

FALL BOARD SEMESTER REPORT

Name: Adam Potvin	Position: VP Finance	Term: Fall 2014
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Board Outreach

The type of Board outreach that I did was less talking in the hallways and more about communicating to students through the SFSS website. This was done through ensuring the updated budgets were constantly being posted to the website, getting the timesheets to be posted online in real-time, easy-to-read charts and graphs around the SFSS's services and then the informational materials needed to prepare members for the SGM--this included the sheet on the FBS and the Build SFU Financials.

I also participated in key SFSS outreach events, such as the Pancake Breakfast, Clubs Days, and getting students' signatures for the Open Textbook campaign, which I think has been the biggest success of the SFSS this year. I also spent time leading up the AGM in September in discussing the merits of the Build SFU project with SFSS members.

Committee Involvement

I chair two committees: FASC and AFAC. This semester, I spent several weeks throughout October and November in vetting a clean energy proposal with FASC, which I will discuss in greater detail in the section below. FASC spent the majority of its time discussing the merits of making increases, decreases, and reallocations between various line items in the General Fund of the Society. AFAC was quite busy this term in passing money motions regarding mental health initiatives, which included free massages for students and a nap zone, which was done in collaboration with Build SFU.

Various other committees on which I sit were also busy; CPR continued to meet on a weekly basis to discuss policy proposals. During the term we saw the Sciences Faculty become a Student Union through policy work with CPR. We also saw BASS formally become an FSU thanks to policy work from CPR extending from the Summer semester. Comsercom met once to discuss FBS finances, which inspired me to look further into that situation and analyze the FBS divisions very thoroughly. SSOC also met once to discuss renovations to rooms inside the Surrey campus, which we will be pursuing in the Spring Semester as well. The Executive Committee met on a weekly basis and for hour and a half meetings. The Committee was responsible for overseeing some of the more sensitive matters of the Society, however it was debatable if the Committee was as productive as it could have been.

Working Groups/Projects/Initiatives

The projects component of the job is where the real heart of the work lies. It is the legacy that Board members can look back on and be proud of. Some major projects that I took on during the Fall semester included organizing the finances for the Fall Kickoff Concert, working with the FBS manager in analyzing the finances of each division of the FBS, putting forth a clean energy investment policy, and putting a resolution on the SGM agenda.

The clean energy investment policy was a project that I spent significant time preparing through FASC and CPR. I wrote a three-page document around the merits of investing in clean energy (renewable energy companies) through buying shares of the Clean Energy Index, which trades on the NASDAQ stock exchange. I feel very strongly about the future of renewable energy as the best solution to climate change. However, I had some difficulties through getting the initiative passed, as there were many hoops I had to jump, which is to be expected with an investment such as this. A lack of investment policy was brought up as something that was needed, and is something that I will be working with our

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Policy and Research Coordinator on in the coming weeks. I am pleased to say, however, that Board passed the FASC-recommended motion and that I just set up the account for the investment a few days ago. The SFSS will be invested in clean energy, and I will be working with the Environmental Sciences rep in taking this project to the next level.

The nap zone project ended up being a success, and this was a project that I led through the help of AFAC and Build SFU. I bought many bedding supplies at Wal-Mart and set up the room in the Forum Chambers, where students could sleep during the day. This garnered media attention as well from The Peak and a media outlet from BCIT.

I spent a lot of time on Microsoft Excel, building a financial model that represents the divisional performance of the FBS. While I am not allowed to release unaudited figures, the conclusion was that the Highland Pub contributed the lion's share to the FBS deficit, while the other two divisions--the Ladle and the Higher Grounds only contributed negligible amounts, much to my surprise and contrary to my initial thoughts. Given that the FBS continued to lose money and was going over-budget, I decided to put the FBS on the SGM referendum agenda to let the students have their say as to whether they wanted to continue to support the FBS function of the SFSS. The rest of the Board agreed, and we put it on SGM referendum--it passed 204-3 and so any talks of closing the establishment should be put to rest by this overwhelming majority.

Liaison Work

I am the CJSF liaison.

Looking Ahead

In the Spring 2015 semester, I would like to achieve the following goals:

- Work with the Environmental Sciences Rep and Sustainable SFU in creating a Renewable Energy day on campus, which would see prominent speakers and a kind of science fair exhibition in the Convocation Mall
- Work with departments in budgeting for the 2014-2015 year
- Work with the CPRC in finishing up the financial policies and in overhauling the stipends system
- Help give direction to the future of the Build SFU project
- Ensure the budget is balanced by the end of the 2014-2015 year and ensure financial stability of the SFSS for years to come, especially given the uncertainty surrounding Build SFU

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Hyperlink to personal timesheet

<https://docs.google.com/a/sfss.ca/spreadsheets/d/1BWAHwFTj0MDnXDIK13Pcl0y3c0E6O2IU5I2HHIQeZuQ/edit#gid=696338577>