

# COUNCIL UPDATE



*GSS Council met on February 22 2013 for its monthly meeting. Thank you to all councilors who were able to make this meeting and for your continued dedication!*

## Major decisions made at Council:

- Council unanimously 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 hard work!
- The draft Financial statements for the 2011-2012 year were presented and accepted by Council.
- Council has been engaged in an ongoing discussion about the options available regarding the Capital Levy. Two options were presented for the wording of a referendum question that will be going to the general membership in the near future. Council made two friendly amendments to Option 1 and then moved to approve the question. Option 1 was the question that the Finance and Audit Committee recommended.
- The GSS has been involved with the Living Wage Campaign at SFU for numerous years. Council approved to empower the CERO to seek official certification of the GSS as a Living Wage employer by the Living Wage for Families Campaign.
- Council moved to support the initiatives being undertaken by SFU Vancouver graduate students to support the food vendors currently operating in the Harbour Centre food court. Current vendors are facing significant challenges, including eviction, as the management company (Polaris) pushes forward with plans to renovate the food court.
- GSS Officer elections are currently underway. Only one nomination was received for the position of Academic and Internal Relations Officer (AIRO). GSS Bylaw-XII, section 5.d.i states that if there is only one candidate at the end of the nomination period, then the candidate is ratified by a majority of Council at its next scheduled meeting. Council voted to table the ratification until the March 15 Council meeting to allow for Council to make a more informed decision.

## Discussions held at Council:

- Kristin Foster from StudentCare joined Council to provide an overview of StudentCare services and a review of changes and updates to the Health and Dental Plan.

Council was invited to ask questions and raise any concerns they may have had.

## Upcoming dates and events:

- **Next Council Meeting - March 15, 2013, 1 - 3:30 pm**
  - **\*\*Note Location:** Surrey Campus, Room 3280
  - **Social to follow!** Central City Brew Pub at 4 pm. Food, drinks, and brewery tours! Volunteers needed, email [mcro@sfugradsociety.ca](mailto:mcro@sfugradsociety.ca)
- **GSS Board Game Night - March 5th** in the GSS Lounge, 5-8 pm. Refreshments provided.
- GSS Officer Elections and UPass Referendum - Voting will take place **online** from March 11th-14th
  - Meet the candidates and ask them questions, **March 5th, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm** in the GSS Lounge
- Starting March 15th, the GSS will be in Surrey once a month to provide service to graduate students. Join us for the launch on **March 15th from 11:30 - 12:30 pm** in the Lunch Room on Podium 3. Delicious cupcakes will be served!
- *Don't forget to RSVP by March 12th!* Volunteer Appreciation Gala - March 19, 2013, 5 pm. For questions, contact [mcro@sfugradsociety.ca](mailto:mcro@sfugradsociety.ca)
- The GSS Office and Lounge will be closed on Friday, March 8th for International Women's Day.
- GSS Professional Development Grant Due April 2nd, 4 pm