

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 4:41 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^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), S^kwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selíłwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem) 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)	Aarthi Srinivasan
Biology Student Union (BSU)	Nicolas Bonilla
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Student Association	Jovan Gnjatovic
Business Administration Student Society	Vacant
Chemistry Student Society	Vacant
Cognitive Science Student Association	Bhuban Karim
Collective of Arts and Cultures Studies Students	Vacant
Communications Student Union	Vacant
Computing Science Student Society	Mabel Ling
Criminology Student Association	Ava Wood
Dance Student Union	Vacant
Data Science Student Society	Jennifer Huang
Earth Science Student Union	Eden Lien
Economics Student Society	Rafid Rahman Chowdhury
Education Student Association	Vacant
Engineering Science Student Society	Tony Kooliyath
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	Sofi Badzio
Fine and Performing Arts Student Union	Vacant
French Student Union	Vacant
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union	Vacant
Geography Student Union	Erik Makinen
Global Asia Studies	Vacant

Health Science Undergraduate Student Union	Ishika Rathore
History Student Union	Emilio Da Silva
Humanities Student Union	Vacant
Indigenous Studies Student Union	Evan Accettola
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union (IATSU)	Karishma Sen
International Studies Student Association (ISSA)	Vacant
Labour Studies Student Union	Vacant
Linguistics Student Union	Vacant
Mathematics Student Union	Vacant
Mechatronics System Engineering Student Society	Aiden Maymandy
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Student Union	Sam Killawee
Music Student Union	Vacant
Operations Research Student Union	Vacant
Philosophy Student Union	Nava Karimi
Physics Student Association	Vacant
Political Science Student Union	Aliyah Apolonio
Psychology Student Union	Hilary Tsui
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)	Catherine Ho
Semester in Dialogue Student Union	Vacant
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Rajdave Gill
Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU)	Vacant
Software Systems Student Society (SSSS)	Ngan Ngoc (Lynn) Nguyen
Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association	Van Nguyen
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)	Vacant
First Nations, Métis & Inuit Student Association (FNMISA)	Vacant
International Student Advocates	Vacant
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	Vacant
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Yaye Balde
Women Centre Collective	Vacant
Affiliated Student Groups	
Residence Hall's Association (RHA)	Emmanuel Adegboyega
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	Vacant
Teach Support Staff Union (TSSU)	Vacant
Embark Sustainability	Pranjali Mann

SFPIRG

Tuleen Awad

SFSS Executive Committee

President

Liam Feng

VP Internal and Organizational Development

Leonarda Ognjenovic

VP Finance and Services

Jadvinder Bolina

VP University and Academic Affairs

Thomas Lueth

VP External and Community Affairs

Navleen Brar

VP Equity and Sustainability

Priyanka Kaur Dhesa

VP Events and Student Affairs

Ayooluwa Adigun

3.2 Society Staff

Board Organizer

Vacant

Facilities Manager

John Walsh

Temporary Operations Organizer

Sindhu Dharmarajah

Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator

Beaty Omboga

Administrative Assistant

Simar Thukral

3.3 Regrets

Biology Student Union (BSU)

Nicolas Bonilla

Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union (IATSU)

Karishma Sen

Criminology Student Association

Ava Wood

3.4 Guests

Member

Abhishek Parmar

3.5 Absents

SFPIRG

Tuleen Awad

Indigenous Studies Student Union

Evan Accettola

Geography Student Union

Erik Makinen

Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Student Association

Jovan Gnjatovic

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 – Council and Committee Minutes -
MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:01**

Be it resolved to receive and file the following Council and Committee minutes:

- Council 2023-03-22

- Council 2023-04-19
- Council 2023-04-26
- Council 2023-04-28
- EXEC 2023-02-10
- EXEC 2023-02-24
- GOV 2023-03-06
- OCEO 2023-03-16
- OCEO 2023-03-23
- SPOC 2022-11-10

4.1.2. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:02

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets of “Nicolas Bonilla” Biology Student Union, “Ava Wood” Criminology Councillor, and “Karishma Sen” IAT Councillor for the May 24th Council Meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:03

President / History

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The President moved to reorder the agenda and move the new business item 9.3 to be before old business item 8.4.
- The VP Internal move to strike old business item 8.6 titled as “Financial Support for Precarious Student”.
- The VP Internal moved to amend new business item 9.1 to say “2023-2024”.
- The President moved to strike new business item 9.11 titled as “Change Council Meeting Time”.
- The President moved to include item 4.1.2 titled as “Ratification of Regrets”.
- The President moved to strike item 8.3 titled as “SFU Got Talent Budget Approval”.

6. PRESENTATION

6.1 SOCA’s Wellness Retreat

SUBMITTED BY: Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)

- SOCA’S Black Healing Space:

Mind – SOCA has the good fortune of hosting a black healing space, a space that promotes emotional and psychological wellness within the Black community which was skillful facilitated by Tiara Cash, a graduate student at SFU.

Body – SOCA members were provided with a comfortable environment where they could openly discuss their challenges, achievements, and endeavors in life with one another. This facilitated an atmosphere of sharing and empathy where individuals felt supported and valued within the community.

- The need for black wellness is essential for: Safety, Closure, and representation.
- The upcoming retreat focused on enhancing well-being within the black community will span across four days and incorporate activities and teachings aimed at fostering emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual awareness.
- The retreat will take place at Chilliwack, BC.
- The check-in will be after 4 pm on Thursday, July 6th and the Checkout will be before 10 am on Sunday July 9th.
- There will be a total of 28 attendees, 5 confirmed SOCA executives, and 23 SOCA Membership.
- In terms of the cost – the park place residence fees come up to \$4,564.12, the Pacific West Bus Rental (roundtrip) for \$2,240.00, the essential food item (Costco) comes up to \$1500.00, facilitators for \$1,000.00. The total cost comes up to \$9,304.12.
- The SOCA Financial request from SFSS would be \$10,000.
- The retreat aims to promote wellness discussions and encourage active engagement among members of SOCA and black students at SFU, in order to facilitate their personal well-being.
- In response to the former president regarding if the SOCA had applied for any grants, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that they have not yet looked into applying for them.
- In response to the VP Equity regarding if this amount \$10,000 is addition to the \$5000 recently passed at the BIPOC committee, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that in total they require \$15,000.
- In response to the History Councillor regarding why they cannot use the SOCA Budget which is over \$100,000 a year, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that this budget is for the overall year.
- In response to one of the VP University and Academic Affairs regarding if this motion was brought up to the VP Finance first, the VP Finance mentioned that they are currently running a hefty deficit this year. The SFSS Executives are not even going for their retreat and this was not brought up to them by the SOCA Councillor with a given number of line item.
- In response to one of the VP University and Academic Affairs regarding if the park place residence fees come up to \$4,564.12 and the SOCA has received \$5,000.00 already then why do they need additional funds, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that this money was used to put a down deposit which was very hefty in order to reserve the space.
- In response to the VP Events regarding how much funds have been taken out from the SOCA Budget, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that they have taken out \$4000 from the SOCA budget and would like to request additional \$10,000 from the SFSS.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1 Executive Committee Report

- **President –**
Operational check-in.

- Temporary building coordinator hiring.
- Meeting with minister of post-secondary education – Minister Robinson.
- Meeting with Staff.
- Met with Joy Johnson.
- Volunteered at club days.

- **VP Internal -**
 - Created council onboarding course.
 - Staff check-in.
 - Marking the onboarding course.
 - Emails.
 - Reviewing governance policies.
 - Approving previous council minutes.
 - Volunteered at club days.
 - Student Care – at Montreal.

- **VP Finance –**
 - Attending onboarding meetings.
 - Reviewing documents and replying back to emails.
 - Volunteered at club days.
 - Student Care – at Montreal.

- **VP University –**
 - Have held meetings with university staff.
 - Have attended club days.
 - Reviewed and replied back to the emails.

- **VP External –**
 - Have attended the meetings with Student Care.
 - Have done admin work – to set up meetings.
 - Helped with welcome week and club days.
 - Community Fridge Project.

- **VP Equity -**
 - Check-in with former VP Equity.
 - Connected with VP Internal for canvas onboarding course.
 - Attended club days at SFU Surrey.
 - Met with SFU EDI Director.

- **VP Events -**
 - Event planning for upcoming semester.

Met with minister of post-secondary education.
Attended club days, welcome day, and services fair.
Met with SFU Bodies for events in the future.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 SFU Surge's StormHacks Grant - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:04

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / VP Events

Whereas StormHacks is one of SFU's largest hackathons organized by SFU Surge and held their event on May 20 & 21st in the Student Union Building to connect 150 SFU participants across disciplines.

Whereas SFU Surge submitted a grant request last month over the allocated amount that could be approved by VP Finance.

Be it resolved to approve \$16,288.00 to reimburse SFU Surge's StormHacks event from line item 4000G.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The VP Events mentioned that the SFU surge submitted this a long time back and had submitted all the documents and necessary paperwork. They have already held the event and they should have got the funds last year.
- The President mentioned that normally a process for such a grant is different, but we are making a special scenario for this one as this people from SFU surge have been delayed from the previous executive's side, the President suggest we move forward with the approval of this motion.
- The VP Events mentioned that this funding being provided to SFU Surge is out from goodwill and we are not obligated to pay them. They requested council to speak up if they have any questions with the amount being given out.

8.2 Censure of History Councillor - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:05

SUBMITTED BY: Former VP External and Community Affairs

President / VP External

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".

NOT CARRIED

- The Psychology Councillor mentioned that there was a situation last year that occurred where things were happening between the councillors. They want to move to the next year with a new start and have a fresh start for the new year.

- The Psychology Councillor moved to strike 8.2.
- The Former President mentioned that the motion itself is incorrect. The motion has impeachment and censure at the same time and goes against the by-laws of the society. They would suggest to strike this from the agenda.
- The History Councillor requested more clarity if striking the motion removes it permanently and if it cannot be brought back again, the President mentioned that striking the motion removes it permanently and it cannot be brought up again.
- The VP Events suggested to strike this motion.

8.2.1 Move to Strike 8.2- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:06
VP Events / President
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Migrants Students United @SFU Support and Amplification- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:07

SUBMITTED BY: Former VP External and Community Affairs

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

No Mover / No Secunder

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.

NOT CARRIED

- The History Councillor mentioned that this motion financially is not a good idea. \$20,000 money going to an external organization is not a good idea. This budget represents 1/6 of DSU budget. All of this \$20,000 goes for the 6 students only. The previous year due to falling enrollment level we were in a deficit.
- To get back to a surplus state we would have to charge the students with additional student fees. And, it does not make sense to give out money externally rather than thinking of our students.
- The VP External mentioned that they are not aware about this motion and do not feel comfortable moving forward with this.
- The Psychology Councillor mentioned that for 6 students \$20,000 is a lot. They feel honorarium is fair to have but a lower number would make more sense rather than striking this entirely.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Funding for SOCA Wellness Retreat - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:08

SUBMITTED BY: Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)

VP Events / President

Whereas the Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA) is a constituency group who advocates for African, Caribbean and the greater Black student population at SFU with a mandate to voice concerns, plan events and programs to encourage community building and act as role models within the community;

Whereas in a survey several of SOCA's members have expressed interest in attending a mental wellness retreat;

Whereas in response to this, SOCA began to look into the logistics of hosting such a retreat for it's membership;

Whereas SOCA is now planning a wellness retreat for Black students at SFU to enhance and support mental health awareness for Black students at SFU;

Whereas the retreat will be taking place in Chilliwack B.C., in a nature-oriented and quiet environment with provision of accommodation;

Whereas the retreat itself will cost a significant amount of money for SOCA to host it's members at no cost;

Whereas the cost for the retreat is beyond what SOCA can financially support alone in their summer budget;

Whereas SOCA would like for the SFSS to support this retreat that encourages Black students flourishing, connection, and community building by making the retreat financially affordable and accessible for those that intent to partake in the retreat;

Whereas SOCA is asking for \$10,000 from the SFSS Council to fund portions of the retreat including food, accommodation, speakers, and transportation fees;

Whereas SOCA has presented to Council and provided approval;

Be it resolved that SFSS Council approves \$10,000 in supporting SOCA's wellness retreat.

POSTPONED

- The VP Events asked the SOCA Councillor if they have any emergency budget that can be assigned to their retreat, the SOCA Councillor mentioned since this was planned

before march. They did not have it planned and it will be a hassle to pull it from anywhere now.

- The VP Events asked if there can be a breakdown of amount paid for the events that they can share, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that they are happy to share that but they have not yet paid anything for the event itself and are requesting for the funds.
- The VP Events mentioned that 28 students are a small number of students in comparison to the amount requested and how will this event aim to have a wider reach, the SOCA Councillor mentioned that the reason they reached out to SFSS was to collaborate with them to reach out and make more students aware of Black mental health awareness.
- The VP Events suggested that this amount should be used for a more wider reaching event. The number of students – 28 does not justify for the \$10,000.
- The Archeology Councillor mentioned that SFU does not have a big number of black students.
- The VP Events mentioned that SFU do have black students and 28 students are way too less in comparison to the \$10,000 amount being asked as it comes up to \$535.71 per student.
- The History Councillor suggested that the SOCA Councillor should go for other avenues as discussed earlier. Based on the fact they have already received \$5,000 from BIPOC committee, it would be good to think of cutting the cost and choosing other venues or adjusting other prices.
- The RHA Councillor mentioned that \$535 per student is for 4 days covering all accommodation, food, travel, and space.
- The VPUAA mentioned that to say 4 days is a little misleading as it is near to 3 days. Also, not mentioning in the motion that \$5,000 were already passed by the BIPOC committee raises questions.
- One of the member mentioned that this is the first time SOCA is doing a retreat. This is a starting point to host and get engagement for black students. They also urge council to recommend some places if they can find anything cheaper than what they found at the Chilliwack location.
- The RHA Councillor mentioned that CG's do not have a grant item. This money is not a big amount as it has been passed before for other events as well. The down payment is already deposited and if we do not support the SOCA, the down payment will be wasted.
- The Temporary Organizer mentioned that the funding comes from the Student Union grant. The student union team and they can look into this for them on an urgent basis.

9.1.1. Move to Postpone 9.1. to the next Council Meeting - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:09

President / History

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Adding VP Finance to HRP Composition - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:10

SUBMITTED BY: Former VP Finance and Services

President / History

Whereas the VP Finance and Services has to adjust the budget based on the employment status of staff;

Whereas the previous VP Finance and Services, current VP Finance and Services and future VP Finance and Services all think there is value to having the VP Finance and Services on HRP;

Be it resolved to amend the following to HR & Personnel Sub-Committee terms of reference under Council Policies SO-3-1 under composition (below 3.1.1):

Composition

1. [Chairperson] President
2. [Vice Chairperson] VP Internal & Organizational Development
3. VP Equity and Sustainability
- 4 VP Finance and Services
5. 1 Councillor (preferably a non-Executive Councillor)
6. [Non-Voting] Operations Organizer
7. [Non-Voting] Board Organizer

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The former Acting President spoke in favour of this motion and mentioned that they spoke with the previous Acting VP Internal about this motion at their last governance committee meeting.
- The Psychology Councillor mentioned that they have been at this committee in the past, and having odd number of members in a committee can be useful when a voting procedure takes place.

10.2 Increasing Voter Turnout During SFSS Elections through Clarifying Campaigning online and in person during Voting Period rules- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:11

SUBMITTED BY: Former VP External and Community Affairs

President / VP University

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 wish. If they do not remove online campaign material, the same rules of campaigning apply during the voting period as that applies during campaigning period".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Events and Student Affairs Committee Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:12

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

Be it resolved to elect Film Student Union and Health Science Councilor(s) to serve on the Events and Student Affairs Committee for the council terms of 2022-2023.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The President mentioned that this event will be tasked for holding large scale student wide events. From planning, logistics, food, and bookings will be handled by this committee.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Film Student Union Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Health Science Councillor nominated themselves.
- The former Acting President nominated the cognitive science councillor and they did not accept the nomination.

11.2 University and Academic Affairs Committee Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:13

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

Be it resolved to elect VP Equity, Bachelor of Environment, Psychology, Computing Science, and Philosophy Councilor(s) to serve on the University and Academic Affairs Committee for the council terms of 2023-2024.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The VP UAA mentioned that this committee is to advocate for issues within the university and discuss the university policies.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Psychology Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Computing Science Councillor nominated themselves.
- The VP Equity nominated themselves.
- The Philosophy Councillor nominated themselves.
- Bachelor of Environment nominated themselves.

11.3 External and Community Affairs Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:14

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / VP Internal

Be it resolved to elect RHA and Environmental Science Councilor to serve on the External and Community Affairs committee for the council terms of 2023-2024.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The VP External mentioned that this committee looks at issues regarding student external to the committee and they do campaigns and lobbying for that.

- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Environmental Science Councillor nominated themselves.
- The RHA nominated themselves.

11.4 Equity and Sustainability Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:15

SUBMITTED BY: VP Equity and Sustainability

President / VP Internal

Whereas the Equity and Sustainability Committee (ESC) has a designated seat for an additional Executive Officer;

Whereas there are 4 additional seats available for members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect Executive VP University to serve on ESC for the 2023-2024 Council year.

Be it further resolved to elect SOCA, Environmental Science, MBB councillor(s) to serve on the ESC for the 2023-2024 Council term.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The VP Equity mentioned that this committee purpose is to work towards dismantling intersecting forms of systematic oppression which includes but is not limited to: classism, ableism, capitalism, colonialism, anti-blackness, misogyny, gender-based violence, xenophobia, Islamophobia, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, fatphobia, the various types of racism.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The SOCA councillor nominated themselves.
- The Environmental Science Councillor nominated themselves.
- The VPUAA nominated themselves.
- The VPUAA nominated the MBB councillor and they did not accept the nomination.

11.5 Black Indigenous People of Colour Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:16

SUBMITTED BY: VP Equity and Sustainability

President / VP Equity

Whereas per SO-10.13 "for appointment of Councillors to this Committee;

Council shall take into consideration Councillors with lived experiences/those who identify as BIPOC when appointing members to the Committee;

Whereas there are 4 seats free members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect SOCA Councillor and VPUAA to serve on the BIPOC committee for the 2023-2024 Council term.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The purpose of this committee is to ensure and prioritize the voices of the Black Indigenous and People of Colour community at SFU within the framework of the SFSS and that the lived experience of racialized folks is always considered, recognized and acknowledged.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The VPUAA nominated themselves.
- The SOCA Councillor nominated themselves.

11.6 Finance and Administrative Services Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:17

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / VP External

Be it resolved to elect Earth Science and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Councillor(s) to serve on FASC for the council terms of 2023-2024.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President
- The ESSU Councillor nominated themselves.
- The MBB Councillor nominated themselves.

11.7 Space and Oversight Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:18

SUBMITTED BY: VP Events and Student Affairs

President / Film

Be it resolved to elect Councillor(s) D, E, and F to serve on SPOC for the council terms of 2023-2024.

POSTPONED

- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Cognitive Science Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Cognitive Science Councillor nominated PSSU and SASS and they accepted the nomination.
- The Engineering Science Councillor nominated themselves.

11.7.1 Move to postpone 11.7 - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:19

VP Internal / President

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.8 Governance Committee Election- MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:20

SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal and Organizational Development

President / History

Be it resolved to elect Philosophy Councillor and the VP External to serve on the Governance Committee for the council terms of 2023-2024.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The VP Internal mentioned that this committee review appeals, applications of the society, constitution, and by-laws or policies. They also inform the council of the legislative changes that impact the society.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Philosophy Councillor nominated themselves.
- The former Acting President nominated MSES Councillor and they did not accept the nomination.
- The VP External nominated themselves.

11.9 Accessibility Committee Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:21

SUBMITTED BY: VP Equity and Sustainability

President / VP Equity

Whereas per SO-11.5 “The selection of students At-Large members and Councillors for this committee shall be prioritized to students with lived experiences”;

Whereas there are 4 seats available for members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect councillor(s) I, J, K, and L to serve on the Accessibility Committee for the 2023-2024 Council term.

POSTPONED

- The accessibility committee reviews and monitors the accessibility fund and reviews / makes recommendations of changes to the Accessibility Policy. We also work to engage with SFU regarding supports made available to students with disabilities and promote wellness on campus wherever possible.
- Three calls for the nomination were called by the President.
- The Acting President nominated SSS Councillor and they did not accept the nomination.
- The Acting President nominated the History Councillor and they did not accept the nomination.

11.9.1 Move to Postpone 11.9 to next council meeting - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:22

President / VP Internal

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.10 Oversight Committee on Executive Officers Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:23

SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal and Organizational Development

President / VP Internal

Be it resolved to elect History and Psychology councillor(s) to serve on the Oversight Committee on Executive Officers committee for the 2023-2024 Council term.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- The VP Internal mentioned that this committee is to oversee the executives and reviews the work they do.
- The History Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Psychology Councillor nominated themselves.

**11.11 Modifying Council Meeting Time Mentioned in Council Policies - MOTION COUNCIL
2023-05-24:24**

SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal and Organizational Development

President / History

Whereas Council meetings should be flexible to Council members' schedules;

Be it resolved to strike R-7.6 and replace it with: It is suggested Council meetings shall occur Wednesdays starting at 4:30 pm and ending at 8:30 pm, but will be up to the discretion of Council at the beginning of the Council term. Meetings shall occur on a biweekly basis.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The President mentioned that previously the council meeting was fixed to happen on Wednesday's at a set time. They want to find the most suitable time for everyone possible to ensure councillors are able to attend this meeting at the same time on a same given day.

12. 30 MINUTES Q&A

- The Psychology Councillor on behalf of the SFU Peak asked if the SFU Peak Frequency budget has been passed or if the event company will be approving it because without the budget being passed there will be no SFU Got Talent.

The Temporary Operations Organizer in response mentioned that this event is being done in conjunction with the events committee and the next step is to go through that committee and proceed from SFSS events and frequency events. In rare cases if the events committee is not okay with it, they can still go through the process of bringing it back to the Council.

- One of the members mentioned that doing e-voting during the meetings can be a useful tool to be efficient and time effective. Going through the roll call process can be very time consuming.
The President spoke in favor of this and mentioned that this is a great Idea, and this is something they are looking into. Something a lot more efficient and anonymous.
There are certain things such as zoom poll and looking into the feature where only councillors can vote and not the guest or students that they are looking at.
The VP Equity mentioned that it could be a great way to go about things to be effective. Previously there was referenda put out to allow e-voting. However, it was a tedious process, and it has to go through by-laws and referenda to allow e-voting.

- One of the members asked if they have to be in committee, the President mentioned that as a councillor, council members are required to be on at least one committee. Most committees are not currently filed out and the elections will be held during the next council meeting.
The former Acting President suggested to councillors to do more than one committee at once.

In response to the President regarding what Councillors think about the SFSS, the History Councillor mentioned that throughout their contacts in British Columbia, they think that SFSS is the second most dysfunctional organization and only the Kwantlen Student Association is worse than us. The SFSS has an extreme promise and the executive group this year seems good, and the damage done so far over the years can be undone. And the focus can be student focused and not SFU Focused or go for politics.

The Psychology Councillor mentioned that they do not have trust in SFSS due to their past experiences. They have in the past experiences that their friends being bullied or harassed for voting for a certain motion that other people did not support. The reddit shows all kinds of threat, turbulence, threats over the year and it would be good to move on from that to build a newer image to do more impactful work.

But, they still have trust issues based on how they and their friends were treated last year.

13. ATTACHMENTS

13.1 Apr-2023-Motion-Briefing-Note-1.pdf

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2023-05-24:25

President / VP External

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 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.