

COUNCIL UPDATE

GSS Council met on June 18 2012 for its regular monthly meeting. It was a packed house - thank you to all the Councilors who continue to dedicate their time through the Summer semester for these meetings!

Major decisions made at Council:

- A motion to inform our members about the upcoming TSSU strike vote passed - members of the TSSU (who were TA's/TM's/SI's/ELC/ITP's in Fall 2011, or more recently) should vote on the strike mandate at polls on all three SFU Campuses between June 26-28 2012.
- Given the bids received for the provision of insurance services, the Benefit Plan Committee's recommendation to change providers from Sun Life to Desjardins, and include a Pay-Direct Card, while reducing medical practitioners from \$35 to \$30 per visit were approved. This package of recommendations all fit within the \$420 fee value which Council approved at its April 2012 meeting.
- Many regulations were changed by Council as the Governance Committee has continued to work on updates to our governing documents. Regulations approved included:
 - New Terms of Reference for the Electoral Committee.
 - Updated stipends to reflect the increased work expectations of the Electoral Committee members.
 - Updated stipends for Officers, Coordinators, Councilors, and the GSS Speaker.
 - A new regulation that stipulates how student leaders can adjust their hours.
 - Also, a Special Membership Fee regulation was circulated for information; this item will be further discussed and put forward for approval at Council in July.
- Given the work required in her portfolio, Cindy Jiang, Graduate Services Coordinator was granted more hours to complete her duties for the remainder of her term in office. Long-term proposals on how to address the demands in this Coordinator portfolio were presented; discussion about these proposals will occur at the July Council meeting.
- The GSS Executive Committee's Vision Statement was updated as a result of an Executive retreat that occurred earlier in the month.
 - *The Executive Committee of the GSS will foster an engaged graduate student community at SFU through effective communication and responsible stewardship.*
- The Hiring Committee composition for the Office Assistant position was approved by Council. Applications will be reviewed by this Committee and a recommendation is anticipated at the July 2012 Council meeting.

Discussions held & future directions:

- The Videoconferencing Working Group will hold its the full-scale trial at the July 23 Council meeting.
- A discussion about the GSS's Bargaining Committee and directions occurred. This discussion occurred *in camera* given that opening bids have not been exchanged yet.

Upcoming dates:

- Council - July 23, 1:00 - 3:00 PM (Thesis Defense Room/TELECONFERENCING TRIAL!)
- GSS Office will be closed from Friday June 29 to Monday July 2 (inclusive) due to staff holiday and Canada Day.
- Caucus Funding Deadline - July 3 @ 4:00 PM
- Professional Development Grant Deadline - June 1 @ 4:00 PM
- New Graduate Student Orientation will be held during the afternoon of September 4 2012

The full agenda package containing more details and information is available at www.sfugradsociety.ca.

