

VP-University Relations Fall 2014 Semester Report

Prepared by: Moe Kopahi

Simon Fraser Student Society

Simon Fraser University

Introduction

Serving my final year in SFSS, in the role of VP-University Relations, I had the pleasure of working with the new board on various projects, while prioritizing my tasks and society initiatives to the extent of my ability. Generally speaking, fall semester as always is the most productive semester for the SFSS board, as summer is usually the training and “off season” and spring semester is the election and “house-keeping” term.

Build SFU

I actively participated in Build SFU project by attending the Steering committee and Build Committee. We mainly worked on the finance aspect of this project by selecting the appropriate financial institution that saved the students of SFU millions of dollars in their offer to finance our project.

Committees

Executive committee met regularly and discussed, mostly confidential, society business, all the way from staffing to new initiatives.

Space met only once, in which we discussed the feasibility of increasing the seating capacity or at least its efficiency. The conclusion is yet to be finalized but the committee sense is to not spend more money on the MBC food court until the SUB opens

Office hours:

Not many people visited the VP-University Relations in the office hours and I have mostly met

Projects

- Discussion with John Flipse, SFSS Food and Beverages General Manager, regarding the new innovation in beer pouring mechanisms that are being widely used nowadays. He will look into feasibility of them as it would save us labor cost. The reason for this conversation was the lack of efficient service at the bar in the first two pub nights we hosted in the fall semester that resulted in multiple complaints

- The Central Communication system proposal is being delayed due to focusing on AGM, and then focusing on SGM.
- Worked with our Executive Director and the SFU security to enhance the communication between the Highland Pub security and the SFU Security during pub nights and after midnights
- Worked as an advisory body to events committee and guide them to host sustainable events, such as the first two pub nights, Halloween and etc
- Guided Ben Rogers with hosting the Annual FAS Formal event in Spring, as it is a lot of work and requires a committee to support him. The previous FAS representative, Raham, was not able to help out due to academic commitments and we had continuity issues
- RHA elections landed on our table, but was dealt with by Katie Bell, our RHA liaison
- iPad proposals got delayed and probably finish it later as the board members made a huge deal out of it, we even had a conversation about where the material of these tablets come from and if it is morally acceptable for the society to buy tablets.
- AGM promotion took a big chunk of my time in fall semester and now doing the same for our SGM. I gave speech to several classrooms, and reconnected to my network in different clubs and DSUs to ensure the success of reaching the quorum. Due to a huge success, we passed the capacity limit and now hosting the SGM.
- Worked with Ancillary services and At-Large representative Rebecca on the NBA presence on our campus
- Frats and sorority projects have been handled by Rebecca and she kept updating me all the way. The Greek Life organizations are now a question on SGM agenda
- Conversations around FIC students participating in society business started but have not been followed upon.
- Excellence in teaching award committee took a big chunk of my time near the end of semester as we had over 20 applicants with good documents and references. The results will be posted soon, but cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality matter of this business

Other Notes:

- As our annual practice, we had dinner over Presidents house, which is located in the UNIVERCITY. It was a great opportunity for all of the board members to meet the new registrar and discuss their ideas with the University Admins.

To do list for spring 2015:

Normally I do not include this in the semester report, but I think it would be useful to give it a try.

- create an enhanced portfolio of VP-Univeristy Relations position portfolio
- Train all of the VP-University Relations candidates in the upcoming elections so they all can have a better understanding of this position, and to know whether it is for them or not.
- Finish the tablet proposal and send it to board
- Finish the support letter for Atrium renovation in Convocation mall
- Hiring of GO assistants
- Actively promote SGM
- Nightline re-launching conversation and shall make recommendation to the next board
- Actively participate in the Advocacy initiatives even though the meeting times are again in conflict with my schedule