

COUNCIL UPDATE



GSS Council met on January 25 2013 for its first meeting of the year. Thank you to all councilors who were able to make this meeting.

Major decisions made at Council:

- Council ratified the Collective Agreement between the GSS at SFU and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3338, September 1 2012 - August 31, 2015. Thank you to the Bargaining Committee for all their work on reaching this agreement.
 - Council expressed concern about the short time period for Council to review the CA. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the Bargaining Committee at bargaining@sfugradsociety.ca
- The U-Pass Referendum is approaching in March 2013 and Council voted to approve the *wording* of the referendum question.
- In reviewing the Executive Director contract during the hiring process, it was noted that there were aspects of the overtime agreement that were out of date. Council approved the updated Executive Director Overtime Agreement as presented.
- Council approved stipending the former Executive Director, Elaine Parker, up to 55 hours at a rate of \$25 per hour for completing work on Council, Executive Committee, and General Meeting minutes that were outstanding from the Fall 2012 semester. These minutes will be provided to the Executive Committee by mid- to late- February 2013.
- Council approved that funds that had been previously collected from graduate students as the GSS Administrative Fees from the GSS's inception to Fall 2009 inclusive be transferred to the GSS for general use, and located in unrestricted net assets. This motion was recommended by the Auditor who noted that there was no official motion stating this in GSS records, despite practices reflecting such a decision.
- Council voted to adopt the position description for the Academic and Internal Relations Officer (AIRO). This position previously had no formal description in the GSS regulations. This description codifies the existing roles and responsibilities of the portfolio.
- At the end of a 1-year term, both Officers and Coordinators are required to produce a transition report as stipulated in by-law VIII-3b). Council approved the Executive transition report regulation which outlines the

required content of the transition report, how it will be used, and when it needs to be produced.

Discussions held at Council:

- Council discussed how to increase Council participation from councillors and also on what is the most effective way to undertake councillor orientation. Council discussed challenges with stipends and attendance as well as possibilities for making orientation mandatory. This is an ongoing discussion and the GSS welcomes caucus and councillor input.
- The Auditor, Gary Wozny, presented the draft Financial statements to Council. Council must approve the draft at the next Council meeting which then will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 26.
- Council discussed options available regarding the Capital Levy. Four options were presented and a straw poll indicated two that warranted further pursuit: (c) discontinue the Capital Levy and make all contributions to the Capital Fund from unrestricted surpluses; and (d) Rebalance the levy/student fee by changing the size and allocation of the Capital Levy. Furthermore, Council discussed options available regarding the Capital Levy interest. The Finance and Audit Committee will continue work on this.

Upcoming dates:

- **Next Council Meeting - Feb 22, 2013- 1 - 3:30 pm**
 - Location: TBD
- **Annual General Meeting! Feb. 26, 2013**
 - Doors open 11 am, 11:30 Meeting begins
 - Prizes for proportionally largest Caucus attendance (if quorum reached)
 - Volunteers needed! Contact mcro@sfugradsociety.ca
- Professional Development Grant Deadline - Feb. 1 2013
- Research Assistant Workshop - Feb. 7, 2013, 12:30 pm - 2 pm, GSS Boardroom
- Family Subsidy Deadline - Feb. 20, 2013
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Volunteer Appreciation Gala - March 19, 2013