

Graduate Council

Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2007 – Council meeting C.2007-3

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY COUNCIL

1. Call to order

Michael Letourneau called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Appointment of the chair

MOVED that Michael Letourneau be appointed as the chair for this meeting of Council

(Moved: Liang / Seconded: Steimel)

CARRIED

3. Appointment of the secretary

MOVED that Clea Moray be appointed as the secretary for this meeting of Council

(Moved: Arndt / Seconded: Kent)

CARRIED

4. Introductory matters

Council members present:

Archaeology	Ursula Arndt
Biology	Andreas Steimel
Chemistry	Usana Al-Atar (entered during the meeting)
Computing Science	Mike Letourneau
Earth Sciences	Derek Turner
Education	Marcus Liang
Geography	Cyrille Medard de Chardon
Health Sciences	Liane Fransblow
Kinesiology	David Jones
Latin American Studies	Valerie Duquette
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Cheryl Schroeder
Political Science	Brent Smith
Sociology/Anthropology	Dave Kent
Executive (non-voting)	Clea Moray

Council members absent:

Communications	Becky Scott
Engineering Science	Shirin Karimifar

English	Graham Lyons
History	Kathy McKay
Mathematics	Paul Vrbik
Philosophy	Kyle Jackson
Psychology	Carroll Boydell
Statistics and Actuarial Science	Kyle Vincent
Urban Studies	Billy Collins
Executive (non-voting)	Doug Ross

Guests present:

Angela Johnston (member, Gerontology)

The Chair declared quorum present

MOVED to accept the excuses of Doug Ross, Shirin Karimifar, Becky Scott, Billy Collins, Graham Lyons, Carroll Boydell & Kathy McKay

(Moved: Medard de Chardon / Seconded: Fransblow)

CARRIED

The chair announced that Joel Blok has resigned from the Society's Executive Committee and is thus no longer a member of Council.

5. Adoption of the agenda

MOVED to adopt the agenda of this meeting of Council

(Moved: Arndt / Seconded: Medard de Chardon)

CARRIED

The Chair declared the agenda adopted with amendments.

6. Statement from chair

The Chair welcomed new Council members

6. Approval of minutes of past meetings

MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2007 meeting of Council.

(Moved: Arndt / Seconded: Schroeder)

CARRIED

8. Reports from the Committees

a. Executive Committee [Item C.2007-3-1]

Arndt delivered an oral summary of the written report from the Executive Committee (*the written report, as circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-1*).

b. Society Relations Committee

Kent reported that the Committee has met twice since the last Council meeting. Its current main focus is interactions with external groups concerning matters relating to grads leaving the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) for The Graduate Student Society, in particular the groups that receive funding on campus from grad students through the SFSS. After the Society's fees referendum the Committee will be working with the SFSS on agreements about shared services. The Committee will also be working on a terms of reference document, but this is a lower priority.

c. Electoral Committee

Letourneau reported that the Committee was reconvened to open elections for the vacant position on the Executive Committee. The SFSS Graduate Issues Committee has authorized payment of honorariums in the amount of \$175 per month for members of the Executive Committee. Council members who would like to nominate themselves should contact Dan Haas by email.

d. Caucus Funding Rules Committee [Item C.2007-3-2]

(the written report, as circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-2).

Liang reported that the Committee met twice, and that Boydell sent out the funding proposal to Council members and received feedback.

Letourneau summarized the funding proposal.

Kent asked whether caucus childcare funding had been considered.

Letourneau stated that it had not, but could be considered as a budget item but that the Society's revenue might be too limited to support this.

Moray suggested that a special fee to support childcare funding could be put to referendum.

Johnston expressed concern about the proposed decrease in core funds for Gerontology, since this caucus currently uses all its core funds and much grant funding also. She requested that the funding committee consider the level of activity of caucuses when deciding how to allocate funds.

Letourneau stated that information on caucus activity had been obtained from the SFSS and reviewed by the funding committee, and that he hoped that grant allocators would be sympathetic to the needs of small caucuses. One of the recommendations from the funding committee is that Council set up a committee to evaluate grant requests.

The SFSS grant system was discussed.

Letourneau stated that unlike the SFSS, the Society currently has no regulations that prohibit grant funding for purely social events.

9. Old business

There was no old business.

10. Items recommended from Committees

a. Executive Committee

i. Appointment of semester chair [Item C.2007-3-3]

(The recommendation, as circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-3).

MOVED that Council appoint Michael Letourneau as chair of the Graduate Council for the remainder of the Fall semester.

Further **MOVED** that Michael Letourneau coordinate and call the first meeting of the Graduate Council for the Spring semester.

(Moved: Steimel / Seconded: Arndt)

CARRIED

ii. Legal representation [Item C.2007-3-4]

(The recommendation, as circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-4).

MOVED that the Society enter into a contract with Pivot LLP to retain Mary Childs as general legal counsel for the Society.

Further **MOVED** that the Society pay a retainer of no more than \$3000 to Pivot LLP to retain their services for this purpose.

(Moved: Arndt / Seconded: Liang)

Moray gave an overview of the process that had been used to arrive at a recommendation for legal representation. She stated that the legal counsels of the TSSU and the SFSS had been asked for recommendations, and that multiple lawyers had been contacted. She described the credentials of Mary Childs of Pivot LLP.

Letourneau described the credentials of other attorneys who had been considered.

Council discussed the \$3000 retainer that Childs has requested.

CARRIED

iii Creation of committees [Item C.2007-3-5]

(The recommendation, as circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-5).

MOVED that Council establish the Social Committee, Benefit Plan Committee, Funding Committee, Grad Bull Committee, and Childcare Committee as standing committees of Council.

(Moved: Kent / Seconded: Schroeder)

Moray stated that the proposed committees are analogous to the SFSS Graduate Issues Committee working groups and that by creating these committees the working group functions can start to be migrated over to the Society.

Schroeder asked why the motion did not include a committee analogous to the Graduate Issues Committee Autonomy Subcommittee (GIC-AS).

The Chair stated that the Society Relations Committee was approximately analogous to GIC-AS

CARRIED

b. Caucus Funding Rules Committee

(the proposed regulation was circulated to Council members prior to the meeting as part of the Committee's report, and is attached to these minutes as item C.2007-3-2).

MOVED that Council adopt that which is given here as regulation for the necessary and useful administration of the Society.

(Moved: Liang / Seconded: Kent)

The Chair noted that this motion requires a ¾ majority to pass.

Duquette enquired what the funding to Latin American Studies (LAS) would be.

Letourneau described the funding available to LAS and summarized the funding proposal.

Duquette requested clarification on the current SFSS funding policies.

Letourneau described the current SFSS funding policies.

CARRIED

11. New business

a. Referendum endorsement

MOVED that council endorse “yes” votes for referendum questions on membership fees and levies for the Society’s general membership fee, capital levy, health & benefit plan levy, UPass levy, Peak fee, SFPIRG fee, CJSF fee, Student Refugee Program fee, and First Nations Student Association fee.

(Moved: Kent / Seconded: Liang)

Moray explained the proposed referendum questions and elaborated on the external organizations who might be granted funding if the referendum questions pass.

Council discussed the merits of the various organizations and fee levels at length.

Several Council members expressed reservation about endorsing a yes vote for the Peak question. Specific concerns included the Peak’s quality, it’s relevance to grad students, the large amount of the fee, and the possibility of funding a grad student newspaper instead.

Johnston suggested that a smaller per-student fee to support the Peak be considered.

Moray stated that the current per student fees for SFPIRG, CJSF, and the Peak are all based on the membership fees of these organizations, and that the fee collection constitutes the collection of membership dues from students. She stated that collecting a smaller amount of money would be more akin to a donation.

Several Council members stated that they would prefer a motion in support of the external groups, but not necessarily in support of the amount of the fees they receive from students.

Usana Al-Atar entered the meeting.

MOVED to vote immediately

(Moved: Liang / Seconded:)

CARRIED

CARRIED (Schroeder opposed)

b. Appointments to committees

i. Electoral committee

The Chair stated that he is resigning from this Committee and declared nominations open for two vacancies.

Arndt nominated Karen Kelly.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

MOVED to ratify Karen Kelly to the Electoral Committee

(Moved: Arndt / Seconded: Liang)

CARRIED

ii. Other Committees

Moray stated that she will circulate an email to Council members about vacancies on other Committees and that nominations for these will be held at the next Council meeting.

12. Open discussion / Announcements

The Chair stated that he will send a reminder email for people to send in their schedules to aid in selecting a standing time for Council meetings.

13. Conclusion

MOVED to conclude this meeting of Council.

(Moved: Liang / Seconded: Kent)

CARRIED

The Chair declared the meeting concluded at 1:42 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Clea Moray.
5 Attachments.

Approved by Council:

Michael Letourneau, Chair

Clea Moray, Secretary

Date Approved