

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Summer 2016 Term Report

INTRODUCTION

My first term as the Faculty of Health Sciences Representative has been an amazing experience and has taught me many new skills that have allowed me to grow as a person. It has been a pleasure being able to represent and advocate for undergraduate students at SFU. This following term report outlines the work done by me throughout the summer of 2016. This is in no way exhaustive, and is only an overview.

BOARD ORIENTATION

The board orientation for the Board of Directors of the 2016-2017 term took place on May 2nd and 3rd. I believe that this was very helpful as it helped new Board members to get adjusted and used to the rules and regulations pertaining to how the SFSS works, including the by-laws and constitution, as well as outlining our expectations for the rest of the year. We were able to briefly start constructing a strategic plan for the rest of our term based off of things that board members thought were important to focus on. We were also familiarized with our 3-year strategic plan through a presentation from our CEO. We were able to meet the rest of the staff that we work with and were provided a brief overview of what they do. Overall, it was very useful and a great way to get everyone acquainted to the rest of the board members we would be working with throughout the year.

COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

Advocacy Committee

I have had the pleasure to be a part of the Advocacy Committee. Over the summer semester, we conducted a survey to try to gain an understanding of what issues around campus are important to students, so that we could base our campaigns for the rest of the year off these results. This was a new step for the Advocacy Committee as no previous Advocacy Committee had conducted a survey to see what students actually wanted us to advocate for. This would give

us purpose when doing our campaigns for the rest of the year, as it provided us with guidance and allowed us to represent our members effectively. The survey was conducted from June 22nd to July 8th, and throughout this time the Advocacy Committee spent time tabling at the Burnaby and Vancouver campuses. I tabled actively at the Burnaby campus, as well as reaching out to students through social media. We received a total of 529 responses. While conducting the survey, we tried to target the questions based off of each of the four pillars of the SFSS: academic, social, financial, and health and well-being. Once the survey results were obtained, committee members focused on providing research for the top two results in each pillar. I conducted research on the health and well-being pillar, specifically on sexual assault support and prevention, as well as mental health and wellness. After conducting this research, I presented to the Advocacy Committee potential issues I found and potential campaigns we could do throughout the year to account for those issues.

Surrey Campus Committee

The Surrey Campus Committee has had a great start so far. Being primarily a Surrey based student, working on this committee has been a very fun and enjoyable experience. Throughout the summer term, we were able to hold a De-stress Day event as well as a Bowling Night. I attended and helped with both of these events, but I primarily had a focus on De-stress Day.

- **DESTRESS DAY**

I was the project lead for De-stress Day at the Surrey Campus, so I did most of the planning and execution for this event along with the SCC Chair. I also managed our social media page and set up a schedule of volunteers. It was a fun-filled day aimed to help relieve the stress of students during exam time. We had many activities set up throughout the day in the Mezzanine at SFU Surrey, including foosball and ping-pong tables, along with free popcorn and a Make-Your-Own-Sundae station. We also had a large screen set up for those that wanted to play FIFA. Initially, we had planned to close down the FIFA and do a yoga session for the last hour, but everyone was having a lot of fun with the FIFA, so we decided to let that continue on for the rest of the event. We hope to do a yoga day in the future for coming de-stress days. Overall, the event went great and we received a lot of positive feedback.

Through the Surrey Campus Committee, I was also appointed to the **Surrey Joint Operations Advisory Group Committee** to discuss campus issues and opportunities, along with the SCC Chair and VP Finance, Hangu Kim. However, no meetings were held for this committee throughout the summer term, and I look forward to the meetings for this committee in the fall term.

Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee

I was appointed to this Committee by the Board of Directors to give greater recognition to teachers by giving three awards of up to \$2500. However, no meeting for this committee were held in the summer term and I look forward to working with this committee throughout the fall and spring.

BOARD OUTREACH

Clubs Days and Committee Outreach

During the Burnaby clubs days, we promoted upcoming SFSS events as well as informed our members of all the services and engagement opportunities we have for them. As we had opened up committee applications for the 2016-2017 term, we also encouraged students to get involved with the SFSS by submitting a committee application. Most of my time was spent tabling for these committee applications, and we ending up getting a lot of amazing applicants for our committees. I was also able to table specifically for Surrey Campus Committee applications at the Surrey Campus.

Advocacy Survey

As described above, I did a lot of tabling for the Advocacy Survey that we conducted.

Finance and Audit Committee Activity Fees Video

In an attempt to inform the membership about the activity fees they pay for in their tuition, the FAC committee outlined a script for a video to describe each of these different fees, what they are used for, and how they are beneficial. I contributed to this video by talking about our Health and Dental Plan services.

WORKING GROUPS/PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

Alcohol Policy Working Group

I was appointed to be a part of the Alcohol Policy Working Group to provide a recommendation to the Board on an Alcohol Policy. We had initially received a briefing note from the SFSS CEO. However, the Board was not able to make a decision so this ad-hoc working group was created. I was very interested in this policy specifically as it would directly impact all DSU's and FSU's, including my faculty FSU. We held multiple meetings to discuss this policy, along with any staff members that we felt were relevant to this decision. Keeping in mind that gratuity or core might impact Food and Beverage Services, we proposed that the Board of Directors should leave the decision of either keeping or removing the gratuity to the Food and Beverage Services General Manager, as this is an operational decision that directly impacts staff, and is outside the responsibility of Board members. We also recommended that the Board of Directors put a 30% cap on money that can be used from core funding for the purchase of alcohol per fiscal year for student groups, as well as limiting core spending to the Highland Pub, except for one large-scale event, in which they have the option of purchasing alcohol off-campus.

Sexual Assault Policy Consultation

I attended the Sexual Assault Policy Consultation that was open to Board and Council members. We provided our recommendations as to what ideas should be included in this policy and how to prevent sexual assault on campus, as well as answered any specific questions the SVP Committee had, so that we could provide insight through a student's perspective. Throughout the fall term, the Advocacy Committee will explore this issue further as well as further support this policy making through campaigns encouraging students to attend these consultations.

LIAISON/FACULTY WORK

Health Sciences Undergraduate Student Union (HSUSU)

The Health Sciences Undergraduate Student Union (HSUSU) is a Faculty Student Union (FSU) in the Health Sciences department. I have regularly attended HSUSU meetings throughout the course of the summer term. It has been amazing getting to know these individuals and working with them to help

them accomplish the many events they help to put forward for Health Sciences students. I acted as a liaison between HSUSU and the SFSS, and helped them throughout the summer for any help they needed such as room booking, obtaining SFSS promotional materials and swag, and event planning and promotion for FROSH. I attended their events as well as promoted elections that they held.

EVENTS ATTENDED

Here is a list of the couple of SFSS-related events I attended over the summer term.

- SFSS Summer Pub Night
- Surrey Campus Committee Bowling Night
- Surrey Campus Committee De-stress Day
- Student Union Building Grand Opening Ceremony
- Build SFU Orientation
- SFSS Staff Meet and Greet
- Board retreat

CONCLUSION

My first term on the Board of Directors has been a very exciting adventure. It has been a really big learning curve for me and gives me new things to learn every day. Everyone on Board has been a pleasure to get to know, and I'm very impressed with the hard working and committed individuals that I have met. It has been an amazing experience so far, and I look forward to the rest of my term.

I decided to host my office hours at both the Burnaby and Surrey campus to allow easier access for students to me at both campuses.

- BURNABY: Thursday 9:30-10:30am (MBC 2220)
- SURREY: Tuesday 9:30-10:30am (Room 3395)

The information provided on this report is not exhaustive, and is only an overview. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at healthrep@sfss.ca or 778-683-5083.

Thank you,

Raajan Garcha
Faculty of Health Sciences Representative