

Call to Order – 12:30 pm, March 19, 2015 | MBC 2290

1. Roll Call of Attendance

Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations (*chair*) Darwin Binesh
President (*ex officio*) Chardaye Bueckert
Vice President Student Life Kayode Fatoba (*late*)
Councilor Michael Fujiwara
Councilor Andy Untawala
Out On Campus Representative
Women’s Centre Representative Anjali Biju
Board of Governors Representative Deven Azevedo
Senate Representative
Student At-Large
Student At-Large Arjan Mundy (*late*)

Society Staff

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

Regrets

Councilor Melissa Lee (*elections*)
Board of Directors Representative Rebecca Langmead (*BOD Business*)
Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi (*academic*)
Councilor Kathleen Yang (*volunteering*)
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace (*elections*)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION ADV 2015-03-19:01

Untawala

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

3. Ratification of Regrets

MOTION ADV 2015-03-19:02

Untawala

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from:

Councilor Melissa Lee (*elections*)
Board of Directors Representative Rebecca Langmead (*BOD Business*)
Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi (*academic*)
Councilor Kathleen Yang (*elections*)
Board of Directors Representative Brady Wallace (*elections*)

Mundy entered at 12:35pm

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION ADV 2015-03-19:03

Biju

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2015-03-05

CARRIED

Abstentions: Azevedo, Mundy, Bueckert

5. Unfinished Business

a. Transit Referendum

Ballots have been mailed out by Elections BC. Over the next two weeks, given the lull between final coursework and final exams, it would be ideal for the ADV to work with the Graduate Student Society and Sustainable SFU for an outreach event. An opportunity existed to do outreach at bus stops during peak hours. Significant misinformation has ensued around the transit referendum, thus the SFSS had a role to play in expressing the value of the referendum to SFU students.

Money has been approved for refreshments, which is difficult at bus stops, but remained a possibility.

An email had been made available to the committee with information on the transit referendum, list of SFU specific benefits, and links to register to vote. These projects include the true express bus between SFU Burnaby and Vancouver, express bus from Langley to SFU Surrey/Surrey Central, more night buses, and light rail service in Surrey. The committee was asked to forward the email throughout their networks.

b. International Student Tuition Increases

The President, Board of Governors Undergraduate Representative, and the VP Academic of the University had been jointly drafting a new tuition change consultation policy for the university, which was submitted to the Board of Governors for consideration on 2015-03-05, with review at the BOG meeting of 2015-03-26. The matter has received the support of both the SFU Vice President Finance and the Vice President Academic

The Associate VP Students has expressed the potential of establishing a 'degree completion fund' for international students in need of financial aid. This matter would be brought up at the BOG meeting, as no further information has been received since the initial discussion on the matter.

Both were considered major wins for the Society, and the President and the Board of Governors Representative's work were commended by the Committee.

The Board of Governors would be discussing the budget at the next BOG meeting—2015-03-26 at 8AM at Halpern Centre. Finances are typically among the first topics of discussion, and the SFSS President would be present to speak on the Student Society perspective.

Fatoba entered at 12:42pm

6. Discussion

a. Support for Academic Freedom in Burma/Myanmar

A massive protest is currently occurring on social media. An Environmental Science student is interested in discussing the matter at the next week.

POSTPONED TO NEXT ADV

b. Louis Riel Update

A Rally occurred at Convocation Mall yesterday in support of the resident of Louis Riel, with over 100 aggregate participants at the event. The community organization was continuing to advocate on the matter.

The President had brought the matter up with the SFU President and AVP Students during their monthly meeting—they expressed that the university sympathized with their plight but that their options were limited. They also expressed that they were not concerned about higher cost of living as this would make the individuals eligible for larger bursaries. This view was seen as problematic as bursaries are not guaranteed, eligibility can fluctuate, and bursaries have a per person cap.

The AVP Students expressed that the university was conducting one-on-one meetings with the residents, which was an issue of concern by the committee in discussion of the merit of these meetings. Further, they indicated that the university would be forgoing rent of the final month for Louis Riel residents, although this had not been publically announced.

Follow-up actions have not been planned by the residence association beyond minor changes to the petition.

Provincial MLAs would be putting forward a question at the legislature on Monday.

The matter would further be taken up during the SFSS meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education on Friday.

The SFSS would still have opportunities to advocate through local government (request for zoning and other support), as well as through advocating for UniverCity support of low income housing (in collaboration with the Community Trust Representative).

The committee was reminded that they always have the option to move the meeting in camera if they have concerns relating to the sensitivity of the matter.

c. Lobbying Training for the Next Board

The Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator would endeavor to provide information and support for the next Advocacy Committee in order to maintain the.

Orientation in strategies to engage with government and university officials in an effective manner may be valuable to the organization, decreasing learning curves.

It was recommended by the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator to budget for lobbying training for the next board towards the end of the first month for the next board. This would provide guidance and support continuity for the campaigns and initiatives developed in the current year.

Previous External Relations Officers and the current Vice President External Relations have expressed their support for the initiative.

The CRP Coordinator would return to the next ADV with quotes on the costs of possible training providers.

MOTION ADV 2015-03-19:04

Bueckert

Be it resolved to task the CRP Coordinator to investigate and report back on advocacy training for the ADV;

Be it further resolved to have the results reported at the subsequent ADV.

CARRIED

Vice President External Relations would review the ADV budget with the Vice President Finance, given changes

7. Updates

International Students Group—executive elections have occurred. They will be able to provide continuity on international student issues.

As tasked by the committee, the President relayed the ADV concerns regarding the SFU Read programme to Ancillary Services—the Executive Director replied asking if the committee saw any positives with the programme. Advice was requested in formulating a response, given concerns that identification of programme merits may be seen as tacit approval of the project as a whole. The committee recommended that the reply be such that the negatives of the project currently outweigh the positives, while recognizing the sincerity of the Bookstore’s attempts to service the SFU population.

The committee was informed that the SFU Bookstore had been conducting iPad survey on SFU Read, which contained leading questions (ex. Do you want to pay less for textbooks) and a giftcard prize for the end. This student consultation was not created in consultation with the SFSS despite their proposal.

The BOG held their first responsible investment committee meeting, which was a response to the Divest SFU movement. Risks of climate change on university investments was discussed, which was a positive development within the university community. The Graduate Board of Governors Representative provided the student representation on the committee

Kinder Morgan Pipeline—Reinvest in Our Future Week includes a Kinder Morgan Dialogue, the results of which would inform the SFSS submission to the National Energy Board.

Environment Representative and President have been working on developing a job description for a Kinder Morgan Pipeline National Energy Board hearing process research position in conjunction with the GSS. This was an opportunity for the next Advocacy Committee to continue advocacy and potentially host events in support of the development of the submission.

This would also provide for dedicated focus in reviewing the documentation and correspondences that have ensued throughout the hearing process. Until such time that this occurs, the Society could not make decisions as to the substance nor the form of the submission to the NEB.

March 19, 2015 – Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

The Green Jobs Fair has been cancelled by the Vice President Finance, as a result of a lack of interest from organizations to participate, as well as overwhelming workload on the Vice President Finance at present.

A member had expressed interest in a similar event in the past, and the President had referred them to Career Services, which already hosts career and other fairs on campus.

8. Adjournment 1:59pm

DC | CUPE 3338