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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 - 2017

## SUMMER 2016 TERM REPORT

**Prepared by:**

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**Prepared for:**

Simon Fraser Student Society - Membership, Staff & Board of Directors

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*This semester report is prepared in fulfillment of **Rule 3** – Faculty Representative and At-Large Board of Directors Duties, Responsibilities & Stipend Requirements, **Subsection 7**: Faculty representatives and at-large representatives shall provide a semesterly written report by the 30th day of the first month of the following semester, detailing work completed and projects undertaken for the benefit of the Society*

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## INTRODUCTION:

My first term on the Board of Directors as the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (FCAT) representative has proven to be a pivotal factor in my university experience. My term as a Board member officially started on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. I constantly receive hands on opportunities to engage with other undergrads and specifically with FCAT Undergrads. FCAT is a unique faculty since the faculty is widespread on every campus that SFU has to offer—SIAT at SFU Surrey, CMNS at all campuses, and SCA at SFU Woodward's. Throughout the semester I found myself on all four campuses. As a Board member, I sat collectively with other members and worked with imperative decisions that impacted our membership. Some of these decisions were difficult while others were administrative. I am also appointed the Vancouver liaison.

## SUCCESSION:

Before my term as a Board member officially started, the previous FCAT Representative—Salathiel R. Wells helped me introduce myself to my new role. Salathiel introduced me to FCAT Dean's Office in which I met the Dean of FCAT—Dr. Aoife Mac Namara and the Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention and Engagement—Emma Horsley. I was also given a tour of the FCAT Dean's office and met the rest of the staff. Rest assured, everyone at the Dean's office were extremely welcoming and are equally excited about FCAT as I am. Salathiel also invited me to attend the last FCAT Departmental Student Union President's meeting, in which I introduced myself to both the outgoing president and incoming presidents of the FCAT DSUs. I also met Tsatia Adzich the Aboriginal Engagement and Recruitment Project Coordinator at the meeting. During this time period, I also attended the FCAT Formal (Noire) as the incoming FCAT Representative. Thank you Salathiel for the encouragement and guidance at the beginning of my term!

## BOARD ORIENTATION:

The Orientation for the 2016-17 Board of Directors took place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Orientation provided me insights on what my duties will look like over the course of my term in office. The context included rules, regulations, constitution, by-laws and expectations. We were also provided a 3-year strategic plan and engaged in a conversation of our personal priorities pertaining the strategic plan. We also met the SFSS Staff and gained an understanding of their tasks and roles

within the Society. Most importantly, our mission statement and organization values were established and introduced:

*Mission Statement:*

The Simon Fraser Student Society exists to improve the undergraduate student experience, as comprised of the following aspects:

- academic,
- social,
- financial, and
- health and wellbeing.

*Organizational Values:*

In all its activities, the members, employees, and guests of the Society will act in a manner consistent with the Society's fundamental values:

- Inclusivity
- Integrity
- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Community

## COMMITTEES

The named SFSS committees I sit on are Advocacy Committee, Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Vancouver Campus Committee (Chair). I am also the elected representative on the SFU Sustainable Mobility Advisory Committee (SMAC).

### ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

During the summer semester the Advocacy created and conducted an Advocacy Outreach Campaign Survey to give the Committee a direction of which issues to advocate for. Previous Advocacy committees did not conduct a survey that asked student what they want us to campaign for, hence this survey was created from scratch and created a stepping stone for future advocacy committees. The survey consisted of topics ranging within the four pillars of the SFSS—social, financial, academic and health and wellbeing. The survey was launched from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>, and was tabled at the Burnaby campus and Vancouver (HC) campus. I tabled at both campuses, publicized the survey on social media and contacted the FCAT DSU's to circulate the survey. We received a total of 529 responses. After the results were in, I was tasked to conduct research on issues related to the pillar

of Social—Translink and accessibility issues on SFU. I presented the research found to the Committee.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Plan Steering committee meets and discusses the objectives and progress of the Strategic plan. There are 3 working groups that are each assigned different objectives from the Strat., plan such as developing a communications plan, an evaluation services matrix, Surrey/Vancouver Campus Engagement plan and etc. I am currently part of the Objection 4.1 and 4.2 working group in which we are working with our Communications plan and the SFSS branding. The reworking of the SFSS branding is complete and is in the progress of being fully implemented.

### **VANCOUVER CAMPUS COMMITTEE**

As the Chair of the Vancouver Campus committee (VCC), I tabled over the summer at Harbour Centre and SFU Woodward's to gain nominations for open at large positions for the committee. I received a few nominations for the at-large positions but was unable to reach quorum. Hence, the launch of Vancouver Campus Committee is postponed until the Fall 2016 semester when we are able to gain enough nominees for the committee to reach quorum.

### **SFU's SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)**

Our very first meeting was on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. I had the opportunity to meet various staff members and directors of SFU. We discussed the new Translink changes and the impact the changes have on SFU Students, the U-Pass program, accessible cycling on campus and the SFSS's roll in SMAC. I presented to the committee that the SFSS Advocacy Committee decided to join the Student Caucus of the U-PassBC Advisory Committee. I also announced that a collective letter was generated by the different universities on Caucus and is to be presented to the provincial government. I received support on the SFSS's decision to advocate for the renewal of the U-Pass.

### **WORKING GROUPS:**

I was appointed to sit on the Alcohol Policy Working Group and the Emergency Food Bank Program Working Group.

## ALCOHOL POLICY WORKING GROUP

The Alcohol Policy Working Group was tasked to provide a recommendation to the Board on the new proposed Alcohol Policy. The working group was ad-hoc and met over the course of two months. The meetings consisted of both staff members and board members. The recommendation that we provided included that operation decisions in terms of gratuity should be dealt by our Food and Beverage Services General Manager. We also recommended the Board of Directors to put a 30% cap on alcohol purchases coming from the core funding of DSUs and FSUs. This results in student groups only being able to spend 30% of their core funding on alcohol and limiting the purchase at the Highland Pub. Student groups can purchase alcohol off-campus only for one large-scale event, in which the student turnout rate is expected to be high.

## EMERGENCY FOOD BANK WORKING GROUP

The Emergency Food Bank Working Group discusses the SFSS Food Bank Program and the food stamps that we provide to students in financial distress. We received a presentation from last year's chair of the working group and discussed the practicality and logistics behind the Food Bank program. We also brainstormed possible solutions to all the problems the group faced last year and that we are anticipated to face this year as well. At our meeting we reached a consensus on tackling 3 issues: Internal issues that can be solved with better screening process/IT, Sponsors/partnerships issues such as how to expand and maintain established relationships and our metrics system such as collecting past information of food stamp users. Our main goal this year is to create a clearer process of giving out food stamps to anyone who needs them.

- More information at:
  - o <http://www.sfss.ca/services/emergency-food-bank-certificate-program>

## VANCOUVER LIAISON

This year, the Board of Directors appointed me as the Vancouver Liaison. As the liaison, I act a key person that consolidates the SFU's Vancouver campuses with the SFSS. As mentioned above, I am also the chair of VCC to strengthen the presence of the SFSS at Vancouver. Over the summer semester I met with the Coordinator, Campus & Community Engagement of the Vancouver Campus to discuss VCC, the space renovations and student engagement plans. The SFSS is planning to attend the Vancouver Open House on Oct. 12. I also hosted my office

hours at Harbour Centre on a weekly basis on Monday 12:30-2:30 in rm 3201. Furthermore, SFSS also provides a fully equipped student lounge (microwaves, fridge, sink, kettles, sofas, etc.) on the third floor of Harbour Centre! The code can be obtained from security.

## EVENTS

The SFSS events I attended over the summer are:

- **Staff going away Party:** Student Union Organizer found a new job.
- **SFSS Summer Pub Night:** We opened the Pub for one night over the summer for students to hang out and meet others on campus.
- **Meet and Greet with SFU Staff:** this event was hosted by SFU to introduce the new member of the SFSS to vital staff member's of SFU. I met many Vancouver staff members that helped me in envisioning VCC.
- **SCC De-stressing Day:** I volunteered at this event and gave out popcorn with ice cream sundaes. This event was held at SFU Surrey and was very successful.

## PROJECTS

The Projects that I worked on over the summer were:

### FCAT FORMAL:

- I formed a Memorandum of Understanding to state that at least 5 FCAT DSUs participate in planning the FCAT Formal out of the 7 active DSUs. The MOU did not exist before and in the previous years only SIAT was known to take a lead in planning the formal. This year 6 DSUs signed up to be part of the Organizing committee—Dance Student union, Theatre Student Union, Film Student Union, Interactive Art and Technology Student Union, Communication Student Union and Visual Arts Student Union. The formal date has been set for early February so students from SCA can attend the formal. I appointed each member from each DSU to a specific position. The formal preparations are well underway. If you are in FCAT and would like to volunteer at the Formal, please feel free to contact me!

### **HILE'KW: FCAT WELCOME EVENT:**

- Over the summer I supported the SFU FCAT Dean's Office event that was created to welcome first year students to FCAT. FCAT does not have a faculty wide frosh hence this event was an attempt to mimic a frosh but in a much more informative and respectful manner. The event had an aboriginal focus and consisted of workshops hosted by key stakeholders in the indigenous community. I sat with Tساتيا multiple times to discuss the event, encouraged FCAT DSU Presidents to volunteer at the event, invited the Board of Director to the event and attended the event as a Team Leader. The event was in Fall semester however; the planning was done in the fall.
- More information at:
  - o <https://www.sfu.ca/fcat/first-year-experience/fcatwelcome.html>

### **FCAT FACULTY STUDENT UNION:**

- Over the summer term I started the discussion of creating an FCAT Faculty Student Union with the FCAT Dean's Office, the SFSS and the presidents of each FCAT DSU. The conversations took a snowball effect in which I began to research the implication and the procedures of creating the FSU with the help of our Student Union Organizer. I only researched the FCAT FSU on the recommendation of the FCAT DSUs and let them to decide whether or not FCAT needs an FSU. After presenting the information that I found in forming an FSU, we reached the conclusion that an FCAT FSU is no feasible since FCAT is so widely dispersed in SFU. This lead to the conversation of creating a School of Contemporary Arts Student Union instead.

### **SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY (SCA) STUDENT UNION:**

- We discussed the possibility of creating a SCA Student Union and had one meeting over the summer. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting due to time conflict with another meeting however I spoke to the SCA Student Unions Presidents about was was discussed. The SCA plans on hosting a collaborative event within SCA. The SCA SU is still in progress.

### **FALL KICKOFF:**

- The Fall Kickoff 2016 Organizing Committee asked me to be a team lead for Coat Check during the event.

### **ACTIVITY FEES VIDEO:**

- I participated in creating an Activity Fees Video that the Finance and Audit Committee planned. The video gives specific information about how the activity fee is utilized and is expected to be launched in the fall semester.

### **FCAT DSU PRESIDENTS MEETING**

- I am the chair of the FCAT DSU Presidents Meetings in which I have administrative duties such as send invitations, call for agenda items, create agenda and etc. Since FCAT does not have a Faculty Student Union, these meetings act as a crucial place for collaboration without the bureaucracy. Over the Summer, I received FCAT DSU updates on their Summer General Meetings, plans for Frosh week, events planned for the summer, the FCAT Formal and FCAT Deans Office updates. We also had a very successful mixer to introduce everyone to their roles and to introduce everyone to one another.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY CONSULTATION WITH SFSS**

- I attended the SFU Sexual Violence Policy Consultation to discuss the future policy that SFU is creating. We also brainstormed ideas on how to make a safer campus for everyone. We discussed the significance and the importance of the policy and why we need one. There will be more consultations in the Fall semester in which the Advocacy committee is creating a campaign for.

### **BUILDSFU STUDENT UNION BUILDING**

- I attended the BuildSFU orientation provided by the SFSS CEO and the BuildSFU General Manager. We also hosted a Ground Breaking ceremony to start the construction for the Student Union Building. Elder Margaret George blessed the land and SFU's president gave a speech.



## OUTREACH

- **Clubs Day:** I attended the summer club's day at both SFU Burnaby and SFU Surrey.
- **Advocacy survey:** As mentioned above, we had outreach for the advocacy survey.
- **Nominations outreach:** As mentioned above, we did outreach for open at-large positions on the SFSS Committees—specifically VCC.
- **SCA Orientation:** I spoke at the School of Contemporary Arts Panel about the significance of being an active SFSS member and the importance of getting involved with SFU. I also attended the mixer for an informal information Q&A session.

## CONCLUSION:

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me effectively transition in my role. The Summer semester turned out to have just as many ups as downs, which taught me how to deal with upper level managerial issues. The summer semester prepared me for the upcoming busy Fall semester. I am excited to continue this journey. Please feel free to contact me at [fcatrepsf@sfss.ca](mailto:fcatrepsf@sfss.ca) for any concerns or questions.

- **Fall semester office hours:**
  - o Harbour Centre: Thursday at 1:30 - 2:30p.m. in rm. 3201
  - o Burnaby: Tuesday at 1:30 - 2:30p.m. in BOD Office
  - o Surrey: by appointment