

Fall 2014 Semester Work Report - VP Student Life

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2014/2015

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Completed Projects

- Welcome Day Fall Pancake Breakfast
- SFU Tour and Orientation
- Club Days
- ISG Constitution Finalization
- AGM
- Clubs Forum
- SFU Next Top Product
- New Club Registrations
- Events Committee Production Results
- 20+ Club/Event Presence
- SFU's Got Talent Production
- International Tuition Campaign
- Highland Pub/FBS Proposal and Recommendation
- Council Responsibilities
- Granting Support
- Clubs Forum Resource Request Followup
- Procedure Manual Finalization
- Sponsorship Proposal

Board Outreach

Given the board outreach had a such a high priority on the AGM, the semester was spent promoting for the meeting. Club days as well as Clubs and DSU are under my portfolio, my office worked to communicate this with the Student Body. While un-written in my portfolio, I developed an increasing outreach for special events being done by a diverse range of groups on campus. As the board elected a Surrey Representative, Woodward's Representative as well as Vancouver Rep, my idea was to make sure we were supporting events that incorporated these campuses. Through the Business Speaking competition I was able to visit Woodward's School of the Contemporary Arts through Club Days. In interacting with clubs, I promoted Open Text Book as well as getting involved in events like Innovators Crawl to promote this and a few others of the boards initiatives. SFU Entrepreneur of the year, as well as the Human Resource's Club: Talent Event. I visited these campuses and represented the society. A number of clubs like KStorm, Pakistani Student Association as well as a couple others would secure grants for their event that were often not enough to cover drinks or other items. By merely being present at these events I was able to assist with getting them drinks, aiding the organizers in setup and much more. The goal to organize clubs into different

categories was part of my campaign coming into this position; I took to the Club Forum where the clubs who attended the event were able to communicate their interests as well as state their immediate priorities. We had a street team who would engage with students on a daily basis, I often joined them to give out coffee as well as promote the General Meeting to students. With the need to separate clubs, the re-development of ISG led into bringing the Cultural Clubs together under the International Students Alliance. The consultation process of working with a majority of cultural clubs within our database led to valuable input which really allowed the creation of the Constitution. I was able to check out YWIB's event, network with Enactus as well as touch base with our constituency groups to find out how they're doing on a regular basis. There were a number of board priorities which I felt took away from the Student Life experience. Each DSU throws Frosh events and I made a point to attend most of them while working with the DSU outreach department to request permission, and began consulting with each executive for the potential of one official Frosh Week as opposed to individual Frosh events. There are a number of items that I feel the committee needs, but given the number of proposals that I submitted to the community that was dismissed without the board providing support or offering input to make it better, I've decided it's quite important to really hold off on my ideas and work with students that are interested in supporting my goals of enhancing the community.

Committee Work

Sex Week

International Student Tuition Anti-Increase Campaign

Residence & Deferred Maintenance Campaign

Guard Me

Open Text Book

Halloween Pub Night

Christmas Sendoff

DSU Networking Event

Club Forum

SFU's Got Talent

Open Mic

Highland Pub (Restaurant/Recommendations)

Business Speaking Competition

The Examination

Welcome Back Pub Night

Fall Kickoff Concert Support & Promotion

AGM Support & Promotion

Engagement Fund Relationship Building

Sponsorship Proposal

Volunteer Proposal

This year I had to follow FASC by the minutes due to academic commitments. The commitments of taking 3 classes, running a startup company and mentoring the startup of new clubs as VP Student Life and other events did not allow me to physically give my everything to FASC this semester. I was happy that the committee worked with me during this time. I chaired the Events Committee as well as the ISG Re-Development Committee. On top of this I also chaired the Working Group Committee for a number of projects with the notable being the working group for the Club's Forum. With the success of the Joint Welcoming Committee that was developed during the summer semester, the start of a Pancake Breakfast with SFU. Unfortunately, SFU had struck a conversation with the General Office who later communicated the need for budget allocation, I've become more interested in developing a better strategy in how we communicate within the society. Other committees I was involved in, include Build SFU, a Granting Committee where I worked with the General Office to develop a Loan Program for clubs who during the Club Forum meeting spoken about the dislike of a loan program. This year we are able to confirm the interest of Clubs to have year long membership as opposed to renewing their membership each semester. The Exec Committee, Board, Advocacy as well as adding items to ComSerCom.

VP Student Life accomplishments

This semester I was able to confirm the consensus of a Frosh Week by each DSU. Work to get the campaign for SFU International Tuition up to a level whereby it was prioritized by the Advocacy Committee; I was really proud given it was never even a priority of the board to begin with. I disliked the fact that the board level was used for items there were not meant for their table like the concert. However, I was satisfied that the Events Committee was able to produce the upcoming "Spring Jam," which will showcase a wide range of artists as well as be priced affordably. Now that the event planners are answering to a committee, it allowed the ability for questioning which enhanced the event. While some items I hoped could have been visited with the concert such as selection of artists, opening up executive positions to others to get involved and much more, I'm quite glad that it is now being organized as a working group of a committee of the board. The Club Forum saw a large turnout of clubs who decided that their immediate priorities were storage, funding increase and Promotion! In learning that 30% of their funds went to SFU AV and setup they THE CLUBS delegated to the the General Office staff who were present during the meeting to work with the school to secure a discount. In brainstorming ideas, we consulted with the Engagement Fund to potentially use their funds towards AV so that there was more funding for clubs to enhance Student Life. In realizing the

need for more space, we worked to get space by building on the existing relationships of entities who currently offered us usable spaces that can be used for other purposes. This was the SFU Theatre, Halpern, as well as SFU Recreational Facilities. The Board was consulted on their interest in using our storage for clubs as SFPIRG offers its clubs, but there was a number of friction in seeing feasibility in the idea. In working to create more clubs; clubs that I was proud of helping redevelop or initiate was the SFU Model United Nations, United FC which were a group of students who had traditionally played soccer on Friday and Sunday nights, but had been kicked off the field due to not having enough funding. Working with United FC representative we developed the constitution as well as necessary budget required to get their event off the ground. In developing a number of proposals I was happy to take on events I really wanted to see continue as well as started. These were events such as: SFU's Got Talent as well as Sex Week, which through opening applications to students I was able to start a system that was opening up the volunteer program of the SFSS, to potentially start integrating students in more ways than the norm. The need to develop a volunteer program for the SFSS, found me disappointed due to the organization looking to integrate it with the SFU Ambassador program. Some positives would be the Ambassador Program looking to recognize students starting clubs and in the communication office being tasked with this work, I was thrown away when they started upward of 7K to have a Volunteer Portal as part of our website. It made me feel that a better investment for the society was an IT person who was responsible for the large number of work that is outsourced with (in my opinion) an overly expensive company. There are a number of instances where the funding allocation of the society has been of question to me given other areas of the society that needed these funds. In holding my tongue with how fund allocation for the society has been done, I do feel that it's quite important to re-evaluate this. I am going to run for President of this society and change quite a number of items within its operations, though quite a lot has been accomplished this year, I feel that the leadership of the board was only aligned during the AGM with much of the efforts being due to a need for Build SFU.

Did promotional material and funding for the AGM come out of the Board's Budget or Build SFU? Did students give a consent for the funds they're currently paying for a Student Union Building to go towards promoting an Annual General Meeting, that the board should be putting money in promoting as well as advertising? From SFU's Next Top Product, working with business groups like 25 to Life to achieve their goals of \$25,000, and attending club socials. Leaving the pub to clubs like Chinese Scholars Student Association and much more through events, I've been slowly empowering the community to start innovating and growing their initiatives. In touching base with DSUs I was able to speak to the Criminology Student Union who voiced their dismay at the Board in previous years who would remove their booking of the pub, and throw an event without care for their organizing team. Meetings like these allowed me to see that the Psychology Student Union used the Highland Pub for



meetings as well as the Peak who help socials at this space. In attending the pub for regular events I also realized that there were graduate students who used this space as well. It made me slowly start to develop a conversation with members of the GSS on their investment to the pub given both organizations had initially one organization. I have a lot to say on ways in which the society can grow, but for that to happen, I need the community to believe and work with me. There's a lot of work to do!

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