



2010 – 2011 Annual Report
Simon Fraser Student Society

Annual General Meeting
October 26th, 2011

SERVICES

Health and Dental Plan

The SFSS Extended Health and Dental Plan provides extensive coverage for prescription drugs, vision care, vaccinations, travel medical coverage dental care, medical equipment and orthodontics, and paramedical practitioners. Over 19,000 undergraduate students are enrolled and we have already covered 2.2 million dollars in claims.

In 2008 students voted for a health and dental plan with a ceiling cap of \$198 per year. The SFSS Health and Dental Plan fee was originally set at \$184.84 per user. However, due to higher than expected usage and claims during the first year, in September of 2010 the SFSS had to increase the fee up to the authorized limit of \$198 per year. However, this increase still does not fully cover the current level of claims going forward, so the Society was forced to make minor reductions in coverage.

In Fall 2010, the society put forth a referendum question to increase the fee cap. This question failed and the society was again forced to make reductions in coverage.

U-Pass Negotiations

In early 2010, the BC Government announced changes to the U-Pass program. The new program included a universal pass for all public post-secondary institutions across metro Vancouver. The pass costs \$30 per month.

Negotiations between Translink, institutions and societieis commenced in August 2010 and lasted about a year. The society ran a referendum campaign in Spring 2011 which passed with 96%

in favour of the new program. The contract was then signed in Summer of 2011.

The new pass came into effect in Fall 2011 and has been running smoothly since. There are still a few small issues to be resolved but the society is working closely with SFU to address these concerns.

Renovations and Student Spaces

■ Maggie Benston Centre, lower level

A consultation with students held in March of this year told us that students would appreciate a more comfortable seating area in the lower level of the Maggie Benston Centre. Since May, the University Relations Officer has been working with the university to design and build a comfortable lounge and group study space. The project will break ground in December and should finish in the Spring semester.

■ Atrium Cafeteria

The Atrium Cafeteria has been in need of renovations for many years. In 2008, the Board of Directors held student consultations to gauge student interest in renovating the space. A second consultation was held this year. Students have repeatedly asked for better lighting, more food vendors, and new furniture for the space. A bank of microwaves will also be added for student use. This project is in the design phase with construction expected to begin next year.

■ Pub Renovations Completed

The Board of Directors officially recognized the completion of renovations to the Highland Pub with a grand-reopening event held in September.

2010 – 2011 Annual Report

Guests were invited to enjoy the new furniture, an improved layout, and samples from an updated menu. A professional-grade audio system has also been installed to enhance the experience on event nights. Survey results have indicated a positive reception by students and other pub visitors.

- **Out on Campus and Women's Centre**

Minor renovations will take place this year to improve the working conditions for our employees. Bookshelves will also be upgraded in the Women's Centre and a second automatic door will be installed to make the space more accessible.

- **Washroom Renovations**

The condition of washrooms has long been an issue on the Burnaby campus. Our advocacy efforts have successfully prompted the university to begin renovations on its own facilities, and now the Board of Directors has begun planning for renovations to two washrooms in the pub building. These washrooms will be completely redone and will be a relief for patrons of the Highland Pub and Higher Grounds coffee shop, as well as the general student body.

Other

- **Copy Centre**

New photocopiers are being installed to replace aging machines that have served students well over the past few years. The new machines will provide better service for students and the same low price of 5 cents per page on 100% recycled paper.

- **Gondola**

Members of the Board of Directors have met with Translink, university officials, and the Member of Parliament for Burnaby-Douglas to learn about the proposed gondola project. The gondola is intended to better connect Burnaby Mountain with the Skytrain system, reduce transit time, and be more environmentally friendly than running diesel busses on the 145 route. After weighing the advantages and disadvantages and considering the benefits to students, the Board has voted to support the project. A business plan will be released by Translink in the coming months and will provide insight into the feasibility of the project.



The old photocopiers at the Copy Centre, soon to be replaced.

ADVOCACY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

This year the advocacy committee will be focusing on lobbying BC education funding, Translink for gondola, and university for clean and sustainable campus. In turns of lobbying the government, we have collaborated with Uvic Student Society, AMS UBC Student Society, and Capilano student society on three funding issues:

1. **The elimination of interest rates on student loans.**
2. **The re-establishment of a provincial needs-based grants program.**

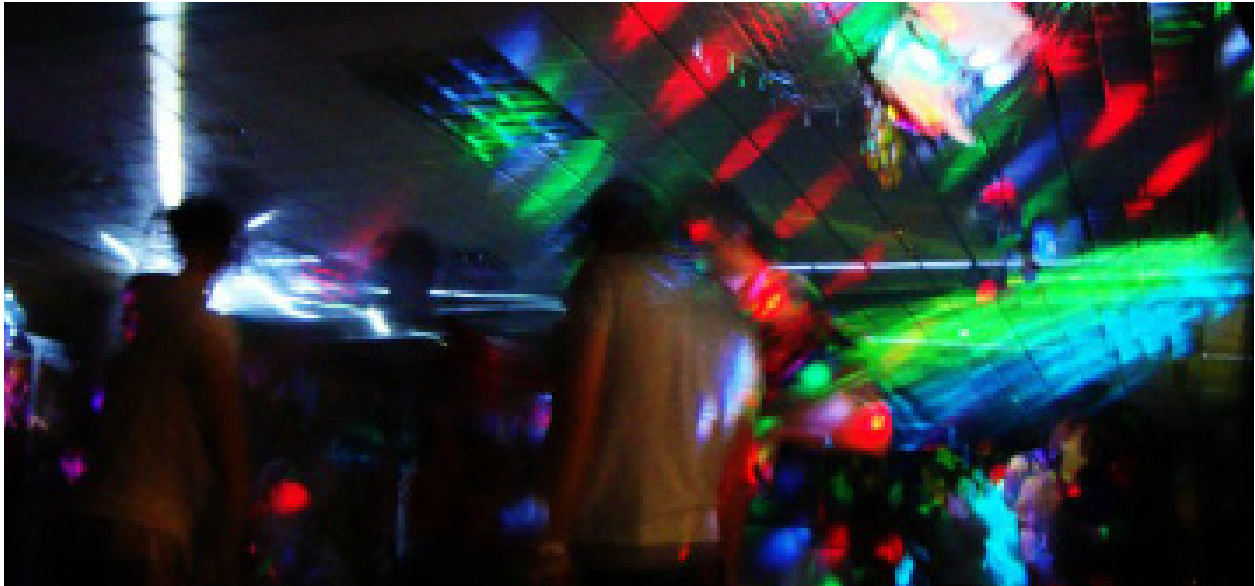
3. **An increase to core-funding for colleges and universities.**

We are currently planning an event with occupy Vancouver on Nov 10 that specifically deals with the student interest rate issue. In turns our work for Translink gondola, we will be doing a petition of 1000 signatures to the Burnaby MP, Kennedy Stewart expressing our support for the gondola and urges federal input in this project. We are also planning on a viral campaign for the support of gondola in the upcoming months. As for clean and sustainable campus initiative, we are still searching for creative solutions to a clean and sustainable campus.

The committee currently meets weekly on Thursdays at 10:30am @ MBC 2290.



Diego Reyerros (MSO 2010-2011) preparing for the Unite For Public Education Campaign.



Hawaii on the Hill

EVENTS

Hawaii on the Hill

The SFSS hosted Hawaii on the Hill, an all-ages Hawaii themed party, on September 15th in the Maggie Benston Center. On the night of the event, the conference rooms were transformed into a Hawaiian themed beach with decorations, a limbo contest and hula hooping. Two student DJ's were hired for the event and did a great job getting all attendees on the dance floor.

Guests at the event enjoyed dancing as well as refreshments, snacks and free giveaway prizes from sponsors. The night successfully welcomed over 100 new students to SFU and introduced them to their student society.

Pub Night Sponsorship Program

The sponsorship program was initiated last spring term and since piloted it has been a

huge success. The program is designed to offer clubs or Departmental Student Unions the experience of organizing a large-scale event while simultaneously raising money by hosting a Thursday Pub night at the Highland.

This year the Board of Directors has made it a goal to give the opportunity to as many student clubs and DSU's as possible as it not only helps to increase activity and program engagement on

campus but also brings students into the newly renovated pub. A few groups that have taken part in the program so far include clubs such as Student Marketing Association, the Ski and Snowboard club, SASS and the Punjabi club along with Departmental student Unions including Communications and BASS. All events are themed and aimed at members of the Undergraduate student body. Pub Night continues to attract new attendees and there are many more to come this year!

Surrey Campus Committee

The Surrey Campus Committee is a sub-committee of the SFSS. It consists of democratically elected students from the SFU Surrey Campus. The SCC is here to represent and advocate on behalf of each and every student at the SFU Surrey campus. Whether it is with the University or the greater Surrey community, the SCC's mandate is to voice and address student's concerns, questions and suggestions.

Past Events/Meetings:

- **Week of Welcome BBQ:**
Served over 1100 students (Had vegetarian and vegan options as well), was under budget, and focused on environmentally friendly options.
- **By-elections:**
Welcomed two new executives (Surrey Affairs and Promotion/Outreach), as well as three new general officers.
- **De-stressing Day (For the Summer)**
Gave out ice-cream cones and root-beer floats and held a ping-pong tournament.
- **JOAG (Joint Operations Advisory Group) Meeting:**
Met with university administration and discussed issues students were facing on the Surrey campus and worked to find solutions. (Minutes are available for the meeting).

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- **Say Cheese and Die Halloween Event (October 31st)**
Costume contest and photo booth with prizes.
- **De-Stressing Week (Fall)**
Fun workshops held throughout the week (including Salsa lessons, Bob Ross style art lessons, etc), and snacks given out to studying students.
- **Meeting with the City of Surrey:**
Discussing the evolution of the city and what students want to see in the future.
- **Annual Pancake Breakfast**
- **February Formal/Dance**
- **Pub Nights at Central City Brewing**

Committee Member's List:

Chief Officer:

Ashleigh Girodat scc.chiefofficer@sfss.ca

Promotions/Outreach Officer:

Mikaela Osmak scc.promotions@sfss.ca

Surrey Affairs Officer:

Sandeep Jassal scc.affairs@sfss.ca

Campus Life Officer:

Amir Ali scc.campuslife@sfss.ca

Officer: Robbie Sebullen

Officer: Gurinder Saroya

Officer: Ewelina Bajdowska

Officer: Nyssa Lessingham

Email the committee at: scc@sfss.ca

LABOUR RELATIONS

Preparations to enter into collective bargaining began, at the absolute latest, in March 2009. Negotiations began in January 2010. At this point both parties put forward proposals to the Collective Agreement. This then opened up those articles to negotiation. Since that time Boards have been restricted to bargain within the parameters that were set in January 2010.

Since that time the SFSS has acted within the rules and regulations of the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia in order to achieve a Collective Agreement that better suites the needs of the SFSS members.

The Board is happy to once again have a Collective Agreement in place. This CA is a significant step forward and brings with it the ability preparer the SFSS for long term success and allow the future Boards the ability to meet the ever changing needs of the majority of SFSS members.

FINANCE AND INTERNAL RELATIONS

About the Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a non-profit organization that represents every undergraduate student at SFU. All undergraduate students are automatically members of the society and pay an activity fee (appendix 1). The SFSS is mandated to coordinate and promote all activities for undergraduate students. In pursuing its mandate, the SFSS offers a variety of services such as the Women's Centre, Out On Campus, the handbook, the Copy Centre, funding for clubs and departmental student unions, the Ombuds Office, Nightline, events, Clubs Days, a bursary program, the Legal Aid Clinic, as well as providing employment for students.

Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Treasurer's responsibilities are to ensure that all Society funds are deposited in an appropriate account and to keep careful account and be responsible for all monies received and disbursed by or on behalf of the Society as per bylaw 4(5).

New Collective Agreement

The Board is excited to have a new Collective Agreement that is fair for both students and staff. At \$14.50, the wage for new student employees will allow the Board of Directors to hire more students. We have recently posted four new positions for the General Office.

2010 – 2011 Annual Report

Another point to mention is the letter of agreement between the SFSS and CUPE local 3338. In this letter, the Board of Directors agreed to go to referendum to reallocate a portion of the Space Expansion Fund and target it to the different services outlined below (appendix 3). Although there is always some risk of referendums not passing, I feel that with the high number of groups with a vested interest in the outcome of this question, it will pass in the next regularly scheduled referendum. This infusion of money into the operating budget – approximately \$300,000 annually – is vital to maintaining our services in the future.

During the lockout, the Board of Directors tried its best to maintain services for our members. In recognition that some of our services were hindered by the labour dispute, the Finance and Administrative Services Committee has decided to reallocate the savings to some of our services outlined below (appendix 2).

Policy AP-7 (Budget) Amended to Address the Deficit

The annual budget of the Society shall maintain, at a minimum, a net surplus or return to members' equity in an amount equal to or greater than 2% of the Society's net student activity fee revenue for that fiscal year. This requirement shall remain in force and effect until such time as the net assets or members' equity of the Society, as indicated by the audited financial statements of the Society, is equal to or greater than the equivalent of 30% of the Society's annual net student activity fee revenue.

Effect on the Society and Budgeting:

The change to 2 per cent will double the required net surplus during budgeting, thus reducing the number of years that it will take the Society to repay its deficit. This is an important step in addressing this issue and will help the Society become more fiscally responsible. This change will require a budgeted net surplus of approximately \$31,000 for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Food and Beverage Services (FBS)

These are the SFSS's commercial activities that include The Ladle, Higher Grounds coffee shop, and the Highland Pub. In the 2010-2011 year, FBS lost a total of \$314,167. This cannot be attributed to any one commercial service alone. It is difficult to separate how much time is spent by management and other employees on each service.

We also have to keep in mind that the pub was closed or at a reduced capacity due to renovations last year, however, many costs are still fixed. FBS also provides more than 50 student jobs at higher wages than industry average, which is one service that people seem to forget.

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

The court date for the CFS dispute is currently scheduled for February 2012. This is an opportunity for the SFSS to uphold our claim in the Supreme Court regarding our separation from the CFS. The Board of Directors is confident that the result will be positive for the students.

Deficit: Explanation

We currently have no members' equity. This can be attributed to unexpected expenses and FBS losing larger than forecasted amounts. Currently, the deficit is being absorbed by the Society Development Fund (SDF) which holds the funds that were collected in years past for the CFS. The money in this fund has been earmarked because in any court case, no matter how confident one is; there is always a chance of losing the case. In the event the SFSS loses the court case, the Society would have to pay all fees collected to the CFS as well as possibly paying their legal fees. Therefore, it is prudent the SFSS continues to keep this money aside until we know the result of the court case.

Space Expansion Fund (SEF)

AP-39-3: The Space Expansion Fund may only be spent on the renovation, operating expenditures, repair, maintenance and creation of student space on campus under the jurisdiction of the Simon Fraser Student Society.

The SEF may not be used to pay for operational costs of running the services of the student society.

Looking Forward: New Potential Sources of Revenue

The SFSS Board of Directors is currently looking to increase revenues in a variety of ways to address the current deficit:

- Advertising: Looking at potentially increasing the advertising in our space
- New Atrium Food Court: This will increase the operating fund by approximately \$50,000 annually
- Dental clinic: Once the dental clinic is finished there will be an additional \$56,000 per year added to the operating fund
- Enhancing FBS operations through "FBS Action Plan"

Conclusion

With the CFS court case in February 2012 and a referendum question regarding the redirection of the SEF, it is difficult to predict the SFSS's financial situation for the next fiscal year. We could either be in a good financial situation or services may need to be reduced. The fixed labour costs in FBS need to be addressed. The Board of Directors needs to decide if our goal for FBS is to either make money, break even, or continue running a deficit. If we want to continue to provide above average wages, we will continue to run deficits in our food services.

2010 – 2011 Annual Report

Appendix 1:

Breakdown of Fees Collected by the SFSS	Full Time	Part Time
*Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS)	32.99	16.50
Student Society Building Fund/ Capital Levy	15.00	7.50
Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group	3.00	1.50
Peak Publication Society	4.90	2.45
CJSF- Campus Community Radio Society	3.75	1.88
**Student Refugee - WUSC	2.50	1.25
First Nations Student Association	0.75	0.38
**Universal Transit Pass	120.00	120.00
Accessibility Fund	0.75	0.38
Sustainable SFU	2.00	1.00
Health Plan	78.05	78.05
Dental Plan	119.95	119.95
Total	\$383.64	\$350.84

** Fee increased via student referendum March 2011		
* Includes Society Development - CFS	\$7.64	\$3.82

Appendix 2:

Simon Fraser Student Society Additions to Current 2011-2012 Budget							
Line Item	Budget 2010-11	Actual's for 2010-11	Budget 2011-12	Addition to 2011-12	Aug 31 st Additions	October 5 th Additions	Current-Budget 2011-12
Surrey Campus Committee	12000	11340	5241	2000		5000	12241
Bursary contribution	10000	10000	0	10000			10000
Events	14000	27984	6500	6000	2600	20000	35100
Legal clinic	23751	22215	6000	4000		12000	22000
Clubs	79300	91849	55454	6000		19000	80454
DSU's	80300		60454	6000		14000	80454
Women	13746		8035	1000		5000	14035
Out On Campus	13482		8455	1000		5000	14455
Capital Expenditure			17600			30000	47600
Total Added				36000	2600	110000	148600

2010 – 2011 Annual Report

Appendix 3:

October 7, 2011

Letter of Agreement
Between
The Simon Fraser Student Society
(The Employer)
and
The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3338
(The Union)

The parties agree without prejudice or precedent that the Simon Fraser Student Society **Board of Directors** will:

Hold a referendum on the reallocation of funds from the Space Expansion Fee at the next **regularly scheduled election**.

The referendum shall ask that \$5.00 per fulltime and \$2.50 per part-time student be reallocated from the Space Expansion Fee and allocated according to the following breakdown:

- \$1.25 to Department Student Unions
- \$1.25 to Student Clubs
- \$0.50 to Out On Campus
- \$0.50 to the Women's Centre
- \$0.25 to the Bursary contribution
- \$0.25 to Events
- \$1.00 to the operating fund

This shall be prorated for part-time students.

The purpose of the referendum will be to guarantee funding for SFSS budget areas as well as create additional space in the operating fund to cover increased operational expenditures due to inflation (i.e. financial audit, insurance, building operating costs, etc.).

The Simon Fraser Student Society Board of Directors will register on the "Yes" side of the campaign and act in good faith in support of the referendum.

The Staff of the SFSS will be allowed to support the Board of Directors in accordance with their job descriptions in support of the "Yes" campaign.

If the referendum is not successful then the number eleven point four (11.4) FTE referred to in Article 35.1 will be reduced to ten point four (10.4) and the SFSS Board of Directors will hold a second referendum to seek an additional \$5 per full time student and \$2.50 per part time student.

2010 – 2011 Annual Report

**Simon Fraser Student Society
778-782-3181 - SFSS.CA - FACEBOOK.COM/SFSS1**

**Maggie Benston Centre 2250
Simon Fraser University Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6**