vice Presidents (AVPs) as it can be hard to differentiate if the work done by AVPs is a part of their role as a Councilor or an AVP.
- Amendments were made to correct typos.

**7.4 Extending the Delegated Authority to VP Internal and Organizational Development-MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:07**

**SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal and Organizational Development "Corbett Gildersleve" Corbett/Jess**

*Whereas the Executive Committee on May 25, 2021 temporarily delegated authority to the VP Internal and Organizational Development to approve cheque requisitions and sign documents on the VP Finance and Service's behalf to assist while they were not available;*

*Whereas the Executive Committee on June 8, 2021 extended that delegated authority until June 21, 2021 while the VP Finance and Services was on an approved Leave of Absence;*

*Whereas the VP Finance and Services has finished their Leave of Absence and is engaging in a gradual return to work plan;*

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee extend the delegated authority to the VP Internal and Organizational Development until June 30th to assist in the VP Finance and Service's transition back to work.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- VP Finance is back from her leave of absence, and is now gradually returning back to work.
- This motion is intended to assist VP Finance and Services with completing cheques and cheque requisitions until the end of the month.

**7.5 Appointing Employer Representatives to The Out on Campus Hiring Committee-MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:08**

**SUBMITTED BY: President "GABE LIOSIS" Corbett/Matthew**

*Be it resolved to appoint Gabe Liosis to the Out on Campus Coordinator Hiring Committee as an employer representative.*

*Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee add a motion to the next Council meeting agenda to seek and identify a Non-Executive Councillor to fill the second employer seat on the Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Ashley Brooks, the Out on Campus (OOC) Coordinator, has submitted a resignation letter and will be leaving the position in under a month.
- President expressed interest in being on this Hiring Committee as the first openly gay SFSS President.
- VP Equity and Sustainability expressed interest in OOC Hiring Committee.

**7.6 APPOINT EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BUILDING COORDINATOR HIRING COMMITTEE-MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:09**

**SUBMITTED BY: President “GABE LIOSIS”  
Corbett/Matthew**

*Be it resolved to appoint Corbett Gildersleve and John Walsh to the Building Coordinator Hiring Committee as employer representatives.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- HR& Personnel Committee has approved this job description which will go to CUPE for a working conditions meeting. This motion is intended to start the hiring of staff to the SUB.
- VP Internal and Organizational Development expressed excitement and emphasized the need to prioritize this as the potential opening date for the SUB is August 23rd.

*\*10-minute break taken at 11:00 AM*

**7.7 SFU Climate Emergency Declaration Letter-MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:10  
SUBMITTED BY: VP University and Academic Affairs “Serena Bains”**

**Serena/Almas**

*Whereas on October 4th, 2019, the SFSS passed a motion recognizing that we are in a climate crisis and committed to reducing our collective carbon footprint on campus, stood in solidarity with students striking for the climate globally while also requesting academic amnesty for students, and called on SFU to divest away from fossil fuels, Whereas in order to successfully mitigate climate change, change needs to extend beyond marginalized individuals and others voluntarily limiting their own consumption through their own means (such as driving less, turning down residential heating, etc.)*

*Whereas successfully mitigating climate change must also involve behaviours that lead to systemic social change, such as improvements in loose environmental regulations of the industry that are harmful (to the land, water sources and more), economic incentives for the transition to carbon-neutral sources of energy, cultural shifts away from materialism, and restriction of the political power of fossil fuel companies, Whereas SFU as an anchor institution has a responsibility to look at its direct and indirect contributions to the climate crisis and has significant social and political influence locally and internationally,*

*Whereas SFU has released a 2020-2025 Sustainability Plan that is woefully inadequate as it does not encompass a climate emergency declaration, taking a stance on the Trans Mountain Expansion project, promote divestment as opposed to carbon footprint reduction, ensure climate justice education mandatory for all students, ensure SFU does not receive funding from fossil fuel special interest groups, acknowledge carbon offsets as an unviable solution, demand action on scope 3 emissions, encourage standing in solidarity with direct actions for climate justice, and recommend solutions that center climate justice while also recognizing the ongoing harm the university perpetuates,*

*Whereas Canada declared a National Climate Emergency in 2019, and along with many student unions and climate justice student groups that have successfully lobbied universities and other institutions to declare a Climate Emergency and to divest from fossil fuels thereafter, including the University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Waterloo, and Concordia University - SFU has not, Whereas SFU declaring a climate emergency emphasizes the urgency for climate action and a proper and adequate stance to the scientifically proven climate emergency,*

*Whereas SFU350 is pushing SFU to declare a climate emergency with their Climate Emergency Declaration Open Letter along with concrete demands that go beyond the SFU 2020-2025 Sustainability Plan and address the systemic issues, Be it resolved that the SFSS Executive Committee recommends to Council that it signs onto and supports the Climate Emergency Declaration Open Letter as attached.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- To pressure SFU to declare a climate emergency with their Sustainability Plan, SFU 350 has been working on a Climate Emergency Declaration Letter. VP University and Academic Affairs highlighted issues within the SFU Sustainability Plan including the lack of inclusion of indirect emissions. As an anchor institution, SFU should serve its community which includes taking action against the Climate Crisis.
- VP University and Academic Affairs stated that eventually they want to see this letter gain support from both the Executive and Council.
- President spoke in favour of the motion. He expressed that SFU stances on the Climate Crisis are inadequate and that SFU cannot claim that they are taking action without taking active opposition to TMX, divesting from fossil fuels, and declaring a Climate Emergency. He emphasized that these issues continue to impact marginalized communities and have a real, tangible impact that is too often politicized. By avoiding taking a stance, SFU is complicity in the climate crisis.
- VP External and Community Affairs emphasized that this letter should ensure collective action as well as encourage accountability and transparency by SFU.
- VP University and Academic Affairs mentioned that the Equity and Sustainability Committee will discuss this declaration in meetings with SFU staff.

## 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 8.1 Metro Vancouver Alliance

- VP External and Community Affairs discussed a meeting from June 25, 2021, with Liam from Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA). MVA represents 25 organizations as a collective to push on social justice issues, include Health Care Unions, Multifaith spaces, Environmental groups. The MVA was interested in seeing if the SFSS wanted to sign on to the Alliance.
- VP External and Community Affairs mentioned that he wanted to ensure that the MVA did not have any mandates or policies that were inconsistent with SFSS Issues Policies. He mentioned that if the SFSS were to join, a conversation with the MVA needs to occur discussing how they prioritize students, push for student affordability, housing affordability, and mental health funding.
- VP External and Community Affairs mentioned that joining the MVA would be similar to the International Student Advocacy Office, small payment of \$1000 that would allow students access to volunteer opportunities and coalition work, allow opportunities to build connections.
- President expressed interest in having MVA attend an upcoming Executive meeting.
- VP Internal and Organizational Development suggested checking other groups that the MVA is allied with.

## **8.2 Hiring Committee Updates**

- President stated that the final candidate for the Policy Research position will start soon, and Out on Campus Coordinator search will start soon.
- VP External and Community Affairs stated that the Campaigns and Mobilization Coordinator interview questions have been finalized. Short listed candidates will be contacted shortly to set up interviews.
- VP Internal and Organizational Development mentioned that a request for union members on the hiring committees has yet to go out. He highlighted the increased efficiency in hiring Building Coordinator Hiring Committee formation compared to Board Term 2020-21.
- VP Events and Student Affairs mentioned that the Women's Centre Assistant position is still looking for applicants.
- VP University and Academic Affairs mentioned that the Administrative Assistant posting will be live soon and the Out on Campus Assistant role is looking for more folks with lived experience.

## **8.3 MSC Annual Report Template/Guide for Feedback**

- VP Internal and Organizational Development highlighted that those annual reports submitted by various departments will be used to craft the report presented at the Annual General Meeting in Fall 2021. He mentioned that MSC was the most impacted departments in change to remote work. Reports will be collected over the summer.
- Suggestions raised to ask questions such as, how the pandemic impacted services, feedback or comments received from students, and general issues or concerns with service delivery and support. Suggested to keep the feedback anonymous and go through CUPE. Department-focused questions suggested.

## **8.4 SFSS Members Meeting (Annual General Meeting) 2021**

- President highlighted how well the online format worked in Fall 2020 with over 600 students in attendance. In-person AGMs have lots of barriers. Suggested another tuition condemnation vote based on the momentum built up from the previous year. He suggested a discussion with Council about what they want to bring to the AGM.
- VP Internal and Organizational Development suggested retrying the previous referendum questions during the AGM as they passed the yes threshold, but there were not enough votes to meet quorum.

*\*Corbett Gildersleve left the meeting at 11:58 pm*

## **8.5 Burnaby City Council By-Election - Student Engagement**

- The Burnaby City Council By-Election is set for June 26th election with two seats up for election.
- With large chunks of SFSS membership living in Burnaby, President mentioned that the SFSS should encourage students to get involved as past Council stances have affected the SFSS and students including stances on transit, Gondola, affordable housing, and TMX.
- President emphasized that students living on residence can vote. In order to vote in the election, someone must live in Burnaby for at least 30 days.

- Emmanuela Droko suggested reaching out through social media and highlighting the eligibility requirement. Emphasized that there is a communication plan underway and the SFSS will be setting up tabling outside of Residence and Dining Room. She highlighted that there is a voting location on campus.

#### **8.6 COVID-19 Safety, Student Union & Clubs**

- As Public health Orders relax, Clubs are asking what the policies are in place for in-person events and meetings. SFSS Policies on events have not changed since the start of the pandemic.
- Nancy Mah suggested following Health Orders, but not having on-campus events. If we do decide to allow in-person events, and a Clubs chooses to have an event and apply for grant funding, they should have a plan in place which they must submit to the SFSS along with an attendance list to be reimbursed.
- VP External and Community affairs suggested having an event box with cleaning supplies, and PPE as well as a toolkit for hosting an event.
  - VP Events and Student Affairs stated she would work with staff to sort out logistics concerning this issue.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **9.1 Next Executive Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 06, 2021 at 10 AM.**

- Hybrid: SUB 2420 or SUB 2440 & Online via Zoom
- If attending in person, Committee members must let the chair know 24 hours in advance.

## **10. ATTACHMENTS**

### **10.1 COVID-19 Guidelines + Robert's Rules Tips - Hybrid Video Conferencing**

### **10.2 SEND SFU Climate Emergency Declaration Open Letter**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

### **11.1 MOTION EXECUTIVE 2021-06-22:11**

**Matthew/Jess**

*Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 PM.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



# COVID-19 Guidelines - Hybrid Video Conferencing

## Definitions

1. **“Chair”** means the Chair of Council, Chair of a Committee, or Chair of a Sub-Committee; “Chair” shall also mean the lead of a Working Group, or staff member organizing a meeting.
2. **“External Bookings”** means bookings of the Meeting Room by individuals who are not members of Council or Staff.
3. **“Meeting Room”** means either SUB 2420 or SUB 2440.
4. **“Member”** means a voting or non-voting member of Council, Committee, or Sub-Committee; “Member” shall also mean a staff member.

## Guidelines

5. These guidelines shall only be amended or repealed by the Executive Committee and/or Council.
  - a. These guidelines shall be reviewed and updated, where applicable, by August 23rd, 2021.

## Hybrid Video Conferencing

6. The Meeting Room is equipped with video conferencing equipment that allows members attending a meeting in-person to interact with members attending virtually.

## COVID-19 Measures & Occupancy Limit

7. There shall be an occupancy limit of 8 members in the Meeting Room at once.
8. A minimum of 2 metres of distance shall be maintained between all people in the Meeting Room at all times.
9. A face mask or covering shall be worn at all times, except in the event of medical exceptions, by all members in the Meeting Room.
10. The Meeting Room shall be equipped with plexiglass barriers that separate each seated member present in the Meeting Room.

## Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.

11. The Chair of a meeting shall book the Meeting Room by contacting the Administration Department.
12. The Chair of a meeting shall be responsible for coordinating which members are attending the meeting in the Meeting Room, and which members are attending virtually.

13. Responsibilities of the Chair shall be to:
  - a. Compile a list of which members are attending the meeting in-person at least 24 hours before the meeting occurs, ensuring that the number of members attending in-person does not exceed 8,
  - b. Ensure the COVID-19 Measures & Occupancy Limit are adhered to as shown in Section 7-10,
  - c. Asking members to leave the Meeting Room if the COVID-19 Measures & Occupancy Limit as shown in Section 7-10 are not adhered to.
14. Members or staff shall not be compelled by anyone to attend a meeting in-person, and shall always have the agency to decide to attend a meeting virtually.
15. No external bookings shall occur in the Meeting Room.

## Robert's Rules of Order

### Moving & Seconding

16. Members attending in-person may move or second a motion by raising their hand in a manner as to be visible to the Chair.
17. Members attending virtually may move or second a motion by using the Zoom "Raise Hand" feature.

### Speakers List

18. The Chair shall maintain a speakers list.
  - a. Members attending in-person may be added to the speakers list by raising their hand in a manner as to be visible to the Chair.
  - b. Members attending virtually may be added to the speaker list by using the Zoom chat in the following manner:
    - i. "List" means that a member wishes to make a statement on a discussion topic or motion.
    - ii. "\*\*\*" means that a member wishes to make a direct response to a previous statement.
  - c. Where a Committee has a Vice Chair, the Vice Chair should assist the Chair in maintaining a speakers list in order by which members indicated they wish to speak.

### Voting

19. Seeking Unanimous Consent Motions:
  - a. If a member attending in-person wishes to object to a unanimous consent motion, the member shall do so by raising their hand in a manner visible to the Chair.
  - b. If a member attending virtually wishes to object to a unanimous consent motion, the member shall do so by using the Zoom "Raise Hand" feature.

20. Contested Motions:

- a. The Chair shall first ask for members attending in-person to cast their votes.
  - i. The Chair shall conduct a Roll Call vote for members attending in-person.
- b. The Chair shall then ask members attending virtually to cast their votes:
  - i. The Chair shall conduct a Roll Call vote for members attending virtually.

## Other Meeting Protocols

21. Any application of Robert's Rules of Order using the Meeting Room that is not outlined in these guidelines shall be at the discretion of the Chair.



# **SFU Climate Emergency Declaration Open Letter**

*Sponsored by: SFU350,*

## SFU Climate Emergency Declaration Open Letter

A climate emergency is a necessary step for SFU to take in this climate crisis era. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a notable report on limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels which cannot be achieved without rapid systemic changes. The climate crisis is here and universities must acknowledge and work towards mitigation.

Further, institutions have the tendency to make symbolic gestures towards tackling climate change. A climate emergency then must be accompanied by action that challenges the status quo and the colonial capitalist system. SFU as a colonial institution needs to acknowledge that and realize they are complicit. It's time SFU takes action that engages their students in a critical way that moves society forward into a more just and sustainable future. We are racing against the climate clock and it is time for SFU to **engage the world** on climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as justice.

### Our Demands

1. **Decarbonize** → Align SFU's operational greenhouse gas emissions with global emission reduction targets outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
  - a. Reduce emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach "net-zero" by 2050
2. **Divest** → Divest SFU's investments (in all funds under the endowment) from companies that extract, process and transport fossil fuels
  - a. Commit to 100% fossil fuel-free funds by 2025 within SFU's Endowment
3. **Oppose** → Publicly oppose all new and pending fossil fuel projects, particularly the Trans Mountain Expansion project
  - a. Affirm an opposition stance to the expansion of the TMX pipeline as well as all future fossil energy infrastructure projects in Canada
4. **Climate Hub** → Establish a student-led climate hub to guide sustainability policy and action on campus.
5. **Climate Justice** → Use a climate justice lens to all pending and future climate action at SFU, and work towards implementation of the demands from racialized and marginalized groups on campus working on anti-racism, decolonization and anti-oppression work.
6. **Educate** → Implement mandatory education for all SFU undergraduate students on climate justice
  - a. Ensure all SFU students graduate with a knowledge of climate change and climate justice; there should be no barriers to obtaining this knowledge
7. **Determine Next Steps** → Initiate a process to develop specific actions the University will take to implement commitments and report back in 120 days. The process should

be overseen by an advisory group representing students, staff and faculty - with invitations extended to Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh, and Kwikwetlem Nations - and involve consultation with the relevant campus units, as well as opportunities for wider community input.

For more details, please read our full demands available **here**.

In unity, the undersigned,



**SFU Climate Emergency  
Declaration Open Letter  
Full Demands**

*Sponsored by: SFU350,*

## *Declare a Climate Emergency at SFU*

A climate emergency is a necessary step for SFU to take in this climate crisis era. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a notable report on limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels which cannot be achieved without rapid systemic changes. The climate crisis is here and universities must acknowledge and work towards mitigation and adaptation. This decision will reveal SFU's real values and priorities in a concrete way and students/staff/faculty will be able to really unite under a declaration. Further, institutions have the tendency to make symbolic gestures towards tackling climate change. A climate emergency then must be accompanied by action that challenges the status quo and the colonial capitalist system. SFU as a colonial institution needs to acknowledge that and realize they are complicit. It's time SFU takes action that engages their students in a critical way that moves society forward into a more just and sustainable future. We are racing against the climate clock and it is time for SFU to **engage the world** on climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as justice. This declaration is only the beginning.

## Our Demands

1. **Decarbonize** → Align SFU's operational greenhouse gas emissions with global emission reduction targets outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
  - a. Reduce emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach "net-zero" by 2050
2. **Divest** → SFU's investments in all funds under the endowment by divesting from companies that extract, process and transport fossil fuels
  - a. Commit to 100% fossil fuel-free funds by 2025 within SFU's Endowment
3. **Raise Awareness & Amplify** → Publicly oppose all new and pending fossil fuel projects, particularly the Trans Mountain Expansion project
4. **Climate Hub** → Establish a student-led climate hub to guide sustainability policy and action on campus.
5. **Climate Justice** → *Implore a climate justice lens to all pending and future climate action at SFU* and tie in demands from other groups on campus that are working around anti-racism, decolonizing and anti-oppression work.
6. **Educate** → implement mandatory education for all SFU undergraduate students on climate justice



# ***Decarbonize***

- A. Reduce emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach “net-zero” by 2050<sup>1</sup>.
  - a. This target must be achieved through operational emission reductions (Scope 1, 2, and 3), not through the purchase of carbon offsets.

In order to take meaningful steps to curb the climate crisis, SFU needs to implement an institutional target for SFU’s operational Greenhouse Gas emissions that is in line with global emission reduction targets [outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). This target must account for all [Scope 3 emissions](#), including those from commuter and business travel, waste collection and management, and the procurement of goods and services<sup>2</sup>. This reduction should not be achieved through the purchase of carbon offsets. While carbon offsets can help incentivize low-carbon practices, they should not be relied upon for achieving long-term emission reduction targets. SFU professor [Mark Jaccard notes that](#) carbon offsets are often ineffective at achieving actual emission reductions because they tend to fund actions to reduce emissions that would have occurred anyway<sup>3</sup>.

# ***Divest***

- A. Commit to having solely 100% fossil fuel-free funds across SFU’s investment streams including the Endowment, BEAM and SIAS
  - a. Fossil fuel free funds are defined as funds with no investments in companies engaged in the extraction, processing and transportation of fossil fuels
- B. Request current asset managers to create or transition to fossil-fuel free funds with a bound and transparent 5 year plan; if they don’t oblige, move money to a new fossil-fuel free asset manager
- C. Reinvest X% of the endowment into Indigenous-led impact investment funds that advance economic and environmental justice (refer to Climate Justice section below)

Divestment of the endowment and related student-managed funds BEAM and SIAS is a necessary step in order to take real leadership as a postsecondary institution in the face of the climate crisis. This is necessary because current carbon footprinting methods have many flaws and is a limited solution. For activists and organizers, divestment has always been about revoking the social license the fossil fuel industry has to operate; [it is about a moral opposition to a particular sector](#).<sup>4</sup> This divestment definition, while well understood by many activists, has been previously understood by others as being an avenue for causing extreme financial hardship to the fossil fuel industry. While large scale divestment may reduce share price, activists are more keen on denouncing the legitimacy of this sector via major institutions such as universities. SFU as a university who prides itself on being an [engaged climate leader](#)<sup>5</sup> should be ready to take this next step and divest their endowment and related funds, demonstrating to other universities and institutions that the age of fossil fuels has come to an end.

## ***Raise Awareness & Amplify***

SFU must reaffirm its opposition to the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) project before tangible and meaningful action can take place. SFU as an institution is directly impacted by TMX, and must therefore publically and permanently oppose this project. TMX poses a direct threat to the sovereignty of the Indigenous Nations on whose lands SFU is situated, to students' safety and to the environment.. In 2016, Andrew Petter made a statement regarding the pipeline in which he emphasised that "the potential health and safety risks are unacceptable to the community and that SFU fully intends to raise these concerns with the Federal Government and Kinder Morgan." Since then, neither further action nor recent opposing statements have followed. Students are concerned and expect leadership from the administration. Students need the administration to take responsibility for ignoring the risks and to address their apathy towards the pipeline.

The most important first step is to raise awareness in the student body and in the administration. To sensitize students to the impacts of TMX, SFU must organize seminars for discussion, working groups, and reading clubs. "Justice, No Pipeline" has already engaged in such action and has received positive responses. However, we need more leadership by the university itself to plan and carry such events out.

Secondly, SFU must ensure that students study and graduate with a critical understanding and knowledge of TMX and climate justice more generally. We as the next generation have to be prepared to take unprecedented action against the impacts of climate change. Post-secondary institutions like SFU always stress that their students become “critical thinkers” and “engage in the world”, but to achieve this SFU must provide its students with adequate resources and tools to think critically about projects such as TMX. In addition to the seminars and workshops outlined above, SFU can meet this end through mandatory canvas courses pertaining to TMX and to potential future projects with similar impacts. Such courses should be designed in collaboration with the SFU Climate Hub outlined in the following section.

Thirdly, SFU must commit to working with students, faculty members, and staff in organizing against TMX, in order to put the knowledge into action. This means funding resources to make actions more meaningful and impactful; sharing information among students and professors so they can work together; and encouraging large-scale actions such as declaring a climate emergency. SFU must stand in solidarity with direct actions and engage the SFU community in the campaign against TMX. Especially when student union groups or activist organisations such as “Justice, No Pipeline” plan and take actions, they need to count on the support of the administration.

In sum, JNP and the student body expect that:

- a) SFU commit to educating its students and transform them into critical thinkers who can politically mobilise in the future;
- b) SFU take tangible action to oppose the expansion, including preparing an official statement of opposition and defunding its investments in oil and other non-renewable energy sources;
- c) SFU invest in resources to oppose the expansion, such as starting media campaigns and educational programmes to oppose and educate on the negative impacts of TMX;
- d) SFU grant academic amnesty to students participating in large actions (e.g. the Climate Strike);
- e) SFU promote anti-TMX actions to mobilise the student body as one political union, such as those promoted by Shawnigan Lake;
- f) SFU recognise its important role in the fight against the expansion and begin to act as the official intervener it can be. This includes taking legal action against TMX, supporting land defenders, and using its authority to raise awareness to the issue.

# ***Climate Hub***

It is essential that SFU accompany its climate emergency declaration with a tangible commitment to engage SFU students, staff, and faculty, as well as community groups in climate policy decisions. To do so, the University would benefit from the establishment of a student-led climate hub dedicated to researching climate policies and improving climate literacy within and beyond the SFU community. The proposed climate hub would employ a small number of full and part-time student staff, and would seek collaboration with like-minded SFU groups and community organizations. In addition to its focus on climate policy and literacy, the proposed climate hub would support a variety of projects meant to encourage and facilitate bold climate action in the SFU and broader communities.

The SFU Climate Hub would build on the principles and features of existing climate hubs, such as the UBC Climate Hub, the Calgary Climate Hub, and the Indigenous Climate Hub in Ontario. In engaging the community, it should follow in the footsteps of the Calgary Climate Hub by hosting "[Climate Conversations](#)", in which students and community members can engage in conversation with climate experts and decide on actions to address climate change. In doing so, the SFU Climate Hub should prioritize the knowledge of local Indigenous groups and First Nations, as in the case of the [Indigenous Climate Hub](#). Finally, in the case of a lack of available funding, the SFU Climate Hub should follow the lead of the [UBC Climate Hub](#) by partnering with organizations such as Vancity. We emphasize partnerships with such organizations that already invest in local communities, rather than those that do not. This would ensure not only that the SFU and wider Burnaby Mountain communities have the opportunity to come together to better address climate change at the local level, but that the money invested in Climate Hub programs actually goes back into the community.

To summarize, SFU students call on the SFU administration to:

- a) Establish a student-led climate hub with the goal of increasing climate literacy among students and community members;
- b) Consult with students and student groups in the creation of this climate hub;
- c) Employ current SFU students and alumni at the climate hub;
- d) Prioritize the knowledge of Indigenous groups and First Nations in all actions and events planned by the climate hub;

- e) If needed, partner with climate-conscious and community-oriented organizations for funding, such as Vancity.

## ***Climate Justice***

SFU must take an [intersectional](#), anti-oppressive, and anti-capitalist approach to tackling climate change.

We must recognize the racist, abcolonial and capitalist systems that have resulted in the climate crisis we are in today. Firstly, capitalism operates on the maximization of profits, exploitation of labour (of mostly marginalized people), and resource extraction. Secondly, settler colonialism seeks to dispossess Indigenous Peoples from their land in order to accumulate and control capital<sup>10</sup>. These systems are both the root cause of climate change and simultaneously impeding our ability to take any meaningful actions to address it<sup>11 12</sup>.

Additionally, the effects of climate change have already started to affect Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) disproportionately which further exacerbates existing inequalities<sup>12</sup>. BIPOC communities often live in low-income regions that lack resources. These marginalized communities face issues of pollution, lack clean and safe drinking water, and lack access to health resources. Racism and oppression of BIPOC folks undermines the collective effort to tackle climate change when marginalized and racialized people have to fight for basic human rights and necessities as they become politicized<sup>14</sup>.

Institutions such as SFU are built upon the same colonial foundations of Canada that perform settler-colonial violence and SFU is not able to separate itself from this history<sup>15 16</sup><sup>17</sup>. SFU has historically and presently demonstrated this by consistently failing to minimize and prevent harm to the BIPOC community at SFU. Recent incidents include:

1. The exclusion of Indigenous students from proper consultation regarding the First Peoples Gathering House<sup>18</sup>
2. SFU's initial reluctance to change The Athletic Team name - 'Clan' after multiple calls to action. Even after SFU dropped The Athletic Team name as a result of years of unpaid labour of Black and POC organizers, SFU continuously failed to recognize the unpaid labour, trauma-inducing situations, and the need for adequate support for Black Student-Athletes and POC allies to rectify the harm caused thereafter<sup>19</sup>
3. The racial profiling of SFU Black alumnus due to the unequal imposing of vague policies and unnecessary escalation even after conversation between the SFSS

President and SFU Administration around the importance of de-escalation and re-evaluating the use of RCMP to respond to non-violent incidents on campus. As a result, this all led to the violent arrest of the SFU Black alumnus in December 2020<sup>20</sup>

The above instances are not isolated incidents nor are they the only ones, but an on-going theme of constant colonial violence to BIPOC students, faculty, and staff at SFU. This is in no small part due to SFU's unwillingness to actively listen and take meaningful actions when issues are brought forward by the BIPOC community at SFU. Therefore, in order for a declaration of climate emergency to be meaningful, SFU must commit to:

1. Consulting with Host Nations, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), qíçəy̓ (Katzie), kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen on SFU's climate actions and 2025 Sustainability Plan<sup>21</sup>
2. Supporting, amplifying, and taking stances in solidarity with Indigenous peoples' human rights as aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)<sup>22</sup>, and the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act<sup>23</sup>
3. Implement the calls to action listed out in SFU's Walk this Path With Us Report<sup>24</sup>
1. Complete a community-led institution-wide study that centers experiences of marginalized communities and publishes findings that identify SFU's past and on-going roles in climate injustice that disproportionately impact marginalized communities and commit to redress past and on-going harms.
4. Consulting with, actively listening to and acting upon recommendations put forward by the BIPOC community at SFU such as but not limited to, SFU First Nation Student Association (FNSA), SFU Black Caucus, SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA), and SFSS BIPOC Committee
5. Hiring of more BIPOC, but especially Black, and Indigenous faculty and staff, both at the Faculty, and Admin level<sup>25</sup>
6. Reinvesting at least X% of the endowment into Indigenous-led impact investment funds that advances economic and environmental justice<sup>26</sup> (refer to Divestment demands above)

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