

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 10:07 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^wməθk^wəy̓əm̓ (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓ilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəł̓əm̓ (Kwikwetlem) 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
Building Manager.....	John Walsh
Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator.....	Beatrice Omboga
Administrative Assistant.....	Christina Kachkarova

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

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

CARRIED/NOT CARRIED/CARRIED AS AMENDED

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION EXEC 2021-12-28:01

Jess/Matthew

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SUB AND SHIFT TO REMOTE SERVICES– MOTION EXEC 2021-12-28:02

SUBMITTED BY: President “Gabe Liosis”

Jess/Serena

Whereas, SFU has announced that the first two weeks of the Spring 2022 semester will be taught remotely due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, driven by Omicron.

Whereas, this has operational and safety implications for the Student Union Building and other SFSS Spaces.

Whereas, the SFSS must make a decision independently from SFU's announcement on the best course of action in the face of this COVID case surge.

Whereas, the Student Union Building is a mainly social space, and was designed for lots of mingling and socializing amongst students (i.e. it is not considered an organized gathering), and we cannot effectively ensure transmission would not occur.

Whereas, the SFSS has an obligation, as an employer of a staff team of 40+, to consider the health and safety impacts this has for our staff.

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee approve a temporary closure of the Student Union Building to the general public from January 4th-12th in order to coordinate a plan, with the support of SFSS management, for reducing capacity in the building in the face of the surge in COVID-19 cases, and transition all in-person services to be offered virtually where possible, until at least January 24th, 2022.

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee encourage all to work remotely where possible from January 4th-12th but whereby staff members may work in the Student Union Building at their discretion (but must fill out an online sign-in form), or work from home if they wish.

Be it resolved that this temporary closure and hybrid workplace arrangement also apply to the SFSS space at the SFU Surrey Campus.

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee task the President and Management to communicate these changes with all staff, and adjust work as needed to accommodate this temporary shift.

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee meets before January 24th, 2022, to make a decision on whether the implementation of further measures are required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- President clarified that the decision to bring this motion to Executive was not made lightly, and he understood that this was a difficult period of time for many SFSS members. At the time changes to the SUB were discussed at the meeting on December 21st, 2021, SFU had not yet announced that they would be transitioning to an online format until January 24th, 2022. President mentioned that, during his last meeting with SFU President and Vice-Chancellor Joy Johnson, she had not expressed that SFU would be switching to remote learning. SFU later announced that it would be making the switch to remote.
- President clarified that this motion was specifically regarding the operation of the SUB. He asked Executive Committee to recognize that the SUB was built to be a social space with lots of opportunities to allow for students to congregate. This congregation was risky as the SFSS was not an ‘organized space’ which would have lower risk for forward transmission. President reiterated that this decision needed to be made regardless of SFU’s decision.
- President asked Executive Committee to consider SFSS member and staff safety and discussed how staff in student-facing positions would contact countless students on any given day. He recommended that the SUB be closed to the public regardless of SFU’s

decision, allowing staff to work in-person if needed but not allowing in-person meetings and requiring staff to sign-in and sign-out. Tenants and constituency groups would also be able to access the SUB, but they would not be able to host events.

- The motion was written as a collaboration between the Executive Committee, John Walsh, Ella Droko, and Ayesha Khan.
- VP Events and Student Affairs mentioned that she was in-favour of the motion, highlighting the recent increase in the transmission of COVID-19. She mentioned that Executives had to consider that this motion would protect staff as well as their families while recognizing that remote work posed many difficulties. Taking into account the feedback she had seen online regarding this motion, VP Events and Student Affairs explained that she believed that this motion needed to be passed to protect staff and members.
- President a week from next Tuesday would be open in one week, need to have everything in one row.
- VP External and Community Affairs spoke in favour of the motion. He mentioned that he thought a two-week closure of the SUB would be beneficial as it would allow for building staff to make the building safe in order for it to be operational the week of January 24th, 2022. He emphasized the need to update constituency groups.
- VP External and Community Affairs highlighted that most students were currently not in the age groups that were receiving booster shots which should be taken into account when making decisions about returning to in-person operations.
- Ella Droko suggested that keeping the SUB open for staff was a good idea as it allowed the opportunity to work in-person.
- John Walsh mentioned that the motion should highlight what services and activities were permitted in the SUB. He clarified that since the doors were programmed to open at 8:45 AM on January 4th, 2022, a decision needed to be made about SUB operations to give staff, tenants, and constituency groups notice about the timeline, prioritizing internal groups before communicating changes to students.
- President clarified that if the SUB was to be opened for January 24th, 2022, the decision for that needed to be made on the 17th of January 2022.
- VP Events and Student Affairs explained that since Ilham Benttahir was currently unavailable, they would struggle to communicate these changes to the membership. She also highlighted that (at this point of the meeting) only four executives were presented, and she wanted all seven to be present.
- President agreed with VP Events and Student Affairs and called for a recess to allow for more Executives to join the meeting.

**Meeting reconvened at 12:34 PM*

- John Walsh expressed that there had been changes since the last Executive Committee Meeting, as no announcement about remote classes or reduced capacity at the time. He mentioned that it was possible that remote classes would last longer than 2 weeks, but SFU was not willing to announce it due to backlash over an entirely remote semester.

- John Walsh suggested a closure to the general public from January 4th to 10th, 2022, and then keeping the SUB open but not allowing any in-person services. He suggested that if classes were kept remote or if things changed, changes would need to be made.
- President mentioned that he was uncomfortable with a complete closure as students living on campus or UniverCity might use the space.
- VP External and Community Affairs expressed the need to figure out protocols for SUB operations including distancing and capacity. He specifically mentioned the spaces across from the Executive Offices, under the stairs, which had the capacity to seat 6/8 people and suggested signage be placed to restrict capacity or close the spaces.
- President clarified that current plan was for the SUB to be closed from January 4th to 10th, 2022, during which staff would be working remotely and with reduced capacity. From January 11th to 24th, the building would be open but with reduced capacity.
- VP External suggested closing the building from January 4th to 17th to allow for the necessary changes to ensure spacing and protocols and signage were in place. If the building was opened earlier, he was uncertain that messaging would be in place.
- President suggested that the 5 business days from January 4th to 11th might be enough time to prepare as there would be a lower workload for staff and Executives.
- John Walsh suggested the ballroom be used to store excess SUB furniture and agreed that 5 business days was likely appropriate.

**Meeting Reconvened at 1:00 PM*

- VP Events and Student Affairs asked about the SFSS staff sign in/sign out form and if constituency groups would need a similar sheet. Executive Committee decided to discuss this outside of the meeting.
- John Walsh highlighted that, during the closure, building operations staff would need to be in the building. He added that, with the building doors closed, it would be safer for staff.
- President mentioned a message he had received from SFU President and Vice-Chancellor Joy Johnson where she expressed caution about making decisions for operations as there would be a PHO released later on the day of the meeting, December 28th, 2021.
- Motion amended to include the following changes:
 - In the first BIR clause, Strike “*until January 24th, 2022*” and replace with “*from January 4th-12th in order to coordinate a plan, with the support of SFSS management, for reducing capacity in the building*”, strike “*during this interim period*” and replace with “*where possible, until at least January 24th, 2022.*”
 - In the first BIFR clause, strike “*approve*” and replace with “*encourage all staff*”, strike “*a new hybrid workplace arrangement*” and replace with “*to work remotely where possible from January 4th-12th*”, strike “*for SFSS staff who primarily work from the SUB, whereby*” and replace with “*but*”, strike “*may*” after “*(but must fill out an online sign-in form) or,*” strike “*from time to time*”.

- In the last be it further resolved clause, strike “*make a decision on whether to extend this temporary closure before January 24th, 2022*” and replace with “*meets before January 24th, 2022, to make a decision on whether the implementation of further measures are required.*”

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Supporting Students During COVID-19/Omicron Case Surge SUBMITTED BY: President “Gabe Liosis”

- President highlighted that this discussion this was outside of the previous item which focussed on the SUB and discussed the importance of supporting students during this mentally, academically, and financially difficult time. He expressed concern about the mental health of students and mentioned the need to amplify mental health services available for them.
- VP External and Community Affairs mentioned that SFSS should push SFU to meet the Calls to Action that SFSS had included in its statement. He suggested pushing SFU to reinstate the tech grant that it had offered students during the beginning of the pandemic. He highlighted that there was a whole group of students who had started attending SFU in the Fall 2021 semester who had not had post secondary education online, and another group of students who had started attending SFU in the Spring 2022 semester. Both of these groups of first years might not have access to the necessary resources to do remote learning.
- VP Events and Student Affairs highlighted that this grant was also taxable.
- John Walsh suggested that testing should be made accessible to students regardless of whether the Spring 2022 semester was remote. He added that there had been discussions about hosting booster clinics on Campus and that the SUB Ballroom would be an ideal place to host it. President mentioned that SFU admin had been receptive about hosting a booster clinic on campus. President took on emailing SFU about booster clinics as an action item,
- Ella Droko mentioned that \$400K/\$500K was being allocated for post-secondary institutions to access rapid testing.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9.1 [REMINDER] When2Meet, Standing Biweekly Executive Committee Meeting time, Spring 2022 [DEADLINE: January 14th, 2022] <https://www.when2meet.com/?13918255-PHqIJ>

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 MOTION EXEC 2021-12-21:03

Matthew/Jess

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 PM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY