

Call to Order – 12:31 am, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 | MBC 2292

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*) ..... Darwin Binesh  
President (*ex officio*) ..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Board of Directors Representative ..... Brady Wallace  
Councilor .....  
Councilor ..... Kathleen Yang  
Councilor ..... Maren Thompson (*late*)  
Board of Governors Representative .....  
Out On Campus Representative .....  
Women’s Centre Representative ..... Anjali Biju  
Senate Representative .....  
Student At-Large ..... Muhsin Suleiman  
Student At-Large .....

### Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator ..... Pierre Cassidy  
Minute Taker ..... Dion Chong

### Guests

Board of Directors Representative ..... Shirin Escarcha  
Member ..... Arjan Mundy  
Member ..... Curtis Pooghkay

### Regrets

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi  
Councilor ..... Rahul Rajanala

### Leave of Absence (AP-1)

Board of Directors Representative ..... Tesicca Truong

### Absent

Vice President Student Life ..... Kayode Fatoba

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### MOTION ADV 2014-09-11:01

Suleiman

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.*

*Academic Advocacy discussion item added*

*Fall Kickoff Concert Sponsorship Village Announcement added*

### CARRIED AS AMENDED

## 3. Ratification of Regrets

### MOTION ADV 2014-09-11:02

Yang

*Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:*

Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi

Councilor ..... Rahul Rajanala

Kopahi was in class. Rajanala had existing regrets as they were out of country.

**CARRIED**

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**MOTION ADV 2014-09-11:03**

Wallace

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-08-12 and 2014-09-04*

Rajanala had sent regrets for the meeting of 2014-09-04 and therefore should not be counted as absent.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**5. Updates**

**a. International Student Tuition Fee Increase Townhall and Followup**

Townhall was conducted on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from a number of cultural clubs and the International Students Group were in attendance.

**Main Themes Identified**

- Working to change the perception that all international students were wealthy
- Desire to grandfather in international students at the current fee schedule
- Lobbying provincial government to stop cuts to higher education institutions.
  - Significant funding pressure at the university as it faces multiple cuts.
- Lack of notification to students around the fee increases
  - In discussions with university administrators last year, it was indicated that fee schedules were not fixed for students. However, no notification was provided to students of the major increase
- Lack of financial support for international students in need
  - SFU Financial Aid and Awards – financial needs of domestic students were met at 80%, but only 30% of assessed needs for international students were being met
- Role of International Students Group and International Club
  - Vice President Student Life has been advocating for ISG to take a strong leadership role
    - However, ISG representatives have indicated that they did not have the capacity to take up a major campaign.
  - As an organization with a founding mandate on affordable education, there was a perception that the Advocacy Committee had a major role to play.
  - Opportunity to invite the groups, however, there was a need for the campaign to move forward.
    - It may be necessary to contact the various cultural clubs who can mobilize a larger student base.
      - However, clubs are social organizations without a mandate for advocacy. The SFSS may wish to develop a campaign plan and integrate club participation into a campaign led by the student society.

**Opportunities for Advocacy Committee**

- SFU Budget Consultation Process (End September/Early October)
  - Opportunity for students to have input on university finances
    - SFSS and GSS session would be an opportunity to voice concerns
  - Public consultations (first one with President Petter)
    - Opportunity to have a number of international students to express the impact of international student fee increases.
    - Further the case for grandfathering in international students in the existing fee schedule
- AVP Students have indicated that they are willing to speak to Council. This could be extended into a general townhall
- Meeting of Board of Governors (November 25, with submission by November 6)
  - Administrative body dealing with fee increased and tuition in general
  - UG Representative or SFSS independently could bring forward the issue
- Senate
  - Any matter than can impact academics can be referred to Senate
  - Senate meetings on October 24 and November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Collaboration with the Peak on impact of international student fee increases.
  - As a result of the townhall, feature editor of the Peak has indicated interest in such a feature.

Opportunity to build a working group to develop the campaign and invite stakeholders into the discussions. The committee may also wish to contact The Peak on the possibility of developing a feature.

**Action Items:**

- President would contact The Peak on the international student tuition fee feature
- Vice President Student Life would be asked to speak to contact cultural groups for consultative purposes
  - President will draft a short letter, fact sheet, and include an invitation to participate in the committee.
- ADV would consider recommending to Board to include the matter as a Budget Consultation topic

**6. Unfinished Business**

**a. Letter on Guard.Me**

Letter would be placed on board letterhead and would be signed on behalf of the SFSS. Stronger language was requested in the letter itself. A number of grammatical and syntactical errors were identified.

**MOTION ADV 2014-09-11:04**

Bueckert/Amended Bueckert

*Be it resolved to* recommend to BOD the Guard.me Letter, written to Simon Fraser University, pending grammatical and stylistic edits by the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator and Communications Coordinator.

There was a desire for the SFSS to potentially be involved in the selection process for the new provider after the end of the current basic insurance plan.

The letter should also be addressed to the President, AVP Students, and Vice President Finance of the University.

It may also be necessary to provide some level of documentation on the matter, such as an additional presentation to accompany the letter. This could be expressed within the letter as an invitation for further discussion on the matter.

### **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

#### **7. Discussion**

##### **a. Voter Awareness**

Municipal elections and Translink referendum, as well as federal elections were incoming. Further discussions would occur at the next meeting.

##### **b. Academic Advocacy**

Communications – promotion of good study habits on and off campus. It would be possible to easily develop videos and reminder handouts

Outreach – handing out food to students studying on campus after food vendors close. It would be an opportunity for the SFSS to actively reach out to its membership as opposed to drawing them in

Volunteer Coordination – Make conference rooms available to volunteers for refreshment and study space.

This was identified as a simple campaign which could be easily repeated throughout the years during midterm and final periods.

Opportunity to integrate with the volunteer programme being developed by the Executive Director and the Vice President Student Life. Confusion ensued around the current status of the programme. The matter has been a longstanding organizational need.

#### **8. Announcements**

##### **a. Fall Kickoff Concert Sponsorship Village**

Fall Kickoff Working Group has invited the Advocacy Committee to participate in the sponsorship village during the day of the Fall Kickoff Concert. The working group wished for greater SFSS integration within the event. Escarcha would look into the potential for Society initiatives to be promoted between sets by board members.

Other opportunities for showcasing advocacy committee shirts. The Communications Office had developed a series of humorous/provoking shirts in the previous year in support of various ADV campaigns and could be brought back.

#### **MOTION ADV 2014-09-11:05**

Bueckert

*Be it resolved to approve up to \$1000 for the Advocacy funny t-shirt Campaign.*

Shirts needed to be ordered as soon as possible. The shirts were sought to draw individuals towards the table. They could also potentially be provided at a cost recovery rate, such that

booths run by the SFSS as various events could include such shirts with availability to the membership. In the previous year, shirts were well received by the membership as giveaway prizes. During the concert, it may also be an opportunity for students to share Open Textbook Campaign information on social media in exchange for a shirt, including selfies from individuals in shirts in various colours.

Vice President External Relations will be establishing a reporting mechanism for approved funds from the Advocacy Committee to ensure that funds expended were reported to Board.

The committee agreed to ensure that the transit and tuition fee shirts, with the transit design subject to change.

### **CARRIED**

**Action item:** Minute taker would liaise with the Communications Office to order the shirts.

#### **9. New Business**

##### **a. SFSS Issues Policies Revision**

Issues policies within the SFSS policy manual were becoming increasingly outdated and redundant, particularly given stances on campaigns which were no longer relevant. A review of campus issues and issues policies was necessary at both the CPR and ADV levels.

The committee was requested to review the issues policies, determine whether campaigns would be conducted on issues identified within the IPs, and whether issues policies should remain as a structure or if an alternative could be sought.

Advantages of the IPs were identified: With the provincial budget submission, it would be easier to pull items, which are important to the Society, and it would increase organizational efficiency in responding to media on certain topics.

A challenge to having IPs within the policy manual was the timelines related to policy changes. It was difficult to get outdated policies to the Constitution and Policy Review Committee agenda given changing organizational priorities and the constant need for revision. While it was desired to ensure that organizational stances were enshrined, policies may not be the best place for this. A number of alternative structures were currently being discussed.

#### **10. Discussion Continued.**

##### **b. Academic Advocacy**

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11. Attachments

12. Adjournment 1:32pm

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DC | CUPE 3338



**Moe Kopahi**  
VP University Relations  
Board of Directors  
vpuniversity@sfss.ca  
Tel (778) 707-0684

Maggie Benston Centre 2220  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6  
**sfss.ca**

**TO: SFU VP FINANCE, PAT HIBBITTS**

**RE: GUARD ME PLAN**

As the representatives of undergraduate students at Simon Fraser University, the Simon Fraser Student Society has a keen interest in the best interests of international students, who constitute nineteen percent of the organizations membership.

Consequently, we are writing to express concerns we have with the Guard.Me basic insurance programme. We commend SFU's commitment to ensuring access to basic medical care during the initial months following arrival of international students; however a number of issues have been raised regarding the price of the program, automatic enrolment following the first semester and a lack of transition into MSP. We are confused by the automatic reenrollment in Guard.Me, despite eligibility for MSP. This is because we understand the programme is to serve as a bridge between arrival into the country and MSP enrolment.

The SFSS would like to invite Simon Fraser University to communicate any information considered relevant on Guard.me the Student Society may not know at this time. This subject and its financial effects on the international student population

We aim to foster an engaged and thoroughly diverse community across all three SFU campuses. Thus, we ask that SFU actively communicate with us regarding international student insurance programming. Our hope is that we can find a solution that will lessen the financial impacts on international students, who already see significant increases in tuition costs. We would further encourage the university to engage with its student representatives to build more complimentary and more comprehensive health programming in order to care for the wellbeing of the student body.

Best Regards,

Moe Kopahi

Vice President University Relations

Simon Fraser Student Society