



Annual General Meeting 2001 - 2002

Simon Fraser Student Society
Local 23 of the Canadian Federation of Students

Campaigns and Government Relations

Campaign to Reduce Tuition Fees

Since 1996 students in British Columbia had successfully lobbied to maintain a tuition fee freeze. Unfortunately, these hard-fought freezes came under attack by the current provincial government and the tuition fee freeze was lifted. As a result, tuition fees at Simon Fraser University increased by an average of 30 percent. The Student Society, in partnership with fellow student unions in the Canadian Federation of Students, has continued its efforts to lobby both provincial and federal governments as well as university administrators to reduce tuition and ancillary fees, eliminate differential fees for students in different programs, and to secure guaranteed funding to ensure that the quality of post-secondary education is not eroded.

The highpoint of the Student Society's efforts came by way of the February 6th National Day of Action that member locals of the Canadian Federation Students across the country demanding greater accessibility in post secondary education. More than 850 members of the Student Society participated in the National Day of Action and demanded a reduction of tuition fees at a rally held on campus. Speakers at the rally included Leonard George from the Squamish Nation, Christine Stoddard from the Teaching and Support Staff Union, George Heyman from the BC Government Employees Union, and Marjorie Griffen-Cohen from the Political Science and Women's Studies Department.

The Society organized a number of activities in Convocation Mall for participants of the rally including a 'wheel of fortune' game, a die and chance game, a 'Campbell's Soup' Kitchen, a speakers corner and cotton candy machine. CJSF provided music for the day. The National Day of Action served as an opportunity to educate students on the impacts that increased tuition fees have on accessibility.

The rally ended in a 'Funeral March' to Strand Hall, led by the SFU Pipers. A coffin representing the death of accessible education was buried on the lawn at Strand Hall as a reminder to administrators of the impacts that their actions can have.

The Canadian Federation of Students provided member locals with education materials including fact sheets, posters, sample letters to the editor/Minister of Advanced Education, as well as buttons and placards. In addition the Society released several media advisories prior to the event and was successful in generating positive media coverage in a variety of forms.

Campaign Against Privatization of Public Auto Insurance

The Friends of Public Auto Insurance and the Canadian Federation of Students, a coalition of non-profit organization of consumer, youth, and seniors groups dedicated to making BC citizens aware of the benefits of public auto insurance, developed a campaign which the Student Society became actively involved with. Through a speaker series at meetings of Simon Fraser Student Society Forum, as well as a post card and poster campaign, the Society promoted the efforts of this coalition. This campaign served to educate students of the dangers, particularly to the student demographic, that private auto insurance will pose.

Campaign Against the Six Dollar Training Wage

The Student Society joined a campaign coordinated by the BC Federation of Labour under the slogan 'Six Bucks Sucks'. The campaign was developed in response to the Campbell government's decision to introduce what the government calls, a training wage. The training wage penalizes youth in this province interested in earning wages by ensuring that they will earn two dollars per hour less than others in the province. The Society publicly opposed the provincial government's decision to implement the training wage and adopted the distinct campaign materials developed by the BC Federation of Labour. The Society adopted the BC Federation of Labour's "6 Bucks Sucks" campaign and distributed materials to students.

Advocacy

Academic Freedom

In the spring 2001, concerns emerged over the process used to appoint an incoming J.S. Woodsworth Chair in the Humanities Department. The hiring committee of the Humanities Department overwhelmingly selected David Noble, a professor at York University, for the position. However, shortly after, claims emerged that the appointment was unduly hampered by senior administrators at the University. It is speculated that the University disagreed with Dr. Noble's controversial stands on some issues and his activist involvement as a faculty member at York. To bring attention to this issue the Society held an Academic Freedom Teach-in to examine the issue of Academic Freedom on campus.

Burnaby Mountain Development Working Group

The Burnaby Mountain Community Trust, on behalf of Simon Fraser University, is developing a new community with up to 4,536 residential units, housing 10,000 people on Burnaby Mountain. This community is expected to include retail and commercial space, parks, schools, recreation and community facilities on approximately 160 acres of land within the Ring Road. The Burnaby Mountain Development Working Group of the Student Society was created to ensure the new community at SFU demonstrates principles of community building, student integration and interdependence, and ecological sustainability. The Burnaby Mountain Development Working Group pursued a campaign to ensure the establishment of a strong and diverse campus community, including affordable student housing.

Critical U

The Society was one of the founding members in creating an outreach education program in East Vancouver neighborhoods known as Critical U. Thus outreach consisted of free classes and workshops on issues that affect the community including: globalization, urban development, media and culture, capitalism, and political literacy. These classes were led by professors from Simon Fraser University who volunteered their time. Various sessions were facilitated by student organizers.

Don't Increase the Fees, Increase Funding – Postcard Campaign

The Society undertook a postcard campaign aimed at providing government and university administration with a strong mandate from students to recognize and address the detrimental impacts that tuition fee increases have on accessibility.

Members of the Student Society participated in an occupation of Gordon Campbell's Constituency office to deliver hand-delivered signed postcards. Students delivered approximately 5000 postcards signed by SFU students. Premier Campbell refused to participate in a conference call with students and in response, the occupation of the Premier's office commenced. The SFU students were stood in solidarity with students from UBC, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Langara College and Douglas College at the Premier's office. The occupation received significant media coverage, and more than forty letters of support from student unions across Canada and the United States were received. In addition, Maude Barlow, the volunteer Chairperson of the Council of Canadians personally phoned to offer support.

Harassment Policy Review Committee

The Society submitted a series of concerns regarding the Universities Harassment Policy, with specific reference to process. Additional concerns were on the ways students may interpret the policy and how that may affect their willingness to report any harassment. The Society's Treasurer was one of the two students on the Harassment Resolution Policy Board, allowing for student input into the process.

Membership, Outreach and Organizing

Canadian Federation of Students

The Canadian Federation of Students was formed in 1981 to provide students with an effective and united voice, provincially

and nationally. Students recognized that to be truly effective in representing their collective interests to the federal and provincial governments, it is vital to unite under one banner. As a founding member, the Simon Fraser Student Society is proud to be Local 23 of the Canadian Federation of Students. Today, the Federation is comprised of more than 450,000 students from 67 college and university students unions across Canada, including over 125,000 members in BC.

The Federation was founded with the goals of organizing students on a democratic, cooperative basis to advance student interests and the interests of the community; provide a common framework within which students can communicate, exchange information and share skills and ideas; ensure effective use and distribution of the resources of the student movement while ensuring the growth and development of students unions and their ability to respond to the needs and desires of students.

In order to ensure its effectiveness in influencing government policy the Federation produces in depth and accurate research to support its lobby efforts and recommendations to government. Of course, regular meetings with government and the very best research will have little impact unless the government believes a message has widespread support. The Federation demonstrates this support through the active participation of its members and the general public in activities ranging from petition drives to mass mobilizations. These campaigns raise Public awareness of the issues, and correspondingly affect the decisions and policies of government.

The Federation has actively lobbied for greater accessibility in post secondary education. In addition, however, the Canadian Federation of Students has launched a number of highly successfully campaigns including the 'No Means No' campaign, the Charter of Rights challenge to the ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy and campaign against the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Through our united voice in the Federation, the Simon Fraser Student Society has played a role in maintaining the 6 year tuition fee freeze and the 5% reduction of tuition last year. In the current political climate in British Columbia, the Simon Fraser Student Society is recognizes the importance of maintaining a united voice.

Departmental Student Unions and Graduate Caucuses

Departmental Student Unions provide the main source of opinion in the Student Society's Forum. Through participation in departmental student unions, all registered students may participate in the efforts of the Society. Together with the graduate caucuses, departmental student unions provide students with opportunities to pursue academic, political and social interests and concerns. Departmental representatives to the SFSS Forum are elected through by-elections conducted by their respective Unions.

This past year, student unions focused their energy on membership development, organizing social events, and teach-ins. In addition, the student unions and gradate caucuses directed efforts to the Canadian Federation of Students National Day of Action on February 6, 2002.

Graduate Student Leader Conference – University of British Columbia

The Graduate Issues Office and the Graduate Issues and University Relations Coordinator were invited to attend the "First Annual Graduate Student Leader Conference" hosted by the UBC Graduate Student Society. The four-day event covered a range of topics including, running graduate pubs, federal and provincial graduate representation, working with undergraduate student unions, working with university administrations, and addressing student apathy. The representatives from the Student Society gave presentations on tuition fee policy, including the benefits of affordable, fully funded, public post-secondary education, on a panel that included graduate students in favour of higher tuition fees, deregulation of tuition fees, and elite universities.

Graduate Caucus Orientations

During the Week of Welcome, and throughout the year, the Graduate Issues Officer, Graduate Issues Caucus and University Relations Coordinator addressed numerous Graduate Caucus Orientations with the purpose of informing new and continuing graduate students of the role of the Graduate Issues Committee and the Society's advocacy work. This membership

development effort resulted in the Graduate Issues Committee growing from four to nearly twenty members over the course of the year.

Handbook

The Society opted not to participate in the common handbook production project organized by the Canadian Federation of Students for the 2001-2002 calendar. The Executive Committee made use of the services of Broadway Printers in producing the handbook. The Executive Committee and Society staff spent a great deal of time writing and editing the content of the agenda. Upon delivery of the handbooks, each handbook was stuffed with additional information and advertisements. Despite additional advertisements the 2001-2002 handbook proved to be more expensive than the Federations' common handbook project.

Orientation

The Society actively organized for the Simon Fraser University Fall Orientation and provided a free lunch for all participants on the second day of the event. During the lunch, new students were invited to participate in carnival games including 'Pie in the face' and dart throwing at a photograph of the President.

Writing Centre Elimination

Graduate Students and Teaching Assistants at Simon Fraser University expressed concern regarding the closure of the Writing Centre. The Centre has been well utilized by students that had concerns with their written skills. Without this resource, teaching assistants have taken on greater workloads without compensation. The Society continues to lobby the University to reinstate the Writing Centre.

Services

Book Buyback

A textbook buyback program is operated every semester by the Student Society. This service operates during exams and during the first week of each term. Over the past year, the textbook buyback program has performed very well and has provided an invaluable service to students. The books that are bought from students are put directly on the shelves in Quad Books where students can buy previously owned textbooks at significant savings.

Student Society Catering

The Student Society's catering service is capable of catering anywhere on campus and is highly utilized by the various clubs and student unions of the Society. The catering service is entirely non-profit and all revenues are diverted to the provision of student bursaries. The society's food and beverage service collectively employs between 40 and 60 students. Employees of the catering service are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 3338.

Food Bank

The Food Bank was a successful service this past year. Numerous food drives were organized, and gift certificates from Safeway were included in the food packages to provide users with access to fresh produce. The food bank became more efficient, manageable, transparent, and accountable due to a revised structure. Two new food bank coordinators were hired and a work-study student position was created to adequately resource the food bank. There is concern, however, a concern that many students are not fairing well given the high use of the service.

Graduate Lounge

The graduate lounge was under renovation during the year in the interest of creating a more comfortable space for students to meet on a formal or informal basis. This lounge serves as a space for graduate students to study, meet, visit, and relax.

Higher Grounds Coffee Bar

The Student Society continued operation of its well-utilized coffee bar. The coffee employs a number of students and has introduced fair trade organic coffee as one of its offerings. Employees of Higher Grounds are members of Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 3338.

International Student Identification Card (ISIC)

The International Student Identification Card is a service of the Canadian Federation of Students and is available to all full-time students enrolled at member locals of the Canadian Federation of Students, including the Simon Fraser Student Society. The Society has continued its commitment to raising awareness of this service and the discounts on travel and various services that it is associated with. This past year approximately 2400 cards were distributed to members of the Student Society.

Legal Aid Clinics

The Student Society provides free legal clinics every second Thursday in the afternoon offering students an opportunity to speak with legal council. This service is regularly used by a variety of students.

Highland Pub

The Highland Pub offers a full menu, various drink specials and is open daily. Each Thursday, the Pub hosts a 'pub night' that is consistently well attended. Employees of the Pub are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 3338.

Quad Books

Located on the 2000 level of the Maggie Benston Centre, Quad Books is a student owned bookstore. Quad Books offers a full range of school supplies at affordable prices, Express Post, transit tickets and monthly passes, as well as a fax service. Quad Books experienced a short fall in sales, but continues to provide a competitive service to students.

Shuttle Bus Service

The Student Society worked in cooperation with the Athletics and Recreational Services Office to provide a shuttle bus service for resident students during the 2001 Translink transit service strike. The service was well utilized and the Society was successful in offering this service to students at no additional cost during the entire period of the strike.

Studentsaver

The Studentsaver is a service provided by the Canadian Federation of Students to its member locals, including the Simon Fraser Student Society. The Studentsaver Card is Canada's only student owned and operated national student discount program and offers thousands of discounts across the country. Discounts typically range from 10% to 35% off purchased goods and services. The Studentsaver continues to grow rapidly with more than one thousand discount in British Columbia alone.

Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass)

The Society lobbied Translink to negotiate the creation of a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) for the students at Simon Fraser University. The proposed U-Pass would give students unlimited access to the Greater Vancouver Translink routes for a low semester based fee. Over the last year, the Society continued, through the Upass Working Group of the Advocacy Committee, to negotiate and discuss moving forward with the universal transit pass at SFU. A referendum was planned in April however inconsistencies in campaigning caused the referendum to be suspended.

Internal Restructuring

Board of Directors

In 2001, students voted through referendum to alter the Society's By-Laws in order to establish a new Board structure. In May of 2002, the new By-Laws came into effect. The Society spent most of the 2001-2002 term preparing for the massive restructuring. Forum (a body comprised of 1 undergraduate and 1 graduate representative from each departmental student union and the Executive Committee) formally performed the role as Board of Directors for the Society. The changes to the By-Laws recreated the role of Forum as an advisory body. The structure of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee were also changed to provide for greater efficiency in engaging in and managing the work of the Society.

The additional Executive Committee position of Member Services Officer was created. The duties of the Member Services Officer are primarily to act as a liaison between the Board of Directors, departmental student unions, and other student groups, and to coordinate activities on campus. The new Board is comprised of the seven Executive Officers, one representative from each faculty, and three at-large representatives, one of whom must be a graduate student.

Elections, Hiring and Transfers

This year saw changes to the staff compliment on the Society's advocacy side were made. Jason Lee was hired to fill the Policy and Research Resource Coordinator position. In addition Jenny Co was hired as the Book Buy Back Coordinator and Retail Services Assistant. This is a new term-position with the Society and will be filled for two years.

The following were elected in the general election to serve as the executive officers: President, Britta Jensen; Internal Relations Officer, Peter Dempster; Treasurer, Caralyn Tansey; External Relations Officer, Jonathan Silveira; University Relations Officer, Joel Warren; Graduate Issues Officer, Michael Matthews.

Review of Society's Rules, Standing Orders, and Administrative Policy

The Society's Constitution and Policy Review Committee spent time updating the policy manual to reflect the By-Law changes that came in to effect for 2002-2003 Board. Some of these changes included establishing the duties, responsibilities and stipend requirements for the new faculty and at-large representatives on the Board of Directors, and for the new Member Services Officer on the Executive Committee. After considering the role of Forum and its representatives, the C.P.R. committee established new duties and responsibilities for them.

SFU Surrey

The B. C. Liberal government in the late spring closed down the Technical University of British Columbia, housed in Surrey Place Mall. SFU has incorporated Surrey's undergraduate and graduate programs in Information Technology and Interactive Arts into its academic mandate, and continues to offer them at the Surrey location.

The Society anticipated the inclusion of Surrey students as new members before the University formally changed hands, and met with Surrey Student Society executive officers in the spring semester to familiarize themselves with student concerns and issues at the Surrey campus brought on by closure of the independent school. Further discussions took place concerning the integration of Surrey students into the SFSS organizational structure; the delivery of Society services to these students, and the organizational impact of the changeover for both bodies.

The Society advocated for Surrey student representatives' seats on the University's Long Term Planning Committee for academic integration, and fought to protect student services on the Surrey campus Surrey that the former administration offered.

Much of the work with Surrey students focused on bring information and services from the Society to the Surrey campus, and on the development of the framework for a departmental student union on that campus to represent Information Technology and Interactive Arts students interests within the Society and to the University.

Student Centres

Out on Campus

This past year, Out on Campus focussed on creating a safe space for queers on campus as well as strengthening SFU's existing queer community. We have worked towards these two goals by making our lounge space more presentable to people, maintaining hours that are accessible to students, and providing programming that draws in more of the SFU community. By doing these things, Out on Campus increases awareness of the presence of queer individuals in the campus community.

Over the summer of 2001, the Out on Campus space was rearranged with the idea that a more comfortable lounge area would help create a more inviting atmosphere. The result is an office that can accommodate different types of programming and is more comfortable for everyone. The library has also expanded and continues to be a diverse resource, both academically and recreationally, for the SFU community.

With a more comfortable space, one of Out on Campus' major achievements was the creation of After Hours, a weekly café in the lounge (Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.). This offered students the opportunity to have a queer-friendly space open in the evenings as well as get some food and coffee. This vehicle was used to welcome people who felt uncomfortable entering our space during regular office hours due to the high traffic volume outside Out on Campus' doors during the day. After Hours was also home to social events such as discussion groups, games nights, and an open mike night.

Queer Awareness Week was Out on Campus' major outreach event. Spanning the last week of February 2002, Out on Campus held a minimum of one workshop per day. These events drew in up to 50 people at a time. On a Monday, there were 30 heterosexual identifying males lined up outside the Out on Campus doors waiting to get in! The topics of the programming all focused on creating a sex-positive dialogue in our communities, and this drew in a very diverse population. The

week was finished off by a fundraising drag show held at the Highland Pub. This event drew in over 200 people on a Friday night and raised over 500 dollars for Pridehouse BC, an organization supporting homeless queer youth in the Lower Mainland.

With an extremely successful year behind us, Out on Campus is looking forward to continuing the work of creating a safe environment for queers and their friends here on the SFU campus. Having learned many strategies for being more inclusive and to draw in a diverse population to events, we can only expect the 2002 – 2003 year to be amazing.

Submitted by Out on Campus

Women's Centre Report

The Women's Centre Health Information Project continued providing women info on a myriad of health issues. Our monthly Health Q&A sessions were reborn as monthly Soup & Schmoozes, supported by Women's Studies as well as the TSSU. Additional health information boards covered such issues as STI's (sexually transmitted infections), depression, body image, reproductive issues and more. Between 2400-2600 women each semester go through the Women's Centre Lounge. It is our experience that many of these women get access to health information they would not otherwise get if not for the Health Info Project. We continue to be indebted to our Health Information Volunteer Lisa Matthews who spends countless hours working up creative, relevant and interactive displays!

Other efforts throughout the year included continued collective and lounge user education on transgenderism/transsexualism concluding in April of 2002 with a Trans Inclusion Policy for the Centre; Dec 6th (National Day of Action to End Violence Against Women) Vigil and Speak Out; and our 2nd Annual Women Speak Event for March 8th (International Women's Day), which included 2 hours of continuous female voice in the Convo Mall reading women's writing. Other outreach included co-sponsored events with Rotunda groups such as SFPirg and Out On Campus as well as project development and delivery (SEX TALK & PIZZA) with the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Working Group. Our library continues to grow with the efforts of our Library volunteer committee in concert with our Librarian, Michelle Bogdan. Our campus and off-campus community resources continue to be updated facilitating access for self-identified women, men and those individuals who do not identify as either, on many issues including, but not limited to, domestic violence, relationships, self-help, health etc.

The Women's Centre continues its work for the full participation of all self-identified women in society, to end all forms of oppression and to provide access to women-centered resources.

Submitted by the Women's Centre

First Nations Student Association

The First Nations Student Association spent much of last year in establishing ourselves as a solid campus organization. Part of the organization included the running of the referendum question in which we became an umbrella group of the Simon Fraser Student Society, this having occurred at the spring elections of this year. At this time, we also hosted an introductory event in the convocation mall so that we could let the greater student body know who we are. Once the elections were over and the referendum passed we began meeting concerning a constituency for our group as well as the outline for a job description for a staff person and future events. As many FN students leave the city for summer this process is still on going.

Submitted by the First Nations Student Association

Treasurer's Report

May 2001-April 2002

It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to oversee the financial matters of the Student Society, reporting to Board and the membership (through this report at the Annual General Meeting). As is often the case, the Society has received an unqualified audit this year, meaning that the accounting practices and internal financial controls of the Society are appropriate and financially sound. Also, they meet the standards set out under the Society Act and generally accepted accounting principles. Our membership dues continue to provide regular and steady revenue for the Society, covering the expenses of our non-commercial operations. In this audited report we see a return to positive Members Equity for the Society, an indication of part of the great improvement in our financial position.

Member's Equity

The years' audited statements present a positive Member's Equity of \$46,187. This is a result of a surplus substantially larger than budgeted for. This is due to many factors including individuals' hard work and large structural changes that have occurred in the last few years. For the future, the Auditor's recommendation is to have a Member's Equity which is equal to 3-10% of our annual budget.

Mortgage/ Building Fund

The Society continues to pay down the mortgage on the Societys' portion of the construction costs of building the Maggie Benston Student Services Building. This money comes from a separate membership levy, the Building Fund, which is paying out approximately \$500,000 per year. The fund is administered separately and does not impact our operational Budget or cash flow. The mortgage of the Society should be paid off within the next year. The Building Fees will continue being collected after the mortgage is paid, placed into a separate account reserved for future building expenditures. This decision was approved in the referendum of March 2001. These funds can be used toward future space on campus, possibly within the Burnaby Mountain Development. In the future, this fund can also be used for renovations to our existing space, or possibly for paying our operating costs.

Operating Budget

The Society has diverse sources of revenue, though most revenue continues to come through fee collection. In the 2001-2002 fiscal year, fee revenues were more than expected with increases in student enrolment. Our Commercial Services include the retail services of Quad Books and CopyRite and the Food and Beverage Department of the Society.

For the 2001-02 Quad and CopyRite experienced a combined deficit of \$111,951 compared to the \$16,510 budgeted for. This occurred due to a number of factors such as: decrease revenue in part due to the transit strike, increase labour costs due to an extended sick leave of one coordinator, and a negative ruling by the Provincial Services Tax (PST) Auditor on PST paid on our photocopier leases. Book buyback continues to provide us with a healthy 30% gross profit. As well, there was a 35% gross profit in other retail sales.

The Society's Food and Beverage Services includes the Highland Pub, Higher Grounds Coffee Bar, and a catering service. The Food and Beverage department has made a significant financial recovery in the last 2 years. Overall, the department has seen a 10% increase in revenue for the 2001-02 year.

Tenants

The Society worked to fill the area vacated by Travel Cuts, finally signing a lease with Wild Coyote Pizza. This choice of tenant will offer more affordable food choices for students. Renovations occurred on Koya Japan, all went smoothly and it opened in Spring 2002.

The Society continues to improve financial with the combined work of all of the employees of CUPE 3338, CUPE 2396, our managers, and the Board of Directors of the Society. With this continued work the Society will look forward to a bright financial future where we are able to expand our options in the services we offer to students. I would like to thank our Financial coordinators, Colleen and Kurt, as well as our Auditor for their work and effort on this year's Audit. I am pleased to present such a positive financial outlook for the Simon Fraser Student Society.

Thank you,

Kate Berniaz

Treasurer,

Simon Fraser Student Society

