

Call to Order – 3:34 pm, January 26, 2015 | Build SFU Think Tank

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 University Relations Moe Kopahi (*late*)

Society Staff

Build SFU Administrative Coordinator Sabiha Jukic
Build SFU General Manager..... Marc Fontaine
Campaigns, Policy, and Research Coordinator Pierre Cassidy
Communications Coordinator..... Stijn Daenens
Executive Director..... Colleen Knox
Minute Taker Dion Chong

Guests

Chief Electoral Officer..... Oscar Lira
At-Large Representative Rebecca Langmead
Business Representative Shadnam Khan
Arts and Social Sciences Representative Brady Wallace
Communications, Art, and Technology Representative Shirin Escarcha
Education Representative..... Katie Bell
Environment Representative Tesicca Truong
Councilor Marija Jovanovic (*late*)

Absence

Vice President Student Life Kayode Fatoba

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION EXEC 2015-01-26:01

Potvin

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION EXEC 2015-01-26:02

Kopahi

Be it resolved to approve the minutes of 2014-12-18 and 2015-01-19 as amended

Page 2 of December 18th, VP finance says that if there is a 75% that FBS would be hypothetically closed, as opposed to authoritatively closed. It was expressed that the Board of Directors would be forced to take actions based upon an overwhelming show of support or opposition in a hypothetical situation.

Page 7 – UPass Advisory Committee had not been contacted about joint funding – email sent December 3rd looped in both representatives of the UAC.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

4. Discussions

a. Special General Meeting Debrief

A director saw the rationale for the 35% of the membership in attendance of the SGM having voted down the Build SFU debenture question. Rather than being a vote in opposition to the idea of the Student Union Building, it was over “the way that it was done”—concerns of the SFSS not having fulfilled its due diligence in representing the needs of the membership and having failed in providing balanced information such that the membership was provoked to provide this information. This was also reflected in the Board of Directors having been so overwhelmingly in support of the project when the original approving referendum for the project was not overwhelmingly in favour.

Further, a number of directors took issue with the sudden revelation that the debenture question could’ve been submitted through referendum. The inability for the Board to provide an answer to the question on that matter greatly impacted perceptions that the Board had done its due diligence.

The Committee was reminded that although the outcomes for some questions may not have been the most desirable options, the meeting itself was a success. Having over 600 members attend a General Meeting without any impeachments on the agenda was unprecedented in the recent history of the student society and was a very positive outcome from member engagement. It was recommended that future general meetings continue to be held in the West Gym, given member interest over the past year. Further, the livestream was accessed by over 200 members, with no cost to the Society other than staff time managing the stream. It was the hope of the board that web-conferencing in the future could allow multiple campuses to be directly involved in the meeting proceedings. At present, few rooms on either the Vancouver and Surrey campuses were equipped for the web-conferencing sought by the Society. Members expressed issues with the voting outcomes, particularly in that members were voting twice on a motion with no consequence. Further, while board members with speaking points were prepared to answer certain questions, questions which did not fulfill the speaking points of any member were often unanswered, which was cause for further concern from the membership.

Concern was raised that the Faculty and At Large Members were unaware of the option to pursue the matter through referendum.

In a review of the Society Act with legal counsel, the final article of the Special Resolution section permits alternative voting methods, which the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator did not interpret referenda as being an acceptable alternative option in contrast with the legal counsel interpretation, both of which were not provided formally to the Board as a whole. Timing difficulties did not allow the board to pursue referenda, particularly since they can only be held in two periods per year. Additionally, board members were only informed of the referendum option the day before the AGM.

As a director understood it, referenda was always possible by the AGM/SGM was being sought to adhere to strict timelines relating to project financing. This was the answer given by members of the Society to the SFU Senate, and was fact checked by the legal counsel, who

provided the answer to the four SGM planners the day before the SGM. They did not realize that this understanding was not shared by the Board of Directors as a whole.

It was deemed concerning by a board member that both executive officers and staff had openly expressed through various forums that the AGM/SGM were the only possible options to pass the debenture question, as opposed to a better option.

The Committee had significant discussion over the theoretical timelines for IEC establishment, given the Board's role in mandating the establishment of the IEC for the purpose of running referenda. The Board was unaware that a referendum could be pursued until after the AGM had been conducted, after which the Board was made aware of the 60 members who could not access the venue, which likely would've necessitated an SGM regardless. Referenda also would've required 75% of 5% of the membership to have voted in favour in a referenda with no other major questions. However, directors pointed out that there was ample time and opportunity for the matter to be taken up through referenda, given the period between the AGM and the deadline for referendum questions. Directors indicated that they were blocked from attempting to pursue the question via referenda.

The EXEC was reminded that goal of discussions was on the relative merits of taking out the loan, but was derailed by discussions on the project principally. The Board has now received a mandate not to pursue the loan, but the mandate to maintain the project continues.

During the Board retreat, the BOD collectively made a decision on the Annual General Meeting as the venue to pursue the debenture. Both referenda and general meetings have pros and cons. The desire is for discussions to be conducted about steps moving forward.

MOTION EXEC 2015-01-26:03

Kopahi

~~Be it resolved to move the meeting in camera without staff or management~~

FAILED

Moving forward, the following items were identified by a director as having to be discussed.

- Direction for the Build SFU department
- Direction and leadership on the SUB project moving forward
- Response of the bank

Directors expressed concern that excessive discussion was not resulting in tangible actions. The Executive Committee was reminded that the matter could be taken up at the in camera session at the BOD meeting of 2015-01-28. Further, there continued to be significant student support for the project, with significant confusion from the meeting having been sourced from confusion over voting procedures and members calling the question during the meeting. Directors were invited to consider ways which the project could potentially change to meet the needs of the membership.

Election will begin very soon. Executive officers considered hosting a brainstorm and bringing a number of basic approaches to the board for approval, which would expedite the discussions. However, Faculty and At Large Members indicated that they were also involved with the project and that full discussions needed to take place regardless of the length of the meetings, particularly given the scale of the project. Proposed solutions could be considered for the Board

meeting on Wednesday, where all items of business would be struck from the agenda (other than transit referendum, Student At Large appointments, and potentially FASC motions).

Action Item: The President would send out an email inviting interested board members to a brainstorm session on the steps forward for the Build SFU project.

Commitment letter for project financing has lapsed, however the financial institution continues to be interested in working with the Student Society

b. Staff Priorities

Current Staff Priorities:

- Management – bargaining, three hiring committees over the next month
- Communications – EPCOM work
 - Confusion was expressed of how the EPCOM projects contributed to the Board strategic priorities
- Advocacy Committee – campaigns on international student tuition fee increases, open textbooks, Kinder Morgan transmountain pipeline, transit referendum
- Finance Office – no major projects at present
- Surrey Campus – space expansion, spring gala

The directors considered looking into staff and committee input and mapping them against strategic priorities, ignoring any initiatives which do not fall within the priorities. It was expressed that staff should avoid projects outside of the approved priorities, however this required commitment from the board, as the staff were being placed into a difficult position where they were being forced to say no to their employer.

A director may put forward a motion to enforce the workload of staff as a process which flows through the Executive Director and board priorities. The understanding was that the strategic plan and priorities motion had that force and effect, but this could be repeated to be clear.

5. Executive Officer and Staff Updates

Vice President University Relations

- Working with Surrey Campus on space renovations. 2 proposals going to Student Space Oversight Committee.
 - Hoping to provide 40-80 study seating space for Surrey
- CBC Radio contacted the Student Society regarding fake cheque going to SFU students. SFU Vice President Finance is following up.

President

- Bargaining continues – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Invited to speak at the Burnaby Board of Trade local government event – met Mayor Corrigan who was interested to participate in Kinder Morgan pipeline activity at SFU. Advanced Education Critic – legislature meeting in 2 weeks. SFSS was invited to speak on student issues to them directly prior to the opening.

- Joint Operations Group meeting and SFSS/GSS meeting with President Petter next week. Agenda to be set by Wednesday.
- Sciences Representative would be attending a meeting regarding the transit referendum that Downtown Surrey Business Association was hosting.
- Translink hosting a Lunch and Learn on campus – January 27 from 12pm to 1pm.
- UBC AMS has been in contact over the transit referendum – interested in meeting with student leaders advocating on the issue on February 2nd at Harbour Centre – 5:30 to 7:30.
- Board agenda items – endorsing the yes side of the transit referendum and endorsing the better transit and transportation pledge
- Open Textbook Campaign presentation on Wednesday
- Elections Canada and Student Services would like to book vending during federal elections to provide oncampus voting for all any and all ridings for the full 2 week period leading up to elections
- History Student Union /No to Build SFU campaign met with the President and raised a formal complain that they have received less than pleasant treatment in SFSS spaces. Board was reminded that the board represents all members of the Society.

Executive Director

- Setting up and supporting 3 hiring committees, and meeting where necessary.
- Preparing for bargaining and research for bargaining, as well as attending
- 2 requests from Vice President Finance for OOC and WCTR budgets

Vice President Finance

- Preparing SGM information, including FBS financials and Build SFU financing.
- Meetings of Finance and Administrative Services Committee.
- Unrestricted surplus reductions due to overruns with management consultant line item as well as FBS.
 - Continued to project a budget surplus
 - Changes with OOC and WCTR budget were likely.

Communications Coordinator

- SFU's Got Talent – issue was raised with the comments being made by members of the organizing team in their capacity as representatives of an SFSS initiative, particularly around the scrutiny made of members who audition.
- Elections were incoming.
- Budgeting departmentally.
- Transit campaign
- SFU 50th Anniversary Campaign – hoping to jump onboard many events
- Excited about staff meeting in February to consolidate advertising across the organization

Vice President Student Services

- SGM Elections
- Serving on the Women's Centre Coordinator hiring committee

January 26, 2015 – Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

- Concert work continued – announcement tomorrow, tickets by end of week
- First UPass Appeals Committee meeting
- Translink – site visit with Translink next week for Compass.

Vice President External Relations

- Policy changes incoming with the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator
- Advocacy – Sex Week 2015 approved for a quarter of the ADV budget, 3\$500 for transit referendum. Was originally hoping to reallocate some funds to the unrestricted surplus.
- Considering changes to the way society communications are managed internally and externally.
- Bargaining work.

Build SFU General Manager

- Surrender of Lease document still needs to be signed as the Society has already committed to leaving the space.
 - Working drawings phase funding of \$3.5 million came from the surrender of lease. The University provided this funding, so the space either has to be surrendered to the amount would have to be repaid. There is a 5 to 6 year grace period to pay the funding back if the document is signed, likely sourced from the Space Expansion Fund or the Build SFU Levy. If not, the university would ask for the funding immediately
- Construction documents are at 90%. Will be at 100% over the next month. Design is set in stone.

The Peak indicated that the Build SFU levy has been cancelled, which is incorrect.

6. Attachments

7. Adjournment 4:30pm

DC /CUPE 3338