

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Call to Order – 5:39 PM

**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>əyəm (Musqueam), S<sup>k</sup>wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selííwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əłəm (Kwíkwetlem) and qícəy (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 Council Composition**

**Student Union Representatives**

Archeology Student Society (ASS) .....	Seniha Inceoz
Bachelor of Environment Student Union .....	Tiana Andjelic
Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) .....	Vacant
Biology Student Union (BSU) .....	Nicolas Bonilla
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Student Association .....	Gurleen Grewal
Business Administration Student Society .....	Vacant
Chemistry Student Society .....	Vacant
Cognitive Science Student Association .....	Aaron Fung
Collective of Arts and Cultures Studies Students .....	Vacant
Communications Student Union .....	Vacant
Computing Science Student Society .....	Shariq Ahsan
Criminology Student Association.....	Ava Wood
Dance Student Union .....	Vacant
Data Science Student Society .....	Vacant
Earth Science Student Union .....	Eden Lien
Economics Student Society .....	Rafid Rahman Chowdhury
Education Student Association.....	Christine Yoo
Engineering Science Student Society.....	Vacant
English Student Union .....	Vacant
Environmental Science Student Union .....	Grayson Barke
Faculty of Applied Science.....	Vacant
Faculty of Communications, Arts and Technology (FCAT).....	Vacant
Film Student Union.....	Vacant
Fine and Performing Arts Student Union .....	Vacant
French Student Union .....	Vacant
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union .....	Simran Basra
Geography Student Union.....	Natasha Kearns
Global Asia Studies .....	Vacant

Health Science Undergraduate Student Union .....	Priyanka Dhesa
History Student Union .....	Emilio Da Silva
Humanities Student Union .....	Vacant
Indigenous Studies Student Union .....	Evan Accettola
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union (IATSU) .....	Vacant
International Studies Student Association (ISSA) .....	Vacant
Labour Studies Student Union .....	Vacant
Linguistics Student Union .....	Vacant
Mathematics Student Union .....	Vacant
Mechatronics System Engineering Student Society .....	Ryley McWilliams
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Student Union .....	Vacant
Music Student Union .....	Vacant
Operations Research Student Union .....	Vacant
Philosophy Student Union (Vice-Chair) .....	Ashley Flett
Physics Student Association .....	Vacant
Political Science Student Union .....	Brydan Denis
Psychology Student Union .....	Mark Giles
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) .....	Ayooluwa Adigun
Semester in Dialogue Student Union .....	Vacant
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) .....	Hilary Tsui
Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU) .....	Arthur Lee
Software Systems Student Society (SSSS) .....	Vacant
Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association .....	Vacant
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society .....	Andrew Nathan
Theatre Student Union .....	Vacant
Visual Arts Student Union .....	Vacant
World Languages and Literature Student Union .....	Vacant

**Constituency Group Representatives**

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA) .....	Aleksandra Partyka
First Nations, Métis & Inuit Student Association (FNMISA) .....	Sienna Dickson
International Student Advocates .....	Vacant
Out on Campus Collective (OOC) .....	Vacant
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA) .....	Amina Hassan
Women Centre Collective .....	Vacant

**Affiliated Student Groups**

Residence Hall's Association (RHA) .....	Emmanuel Adegboyega
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) .....	Mason Glover
Teach Support Staff Union (TSSU) .....	Pranjali Mann
Embark Sustainability .....	Vacant

SFPIRG ..... Tuleen Awad

**SFSS Executive Committee**

President ..... Liam Feng  
 VP Internal and Organizational Development ..... Leonarda Ognjenovic  
 VP Finance and Services (Chair) ..... Abhishek Parmar  
 Acting VP University and Academic Affairs ..... Chloe Arneson  
 VP External and Community Affairs ..... Eshana Baran  
 VP Equity and Sustainability ..... Sunghyun Choi  
 VP Events and Student Affairs ..... Vaibhav Arora

**3.2 Society Staff**

Board Organizer ..... Emmanuela Droko  
 Facilities Manager ..... John Walsh  
 Temporary Operations Organizer ..... Sindhu Dharmarajah  
 Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator ..... Beaty Omboga  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Simar Thukral

**3.3 Leave of Absence**

Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) ..... Ayooluwa Adigun  
 Psychology Student Union ..... Mark Giles  
 VP Events and Student Affairs ..... Vaibhav Arora

**3.4 Regrets**

Health Science Undergraduate Student Union ..... Priyanka Dhesa  
 Earth Science Student Union ..... Eden Lien  
 Bachelor of Environment Student Union ..... Tiana Andjelic

**3.5 Guests**

Member ..... James Knibbs  
 Member ..... Dani LeCouilliard  
 Member ..... Nava Karimi  
 Member ..... Jad Bolina  
 Member ..... Balqees Jama

**3.6 Absents**

Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Student Association ..... Gurleen Grewal  
 Cognitive Science Student Association ..... Aaron Fung  
 Computing Science Student Society ..... Shariq Ahsan  
 Economics Student Society ..... Rafid Rahman Chowdhury

Environmental Science Student Union .....	Grayson Barke
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union .....	Simran Basra
Geography Student Union .....	Natasha Kearns
History Student Union .....	Emilio Da Silva
Mechatronics System Engineering Student Society .....	Ryley McWilliams
Political Science Student Union .....	Brydan Denis
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS).....	Hilary Tsui
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society .....	Andrew Nathan
Acting VP University and Academic Affairs .....	Chloe Arneson

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4.1.1. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:01**

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets of “Eden Lien” Earth Science Councillor, “Tiana Andjelic” Bachelor of Environment, “Priyanka Dhesa” Health Science Councillor for the April 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

**4.1.2. Addition of DNA representative seats to the Accessibility Committee-  
MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:02**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

Whereas it is important to have Constituency representatives at the table for matters that may impact their constituents directly on the various committees;

Whereas the SFSS has an accessibility committee that must be formed that deals with matters of accessibility and approve grant requests;

Whereas DNA is the recognized constituency group that represents issues relating to accessibility, neurodiversity and disability justice on campus;

Be it resolved to amend the Council Policies SO-11 to add the following under the Composition subsection (below 11.4):

Composition

1. [Ex-Officio] President
2. [Chairperson] VP Equity and Sustainability Executive Officer as designated by Council; or, on recommendation of the Committee, another member of the Committee
3. Four Councillors

4. up to two representatives of the Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)
5. Minimum 2, up to 4 at-large members
6. Up to 1 DNA Councillor Representative (i.e.: optional on if the councillor representative accepts the nomination and appointment).

**4.1.3. Increasing the Diversity and Equitable Makeup of the Governance Committee to Include Additionally Marginalized Equitable and Diverse Perspectives - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:03**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

Whereas it is important for the governance committee to have a makeup and representation that is reflective of the perspectives of diverse equity seeking communities and groups that typically not included on governance and policy making tables;

Whereas the VP Equity and Sustainability role is one role that enables equity perspectives in the SFSS and should be present during policy conversations;

Whereas constituency groups and affiliate student groups have valuable insights on equity and their various groups perspectives may be helpful;

Whereas there can be a mechanism for appointment where if groups are at capacity, all reps can be nominated for the seat and one selected at a vote at council, or none appointed if none of the groups want for the case of CGs or ASGs;

Whereas 1 member at large perspective from the membership would be good to include student voice to ensure the representation of student voices that may not directly be at the council and get to get an outside perspective;

Be it resolved to amend the following to governance committee terms of reference under Council Policies SO-5 under composition (below 5.1):

Composition

1. [Ex-officio] President
2. [Chairperson] VP Internal & Organizational Development
3. VP Equity and Sustainability
4. up to 1 Constituency group council representative seat
5. up to 1 Affiliate student group council representative seat
6. Four Councillors
7. Up to 1 member at large
8. [Non-Voting] Policy and Research Coordinator.

**4.1.4.Appeals process for inappropriate advertising- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:04**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Former Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development “Peter Hance”

Whereas the appeals process for inappropriate advertisement is unclear under CMP-2;

Whereas relevant staff are not defined in the appeal process;

Whereas appeals of determination seem to be escalated immediately to Council according to CMP-2.2(a);

Be it resolved to strike CMP-2.2(a) and replace it with: 2.2 (a) All appeals to any such determination shall be directed to the Member Services Advisory Committee. If the appeal is dismissed by the Member Services Advisory Committee after the review of the case, a final written appeal may be submitted to Council.

Be it further resolved to strike CMP-2.2 and replace it with: 2.2 Relevant staff, as determined by the Communications Coordinator alongside with the President, shall establish a panel of at minimum, three relevant staff members, and make the determination of what constitutes excessive or inappropriate advertising. The decision of the panel must be submitted in writing to the parties involved.

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:05**

**Aleksandra / Ashley**

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

- The Philosophy Councillor moved to strike new business item 10.10.
- The Philosophy Councillor moved to include an in-camera item and ex-camera item titled as “Review of Legal Advice on Censures”.
  - The Philosophy Councillor moved to reorder the agenda and move the in-camera and ex-camera item before old business.

**NOT CARRIED**

**In Favor (6):** Philosophy, SUS, SASU, President, VP Internal, VP Finance,

**Against (14):** Archaeology, Biology, BPK, Environmental Science, ISSU, DNA, FNMISA, SOCA, RHA, SAAC, TSSU, SFPIRG, VPUAA, VP External.

**Abstentions(1):** VP Equity.

- The Philosophy Councillor moved to strike Reports from Committees 7.1.
- The Philosophy Councillor moved to reorder the agenda and move in-camera item and ex-camera item after new business.

- The VP Finance moved to strike new business item 7.9.
- The DNA Councillor moved to reorder the agenda and move new business item 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6 to the consent agenda.

**CARRIED**

**In Favor (13):** Archaeology, BPK, Environmental Science, ISSU, DNA, FNMISA, SOCA, RHA, SAAC, TSSU, SFPIRG, VPUAA, VP External.

**Against (7):** Philosophy, SUS, SASU, President, VP Internal, VP Finance, VP Equity.

**Abstentions (0)**

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### 6.1 SUB Emergency Response Plan Amendment to Protect the Right of Demonstrations and Protests- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:06

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

**Eshana / Aleksandra**

Whereas the SUB Emergency Response Plan appendix 7 outlines interaction matrix for non-emergency situations;

Whereas there is need for clarity to protect from constitutionally protected demonstration activity to take place, and to provide clarity for staff who may encounter these incidents from time to time;

Whereas it is unfair to put staff in the situation to make these decisions without the direct mandate from persons of higher authority ie Management and student executive;

Be it resolved to amend the Appendix 7 in the SUB Emergency Response Plan current first bullet point subsection as follows replacing the following from "At any time, if a staff member feels unsafe or threatened, they can use their judgement in expediting contact with Campus Public Safety", And replacing with In the event that the staff is in a situation that does not suffice as an immediate threat or physically unsafe situation, the staff person may use their judgement and notify and raise the situation to higher authority or management as soon as reasonably possible. If a staff member is in the presence of an immediate threat or is in a physically unsafe situation due to that threat, they can use their judgment to notify or report the threat to SFU Campus Public Safety and notify higher authority or management as soon as reasonably possible.

Be it resolved to amend the SUB Emergency Response Plan to include the attached "3.12 Protests";

Be it further resolved to add the SUB Emergency Response plan on the SFSS website for transparent shared understanding for members;

Be it further resolved that additionally, the SUB Room Bookings guidelines also be put

under the SFSS Policies and guidelines section under the policy as a pdf as outlined already in a different format here (<https://sfss.ca/sfss-meeting-room-booking-guidelines-for-clubs-sus-and-sfss-affiliated-groups/>) that deal with scheduled events and meetings and other booking activities in the SUB.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

- The VPUAA mentioned that they spoke with the staff members and urge council to pass this as this is to protect the right of the students and the staff.
- The VP External mentioned that all of this was done in consultation of staff and our facilities manager. This is to ensure clear procedures are being set. This does not mean SFSS cannot work with security. This just makes it more clear for the staff.
- The Board Organizer mentioned that the Union reviewed these documents.
- The SOCA Councillor mentioned that the second be it resolved clause states that the staff does not need to contact the Executives and can contact the security in situations if needed.

**6.2 Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget – MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:07**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP Finance and Services “Abhishek Parmar”

**Abhishek / Seniha**

Whereas Council is required to review and approve a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year;

Whereas the 2022/23 Executive Committee has met to review the preliminary budget for the next fiscal year;

Be it resolved that Council approve the 2023-24 5th Draft Budget as the preliminary budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- The VP Finance shared that the line 2022/2023 Budget shows budget for this year. The line 2023/2024 is for the next year.
- There have been items allocated as to be determined are yet to be completed. The backlog will be cleared.
- Last year the total revenue number was obtained from SFU.
- This trend in decrease in revenue was hit by low enrollment and SFU is also hit by that. SFSS membership is a quite a significant stream.
- The interest revenue stayed the same.
- Dividends depend on the market. This year we lost investment from the value of the bond. The interest rate goes up and the bonds value goes down.
- At the bottom there will be the total SFSS Budget deficit of 487,421 and the next year it will be even more because of lower FIC student’s enrollment totaling up to \$997,647.
- The VP External clarified that this deficit for next year totaling up to \$997,647 and are just predictions.



The Acting VPUAA left the meeting at 7:07 PM

*Quorum has been lost*

*\*5 minutes break taken at 7:08 PM*

*Quorum was regained.*

**6.3 Role corrections for corporate records and information management policies – MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:08**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Former Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development “Peter Hance”  
**Eshana / Abhishek**

Whereas the Corporate Records and Information Management Policies refer to roles that since changed;

Be it resolved to strike every occurrence of “Research and Policy Coordinator” and “RPC” and replace them with “Policy, Research, and Community Affairs Coordinator” and “PRCA”;

Be it further resolved to renumber “CIP-10: RECORDS OF DECISIONS” in accordance with its section number;

Be it further resolved to strike “Operations Organizer” from CIP-10.5 and replace with “President”;

Be it further resolved to strike “Operations Organizer” from CIP-10.8 and replace with “Board Organizer”;

Be it last resolved to renumber CIP-11 in accordance with its section number.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.4 Migrants Students United @SFU Support and Amplification- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:09**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

**ATTACHMENT:** Apr-2023-Motion-Briefing-Note-1.pdf

**Eshana / Sunghyun**

Whereas the MSU chapter at SFU (MSU at SFU) is a joint coalition of TSSU, GSS, and SFSS members who are current and former international students and their allies, under the support of Migrant Students United of Migrant Workers Alliance for Change;

Whereas MSU at SFU has long sought equitable and just policies for migrant students by speaking up about and fighting against the systemic barriers at university, provincial or national level in order to access their rights and gain support;

Whereas MSU at SFU members have worked over 750 hours this year and the group has initiated or actively participated in many campaigns, lobbying, rallies and activities, including International Students Health Fee campaign, Fix PGWP, Status for ALL, PR Campaign, BC Tuition Freeze Now, and continue to fight endlessly for International Students Rights;

Whereas SFSS IP-3 titled “Tuition Affordability” notes that Tuition has become increasingly unaffordable over the past several decades and remains one of the largest barriers for students in receiving a post-secondary education;

Whereas several Migrant and International students must pay a drastically higher tuition in comparison to domestic students while also adhering to two consecutive semesters of a full course load yearly;

Whereas due to the nature of high tuition with the yearly rise of tuition (twice) with a total of a 8% increase in tuition for migrant and international students within the last 2 years, and another rise of 4% of tuition coming soon, many Migrant and International students are experiencing financial pre-clarity;

Whereas financial pre-clarity creates difficulty for students to participate within coalitions, groups, clubs, unions and such to fight for their rights because they must work in their free time to keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living;

Be it resolved that Council state its unequivocal support for MSU at SFU and International students,

Be it further resolved that council support MSU at SFU and direct Council to create a Migrant and International Students Rights Issues Policies,

Be it further resolved to follow up on motion 8.1 from the April 27, 2022 SFSS Council meeting which was carried unanimously and stated that a working group be created of the Councillors and Members, ensuring strong representation of international students, supported by the VP Equity and Sustainability, to draft and recommend to Council this Migrant and International Students Rights Issues Policy, in consultation with MSU at SFU,

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council provide MSU at SFU with direct access to SFSS room and space booking abilities, a locker at the Students Union Building starting in the Summer 2023 semester.

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council supports and approves the funding of \$20,000 of MSU at SFU as an investment in the well-being and daily-life of the thousands of SFSS international student members and to disburse for campaigns expenses and volunteer stipends for students fighting and advocating on the front lines through Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and spring 2024 (via a disbursement model where the funding is dispersed via TSSU), from a line item determined by the SFSS VP Finance and Services.

**POSTPONED**

- The DNA Councillor spoke in support of this motion and thanked our VP External for

the support.

***Quorum has been lost at 7:22 PM***

***\* 7 Minutes break taken at 7:23 PM***

***\* 20 Minutes break taken at 7:30 PM***

***Quorum has been lost at 7:51 PM***

**6.5 Financial Support for Precarious Student - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:10**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP Equity and Sustainability “Sunghyun Choi”

**Mover / Seconder**

Whereas a member of the SFSS is in significant and urgent need of financial assistance to cover fees owed to SFU;

Whereas restoring their student status will enable this student to legally work in Canada and support themselves;

Whereas the SFSS is committed to supporting students;

Whereas this situation has shed light on the need for a more formal mechanism for an emergency bursary program, but no such program exists as yet.

Be it resolved that the SFSS Council endorse the decisions of the Women’s Centre and Out on Campus Collectives to provide \$7,000.00 in financial support from line items 886 / 24 and 795 / 27 for this student in this case.

**POSTPONED**

**6.6 Increasing Voter Turnout During SFSS Elections through Clarifying Campaigning online and in person during Voting Period rules- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:11**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs “Eshana Baran”

**Mover / Seconder**

Whereas on August 20, 2023 notice was given and an eventual vote for a motion to disallow campaigning online during voting period;

Whereas this motion has caused considerable issues and disallowed campaigns from being able to liaise with their prospective constituents during the most vital time during election period;

Whereas in person campaigning is not suspended during this time but printed campaign paraphernalia is to be taken down before voting period;

Whereas the removal of Printed paraphernalia during voting period was restricted being up for legitimate purposes of past candidates not cleaning up the physical printed mess after they lost

on campus;

Whereas those concerns of physical mess would not apply to online platforms;

Whereas these changes to policy of prohibiting online campaigning resulted in a suppression of the vote and lead to massively lower voter turnout than previous year and than turnouts lower than votes prior to COVID years;

Whereas the SFSS needs to encourage high vote elections and turnout especially to get important referenda passed;

Whereas lack of increased engagement via social media has been quoted in the SFSS Elections 2023/24 report by the SFSS Independent Electoral Commission as having been a reason for the low voter turnout;

Be it resolved to amend the policy Elections and Referenda Policies as follows: Replace the additional section that was as added to CP4-15 from being "Approval of Campaigning Materials", to read as the following:

CP-4 (15) Campaigning literature and campaigning material shall be removed by voting period.

Regarding digital campaign materials, removal may entail:

- a. a permanent deletion from social media platforms used for campaigning,
- b. a temporary archival or deactivation, un-listing, or privatization, of platforms,
- c. a temporary unpublishing of websites that are tied to the campaign until the announcement of the elections results.

To being this below instead:

"Be it resolved to add an additional section 15 to C-4, "Approval of Campaigning Materials", to read as the following:

CP-4 (15) Campaigning literature i.e. printed campaign material and paraphernalia shall be removed by the start of the voting period. This only applies to printed campaign material and not to digital campaign material or in person campaigning.

a) Regarding digital campaigning during voting period, there is no obligation to remove digital campaign materials, however candidates may do so if they which. If they do not remove online campaign material, the same rules of campaigning apply during the voting period as that applies during campaigning period".

**POSTPONED**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Censure and Impeachment proceeding- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:12**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs "Eshana Baran"

**ATTACHMENT:**

**Mover / Seconder**

Be it resolved that Council censure and pursuant to Bylaw 6(17), initiate impeachment proceedings the following Executive for abdication of their duties by leaving the council meeting prior so that council is lost- VP Finance Abhishek Parmar (for year 2023/24)- Liam Feng (President 2023/24).

Be it further Resolved that referendum be held June 5, 2023 for the impeachment and removal of Liam Feng and censure of Abhishek Parmar with following of referenda questions. (any councillor is empowered to submit the question provided this motion passes)"

Referendum Item 1: Be it resolved that the Membership, by way of special resolution, remove President Liam Feng for neglect and abdication of their duties by abandoning council meetings without regrets approved, and causing the SFSS Council to lose quorum on multiple cases, putting the society budget at risk, possibly leading the society into legal liability "

And "Referendum Item 2: Be it resolved that the Membership, by way of special resolution, censure former Acting President and VP Finance Abhishek Parmar for neglect and abdication of their duties by abandoning council meetings without regrets approved, and causing the SFSS Council to lose quorum on multiple cases, putting the society budget at risk, and leading the society into legal liability "Note that as per Bylaw 6(19-2): "The requirement for a majority of Executive Officers does not apply to a special meeting of Council, if the need arises, for the purposes of initiating impeachment proceedings".

**POSTPONED**

## **7.2 Censure of History Councillor - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:13**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs "Eshana Baran"

**Mover/Second**

Be it resolved to Censure and impeach and remove from Council, Emilio Da Silva, which requires a 4/5th majority vote in line with the SFSS Bylaws. "Note that as per Bylaw 6(19-2): "The requirement for a majority of Executive Officers does not apply to a special meeting of Council, if the need arises, for the purposes of initiating impeachment proceedings, in this case against a Councillor".

**POSTPONED**

## **8. IN-CAMERA**

### **8.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:14**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**Mover / Second**

Be it resolved to go in-camera for the remainder of the meeting.

**POSTPONED**

- Review of Legal Advice on Censures.

## **9. EX-CAMERA**

### **9.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:15**

**Mover / Second**

Be it resolved to go ex-camera.

**POSTPONED**

#### **10. 30 MINUTES Q&A**

- One of the members expressed their concerns regarding councillor not showing up for the meetings. They mentioned that it is a shame on their part.
- In response to one of the member regarding when the items that were postponed would be brought to the council, The Philosophy Councillor mentioned that it should be brought to the next council meeting upon the approval of the incoming executives.
- In response to one of the member regarding if the President will commit to bringing the new business motion regarding MSU, the President mentioned that they will be bringing it to the next council.
- The VP External suggested the following to the future executive team to consider: Be it resolved that any Councillor that leaves a meeting prior to adjournment and resulting in a lost quorum or not, is considered as having abandoned the meeting and is marked as absent without regrets (unless alternates are in place to vote if applicable, or regrets have been approved prior) which would therefore, pursuant to Bylaw 15(6-7), count towards a vacancy of that seat if the absences threshold for vacancy is met.

#### **11. ATTACHMENTS**

**11.1** Apr-2023-Motion-Briefing-Note-1.pdf

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**12.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-04-28:16**

**Ashley / Leonarda**

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



# Supporting Migrant Students United Chapter at SFU

Submitted by: Eshana Baran

Prepared by: Sude Guvendik, Rahil Adeli and Rea Chatterjee

## Background:

International students face so many challenges during and after their studies, some of which include high tuition fees, International Students Health Fee, 20 hour/week work limit, unfair and exclusive Permanent Residency rules, time-restricted and non-renewable nature of Post-Graduate Work Permit, and many more. Yet, there is no group, society or coalition at SFU whose focus is organizing around and fighting against barriers faced by international students. The actions towards minimizing these barriers are very limited, rare, and scattered around various groups on campus. At SFSS, the International Students Advocates, which is an SFSS constituency group, has been also facing lack of resources and capacity to mobilize students and perform effectively, and it's been a while that its activities have been paused.

[Migrant Students United \(MSU\) chapter at SFU](#), is a coalition of grad and undergrad current and former international students from TSSU, GSS, and SFSS under the support of [Migrant Workers Alliance for Change](#) (MWAC) and specifically, [Migrant Student United](#) to focus solely on international students' issues. While the group is relatively new and has had limited support, it has initiated and actively participated in many activities and campaigns related to migrant students. SFSS has the highest population of international students at SFU, however, it has provided almost no specific support tailored towards international students and the background work for shaping and activating the MSU chapter so far.

## Who is Migrant Students United at SFU?

MSU chapter at SFU is a group of former and current international and domestic students from [TSSU](#), [GSS](#), [SFSS](#), and their allies who have come together to advocate for migrant students' rights under the support of [Migrant Student United](#). We seek equitable and just policies for migrant students by speaking up about and fighting against the systemic barriers at university, provincial or national level that prevent us from accessing our rights. By joining forces together we can raise awareness about discriminatory and exploitative rules, policies and cultures, and



we can contribute to creating a fair, equitable and inclusive environment for migrant students and other migrants.

Migrants Workers Alliance for Change is a member-led organization of migrant farmworkers, care workers, students (Migrant Students United), and more to win worker and immigration justice. They have a democratic structure. It means that while we are a chapter of MSU national, we maintain our independence. Being a chapter of them means two sided support and collective action.

## Why “Migrant Students”?

We use the term “migrant students” as a more meaningful substitute for international students to remind everyone that we are long-term residents of Canada who deserve rights similar to other students. We are not temporary and unimportant! Temporary status leaves international students vulnerable to exploitation and lack of rights. The condition of our lives and studies in Canada should include dignity and just conditions. We believe all migrants, from current and former students to workers, refugees and undocumented people, are part of the larger migrant community that are impacted by the same exploitative and unjust rules and regulations. To express our unity and solidarity with other migrant groups, we consider ourselves a group of migrants, MIGRANT STUDENTS.

## Why Do We Need MSU?

There is no collective advocacy support for both undergrad and graduate international students on campus, while the nature of most of the problems they face is the same. Joining forces together from current and former graduate and undergraduate international students will contribute to have a stronger fight and more widespread actions to win changes for the rights of international students.

Besides, there is not sufficient community and social network support for undergrad and graduate international students. SFU services are very limited and not early enough to support incoming students. Student societies have almost no specific support tailored to international students as well.

In addition, the nature of some of the systemic barriers faced by international students is federal or provincial. Raising awareness about these barriers and fighting against them require united action beyond the university level. Collaboration of the MSU Chapter at SFU with the national MSU and MWAC will contribute to this goal.





## What Are Our Demands?

Our demands include:

- **Just conditions for immigration**
  - Fix Study and Work Permit
  - Fix PR rules
- **Fair fee structures**
  - Lower tuition fees
  - Eliminate International Students Health Fee
- **Better financial and advocacy support for migrant students, and**
- **Status for ALL:**

We believe that all this discrimination and injustice for migrant students and other migrants in Canada is rooted in Canada's two-tier immigration system. As Migrant Students United Chapter at SFU, we join the [call](#) by Migrant Rights Network in demanding complete and permanent immigration status for all, without exclusions..

## Key Considerations

### Proportion of International Students at SFSS and GSS

Presently, the SFU Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) has been housing MSU at SFU, and contributed the most resources in terms of support for finances and organizing efforts. SFSS as an SFU student group with the largest membership of international students (and a sizable operating budget compared to the TSSU), and the Graduate Student Society (GSS) has also started supporting MSU since May 2022. SFSS financially contributing to support MSU at SFU in its work will immensely benefit undergraduate international students who face many systemic inequities and unfairness immediately and in the long run.

TSSU has contributed to the development of MSU as a solidarity action with a group of students, despite the fact that many of those students are not TSSU members and that this specific work is not among the direct responsibilities assigned to the TSSU by its membership. Advocating for equal rights and opportunities for all members and supporting the most marginalized members is however *included in the mandates of the student societies*. Therefore, it is expected that student societies will be the primary and major supporters of a group focused on the issues faced by international students.



## Space limitation

MSU at SFU currently does not have direct access to book space in the SFSS SUB through the SFSS portal so it is difficult to have a presence within the undergraduate space. Lack of access to the SFSS meeting and office rooms has impacted MSU at SFU's ability to make connections with undergraduate international students.

MSU at SFU currently only has such access with the TSSU and GSS spaces (which is reflected in our majority grad student membership), however both groups only have one space that can be booked, and they are usually fully booked. Availability of the TSSU office to MSU members (which was the major office space available to MSU Since May 2021) has reduced, since the TSSU board room is shared among 3 different unions and the TSSU office is very small and packed. On the other hand, TSSU in-person meetings and campaign work has increased since late Fall 2022. Therefore, the space is less available to MSU.

## Funding to MSU's sister branch at UBC

This year, an international student from UBC came to an MSU at SFU event and was inspired to start a chapter of their own at UBC. The now established MSU at UBC, formed as a branch of MSU nation and MSU at SFU has received funding of \$40,000 annually for their group.

## What has MSU at SFU done over the past year?

A further detailed account of all MSU at SFU activity can be found in the [MSU at SFU 2022 Annual Report](#). In the past year, MSU at SFU has accomplished a great deal, including launching a campaign to lobby the provincial and federal government for the elimination of the international student health fee and status for all, building a solid coalition of partner organizations, and engaging in direct actions to support migrant workers.

One of the biggest campaigns this year was the successful launching the International Student Health Fee (ISHF) campaign. The group collected signatories from groups representing **over one million individuals** on a petition calling on the provincial government to eliminate the ISHF and provide universal health care coverage for international students.

In addition to the ISHF campaign, MSU at SFU has built a strong coalition of partner organizations, including the Alma Mater Society of UBC, The Alliance of BC Students, the Kwantlen Student Association, and the Vancouver & District Labour Council. These partnerships have enabled MSU at SFU to participate in joint actions and leverage the power of collective advocacy.

MSU at SFU has also engaged in direct action to support migrant workers. In partnership with Sanctuary Health, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change and Migrante BC, MSU at SFU organized various events, activities and town halls.



In terms of finances, MSU at SFU's funding has come solely from SFU's student and workers' unions. The group has used its funds to cover operational costs, such as campaign materials, food for events, and socials, and to provide stipends to organizers and volunteers.

MSU at SFU has set several goals for the upcoming year, including establishing a fair and efficient stipend disbursement system, finalizing a preliminary constitution, and increasing its on-campus presence and recruitment efforts. The group also plans to engage in community outreach, advocate for policy change, provide support and resources to migrant students and workers, and foster national solidarity with other student organizations nationwide.

Overall, MSU at SFU has had a successful year advocating for the rights of migrant students and workers. The group's achievements have been made possible through the hard work of its dedicated organizers and volunteers and through the support of its partner organizations and the community at large. With continued effort and support, MSU at SFU hopes to continue in the coming year toward migrant justice and status for all.

## **Budget Breakdown**

By funding MSU at SFU, SFSS makes a huge investment in the well-being and daily life of their significant international student membership and then becomes a part of the many campaigns and wins that MSU at SFU organize for. MSU at SFU supports labour rights of international students in alignment with SFSS Policy IP-5, and recognizes the collective efforts of migrant students in fighting for their rights as work and compensate them for their valuable work.

MSU at UBC has currently received \$40,000 annually as funding, and therefore \$20,000 is a reasonable amount for SFSS to contribute towards Migrants Students United at SFU's required budget in the upcoming year.

### **Estimated budget for the next year** (Stipend for 6 members, 5 hrs/week & budget for events)

No. of weeks for Summer and Fall 2023, and spring 2024	Pay per hour	Work hours per week	Total cost for stipends
49 weeks *	\$25/hour *	30 hours/week	= \$36,750

Stipend for 6 members, 5 hrs/week= \$36,750

Campaigns and events = \$8000



Carry-over money from last year = \$10,300

**Total budget = \$34,450**

## Recommendations

### Dispensing the Fund Through the Teaching Support Staff Union

As it currently stands, SFSS does not have a stipend system for compensating student volunteers doing advocacy work. Whereas TSSU currently, who has been hosting the MSU chapter, has a working democratic system to dispense stipends to volunteer members and have been doing so with current MSU at SFU's non-undergraduate volunteer members, it would make the most sense to transfer the fund to TSSU. So, TSSU would be responsible for ensuring MSU at SFU's undergraduate student volunteers log their hours and receive their stipends accordingly, and that the rest of the fund be used towards events.

### Establishing a Migrants and International Students Rights Issues Policy

On [April 27, 2022 SFSS Council voted unanimously in favour of motion 8.1](#) which included having council strike a working group to draft and recommend to council an "International Students Rights" IP which has not yet been followed up on. "Students thriving everywhere" is SFSS' vision in its [strategic plan](#). Establishing an issues policy on migrants and international students rights, guided by international students, will ensure that SFSS stays true to its vision and has an official stance on the issues that international students face. International student issues go beyond tuition fees and they follow them into their transition out of being a student and into a migrant worker. For example, graduated international students who eventually apply for permanent residency are required to spend hundreds of dollars on an English exam to prove their language proficiency despite having spent thousands of dollars finishing their degree at a Canadian post-secondary institution. Unfair immigration policies affect both migrant workers and students. Therefore, in order to see students thriving everywhere, SFSS has to advocate against exploitative and unfair policies that affect international students and migrants.

### Direct Access to Undergraduate Student Spaces

Currently, MSU at SFU does not have direct access as a group to book space within the SFSS Student Union Building. This barrier impacts MSU at SFU's ability to connect with undergraduate students and have presence within the designated and incredibly popular undergraduate space. TSSU and the GSS have both given MSU the ability to directly book space, however they each only have one such space, and its availability is incredibly limited. By providing MSU at SFU the ability to directly book space and have a locker, it allows the group to



raise awareness, connect to, and recruit more undergraduate students. Ideally, it would be best if MSU at SFU could have a designated space for our multiple weekly meetings, organizing tasks and where international students can always access and come to be connected to support and resources.

## Recommended Motion

Whereas the MSU chapter at SFU (MSU at SFU) is a joint coalition of TSSU, GSS, and SFSS members who are current and former international students and their allies, under the support of Migrant Students United of Migrant Workers Alliance for Change;

Whereas MSU at SFU has long sought equitable and just policies for migrant students by speaking up about and fighting against the systemic barriers at university, provincial or national level in order to access their rights and gain support;

Whereas MSU at SFU members have worked over 750 hours this year and the group has initiated or actively participated in many campaigns, lobbying, rallies and activities, including International Students Health Fee campaign, Fix PGWP, Status for ALL, PR Campaign, BC Tuition Freeze Now, and continue to fight endlessly for International Students Rights;

Whereas SFSS IP-3 titled "Tuition Affordability" notes that Tuition has become increasingly unaffordable over the past several decades and remains one of the largest barriers for students in receiving a post-secondary education.

Whereas several Migrant and International students must pay a drastically higher tuition in comparison to domestic students while also adhering to two consecutive semesters of a full course load yearly;

Whereas due to the nature of high tuition with the yearly rise of tuition (twice) with a total of a 8% increase in tuition for migrant and international students within the last 2 years, and another rise of 4% of tuition coming soon, many Migrant and International students are experiencing financial precarity;

Whereas financial precarity creates difficulty for students to participate within coalitions, groups, clubs, unions and such to fight for their rights because they must work in their free time to keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living;

Be it resolved that Council state its unequivocal support for MSU at SFU and International students,



Be it further resolved that council support MSU at SFU and direct Council to create a Migrant and International Students Rights Issues Policies,

Be it further resolved to follow up on motion 8.1 from the April 27, 2022 SFSS Council meeting which was carried unanimously and stated that a working group be created of the Councillors and Members, ensuring strong representation of international students, supported by the VP Equity and Sustainability, to draft and recommend to Council this Migrant and International Students Rights Issues Policy, in consultation with MSU at SFU,

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council provide MSU at SFU with direct access to SFSS room and space booking abilities, a locker at the Students Union Building starting in the Summer 2023 semester.

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council supports and approves the funding of \$20,000 of MSU at SFU as an investment in the well-being and daily-life of the thousands of SFSS international student members and to disburse for campaigns expenses and volunteer stipends for students fighting and advocating on the front lines through Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and spring 2024 (via a disbursement model where the funding is dispersed via TSSU), from a line item determined by the SFSS VP Finance and Services.