

Call to Order – 12:00 pm, December 3, 2014 | Executive Conference Room

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

President (*chair*)..... Chardaye Bueckert  
Vice President Finance..... Adam Potvin  
Vice President Student Services ..... Zied Masmoudi  
Vice President External Relations ..... Darwin Binesh  
Vice President Student Services ..... Kayode Fatoba  
Vice President University Relations ..... Moe Kopahi

### Society Staff

Build SFU Administrative Coordinator..... Sabiha Jukic  
Build SFU General Manager..... Marc Fontaine  
Campaigns, Policy, and Research Coordinator ..... Pierre Cassidy  
Minute Taker ..... Dion Chong

### Guests

Board of Directors Member ..... Deepak Sharma (*late*)

### Regrets

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

### MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:01

Kopahi

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

*Added: Ratification of Regrets for Vice President University Relations*

*Postponed: Committee agenda item workflow (until Executive Director return), AFAC motion (until Student Union Organiser and Executive Director could attend to speak to the matter)*

### CARRIED

## 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:02

Masmoudi

*Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-11-26*

### CARRIED

## 4. Ratification of Regrets

In the previous week, the Vice President University Relations had a family emergency to attend to. Details were provided to the Executive. It was expressed that regrets could not be retroactive ratified as they were never sent nor received by the committee.

Directors expressed concern that the bylaws relating to BOD duties do not have flexibility for emergencies. Further, it was expressed that it was unfeasible to expect board members to send in formal regrets for each meeting during an emergency situation. The organization may wish to consider mechanisms to allow for retroactive ratification of regrets for emergency situations.

### MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:03

~~Fatoba~~

~~Be it resolved to ratify the regrets of the Vice President University Relations for the meeting of 2014-11-26.~~

#### **MOTION OUT OF ORDER**

It was indicated that the motion was out of order, as there were no regrets sent at any point.

Society's policy on excuses and regrets were supposed to cover extenuating circumstances. The matter could potentially be considered within the matters arising from the minutes.

#### **MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:04**

Masmoudi

*Be it resolved to reconsider MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:02*

#### **FAILED**

The Minute Taker would add an MT Note within the body of the minutes to indicate the reasoning for absence.

### **5. New Business**

#### **a. AFAC – Accessibility Project Worker Proposal**

Accessibility Fund Advisory Committee recommended to the Executive Committee to create a project worker position for a four month period funded from the Accessibility Fund. This has been confirmed by legal counsel to be within the mandate of the fund. The position was slated for 8 hours per week, with the total cost of \$8000 per year should the position be extended. AFAC expressed concern that the position front-end loaded, in creating consultation opportunities and providing reports. As such, the four month period would allow the organization to review the necessity for the position beyond that point.

It was expressed that the conversation would require the input of the Executive Director and Student Union Organiser who have been working on the matter for considerable lengths of time.

There was concern that the position was more consultative and more difficult to define its role in fulfilling technical need to the organization. There was recognition that AFAC and staff have requested such a position and there would be little negative impact to the organization over a 4 month period.

It was indicated that there have been no identified needs or objectives allocated to such a position by the board of directors. Directors expressed a desire for such a position to ensure that all initiatives of the student society were accessible, and to coordinate training to equip all member-facing staff with the skills to ensure organization accessibility.

A director raised the issue that at present, an elected board member or councilor with accessibility needs may not be able to participate fully in the current meeting. Further, the position would be able to facilitate the board priority of membership consultation, as well as ensuring the split of operations and governance, as directors should not have to ensure the accessibility of meetings. They may also contribute to discussion on Student Union Building accessibility. Finally, such a position was identified as a position to contribute to meaningful employment of students.

It was expressed that a student employee may not have the expertise to identify where accessibility accommodations were needed and how these accommodations could be integrated into the organization. Further, 8 hours per week may not be considered meaningful employment.

As an alternative, the Executive Director could be tasked to provide the organization with trainers and programmes that would equip the organization with the tools to provide accessibility accommodations to the organization. However, it was not determined to be within the priorities of the Executive Director to be conducting such work.

It was expressed that the idea was brought to the Executive table without a priority, indicating that there may not be great need for such a position within the Society.

The matter had been discussed at length at multiple meetings of AFAC. The Executives were assumed to have reviewed the minutes prior to attending the current meeting. Concern was raised around the potential for negative press on the matter.

**MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:05**

Bueckert

*Whereas* AFAC recommended the creation of an accessibility assistant project worker;

*Whereas* legal council has confirmed that the Accessibility Fund is able to support the wages of this position;

*Be it resolved that* Executive Committee recommend the creation of an accessibility assistant project worker to Board.

President indicated that they were strongly in favour of the position.

It was expressed by the Vice President Student Services that the issue on the table was the creation of the position, as opposed to the accessibility needs of the organization.

**FAILED**

**Roll Call Vote:**

President ( <i>chair</i> ) .....	In Favour
Vice President Finance .....	Opposition
Vice President Student Services.....	Opposition
Vice President External Relations .....	Opposition
Vice President Student Services.....	Opposition
Vice President University Relations .....	Opposition

**6. Discussions**

**a. EPCOM – Student Life Award**

The VP Student Life portfolio was considered extremely large, and there was a desire to showcase the diversity of the engagement opportunities within the Student Society, in particular given distinctions between SFU and the SFSS in opportunities for student involvement. Build SFU would continue to provide the Community Builder award, and the proposed student life award would be complimentary.

The new document suggests a once-per-month award. Often such awards are provided by sponsors, which would increase visibility of the award and encourage corporate participation. Events and Promotions Committee indicated that they wanted to ensure that EPCOM was not voting on the individuals worthy of the award, and recommended that EXEC or another body handle the selection of successful nominees. A discussion would be necessary as to which body or sub body would be responsible for adjudicating the award nominees. However, executive officers did not wish to establish more committees or subcommittees given the number already in existence. Typically, SFSS has not been a part of the adjudication process of any award or bursary, given the administrative workload relating to any such adjudication. Council was potentially recommended given the diversity of representation.

A competitive process would be necessary through the provision of incentives to ensure that any such award provided by the Student Society would carry a certain level of prestige.

Concern has been raised in the past around the lack of award consolidation across the various the SFSS. There was a desire for a unified page on the website to collate all awards provided by the departments of the student society.

Communications Office indicated that the award should be housed within the organization with a process in place to ensure longevity for the award beyond the term of the current Board. It had been expressed previously that certificates were insufficient for recognition of members contributions to the organization and to student life at the university.

An internal document would be created to define the student life award and distributed throughout the organization with the procedures for nominations etc.

*Sharma entered at 12:36pm*

The Executive Committee was largely in favour with the establishment of a student life award in some form. The Vice President External Relations offered to assist the Vice President Student Life in creating a new draft. A clear method of implementation was requested.

The timeline of providing an award once per month was potentially problematic given the workload, once a semester may be best. However, it was expressed that once a month provided more adequate coverage of the diverse number of clubs, student unions, and organizations on campus, and enhanced opportunities for social media engagement.

**Action Item:** Vice President External Relations and Vice President Student Life would work on the matter and would bring the item back to EXEC when a decision was necessary.

#### **b. Special General Meeting Update**

Update on the Space Expansion Fund reallocation matter – in discussion with the legal counsel, an SGM would not override the establishing and amending referendum questions and thus any reallocation of funds would require a referendum question.

In discussion with the university on the establishment of a degree completion fund, it was indicated that the SFSS contributions would likely not provide sufficient support, and that the university may be able to support such a fund in its entirety.

#### **MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:06**

*Be it resolved to* recommend to BOD to strike the Space Expansion Fun item from the AGM agenda.

Providing support for international students was a continued goal for the organization, but this was not deemed the ideal opportunity to do so.

**CARRIED**

*Jukic entered 12:44pm*

As an action item from the meeting with the History Student Union, a written follow-up on the meeting had been provided to the union. Outstanding issues were the following:

- AGM/SGM livestreaming to Surrey and Vancouver
- AGM/SGM voting in Surrey and Vancouver
- Releasing the name of the Build SFU lender

Executive Committee discussed the promotion of SGM agenda item discussion on social media, but without formal tasking, a social media blast was not conducted. GRID, the History Student Union, and a number of interested clubs had been contacted personally by EXEC to invite them to participate at the Board meeting to set the SGM agenda.

AGM line item was over budget by \$1000 at present. The Build SFU department had offset a number of the costs previously, and that the SGM costs were estimated for \$7000.

An update on the street team hiring was provided, with a larger than expected number of returning applicants. Applications were expected to arrive last minute, as had been the case for previous hiring sessions.

While livestreaming was considered a possibility, voting presented a large number of potential issues. It may be extremely risky to attempt any such voting for the first time given the sensitivity of the matters to be placed on the SGM agenda.

Given the contributions of satellite campuses to the Build SFU levy, there was a desire to ensure that students who primarily study on the satellite campuses could vote in the SGM.

Additionally, it may be an opportunity to increase voter turnout, and serve as a trail run for potential expansion of Independent Electoral Commission services to the satellite campuses. However, the SFSS was based from the Burnaby campus, as indicated by the constitution, making it logistically difficult to include all campuses. A director indicated that it was not a logistic difficult for members to attend the SGM. A shuttle could potentially be provided between the campuses (with idea credited to At-Large Representative Langmead), however a number of issues could arise, including but not limited to the impact of shuttle delays to the meeting process. The SFSS was looking into opportunities, but voting may not be feasible. Streaming would be an option that could be considered. The organization would have to clearly document what has been done to enable voting on satellite campuses and why such solutions were ruled out. The document would have to be publically available to all members in order to demonstrate the efforts made by the organization to accommodate all members.

Opportunity for the SFSS to request academic amnesty from the SFU Senate for students participating in the Special General Meeting, led by the Vice President University Relations.

A number of options for satellite campus voting was proposed, including a phone call system where the results are unofficially announced at the SGM, and then the final physical ballots being collected for the official results. Such a system would a designated room on both campuses, with staff conducting check in and livestreaming. Issue was raised that students

cannot speak, unless they email a question in. If the people in those rooms are reporting votes, they can either have a videoconferencing system that could accommodate all students, or to have a volunteer counting the votes and phoning the votes in, which may constitute voting by proxy.

The provision of academic amnesty was a major issue at the University Senate in the past. SFU requested that members be allowed to participate in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Question was raised around the importance of an SFSS SGM to the academics of the university. It was indicated that Senate only wish to provide approval for academic amnesty should the matter be extenuating, as was the case for the TRC. While the building project may be of interest to the university, it may have little impact on the academic governance of the university. Senate is an autonomous body. All the organization can do is do its best to provide information and forward a request.

A calculation of risk on the inclusion and voting of was requested from the Build SFU General Manager

**MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:07**

Fatoba

~~Be it resolved to task the Vice President Student Services to research the associated risk of providing voting opportunities to members on the satellite campuses, as well methods to communicate the results of the research in a transparent manner.~~

It was expressed that the working group had already been conducting this research in the past, and a director requested that such research be made available in written format.

The Surrey Liaison indicated that Build SFU has been transparent in communicating updates and opportunities on the Surrey Campus.

**WITHDRAWN**

**Action Item:** Vice President University Relations would look into the opportunity of providing academic amnesty. Proposal would be received by Executive Committee by December 5<sup>th</sup>, with ratification by EXEC Dec 10

Vice President University Relations has requested from SFU VPs on academic amnesty. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 was the deadline.

**Action Item:** Request that the At-Large Representatives work on logistics of providing a shuttle between the campuses.

**Action item:** Budget for the Special General Meeting would be forwarded to FASC for a budget increase

**c. Townhall Debrief**

Townhall was a good idea in principle but improvements could have been made to the organization of the event. 4 other townhalls were being planned, taking into account the lessons learned from the first one. As part of the townhall meeting, the Board of Directors has

committed to providing answers, but it had been communicated to attendees that the feedback preparation would take time due to finals.

The Vice President External Relations was preparing a document on the townhall including requests from the membership.

#### **Followup Items and Project Leads**

- Written statement from Ross on the perceived preferential treatment of athletes at the AGM – Build SFU General Manager
- Creating comprehensive list of outreach efforts on the AGM and SGM – Build SFU, with supplementation from BOD.
  - Would ensure that perceptions of athlete preference could be addressed
  - Would also serve as a to do list for the SGM
- Creating simple to read financial documentation on the Build SFU project for financial transparency – Vice President Finance and Build SFU General Manager

A director wished to have the documentation from the townhall made available to the membership

#### **MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:08**

Potvin

Be it resolved to task the Vice President Student Life to work with the communications office to work on the creation of a history section on the website.

The committee may wish to simply provide an explanation of the need to the Communications Coordinator as opposed to having a Board member intervene in the process.

#### **CARRIED**

### **7. Executive Officer and Staff Updates**

#### **ITEM STRUCK**

Potvin

It was reminded that the items in updates should be limited to those that are of concern to other executive officers.

### **8. Announcements**

SFU was launching a community consultation on a series of projects that would be conducted in order to make the campus more accessible for students with mental health needs.

### **9. In Camera Session**

#### **MOTION EXEC 2014-12-03:04**

Potvin

*Be it resolved to move the meeting in camera with management*

**10. Attachments**

**11. Adjournment**

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DC /CUPE 3338

## **Student Life Award**

I am proposing that the SFSS establish a student life award, in recognition of member contributions to improving the SFU(SFSS) community. This would constitute a first step towards establish the SFSS Appreciation Gala, an annual event that appreciates the wonderful achievement of our members and staff to the society as well as the general community as a whole.

### **Selection**

Selection will be done by the events committee, which will be based on individuals sending a **50 word response** with the individual to the GO, and Resource Office, Collectives, or Project Leads who forwards this to VP Student Life, who already signs off on certificates already. **Exec or subcommittee** hear out the nominees and votes or is posted online for students to vote. Winners are messaged, photographed and promoted on our social media. The resource office, communications as well as the General office will be instrumental for this. There will be a need to look at the selection diagram for sustainability.

**Goal: Objective** To promote the diverse member initiatives contributing to the quality of member life at SFU

### **Effect Outcome**

- It makes Clubs and DSU's feel much more appreciated as they are part of the community building process of the SFSS
- It allows more traffic on our social media page and cross markets us with other platforms
- It gives us relevance in providing much more than certificates that are available to everyone in the organization
- It advertises the organization as being complex in it's process of promoting and advocating for the community. It shows that each and every individual is part of the process of advocating for the organization.
- It gives ownership to individuals who are working at a grassroot level on behalf of the organization.

**Selection:** Done every month to prevent affecting or taking away from our Social Media. Potentially housed under the communications department as an outreach initiative, with GO as well as Resource office nominating individuals based on feedback from general events and activities that happen from Clubs, DSU's and constituency groups.

### **Summary**

- Selection will be monthly.
- Organization offices will nominate names to VP Student Life who brings it to the events committee table.
- Selection by votes and contacted for their award and picture for social media.

### **General Comments**

Build SFU would like to keep the Community Builder Award as a project associated with the Build Project.

The idea is well supported but there's a need for it to be looked at from it being sustainable.

A committee is not where this conversation should be had, Exec could look at it from an organization and it's potential need to consolidate the amount that's spent on appreciation especially in light of the Volunteer Program and it's current.

Idea of keeping nominations open so that it can allow applications to come in, an online form where students can nominate themselves with the compilation going to a working group at board. This working group would potentially handle the different level of appreciation as well as manage the fund that would be designated for all society appreciation. Given the Communications office would be involved in promoting this it can either be housed under an office or added to the organization which allows sustainability.

Qualifications+Procedures as well as Management are core requirements of making it sustainable and thus more representatives are needed to bring this idea to life.

**This slowly develops the plans towards the Volunteer Appreciation Gala which is currently being planned and underway.**