

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Call to Order – 5:11pm

**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>əy<sup>əm</sup> (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əł<sup>əm</sup> (Kwikwetlem) and ḡicəy̓ (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 Governance Committee**

Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development (Chair).....Peter Hance  
Psychology Student Union (Vice-Chair).....Mark Giles  
Ex-officio (Acting President).....Abhishek Parmar  
Society of Arts and Social Science (SASS).....Hilary Tsui  
Councillor .....VACANT  
Councillor .....VACANT

**3.2 Society Staff**

Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator.....Beaty Omboga  
Administrative Assistant.....Danielle Saele

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Governance Committee Minutes -  
MOTION GOV 2023-01-13:01**

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- GOV 2022-12-13

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**5.1 MOTION GOV 2023-01-13:02**

**Peter/Mark**

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented:

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### 6.1 Further Clarity to the Spring 2023 Referenda Questions - MOTION GOV 2023-01-13:03

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

**ATTACHMENT:** Draft Referendum for the Ballot.docx

**Peter/Hilary**

Whereas the 3 referenda motions brought by the governance committee has complicated language that may be difficult to read;

Whereas the motions require restructuring, rewording, and the inclusion of background information to increase the clarity of the referendum questions to the SFSS membership who are voting members of the Society;

Be it resolved to adopt the revised referendum questions, alongside the background information as seen in the provided document: Draft Referendum for the Ballot;

Be it resolved that the Vice-President Internal and Organizational Development and the SFSS Policy Research Coordinator have the ability to make further grammar, background information, and reformatting changes to the revised Spring 2023 referendum question until the January 25, 2023 SFSS Council meeting.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Beaty, our Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator, stated that the language used in the referenda was unclear and difficult to understand. Additionally, there was no proper definitions of commonly used language which limits individuals’ understanding of the policies and procedures.
- No changes will be made to the policies themselves; only grammatical errors, formatting and sentence clarity will be addressed.
- The Governance committee will have access to the document throughout the revision process.
- This motion will ensure the document revision can be finished by the spring deadline.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 7.1 JHSC raised issues with wording of ‘Issues Policy: IP-9 2.c’

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

- JHSC has raised issues with the wording of ‘Issues Policy: IP-9 2.c’ stating ‘The SFSS opposes: calling the RCMP during situations where immediate harm is not present’ is not appropriate and should be reviewed. Therefore, the committee is discussing rephrasing the policy line.

- The committee suggested this rephrasing: 'The SFSS opposes: calling the RCMP during situations where safety is not a concern'.
- This will be sent to JHSC to be discussed and reviewed.
- Once the 'Issues Policy: IP-9 2.c' line is reviewed, the policy will be submitted to the Governance committee, before being submitted to either Council or the AGM to be passed. The procedure of how to pass this motion will be reviewed by Peter and Abhishek.

## **8. ATTACHMENTS**

### **8.1 Draft Referendum for the Ballot.docx**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

### **9.1 MOTION GOV 2023-01-13:04**

**Peter/Mark**

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 5:29pm.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **BACKGROUND:**

### 1. Definitions

Bylaws- A legal binding document that contains provisions respecting the internal affairs of the society(Simon Fraser Student Society) that must be approved or changed by membership(all registered undergraduate students at Simon Fraser University who have paid student activity fee to the society.

Referendum-All-Student votes on a particular issue.It is an opportunity to vote on important issues and have a say in big decisions at the SFSS.

Amend- Simply means adopt a change

Resolution -An issue or topic

### 2. You will be making changes to the following By-Laws

BY-LAW 2 – MEMBERSHIP,

BY-LAW 4 – POWERS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS’ MEETINGS

BY-LAW 6 – POWERS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS OF COUNCIL

BY-LAW 7 – POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BY-LAW 8 – STUDENT UNIONS

BY-LAW 9 – STUDENT UNION LEVIES

BY-LAW 13 – ELECTIONS

BY-LAW 15 - RESIGNATION, IMPEACHMENT, OR ABANDONMENT

### 3.What you will be deciding on.

1.Correcting typographical errors, grammar errors, and errors

2.replacing and adding phrases

3.Ensuring clarity

4.Deciding on e voting for council meetings

## **Spring 2023 Referenda**

### **Question 1**

As per Bylaw 16(3);referenda may be conducted during general or by-elections,

Bylaw 16(4) outlines that Council by a simple majority vote may place items onto

spring referenda.During 2-12-2023 Council Meeting Council approved the following resolutions outlined below for Spring 2023

There have been numerous changes to By-Law passed at the October 26th, 2020 and October 27th, 2021 AGMs;

Minor typographical errors, grammar errors, and errors in by-law referencing have been found after a thorough review of the By-Laws;

Given the Background provided above, do you support amending the SFSS ByLaws by:

**1.Striking all occurrences of the phrase “the Council” and replacing them with “Council”- In the following sections**

Amend By-Law 6(11)(a) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(2) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(4) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(10)(h) and 7(10)(o) by striking all occurrences of the phrase “the Council” and replacing them with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(11)(f) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(14)(d), 7(14)(e), 7(14)(g), 7(14)(i), 7(14)(l), and 7(14)(r) by replacing all occurrences of the words “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(13)(a) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 7(15)(i) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 8(3)(a)(ii) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 9(1) and 9(2) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 15(5)(a) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

Amend By-Law 18(1) by replacing “the Council” with “Council”

**2.Striking all occurrences of the phrase “Executive Committee” with “the Executive Committee” In the following Section**

Amend By-Law 7(10)(o) by replacing “Executive Committee” with “the Executive Committee”

Amend By-Law 7(14)(r) by replacing “Executive Committee” with “the Executive Committee”

**3.Striking all occurrences of the phrase “the Council or Executive Committee.” with “Council or the Executive Committee.” In the following Section**

Amend By-Law 7(13)(k) by replacing “the Council or Executive Committee.” with “Council or the Executive Committee.”

Amend By-Law 7(15)(m) by replacing “the Council or Executive Committee” with “Council or the Executive Committee”

Amend By-Law 7(16)(g) by replacing “the Council or Executive Committee.” with “Council or the Executive Committee.”

**4..Striking all occurrences of the phrase “General Meetings” with “Members’ Meetings.”In the following Section**

Amend By-Law 7(11)(d) by replacing “General Meetings” with “Members’ Meetings.”

Amend By-Law 17(1)(d)(ii) by replacing all occurrences of “General Meeting” with “Members’ Meeting”

**5. Amend By-Law 7(11)(g) by replacing “Constituency groups” with “Constituency Groups”**

Amend By-Law 7(11)(g) by replacing “Constituency groups” with “Constituency Groups”

**6. Amend By-Law 7(15)(e) by replacing “elected term” with “fiscal year.”**

**7. Amend By-Law 13(8)(c) by replacing “elections” with “Executive Committee Elections”**

**8. Amend By-Law 17(1)(d) by replacing “by-laws” with “By-Laws”**

**9. Amend By-Law 4(3)(d) by replacing “Vice-President Finance’s” with “Vice-President Finance and Services”**

**10. Amend By-Law 7(13)(j) by replacing “Vice President Academic and University Affairs” with “Vice President University and Academic Affairs.”**

Amend to read

1. Amend By-Law 2(8) to read “An Associate Member is in good standing if they have paid the Society fees and any Society fines and penalties.

2. Amend By-Law 7(11)(l) to read as follows: “Perform any other duties as outlined in the

Bylaws, regulations, or as assigned by Council or the Executive Committee.”

3. Amend By-Law 7(14)(i) to read as follows: “Perform any other duties as outlined in the Bylaws, regulations or assigned by Council or the Executive Committee”
4. Amend By-Law 15(4) to read “Notice of impeachment proceedings for an executive officer

## **Spring 2023 Referenda: SFSS By-Law Clarifications, Safeguards, and Democratization**

Definitions:

Proxy Vote-

Member in good standing-

Majority Vote of Council-

subject to limitations via regulation.-

Slates-

Independent Electoral Commission-

### **Question 2**

There have been numerous changes to By-Law passed at the October 26th, 2020 and October 27th, 2021 AGMs;

After a thorough review of the By-Laws have been several areas found in the By-Laws where more clarity is required to ensure that SFSS By-Laws are able to be clearly understood

Given the Background provided above, do you support amending the SFSS ByLaws 2,4, 6, and 13 by:

#### **A. Amending to Read**

1. Amend By-Law 4(9) to read “Each Member in good standing of the Society shall be entitled to vote at the Members’ Meeting. In order to exercise their vote the Member shall be present at the meeting at the time the vote is put, and no votes by proxy shall be allowed.”

2. Amend By-Law 13(3) to read “Members may not concurrently hold office as a voting member on the Executive Committee and as a member of a Student Union’s or Constituency Group’s Executive.”

**B.Replacing words to clarify council votes needed to recognize Associate Members of the society**

Amend By-Law 2(6) by replacing the words “majority vote of Council” with “four-fifth (4/5) majority vote of Council”

**C.Adding a new Subsection on Alternates**

Amend By-Law 6(24) by adding in a new subsection 6(24)(h) that reads “Alternates must be members in good standing of the Society.”

**A. Amending By-Law 13 to allow for more than one Chief Commissioner,clarify the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission and to provide a clear timeline for the appointment of Electoral Commission**

1.Amend By-Law 13(7) to read “The Independent Electoral Commission shall consist of at least one Chief Commissioner, who shall act as Chair, and no less than four other Commissioners”

2.Amend By-Law 13(7)(a) to read “No current member of, or candidate for, Council, a Student Union Executive, or a Constituency Group Executive may serve as a member of the independent electoral commission”

3.Amend By-Law 13(7)(c) to read “All members of the Independent Electoral Commission shall be elected by two thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council by the end of the summer semester.”

**B.Adding a new subsection that allow for flexibility and regulation of the composition of the IEC and that limits IEC from campaigning for candidates or Candidates’ slates**

1.Amend By-Law 13(7) by adding a new subsection 13(7)(e) that reads “The membership and composition of the IEC shall be subject to limitations via regulation.”

2.Amend By-Law 13(7) by adding a new subsection 13(7)(f) that reads “No member of the IEC may campaign for or on the behalf of candidates or, if slates are permitted by regulation, slates.”



## **Spring 2023 Referenda: Council E-Voting-Changes to By-Law 6 POWERS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS OF COUNCIL**

### **Question 3**

SFSS is looking for alternative methods of tracking and recording votes of Council and Committee members on motions. Additionally, it is imperative to find efficient and effective methods for processing roll calls, seeking unanimous consent, and other voting measures to ensure that these meetings are well-organized while providing accessible options for Council and Committee members. SFSS has continued to use Zoom as a method of delivery for online meetings and it would be reasonable to incorporate an electronic voting system that pairs well with virtual meetings.

Given the Background provided above, do you support amending the SFSS ByLaws 6 by:

**Adding new sections and subsections to By-Law 6 that will allow e voting in council meetings, as follows:**

1. Amend By-Law 6(23) by adding a new subsection 6(23)(a) that reads: **“Notwithstanding, Council and its committees may select to use electronic voting means as long as:”**

2. Amend By-Law 6(23)(a) by adding a new sub-subsection 6(23)(a)(i) that reads **“The platform used is approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council”**

3. Amend By-Law 6(23)(a) by adding a new sub-subsection 6(23)(a)(ii) that reads **“Council may revoke its approval of an electronic voting method by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council”**

3. Amend By-Law 6(23) by adding a new subsection 6(23)(b) that reads **“In the event that a result of a vote taken by electronic means is inconclusive, the presiding Chair shall order a re-vote by either roll call vote, or unanimous consent.”**