

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order by Vice President Student Services Matthew Provost.

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), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwikwetlem) and 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. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

The Members will nominate and appoint a Chairperson for the Annual General Meeting.

3.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:01

Tegan Harris/Kily Barr

Be it resolved to appoint President Osob Mohamed as the Chairperson of the 2020 Simon Fraser Student Society Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

- Voting: 98% in favour and 2% against

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEW OF MEETING RULES

The assembly will consider the agenda as prepared by the Board of Directors. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

The Chairperson will provide a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order, a system of meeting rules and procedures that the Society uses for the AGM.

4.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:02

Stewart/Parmar

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

- Voting: 97% in favour and 3% against

5. RECEIPT OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting will be available for receipt and filing by Members.

5.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:03

Masood/Dhaliwal

Be it resolved that the minutes of the September 25th, 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society be received and filed.

CARRIED

- Voting: 98% in favour and 2% against

6. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

6.1 By-Law Proposal #1 (Societies Act Compliance & By-Law Housekeeping)- MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:04

The assembly will now consider the By-Law amendment proposals contained in By-Law Proposal Package #1.

Liosis/Parmar

Whereas, the current SFSS By-Laws are not fully compliant with the BC Societies Act;

Whereas, the SFSS By-Laws must be consistent with all provisions of the BC Societies Act;

Whereas, By-Law Proposal #1 seeks to amend the SFSS By-Laws to be fully consistent with the BC Societies Act;

Be it resolved that By-Law 1 be amended to incorporate the definitions as presented in By-Law Proposal Package #1 in alphabetical order.

Be it further resolved to repeal By-Laws 1(2), 9(2)(a)(iii), 15(14)(a), 15(14)(b), 15(14)(c).

Be it further resolved that the existing By-Law 2 be repealed and replaced with the new By-Law 2 as presented.

Be it further resolved to create three subheadings under By-Law 15, “Eligibility to Run for Election”, “The Independent Electoral Commission”, and “General Elections” as presented.

Be it further resolved to amend By-Laws 15(7), 15(8)(d), 15(8)(e), 15(8)(g), 15(9), 15(9)(a), 15(14), 15(15)(b), 15(16),

Be it further resolved to create: a new By-Law above current By-Law 15(9), a subsection under current By-Law 15(12), above current By-Law 15(14), a subsection under current By-Law 15(23) as presented, and a new By-Law below By-Law 20(2) as presented.

Be it further resolved that By-Laws 1(4), 1(9), 1(16), 3(1), 4(1)(b), 11(2)(e), 11(5), 11(8), 18(1), 18(2), and 18(3) be amended as presented.

Be it further resolved to amend the By-Laws to change “member” to “Member”, where the By-Laws are referring to the SFSS Membership.

Be it further resolved to create a new By-Law called “Dissolution” as presented.

CARRIED

- Voting: 97% in favour and 3% against

6.2 By-Law Proposal #2 (Executive Officers Reform)- MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:05

The assembly will now consider the By-Law amendment proposals contained in By-Law Proposal Package #2.

Liosis/Tyner

Whereas, the current SFSS By-Laws do not effectively describe the powers, duties and obligations of Executive Officers;

Whereas, the current Executive Portfolios do not accurately describe the work that the Society’s elected officials are expected to undertake;

Whereas, By-Law Proposal #2 seeks to expand on the powers, duties and obligations of Executive Officers;

Whereas, By-Law #2 seeks to dedicate more focus to internal governance, equity, supporting marginalized groups, and climate justice.

Be it resolved that By-Law 1(5), 5(2)(a), and 15(4) be amended as presented.

Be it further resolved that the existing By-Law 4 be repealed and replaced with the new By-Law 4 as attached.

Be it further resolved that these changes take effect immediately.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Add a BIFR clause that says:
 - Be it further resolved to change all mentions of “Finance and Operations” to “Finance and Services”
- Changing the name of finance and operations to finances and services
- Voting for amendment: 96% in favour and 4% against
- A question was raised about whether the by-law changes will take effect immediately or during the next Board elections
 - VP University Relations clarified that the By-Law amendments would effect the next election
- A member asked why finances and student services would be combined into one executive role
 - VP University relations explain that this is a common practice within other student societies. He also explained that the work in both positions have similarities and it would help streamline the work as well.
- A member wanted more information regarding the role of the equity and sustainability vice president
 - VP University vision for this position was to ensure one position on the board is always having a focus on liaising with equity groups as work with marginalized members.
 - Currently VP University Relations and VP External Relations are the two advocacy positions on the Board, however the portfolio of these position are quite overwhelming
 - Creating a dedicated position that focuses on equity to work alongside VP University Relations and VP External is the efficient thing to do
- Voting: 94% in favour and 6% against

6.3 By-Law Proposal #3 (Student Groups Clarification and Improvement)- MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:06

The assembly will now consider the By-Law amendment proposals contained in By-Law Proposal Package #3

Liosis/Parmar

Whereas, the current SFSS By-Laws do not mention or define Constituency Groups, despite these groups having existed and operated for several years;

Whereas, the By-Laws should more effectively and comprehensively define Student Groups;

Whereas, By-Law Proposal #3 seeks to improve on the definition of SFSS student groups;

Be it resolved that By-Law 1 be amended to incorporate the definitions, as presented in By-Law Proposal Package #3, in alphabetical order.

Be it further resolved that the existing By-Laws 8, 10, and 19 be repealed and replaced with the new By-Law 8, 10, and 19 as presented.

Be it further resolved to repeal By-Law 9.

Be it further resolved that By-Laws 7(a)(iv) be amended as presented.

Be it further resolved to create a new By-Law called “Constituency Groups” as presented.

Be it further resolved that these changes take effect immediately.

CARRIED

- Different members spoke up about their experiences regarding only being affiliate groups of the SFSS but not having official status
- They also talked about never having a clear process of how they function in the larger context with the SFSS and they believe this By-Law change would gravely help their operations with the SFSS
- Voting: 97% in favour and 3% against

6.4 By-Law Proposal #4 (Council Empowerment)- MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:07

The assembly will now consider the By-Law amendment proposals contained in By-Law Proposal Package #4.

Liosis/Chou

Whereas, since 2006, more and more power has been taken away from the student-body as a whole, and centralized in the hands of the few;

Whereas, an elected Board of Directors of 16 students often do not represent the interests of the Membership as a whole;

Whereas, Council is a more representative body of the student-body as a whole, as it is comprised of students from faculty and department student unions and constituency groups from different subsets of the undergraduate population;

Whereas, Council currently has no decision-making power within the SFSS, nor any significant ability to hold elected Board members accountable to their actions;

Whereas, Proposal #4 seeks to empower Council to be the legal-decision making body of the Society by replacing what is now known as the Board of Directors, and to provide greater checks and balances on our elected Executives;

Be it resolved that By-Law 1 be amended to incorporate the definitions, as presented in By-Law Proposal Package #4, in alphabetical order.

Be it resolved to repeal By-Laws 1(3), 1(9), 7, and 8

Be it further resolved that the existing By-Laws 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 16, and 17 be repealed with the new By-Laws 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 16, and 17 as presented.

Be it further resolved to create four subheadings under By-Law 15, "Eligibility to Run for Election", "The Independent Electoral Commission", "Executive Committee General Elections", and "Council General Elections" as presented.

Be it further resolved that By-Laws 15(1), 15(2), 15(3), 15(4), 15(5), 15(6), 15(8)(a), 15(10), 15(11), 15(12), 15(16), and 15(21) be amended as presented.

Be it further resolved to create: a new subsection under By-Law 15(6), a new subsection under By-Law 15(7) between 15(7)(a) and 15(7)(b), a new By-Law above By-Law 15(9), and under the new subsection "Council General Elections" as presented

Be it further resolved that By-Laws 1(5), 1(7), 1(8), 1(14), 2(5) and 22(1) be amended as presented.

Be it further resolved to replace all mentions of "Board" and "Board of Directors" in the By-Laws and replace it with "Council" where necessary.

Be it further resolved that these changes take effect immediately.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Include a BIFR clause to change all mentions of "Finance and Operations" to "Finance and Services"

- In the second BIR clause, to remove “be it resolved” and replace it with “be it further resolved”
- Voting for amendment: 95% in favour and 5% against
- VP University Relations talked about bringing back student power and having proper representation at SFSS.
 - This means having the membership’s concerns heard and having direct say how the SFSS is governed
- A member wanted more clarifications regarding elections of Council and how it will line up with Board elections
 - VP University Relations explain that there are two different types of elections
 - Council general elections and Council by-elections
 - There aren’t many limitations on how they’re to be held and the election are held in accordance with the constitution
 - The only limitation on how elections are run is that they have to be held between weeks 7 and week 10 of the spring semester of every year, and they need to be open, and easily accessible to all the membership of that specific constituency
- A member spoke against the motion, stating his concerns about how the changes to the executive body will affect the overall expenditure of the SFSS, specifically to how much is spend on stipends
 - VP University Relations explained that through preliminary calculations under this model the society would not be spending more on stipends
 - With the elimination of faculty representatives’ stipends, their stipend would be redistributed to Council
- Another member spoke against the motion, speaking their previous experience as a Council member
 - The member stated that there isn’t always collaboration between the student union and the elected Council member. The issue is that the Council member votes in favor of the majority because they don’t want to jeopardize the student union they’re representing.
 - Therefore only a handful of councillors make the decisions being the vocal voices there and other just go along with the decision
 - The member stated he doesn’t believe that Council is ready for such power because they haven’t connected with the students that they are representing yet
- The Bachelor of Environment Council member spoke against the motion also raising concerns about giving power to Council
 - The rationale was that a lot of the elected Councillors don’t get to hear the student groups they are representing, therefore having more power on Council doesn’t mean more student power
 - Another issue raised was Council stipends are not high enough to encourage time and commitment
 - Thirdly, bring from a smaller faculty of environment, they have less constituency groups, they feel these issues needs to be addressed
- A question was raised as to how the Board plan to make sure Council is fully informed and given the necessary resources to carry out their decision making responsibilities
 - The Board is looking into striking a transition steering committee that will oversee the establishment of strong training structures to ensure Councillors and executive committee members elected are aware of their powers and duties

- Request to extend the discussion for 20 more minutes
 - Motion was not passed
 - Voting: 37.5% was in favour and 62.5% against
- There was another request a motion to vote for not extending for those not active on the Zoom call right now
 - This motion was put forward to ensure that everybody is present at their computers and assuming that people are not present and cannot vote as the whether to continue the discussion
- A poll was created for the same motion with the consent of the assembly
 - Even though there was opposition for time sake, the Chair allowed the poll to ensure all members have the opportunity to address the motion
 - Voting: 68% in favour, and the threshold is 67%, the discussion has been extended for another 20 minutes
- A member spoke for the motion and believes that even though there are many faults of Council, this motion is trying to change those faults
 - This governance change is also important to rebalance the power dynamics
- A member requested more information about provisions for Council elections other than following what the existing student unions already have
 - In collaboration with Council, there were many discussions on whether they should be more centralized or decentralized
 - The consensus was that Board should be able to give each student group the power to decide their own elections for Council
 - To ensure this is done democratically, the Board put two stipulations
 - The elections have to happen between week 7 and 10 of the spring semester every year
 - They need to be accessible and open to all member of the student union and constituency group
 - This way there won't be situations where student unions are undemocratically selecting councillors
- A former Council member expressed her support for this motion and stated that it is the obligation between the Council representative and executives' students to reach out to their membership and make sure there is effective communication
- A member from engineering science spoke about how this by law change will significantly change the way that smaller programs will be represented
- Voting for motion: 86% in favour and 14% against

7. SOCIETY STANCES

7.1 Condemning Simon Fraser University for Tuition Hikes and Increases on Domestic and International Students- MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:08

Liosis/Oubnidir

Whereas Simon Fraser University undergraduate students have reported unprecedented financial hardship in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas one of the strategic priorities of the Simon Fraser Student Society is to advocate and push for the financial health and wellbeing of our members;

Whereas the Simon Fraser University Board of Governors passed a vote in favour of implementing a 2% increase in tuition for domestic undergraduate students, and 4% for international undergraduate students for the 2020-2021 academic year despite the

extreme financial hardship being faced by our membership during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Be it resolved that the Membership of the Simon Fraser Student Society condemn Simon Fraser University for increasing tuition fees by 2% for domestic students and 4% for international students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Be it further resolved that the Membership of the Simon Fraser Student Society formally demands a response from the Board of Governors and University Administration on a plan of action to withdraw the tuition fee increases for the 2020-2021 academic year, and to address the other impacts of the pandemic on undergraduate students.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Fix a typo to replace the second instance of the word “domestic” with “international” in the first BIR clause, so that it reads the following:
 - Be it resolved that the Membership of the Simon Fraser Student Society condemn Simon Fraser University for increasing tuition fees by 2% for domestic students and 4% for international students for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Voting for amendment: 96% in favour and 4% against
- Member spoke about their concerns about the effectiveness of this motion
 - The member believes that SFU will increase fees regardless, therefore she asked what further step is the Board taking to avoid this
 - VP University Relations shares the same concerns however, this motion would be a powerful first step into a campaign that will lead up to may more bolder actions towards making sure that SFU freezes tuition
- Many voiced their opinion in favour of this motion noting that SFU has inappropriately raised tuition during COVID-19
 - VP University Relations believe this vote will directly attack their reputation and put pressure on the university to rethink tuition increases
- Question was called – 83% in favour and 17% against
- Voting for motion: 96% in favour and 4% against

8. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:09

Parmar/Tyner

Be it resolved that the 2019-2020 report from the Board of Directors be received.

CARRIED

- Voting: 94% in favour and 6% against

9. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

The Simon Fraser Student Society Vice President Finance will provide an overview of the Student Society’s finances from May 1st, 2019 through April 30th, 2020.

9.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:10

Sharp/Parmar

Be it resolved that the 2019-2020 report from the Vice President Finance be received.

CARRIED

- Voting: 97% in favour and 3% against

10. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

The Simon Fraser Student Society's auditor, Tompkins Wozny LLP, will provide an overview of the Student Society's audited financial statements.

10.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:11

Sharp/Parmar

Whereas the independent auditor's report is included in the financial statements package.

Be it resolved to receive the report from the auditor.

Be it further resolved to receive the financial statements for the year ended April 30th, 2020.

CARRIED

- Voting: 95% in favour and 5% against

11. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

11.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:12

Lozitsky/Bastan

Be it resolved that Thompkins Wozny LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, be appointed as the Simon Fraser Student Society Auditor for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

CARRIED

- Voting: 95% in favour and 5% against

12. OPEN SPACE

- A student mentioned their frustration with SFU IT, stating SFU changed their website layout without consulting the students. The student claims that it hinges on their student experience and also lead to leaking sensitive student information. The student also stated there was more transparency in the system.
 - SFSS President briefly explained that this would be something that the SFSS and GSS would bring up to the SFU Administration.
- A student asked whether or not there will be a feedback form sent out in regards to how to better improve a potential future virtual AGM
 - A survey will be sent out to the membership.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 MOTION AGM 2020-10-21:13

Hoven/Wong

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54PM.

CARRIED

- Voting: 95% in favour and 5% against