

# **The Computing Science Student Society**

## **General Meeting 87.02.10**

### **Agenda**

**Location: Pub Seminar Room**

**Chairperson: Rob Holstein**

1.
  - a) Ratification of the Chair
  - b) Ratification of the Agenda
  - c) Ratification of previous Minutes.
2. Nomination and Election of Executive Positions Open (and current nominees):
  - President (Rob Holstein, incumbent)
  - Vice President (Keith Gillett)
  - Secretary (Curt Sampson)
  - Treasurer
3. Presentation by Rob Clift (S.F.S.S. President): The PSSU Initiative
4. Nomination and Election of Committee Representatives Positions Open (number of positions, current nominees):
  - Responsibility in Research (2)
  - Departmental Hardware/Software (1, Curt Sampson)
  - Departmental T. A. Review (1)
  - Departmental Undergraduate Program (1, Andrew Fall)
  - Activities / Resources (Any number)
5. Vote on Continuation of Ad Hoc Committies  
The following committies will accept volunteers if continued
  - Jacket / T-Shirt / Button (Rob Holstein, Shelley Reeder)
  - Propaganda Committee
  - Silly Committee
6. Ratification of Letter to teaching staff, re: Exam File
7. Ratification of Star Wars Saga Presentation with C.S.F.
8. Mail
9. New Business (floating)
10. **Have Social!!!**

# Minutes of the Computing Science Student Society

February 10th, 1987 12:30 pm Pub Seminar Room

Chairperson: Rob Holstein

11 present, quorate

Executive Present: Rob Holstein, Curt Sampson

1. a) Ratification of the Chair (Moved/Seconded, 10 aye/0 nay/0 abstain)

b) Ratification of the Agenda

A "T-Shirt Logos" item was added after item 7. (M/S, 10/0/0)

c) Ratification of previous Minutes (M/S, 9/0/1)

2. Nomination and Election of Executive

There was only one nominee for each position, all were elected.

President: Rob Holstein (Ph: ) (9/0/1)

Vice President: Keith Gillett ( ) (9/0/1)

Secretary: Curt Sampson ( ) (9/0/1, Sampson abstaining)

Treasurer: Carol McLean ( ) (9/0/1)

3. The presentation by Rob Clift (S.F.S.S. President) was tabled until after item 7 on the agenda as he had not arrived at this time.

4. Nomination and election of committee representatives:

Motion: "Seeing that no positions are contested and that none of the candidates are unacceptable to the members of the Computing Science Student Society, we accept all volunteers for these positions without holding an election." (Sampson/S, 10/0/0)

Responsibility in Research: Brian Sentence is the current secretary, and it was decided that he should be a representative of the C.S.S.S. as well.

Departmental Hardware/Software Cttee.: Curt Sampson

Departmental T. A. Review: vacant

Departmental Undergraduate Program Cttee.: Andrew Fall, Carol McLean

Activities/Resources Ctts.: Rob Holstien (This committee has no limit on the number of people that may join. Anyone else is welcome.)

5. Vote on continuation of ad-hoc committees.

The Jacket/T-Shirt/Button committee is being continued with Rob Holstein,

Shelly Reeder ( ) and Keith Gillett on it.

The Propaganda committee has expired.

The Silly Committee is being continued with Tammy Wood ( ) and Darrel Fuller ( ) on it.

- 5a. Exam policy:

We have had problems previously with people taking exams to photocopy and not returning them until several hours or days later. No policy was put in writing, but it was decided that students should be strongly encouraged to bring back the exams within fifteen minutes. Penalization of students not adhering to this policy was discussed, but since it is hard to implement we will simply "chew out" anyone returning an exam late.

Curt Sampson was directed to look into the prospect of obtaining exams for our file from the Department of Computing Science central exam registry.

6. Ratification of letter to teaching staff, re: Exam File (M/S, 9/0/0)

- 6a. Motion: "That the executive be directed to send memos to the Department of Computing Science regarding C.S.S.S. meetings and the exam file whenever deemed necessary." (M/S, 8/0/1)



7. Ratification of the "Star Wars Saga" presentation with C. S. F.  
The executive applied for a grant of \$300 from C.D.S.U. to co-sponsor a showing of the movies "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back," and "Return of the Jedi" with Cinema Simon Fraser. As the grant request had to be in before the next C.S.S.S. general meeting, the executive decided to go ahead with the plan and ratify it at the next general meeting. (M/S, 8/1/0, Opposed: Rob Clift)
- 7a. Presentation by Rob Clift on the P.S.S.U. initiative.  
See the attached briefing paper for details. Rob noted that this initiative is no longer sponsored by the P.S.S.U. but only by Ray Li. There was much discussion and Curt Sampson, as Forum Representative, was directed to vote against calling a referendum on this issue, should the question come up.
- 7b. The T-Shirt Logos item was tabled until after item 9 because a large amount of discussion was anticipated and other business had to be completed.
8. Mail. The following memos were received and filed (M/S, 9/0/0)  
From: Fieldworker, C.D.S.U. Re: Visiting Lecturer  
From: Wo-Shun Luk Re: New Directorship  
From: Jim Delgrande Re: A.I. Group Meetings
9. New Business: The Liason from the Graduate Student Caucus had a budget which we had to ratify (attached). (M/S, 9/0/0)
- 9a. T-Shirts/Jackets: a new logo has been put forward as a candidate for the Jacket logo, and it was decided that this was better. The Jacket/T-Shirt/Button committee will prepare a presentation and the final vote will be taken next meeting.

The P.S.S.U. Initiative

Paul Blundie  
Internal Materials JNGam, SPSS

87 02/02

## Student Union Briefing Document

### The PSSU By-Law Initiative

Paul Mendes  
Internal Relations Officer, SFSS

87.02.02

R&E  
4/10/2/10

## INTRODUCTION

This paper shall serve as a vehicle for discussion at the Student Union level of the amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Simon Fraser Student Society proposed by the Political Science Student Union.

The proposed amendment reads as follows:

The Simon Fraser Student Society shall not spend compulsory student dues on campaigns which attempt to persuade or dissuade students to/from voting for or against a political party or parties in civic, provincial, or federal elections.

To understand the complexity of the issue leading up to the initiative launched by the PSSU, a review of the incident leading up to the proposal of this amendment follows.

## BACKGROUND

During the month of October, the Student Society ran a campaign coinciding with provincial voter registration and the October 22 provincial election. The spirit of the campaign was to bring to the forefront the various political parties' agendas for BC, the issue of funding cuts to Post-Secondary system, as well as the BC Student Assistance Program. Specifically the campaign centered around the issues as they related to students at SFU, issues such as course cuts, student aid and tuition fee increases.

The final decision to implement the campaign was ratified at a duly held and quorate meeting of Student Society Forum, at the recommendation of the Student Society External Committee.

Upon approval through the due process outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Society, the result was a campaign consisting of posters, leaflet and fact sheet distribution, and classroom speaking. The "slogan" of the campaign was: *For the Future of Education -- Change the Government.*

## THE RESULTS

There were many "results" to the campaign, of which only the pertinent ones will be discussed in this paper.

Firstly, there was the anticipated reaction expressed by some members of the Social Credit party on campus, one of whom tried to raise the issue in the courts by contesting that the campaign was a violation of rights guaranteed under the federal charter. For some reason, the case was never advanced.

Secondly, there was the point raised by the members of the Political Science Student Union, that somehow, the campaign overstepped the limitations of the mandate of the Student Society Forum. (This point will be discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this paper).

Finally, perhaps the most important result of the campaign was that it was a success. It was successful in the sense that it contributed to the efforts of all student



organizations across the province to bring the sad state of Post-Secondary Education to public attention. The proof of this was the unprecedented importance of Post-Secondary issues in the actual election campaign. Further proof is that the elected government recognized our concerns, and as a consequence, struck a committee (with student representation), to review the inadequate student aid program and to make recommendations to improve it. Most importantly, the president of the Student Society, Robert Clift, was appointed to the committee to represent the interests of all students in BC. This clearly indicates that our campaign, which was considered anti-Socred, has enhanced the credibility of the Student Society and its president.

## THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The proposed amendment put forward by the Political Science Student Union is motivated by a concern that the campaign's intent, as reflected in its "slogan", was somehow beyond the "mandate" of the elected representatives of the Student Society.

The argument suggests that Student Society elected representatives, using funds collected through the student activity fee, have not represented in their actions the perspectives of all members of the Society. Furthermore, the PSSU amendment initiative suggests that, based on the above criteria, this campaign was somehow unethical.

It is true, one must concede, that this campaign could not represent the interests of all students on campus. (It's hard to believe that some students really do think that tuition should be higher, that cutbacks should continue, and that students who can't afford to attend shouldn't be helped). Using this argument, however, to limit the democratic function of the Student Society becomes problematic and requires further explanation.

## CONSTITUTION AND MANDATE

At this point, it is important to distinguish the intent of the PSSU amendment within the context of the Constitution of the Student Society and the "mandate" of the elected officials of the Society.

The PSSU initiative calls for the implementation within the Student Society Constitution of a structural constraint on the representative powers of the elected members of Forum. Unfortunately, the amendment confuses the concept of mandate with that of Constitution and By-Law jurisdiction.

It is important then to distinguish the fact that the decision making process involves not only the framework of due process set out by the SFSS Constitution, but also involves the principle of "mandate" set out by Student Society members who elect representatives to Forum to represent their interests.

## THE PROBLEM

The amendment, while sincere in its nature, could not only establish a very dangerous precedent, but also works directly against the principles of democracy outlined in the Society's Act of BC. That is to say that any organization, run democratically, does so because the organization's Constitution and By-Laws act as the structure ensuring that all decisions made by the organization are democratic.

The SFSS Constitution acts as a vehicle to ensure that all ideas brought through the process of the Student Society are given all the courtesies afforded by the principle of due process. Any change to the By-Laws that somehow hinders what decision making authority the Society's elected representatives have is counter to the principle of due process, and consequently is undemocratic.

To say that the amendment calls for dangerous precedent is to say that at one point or another someone may decide it fitting to limit other aspects of representatives' mandates or the Society's operations by way of another structural change of the Constitution.

## CONCLUSION

The argument then, is that mandates are not set out permanently, but instead are established democratically through Student Society elections to reflect the ever changing perspectives of the SFSS membership.

Essentially, the current structure of the SFSS as outlined by the Constitution and By-Laws is a democratic one and it thrives on participation. From our perspective the answer to problems as they arise on the question of democratic representation is not a court battle, or a specific constitutional constraint, but instead direct participation by the members in the decision making (election) process.

Submitted on behalf of the SFSS Executive Committee by,

Paul Mendes  
Internal Relations Officer

PGM/sh  
CUPE 2396

# Memo

From: Computing Science Student Society  
To: All Computing Science Teaching Staff  
Re: Exams

MEMORANDUM

As you probably know, we at the Computing Science Student Society keep a file of old exams for reference and to aid students when studying. Any Computing Science student may make copies of any exams he/she wishes.

In order to keep this exam file useful, however, we must keep it as up to date as possible. We would appreciate it if, after an exam, you would leave us any extra copies you might have. They can be deposited in the CSSS mailbox in the general office (near the lower right hand corner of the mailbox rack). Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Curt Sampson  
Vice President,  
Computing Science Student Society

Revised  
87/02/10



S I M O N   F R A S E R   U N I V E R S I T Y

M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Computing Science profs,  
instructors and T.A.'s

From: Computing Science  
Student Society

Subject: Computing Science Student  
Society general meeting

Date: February 4, 1987

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Would you, please, announce the upcoming meeting of the Computing Science Student Society in your classes: The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Feb. 10/87 at 12:30** in the pub seminar room during which we will be having nominations for and electing our executive and committee members for the spring semester. We will also be discussing items such as going ahead with producing jackets, t-shirts, buttons and the like this semester and our upcoming *Star Wars* triple bill which will be held later this month. *This meeting will be followed by a small social during which free food will be available.* There is a reminder that this meeting and social event will be open to all majors, minors, honours, grad students and others enrolled in any CMPT course(s). For more information or to submit nominations, leave a message in our mailbox in the CMPT general office, contact one of the current executive members (Curt Sampson or Rob Holstein), or send a message to our MTS id. (From MTS, one way is to type in *mess send to 'CSSS'*...From CSIL, type *mail* .)

:rh

Ratified  
47/02/10

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
MEMORANDUM  
SIMON FRASER STUDENT SOCIETY  
Committee for Departmental Student Unions  
AQ-2035A, 291-3131  
MEMORANDUM

**To:** Student Unions and Graduate Caucuses

**From:** Nick, Student Union Fieldworker

**Subject:** Visiting Lecturer

**Date:** 9 Feb 87

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A leading figure in the Japanese anti-nuclear movement will be visiting Vancouver next week, and will be available to speak at SFU if one or more Student Unions or Graduate Caucuses wish to sponsor his visit. Dr. Hiro Umbayashi left his post as a professor of Physics at Tokyo university to work full time on disarmament issues. He is the chairperson of "Tomakui Mushi-Sa," the National Movement Against Tomahawk Cruise Missiles, and of the Co-Ordinating Council for the Pacific Campaign to Disarm the Seas. He will be available to speak on nuclear weapons in the Pacific Rim on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 12:30--if a group wishes to invite him. If your organisation would be interested in sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, his visit, please let me know asap -call me at work / message 3181, or at home in the evening

ncw/cupe 2396

R&F  
8/2/02/10

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To.....Faculty, Staff, Graduate Students...

From.....Wo-Shun Luk.....

Subject.....New Directorship.....

Date.....1987 January 30.....

Well folks, it is now official (finally). Rick<sup>Hobson</sup> has been appointed as the Director of this school for the period February 1st, 1987 to August 31st, 1989. Congratulations, Rick. Thanks for your support and patience; I have very much enjoyed my term as the Director of this school for the past 17 months. I am sure Rick can count on your continued support too.

By the way, welcome to the Year of the Rabbit (Chinese Lunar Calendar). I hope you all run fast and reach your goals well ahead of schedule.

Vina  
for Wo-Shun Luk

:vr

ASF  
87/02/10



# Simon Fraser University

## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Grad Students.....

From: Jim Delgrande.....

Subject: Artificial Intelligence Group Meetings.....

Date: February 6, 1987.....

In an effort to get the AI group meeting again, Howard Hamilton has kindly volunteered to lead a discussion on next Thursday, Feb. 12, in LB 7004 at 12:30. The paper he's chosen is "Maintaining Knowledge about Temporal Intervals" by James Allen. As usual, three copies are in LB 7616.

If you want to be put on the mailing list for future meetings, please let me know.

R&E  
87/02/10

# COMPUTING SCIENCE GRAGUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Request for Funding

The CSGSA approved the following requests for funding for the spring semester of 87.

1. We wish to request \$25 for the purchase of a kettle. This kettle would be available to all our graduate students and be kept safely in our lounge.
2. We would also like to request \$200 for the purchase of books for our library. Computing Science being such a fast evolving field, it is important to provide students with good information on the new developments. A number of suggestions for books and journals arose from the last meeting, which could be used as reference to courses and thesis work.

On the behalf of all the computing science graduate students, I would like to thank you for considering our requests.

*Pierre Massicotte*

Pierre Massicotte  
President of the CSGSA

R&F