

**Report of the Simon Fraser Student Society
Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

4:30pm

Images Theatre (Burnaby Campus)

www.sfss.ca/agm.pdf

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AGENDA

Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society
Local 23 of the Canadian Federation of Students
October 12, 2004 • Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

CALL TO ORDER – 4:30 October 12, 2004

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 22, 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society will be available for consideration by members.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Amendment By-Law 10.9
- b. Amendment By-Law 14.7
- c. Amendment By-Law 14.15
- d. Amendment By-Law 1
- e. Amendment By-Law 5.2
- f. Amendment By-Law 14.4
- g. Amendment By-Law 8.6

4. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A report will be presented detailing the activities of the Board of Directors from October 22, 2003 to October 11, 2004.

5. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE OMBUDSPERSON

The Student Society Ombudsperson will present a report.

6. RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM THE TREASURER

The Student Society Treasurer will provide an overview of the Student Society's finances.

7. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

An overview of the Student Society's Audited Financial Statement will be provided.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

The auditor responsible for the coming year's Audited Financial Statement will be appointed.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society
Local 23 of the Canadian Federation of Students
October 22, 2003 • Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

CALL TO ORDER – 4:43pm, October 22, 2003

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

AGM:10-22-03:001

Dent / Brooker

Be it resolved that Dave Huxtable be resolved as Chairperson for the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

AGM:10-22-03:002

Brooker / da Silva

Be it resolved that the minutes from the October 2002 Annual General Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Amendment By-Law 10.9

AGM:10-22-03:003

Dent / Brooker

Be it resolved the By-law 10.9 be amended to read: "Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting shall be 200 members in good standing of the Society."

Concern was raised that the Student Society is a \$4 million organization and that it would be dangerous to lower quorum.

Another member expressed concern that 200 students is not enough for quorum.

Other members argued that the Board members had to put a lot of time and effort into organizing the general meeting, and that it would be easier and more cost-effective to organize a meeting of 200 students, as opposed to 500.

Concern was raised that, if quorum was lowered, 200 students could vote to dissolve the Society.

Question was called.

Chairperson Huxtable asked if there was any opposition to proceeding to a vote.

Point of Order was raised around whether or not quorum was present.

Chairperson Huxtable called for a count of members present. Quorum was not present. Chairperson Huxtable stated that the bylaws could not be amended without quorum, and ruled that the meeting proceed to the presentation of the Board report, Ombudsperson report and Auditors report, as outlined in Bylaw 10.6.

4. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Member Services Officer Dent presented a report detailing the activities of the Board of Directors from May 1, 2002 until October 21, 2003 outlining the activities of the Simon Fraser Student Society.

AGM:10-22-03:004

daSilva / Jones

Be it resolved the Board of Directors report be adopted.

CARRIED

5. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE OMBUDSPERSON

Society Ombudsperson Laurine Harrison presented the Ombuds Office report from May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2003.

AGM:10-22-03:005

Bourke / da Silva

Be it resolved that the Ombudsperson's report be adopted.

CARRIED

6. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer Rabe provided an overview of the Student Society's finances for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. He noted that the Student Society ended the year with a surplus of \$49,794.

AGM:10-22-03:006

Booker/ Dorvault

Be it resolved that the Treasurer's report be adopted.

Kane asked what the total revenue for the SIMON FRASER STUDENT SOCIETY is.

Rabe stated \$1.27 Million.

Kane asked about the Operating budget.

Rabe stated that it is projected to be \$1.9 million

Kane asked what the expenses were.

Rabe stated the expenses are \$1.34 million, with an operating surplus of \$49,000.

CARRIED

7. RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

Society auditor Charlie Miller, of Thomkins, Wozny, Miller & Co. provided an overview of the Student Society's Audited Financial Statement.

AGM:10-22-03:007

Dent / da Silva

Be it resolved that the Auditor's report be adopted.

CARRIED

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

AGM:10-22-03:008

Da Silva / Dent

Be it resolved that Thomkins, Wozny, Miller & Co. be appointed as the Simon Fraser Student Society auditor for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

CARRIED

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

AGM:10-22-03:009

Jones / Caron

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

np/JW/CUPE 2396

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Be it resolved that By-Law 10.9 be amended to read:

Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting shall be two hundred and fifty members in good standing of the Society.

Be it resolved that By-Law 14.17 be amended to read:

- a. If only one valid nomination is received for a particular office, the nominated candidate shall have his or her name placed on a ballot with the options of yes or no. If the candidate receives more yes votes than no votes, the candidate shall be declared duly elected.
- b. Should the candidate receive more no votes than yes votes, the office shall be considered vacant, to be filled in accordance with Society By-Law.

Be it resolved that By-Law 14.15 be amended to read:

- a. During the balloting period, no campaign posters, signs or notices may be displayed or distributed and no personal or delegated activity may take place within 25 meters of any polling station.
- b. All campaign material must be removed within 24 hours of the close of polls.

Motion 1

Be it resolved that By-Law 1 be amended to include the definition of International Student as follows:

International Student means International Student as defined by Simon Fraser University.

Motion 2

Be it resolved that By-Law 5.2 be amended to read:

The Board shall consist of:

- a. The Executive Officers
- b. One student representative from each University faculty
- c. Two At-large students
- d. One At-large graduate student
- e. One At-large International Student

Motion 3

Be it resolved that By-Law 14.4 be amended to include 'c' and to read:

Any student who is an active member in good standing of the Society and who is a registered International Student may run for the At-large International Student position on the Board. Any student who is an active member in good standing of the Society and who is an International Student may vote for the At-large International Student position on the Board.

Motion 4

Be it resolved that By-Law 8.6 be amended by adding 'g' to read:

g. To be eligible as an acting at-large international student representative to the Board, the nominee must be an active member in good standing of the Society, a registered student, and a regularly elected member of Forum nominated by the International Students Constituency Group. If there is no active International Students Constituency Group, the nominee must be an active member in good standing of the Society, a registered international student, and a regularly elected member of Forum.

SOCIETY REPORT

Overview

Annually, the Student Society Board of Directors provides a report detailing its activities since the previous general meeting.

Although the report does not document all of the work of the Student Society, it does offer members a concise overview of the valuable work being done on behalf of students.

CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

Campaign to Reduce Tuition Fees

A major campaign of the Student Society has been the campaign to reduce tuition fees. The focus of the campaign has been to educate and mobilize students around education trends, the decline in provincial and federal government funding for post-secondary institutions, the increasing corporate control over public institutions, and the impacts of rising tuition fees. The Student Society also lobbies the university administration and actively participates in the efforts of the Canadian Federation of Students to lobby provincial and federal governments to increase funding for post-secondary education, reduce tuition fees and ensure that our institutions remain of a high quality.

The tuition fee boycott, which began in September 2003, saw more than 1,500 students withhold their tuition fee payments until November. Due to the efforts of the Society's Tuition Action Coalition, all monies collected from late payment penalties were added to the University's financial aid budget. In response to the University's draft budget for the 2004-2005 academic year, the Student Society produced an alternative budget. The Student Society analyzed the University's budget and found that the University could both avoid an increase to tuition fees and not need to make any cuts to existing budgets. Unfortunately, the University decided to increase tuition fees by 15% and make an across-the-board cut of 1.3%.

The campaign also featured a number of events, including a Tuition Carnival on November 12, a Gordon Campbell look-a-like contest and a soup kitchen. The Student Society also hosted the Canadian Federation of Students' "Bring Tuition Fees Back to Earth" tour on January 28 through 30, which included a seven-foot balloon with an image of Campbell on

a rocket labeled "tuition fees," petitions to reduce tuition fees and restore post-secondary education funding, and a speaker's corner-style booth where students could send a message to the provincial government about how rising tuition fees have affected them.

February 4th National Day of Action

On February 4, 2004, students from across Canada participated in the Canadian Federation of Students Day of Action in support of reduced tuition fees. At SFU, members rallied in Convocation Mall in a makeshift prison to protest rising fees and to show the education should not be a debt sentence. Students were then bused to the Vancouver Art Gallery to join with students from across the Lower Mainland in a rally and march to reduce tuition fees. More than 5,000 students attended the downtown rally.

Canadian Federation of Students

The Canadian Federation of Students was formed in 1981 to provide students with an effective and united voice provincially and nationally. The SFSS is a founding member, and is local 23 of the Canadian Federation of Students. Today the Federation is comprised of more than 450,000 students at more than 70 college and university student unions across the country.

The Federation has actively lobbied for greater accessibility in post-secondary education, a runs a number of successful campaigns including the No Means No campaign, the Where's the Justice campaign, a Charter of Rights challenge against the 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcy and the campaign against the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

The Federation also offers several services to help its members, including the Studentsaver discount program, the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), Travel CUTS, the Student Work Abroad Program and homes4students.ca, a national student housing database.

As in the past, the Student Society has actively participated in the efforts of the Federation and has sent representatives to each provincial and national general meeting of the Federation, as well as meetings of the Federation's BC Executive Committee and Skills Development weekends.

No Sweat SFU

The No Sweat SFU working group has been actively working with the University to implement an ethical purchasing policy for SFU. In the past year, the working group has hosted a No Sweat Fashion Show that featured designers, stores, and models in an ethical and vintage fashion show. An Ethical Purchasing Conference was held May 7 and 8, and brought together university and college administrators, student unions, and other stakeholders from across the country to discuss how to create and implement ethical purchasing policies.

Additional Campaigns

Along with the work around the Society's major campaigns, the Student Society also engaged in a number of projects.

The Burnaby Mountain Development working group continued to meet with the UniverCity Board of Directors to ensure affordable housing and a sustainable development on Burnaby Mountain.

The Equity and Human Rights working group undertook a campaign to create gender-neutral washrooms on campus and raise awareness around trans- and inter-sex issues.

The Corporate Influences working group continued to monitor how corporate donations affect the University.

The Aboriginal Issues working group joined with the First Nations' Student Association and the First Nations Student Centre to put on the Cedar Table Speaker's Series, which highlighted the systemic barriers facing First Nations students in the post-secondary education system.

UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Turnitin.com

The Student Society lobbied the University to ensure that the use of for-profit plagiarism-detection software such as Turnitin.com was not mandatory for students, and that students could opt to not use the service without incurring academic penalties. The Student Society also highlighted concerns around the software's effectiveness and the protection of students' intellectual property rights.

Millennium Scholarship Consultations

Student Society representatives attended the Millennium Scholarship Consultations held May 29, and lobbied for a nation-wide system of needs-based grants for students. Representatives were also critical of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's use of Foundation money for research supporting tuition fee increases and the Foundation's stance that tuition fees are not a barrier for access to post-secondary education.

First Student Loan

In January 2004, the Student Society and the University were approached by First Student Loan, a private loans company that was interested in disbursing loans to students who are ineligible for the Canada Student Loan program through the University's financial aid office. Upon reviewing the proposal and realizing that students would be charged exorbitant interest rates, the Student Society was successful in lobbying the University to reject the proposal.

Undergraduate Curriculum Changes

In May 2004, Senate approved radical changes to the undergraduate curriculum, to be effective in September 2006. The changes will require all students to complete a series of writing, quantitative and breadth courses as part of their graduation requirements. The Student Society participated in all aspects of the new requirements and lobbied on behalf of students during the planning stages. Student Society representatives continue to be involved in the implementation process.

Financial Aid Programs

In February 2004, the provincial government eliminated its \$80 million student grant program. The Student Society launched a campaign to reinstate the grant program, and encouraged all members to contact their local MLA to reinstate the program. In August, the government announced a \$30 million loan remission program intended to replace the grant program. The Student Society has been working with other members of the Canadian Federation of Students to ensure that any financial aid program meet the needs of students, with the eventual goal of a national system of needs-based grants.

Other Issues

The Student Society has also met with the University and submitted reports about a number of other issues, including the report of the Academic Honesty and Integrity Task Force, the proposed Intellectual Property policy, the closure of the Cashier's Office, the new student registration system, construction in and around residence buildings and policies surrounding new residences.

Government Relations

The Student Society has met with a number of Federal government ministers regarding issues around funding for post-secondary education and student aid, including Paul Bonwick (former MP for Simcoe-Grey), Ujjal Dosanjh (MP for Vancouver South) and Bill Siksay (MP for Burnaby Douglas).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Screening of *Discordia*

In collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada, the Student Society held two screenings of *Discordia*, a documentary about the 2002 riots at Concordia University. The film was screened at the Harbour Centre and Burnaby Mountain campuses, and both events were open to the membership and the broader community.

All-Candidates Debate

On June 17, 2004, the Student Society hosted a Federal Election candidate's debate for the riding of Burnaby-Douglas. All candidates for the riding seat attended, as did about 120 members of the campus community and voters in the riding, who were able to grill candidates on a variety of issues.

Rally for Darfur

In cooperation with the African Caribbean Heritage Students Association, the Student Society participated in a rally on September 20 to call attention to the human rights crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

SERVICES

Book Buyback

A textbook buyback program is operated every semester by the Student Society. The service operates during exams and during the first week of every

term. Over the past year, the program has performed very well and has provided an invaluable service to students. The books that are bought from students are then sold at Quad Books, where students can purchase previously owned texts at significant savings.

Catering

The Student Society catering service continues to be highly utilized by clubs and student unions within the Society, in addition to University departments and faculties. The catering service is non-profit and all revenues are diverted to student bursaries. The Student Society's food and beverage services collectively employ between 40 and 60 students, who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees local 3338.

Higher Grounds Coffee Bar

The Student Society continued operation of its highly popular coffee bar, which employs a number of students. Employees of Higher Grounds are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3338.

Highland Pub

The Highland Pub offers a full menu, various drink specials and is open throughout the week. The weekly Thursday "Pub Night" continues to grow in popularity. Employees of the Highland Pub are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3338.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

The International Student Identity Card is a service of the Canadian Federation of Students and is available to all full-time students enrolled at member associations, including the Simon Fraser Student Society. The Student Society has continued its commitment to raising awareness of the service and its discounts on travel and various services. This past year, nearly 3000 cards were distributed to members of the Student Society.

Legal Aid Clinics

The Student Society continues to provide free legal clinics on a biweekly basis, offering students an opportunity to speak with legal counsel. This service is regularly used by a variety of students.

Member Handbook and Dayplanner

For the past two years the Student Society has participated in a common handbook project organized by the Canadian Federation of Students. By pooling the resources of several student associations the program allows the Student Society to significantly improve the quality of the handbook offered to our members and reduce the price at the same time.

The Student Society chose to be part of the common handbook project again for the 2004-2005 academic year, and student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive to date.

Quad Books

Located on the 2000 level of the Maggie Benston Centre, Quad Books is a student owned and operated bookstore. Quad Books continues to offer a range of school supplies at affordable prices, postage service, as well as a fax service.

Studentsaver Discount Card

The Canadian Federation of Students provides the Studentsaver to its members including the Simon Fraser Student Society. The Studentsaver card is Canada's only student owned and operated national student discount program and offers thousands of discounts across the country on everyday items. The Studentsaver continues to grow rapidly with more than one thousand discounts in British Columbia alone. Earlier this year, the program provided jobs to five students from Simon Fraser University as solicitors for the discount program. In the 2003-2004 academic year more than 10,000 discount cards were distributed and thus far, in the current academic year, the Student Society has distributed nearly 13,000 discount cards to members.

Universal Transit Pass

The U-PASS is a universal service for students offered by the Student Society, the University and Translink. It offers unlimited, three-zone travel by bus, Skytrain and Seabus in the Greater Vancouver Regional District for all Simon Fraser University Students at an extremely discounted rate. It also offers discount on the WestCoast Express. The agreement will be reviewed with Translink in the summer of 2005.

STUDENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Recognizing that activities and fun are integral to the level of student enjoyment on campus, the Student Society organized a number of successful events in the past year.

Rebel Rhymes Hip Hop Show

On October 30, this free hip hop show and info fair, with food and more, was hosted by the Student Society in conjunction with the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group. It featured the musical acts of skeena reece, TN'T, Kia Kadiri, Josh Martinez, needle kinevil, manik and the sunday skool dropoutz, Triple 3, DJ Ariel, fake DJ, KABOOM, the attorney, and DJ Highstrung.

Midnite Madness

During the first week of exams in December, Board members traveled around the Burnaby campus with free coffee, tea and food for students who were up late preparing for their exams. Video games were also set-up in Forum Chambers to provide students with a much needed study break.

Summer Luvin' II: Cinco de Abril

Held in Convocation Mall on April 5, the event featured a burrito buffet, beer garden, live music from Honeybox - and who could forget the hot tubs! The sun came out to shine on the swimsuit-clad, and the lineups for the free food and beer garden were the measure of success.

Frost Fest '04

Held September 17, on the Maggie Benston Field and billed as "A Week's Worth of Partying... in one day! it was the biggest concert ever held at SFU, and planned almost entirely by volunteers. The performers included Swollen Members, Gob, Sweatshop Union, Ten Ways From Sunday, Kia Kadiri, Exit This Side, A Bent Appeal, and Doubting Paris. Tickets were sold for \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the door. There was a beer garden, and as time wore on, people got muddy. The Simon Fraser University Campus Taskforce was instrumental attaining the measure of success manifest that cool September day.

Other Events

The Student Society regularly participates in a number of events, such as the University's new student orientation, Clubs Days, and Week of Welcome.

In September, the Student Society held the "Huskin' in the Hay" corn roast, in addition to the ever-popular pancake breakfast.

STUDENT CENTRES

Out on Campus

This past year saw a significant increase in the number of volunteers, drop-ins, and programs at Out on Campus. With over 300 members and 40 volunteers, the centre coordinated a variety of events: panels about homophobia, same-sex marriage, and transgender issues; outreach to high school students; interactive public art/education on campus about violence in queer relationships and also about gender stereotypes; weekly socials (potlucks, a brunch club, the successful evening After Hours Cafe that attracted up to 50 people weekly); and more. The lounge was open for a new record of 30 hours a week, resulting in increased borrowing of library holdings which now total over 900 titles. Out on Campus continued to broaden its programs which include a six-month education series about Peer Support, a gay men's group, coming-out discussions, and more. A new bursary was launched for any student working to reduce discrimination and increase awareness about the diversity of sexual orientations and genders, called the Living Personal Truths award, which will be given out in April 2005.

Women's Centre

The Women's Centre of the Student Society faced one of its most challenging years. The Centre achieved 30 years of service on Burnaby Mountain with the continued support of its Collective, Centre Users and numerous allies in the wider University community. The Centre receives at least 50 to 60 drop-ins per weekday from women of diverse backgrounds. Over a three semester period that amounts to thousands of visits. The lounge is open 24 hours a day to all self-identified women. The office is staffed by two positions – In brief, The Coordinator position providing resources and peer support to women on personal health

issues and access to resources off campus. The Librarian position provides support also with the Centre Library that is part of the Rotunda network of libraries.

In October of 2003, Leah Georgia, the Centre Coordinator for 9 years went on medical leave. During the next 2 months service continued to be provided to the Centre users through an emergency hire. The Fall Self-Defense class that women have come to expect was still offered on Burnaby Mountain as well as Harbour Centre, in the continued effort to provide some service to students who are on other SFU Campuses. The November Transgendered Day of Remembrance event was supported by the Collective as well as the Dec 6th annual event drawing attention to violence against women.

In January of 2004, a temporary Coordinator replacement hire occurred to ensure the Centre would run smoothly for a few months while the Coordinator was on medical leave. Nadine Chambers was hired and immediately began to work with the Collective on 30th Anniversary events to highlight the achievement of the Centre in giving support to countless women and men on campus. In March of 2004, the International Women's Day event culminated in Our Voices Spoken Here and Praxis – a one-day conference on Research, Health, Work and the Criminal Justice System as it pertains to women. This event was videotaped and has become a part of the Women's Centre Library that is available to women and men at SFU. The Women's Centre also helped support and organize a non-partisan Forum on Women's Issues in June for the 2004 Federal Election.

The Women's Centre also welcomed Tara Robertson as the new librarian to the Office- a position that had been vacant for about 7 months. In spring of 2004, the Centre received the resignation of Leah Georgia due to medical reasons. The position was posted and the successful candidate was Nadine Chambers.

After a quiet but busy summer, and the untimely death of Leah Georgia, the SFU Women's Centre continues its work by connecting to the Burnaby Mountain community with Open Houses, New Student Orientations and other events. In September, the Women's Centre made its first visit to Surrey Campus to connect with that particular student population.

The development of a new residence and the UniverCity project as well as increased calls from women in the community due to the reduction of funding to provincially

funded Women's Centres means that SFU Women's Centre will continue to be a resource for general members of the Student Society – as it celebrates its 3rd decade of service.

GRADUATE ISSUES

Graduate Issues Committee

The Graduate Issues Committee meets once a month and provides an opportunity for graduate students to discuss issues pertinent to them. In 2003-2004, membership in the committee included representatives from nearly all of the departments that offer graduate programs.

Committee Working Groups

The Committee's working groups have been working on a number of campaigns and issues for graduate students in the 2003-2004 year. Current working groups are the funding working group, the student/supervisor relations working group, the Graduate Bulletin working group and the socials working group.

National Graduate Caucus

The National Graduate Caucus is a caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students, uniting more than 50,000 graduate students across Canada. The Caucus advocates the interests of all graduate students nationally and internationally and provides a forum for issues that are of particular concern to graduate students. The Student Society continues to be actively involved in the work of the caucus.

Financial Aid for Graduate Students

The Student Society is working to address concerns that Federal and Provincial student aid programs do not include all graduate students, or only include graduate students to a certain level of funding. The Student Society supports a comprehensive system of needs-based grants for students at all levels of study.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Transformation

In the past year, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) undertook a series of consultations with students, faculty and administrators regarding the transformation of the council. Student Society representatives actively participated in the consultations at SFU.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The work of the Society is often performed behind the scenes. The elected representative and staff work on behalf of the membership in many ways, including regular meetings with University administration; responding to University reports, task forces and policy recommendations; attending Senate and Board of Governors meetings; regular meetings of Student Society committees and working groups; and talking to students on a daily basis.

General Election

Elections for the 2004-2005 term were held March 29 through April 1. The following people were elected: Gisele da Silva (Internal Relations Officer), David Fleming-Saraceno (External Relations Officer), Chris Giacomantonio (President), Titus Gregory (University Relations Officer), Shawn Hunsdale (Member Services Officer), Tiffany Jung (Business Representative), Krystle Kalanj (Education Representative), Tiffany Kalanj (At-Large Representative), Sean Magee (Science Representative), Ryan Murphy (Arts Representative), Sara Rozell (Treasurer), Camilla Sears (Graduate Issues Officer), Amanda van Baarsen (At-Large Representative).

In June, a by-election was held at Forum to fill the vacant positions of Applied Science Representative and At-Large Graduate Representative. Josephine Wong and Caelie Frampton, respectively, were the successful candidates.

Office Space

The Student Society has secured an office on the Harbour Centre campus, which opened in September 2004.

Negotiations are ongoing for office and lounge space in the new Surrey campus, and the Society anticipates having space in the new building opening Fall 2005.

Staffing

There were a number of staffing changes in the past year. The Student Society welcomes the following new staff, and staff who have transferred into new positions: Hattie Aitken (Graduate Issues & University Relations Coordinator), Michael Bruce (Resource Coordinator - Research and Policy), Nadine Chambers (Women's Centre Coordinator), Anthony Maragna (Resource Coordinator – Communications), and Brandy Zimmerman (Student Union Organizer).

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The responsibility of the Treasurer is to oversee the financial matters of the Simon Fraser Student Society and report to the Board of Directors and the membership in the form of this report at the Annual General Meeting. This report summarizes the financial events of the past fiscal year (May 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004). As is often the case the Society has received an unqualified audit this year, meaning that the accounting practices and internal fiscal controls of the Society are appropriate and fiscally sound, and that they meet the standards set out under the Society's Act and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Member's Equity

The 2003-2004 audited statements present a positive Member's Equity of \$131,455. This is a result of a surplus from the operating budget. There are many factors, which contributed to this positive position, including hard work and significant structural changes over the past few years.

One non-operational budget item to consider is the building fund. The Society has paid off its mortgage on the Maggie Benson Student Services building and will have paid off the remaining interest by 2008. This money comes from a separate membership levy, the Building Fund. The fund is administered separately and does not impact the Society's operational budget or cash flow. The Building Fund is also used to carry out space-related renovations or expansion.

Operational Budget

The Student Society receives revenue from a variety of sources, with the majority of the revenue being derived from student activity fees. These fees, despite being among the lowest charged by Canadian student societies, provide regular and steady cash flow for the Society, covering the expenses of our non-commercial operations. In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, net revenues totaled \$1.25 million dollars.

Student Society expenditures tend to fall into one of four categories, each which are designed to function in an efficient manner with the goal of serving Student Society members. These segments are operating costs, student services, bookstore and copy shop, and food and beverages.

The first two segments deal with the administrative side of the Student Society. In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the operating costs of the Student Society were \$109,607. These are the costs that keep the Society functioning properly. Student services expenditures were \$335,743, and include the legal clinic, Women's Centre, Out on Campus, clubs, student unions, handbooks and many other services.

The next two expenses deal with commercial services, Quad Books and CopyRite recorded a \$19,517 deficit in 2003-2004. This was 1/6 of last year's deficit and a great achievement. This was a result of a restructuring in operations that occurred the year prior.

The Society's food and beverage services include the Highland Pub, Higher Grounds Coffee Bar and catering services. The food and beverage department ended the year with a \$43,922 deficit. This includes retail sales and all variable and fixed expenses. Operationally, the Student Society's food and beverage services continue to improve.

The Simon Fraser Student Society ended 2003-2004 fiscal year with a net surplus of \$25,474.

The Society continues to improve financially with the combined work of the Board of Directors, Food and Beverage Services management and CUPE 3338, CUPE 2396, and the support of its members. With this continued work the Society will look forward to a bright financial future where we are able to expand our options in the services we offer to students. I would like to thank our Financial coordinators, Colleen and Kurt, as well as our Auditor for their work and effort on this year's Audit. I am pleased to present such a positive financial outlook for the Simon Fraser Student Society.