



[January] [2020]

SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEMESTER REPORT

[Emerly Liu]

[Faculty of Education Representative]



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
PROJECTS COMPLETED	3
PROJECT ONE: FACULTY OF EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATE FACEBOOK GROUP	3
Summary.....	3
Outcomes.....	3
Timeline.....	3
Results	3
PROJECT TWO: ESA FROSH: EDVENTURE DAY 2019.....	4
Summary.....	4
Outcomes.....	4
Timeline.....	4
Results	4
PROJECT THREE: SFU ED REVIEW JOURNAL SYMPOSIUM	5
Summary.....	5
Outcomes.....	5
Timeline.....	5
Results	5
PROJECT FOUR: ESA HOLIDAY GALA 2019.....	6
Summary.....	6
Outcomes.....	6
Timeline.....	6
Results	6
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS	7
PROJECT ONE: OER STUDENT CAMPAIGN	7
Summary.....	7
Outcomes.....	7
Timeline.....	7
PROJECT TWO: SFSS CLUB & STUDENT UNION SOCIAL	7
Summary.....	7
Outcomes.....	7
Timeline.....	7
PROJECT THREE: SFU CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY X SFSS RELAY RALLY.....	8
Summary.....	8
Outcomes.....	8
Timeline.....	8
PROJECT FOUR: YWiB x SFSS IWD GALA & WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS.....	8
Summary.....	8
Outcomes.....	8
Timeline.....	8
PROJECT FIVE: LEARNING DISABILITY ASSESSMENT PILOT PROJECT	9
Summary.....	9
Outcomes.....	9
Timeline.....	9
PAIN POINTS.....	10
RECOMMENDATIONS	10

Executive Summary

Hello there! My name is Emerly Liu, I am in my 3rd year here at SFU, and I am the current Faculty of Education Representative for the 2019/2020 SFSS Board of Directors. As such, I sit on the Accessibility Committee, Events Committee, and University and Academic Affairs Committee.

This fall 2019 semester, I have spearheaded and collaborated on the following projects:

- Faculty of Education Undergraduate Facebook Group
- ESA FROSH: EDventure Day 2019
- SFU ED Review Journal Symposium
- ESA Holiday Gala 2019
- ESA Spring Welcome
- OER Student Campaign
- SFSS Club & Student Union Social
- SFU Canadian Cancer Society x SFSS Relay Rally
- YWiB x SFSS IWD Gala & Women of the Year Awards
- Learning Disability Assessment Project

My work, thus far, primarily focuses on maintaining Faculty and student engagement and improving SFSS relations with our clubs and student unions. Despite the increase in incoming first-year Education students, the number of students participating in ESA events remained unchanging. Finding effective ways to motivate Education students to get involved was a major challenge that I encountered this semester. A pain point that I experienced was committing to too many projects and learning to fulfill all of them with maximum effort.

As a Board member that manages Faculty of Education events and SFSS collaboration events for the Events Committee, I came to realize how important it is to be selective of the events I choose to support. Moving forward, I highly recommend prioritizing events that would bring the most value to the students and to the organization.

This fall semester was stressful at times, but it was less so because of the continuing support that the Board of Directors and the SFSS staff, and for that I am immensely grateful. I've learned to reach out for help more often—asking staff questions and collaborating with other Board members—which I've found to be favorable, not only in regard to my sanity, but it has also improved the initiatives I worked on.

I am very pleased with what I've accomplished in the Faculty of Education and with the Education Student Association this semester. The positive response that I've received from the Dean, Undergraduate Programs Committee, and Education undergraduates has motivated me to continue my endeavors within the University and try to inspire other Education students to become more involved in the SFU community. I am eager to pursue more opportunities to collaborate with SFSS staff, the Board of Directors, Committee At-large members, and student group executives and continue to improve myself and my work.

Projects Completed

Project One: Faculty of Education Undergraduate Facebook Group

Summary

As an active student within the Faculty of Education, I have had the privilege of receiving insight and support from my peers and Faculty with regards to educational resources, work and volunteer opportunities, and course advice. I've seen people in the SFU Must Knows Facebook page inquire about these types of topics before and I realize that many of them do so because they don't have the same support network that I do. Furthermore, I've noticed a disconnect between the Faculty of Education students who are aspiring to be elementary school teachers and students in other faculties who are pursuing secondary school teaching. It's difficult for the Faculty of Education to inform students outside of the Faculty of its announcements and resources. Thus, I was inspired to develop an independent, Education-specific channel of communication to mitigate these issues through peer-to-peer dialogue.

Outcomes

To create an online peer support system for all undergraduates who are majoring or minoring in education, aspiring educators, students who are taking education courses, Faculty of Education alumni, and anyone who is interested in the broad field of education. In this way, students can share events of interest, course experiences and tips, job/volunteer postings, used Education textbooks, and so on.

Timeline

[July 11] Meeting with the Dean

[September 2] Implementation

Results

As of January 31, 2020, the group has amassed 176 students, 35 posts, 225 comments, and 430 reactions. I'm optimistic that the group will become more active but as of right now the members are not as active as I had anticipated. I have created opportunities for students to introduce themselves, discuss courses, and provide feedback for the Dean, but I have found that it's generally the same people who comment.

Project Two: ESA FROSH: EDventure Day 2019

Summary

Since fall 2018, ESA has begun the tradition of hosting a Frosh-like event that welcomes incoming and returning Education students in a light-hearted, fun atmosphere that encourages students to interact with each other through various social activities with prizes sponsored by the Faculty of Education.

Outcomes

The goal is to assist first-years in their transition from high school to university by connecting them with other Education students to develop meaningful relationships and create lasting memories. I hope that they feel inspired and motivated to get involved in the Education community – be it by participating in the Education Student Association (ESA) or by attending ESA events.

Timeline

[August] Online meetings for logistical planning
[September 12] Day of Frosh

Results

We had an attendance of 30+ students, which is less than last year's turnout but it is still above average for ESA. I view this event as a success because the majority of participants were first-year Education students. Some students showed immense interest in ESA events and it appeared that everyone enjoyed the event.



Project Three: SFU ED Review Journal Symposium

Summary

The SFU Educational Review Journal is a graduate run journal that has reached many milestones in the past 18 months. This past fall, the editorial team organized its first Symposium with the cooperation of EGSA, ESA, and the Faculty of Education to celebrate and acknowledging authors from its 2019 publications, share knowledge and facilitate collaboration. Speakers included authors and faculty from the 2019 publications to present on different areas of Education. As the event planner, I overlooked logistics, venue layout, and catering.

Outcomes

To provide an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and alumni from the Faculty of Education including teachers, faculty and other graduate students from other Universities to attend and form potential partnerships with each other.

Timeline

[February 1] Introductory meeting with SFU ED Review Journal
[April 17] Progress report meeting
[May 28] Progress report meeting
[June 25] Progress report meeting
[October 19] Day of Symposium

Results

We had 8 speakers, 72 registrants, and 42 attendees. As a first-time event and the first time that ESA has collaborated with SFU ED Review Journal and EGSA, and I would consider this event a great success and learning opportunity for future collaborations.



Project Four: ESA Holiday Gala 2019

Summary

This is the third iteration of ESA's annual Holiday Gala which is a semi-formal event that consists of a festive buffet dinner at the Diamond Alumni Centre complete with games, crafts, prizes, and a photo wall.

Outcomes

The Education Student Association's mandate is to: promote and represent student interests within the Education Faculty, provide social, academic and recreational activities for the membership, undertake projects and activities to benefit the members. Like all our events, the Holiday Gala successfully upheld all the core values and gave SFU students, particularly Education students, and Faculty of Education staff the opportunity to engage in a light-hearted, open environment.

Timeline

- [October 8] Initial start of planning
- [October 22] Grant submission and event planning
- [October 29] Event planning
- [November 12] Event planning
- [November 22] Day of event

Results

I believe that the project was successful, although we didn't achieve our attendance goal of 50 people this was still a big turnout for ESA and everyone that I spoke to enjoyed themselves, so I consider that a big win. Reflecting on the minor problems that we had encountered last year, we ordered more than enough food to ensure that everyone could have seconds or thirds. The event began, ran for, and ended in a timely manner, and all the planned activities were carried out without any issues.



Projects in Progress

Project One: OER Student Campaign

Summary

As members of the Open Education Resource working Group at SFU, myself, Shina, the SFSS VP University Relations, and Osob, the SFSS Health Science representative, are working together to develop an information video that facilitates awareness of OER within the SFU community. This video will contain student testimonials from students about textbook prices, SFU Bookstore statistics, information about OER projects at SFU, and OER statistics from BCcampus.

Outcomes

We hope to start the conversation about OER, raise awareness among students, and advocate to Faculty and SFU about incorporating more OER in courses.

Timeline

[December 13] OER working group meeting
[January 4] Logistical planning
[January 8] Budget meeting
[January 14] Enlist help from SFSS Communications Department
[Week of January 19] Interview students

Project Two: SFSS Club & Student Union Social

Summary

I'm currently working with Rayhaan, the SFSS At-Large representative on this project, which will be a Bob Ross paint event. The purpose of this event is to create an opportunity for executive members of clubs and student union to connect with one another in a social, lighthearted atmosphere. Despite discontinuing my collaboration pilot project, I still want to strive to engage with our student organizations and for them to connect with each other.

Outcomes

My hope is that this will facilitate unity among our active SFSS clubs and student unions and encourage them to form potential partnerships with other student groups for the benefit of our membership.

Timeline

[December 7] Logistical planning
[January 8] Present budget to Events Committee
[January 9] Logistical planning meeting
[January 14] Booked MBC Forum Chambers
[February 5] Budget approved by Board
[February 28] Day of event

Project Three: SFU Canadian Cancer Society x SFSS Relay Rally

Summary

The SCCS Relay Rally is a fundraising and awareness event for the Canadian Cancer Society. The rally is scheduled to happen on World Cancer Day, February 4, in Convo Mall, which will consist of a BBQ, info booths, activities, etc. The SFSS Events Committee will be providing 2 grills, 6 tables, and 36 chairs, as well as volunteers to operate the grills.

Outcomes

To unite the SFU community to raise awareness, support cancer patients and their families and fundraise for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Timeline

[November 20] Meeting with SCCS representative
[November 26] Event approved at Committee
[January 8] Logistical planning
[January 20] Facilities order submission
[January 27] Promotions begin
[February 4] Day of event

Project Four: YWiB x SFSS IWD Gala & Women of the Year Awards

Summary

The YWiB International Women's Day Gala & SFSS Women of the Year Awards is a collaborative event that celebrates not only women but every individual in our community. The gist of the event entails a dinner and speaker presentations, followed by the distribution of awards with digital photography throughout the night. Similar to the previous year's event, the SFSS will be organizing the awards portion.

Outcomes

To honor self-identified women who set the bar high and empower others to create positive change in their faculties and communities.

Timeline

[October 16] Intro meeting
[October 31] Logistical planning meeting
[November 26] Event approved at Committee
[November 28] Renegotiation of contract
[December 6] Logistical planning meeting
[December 12] Contract meeting and approval by Committee
[January 9] Contract meeting
[January 16] Contract and logistics meeting
[January 28] Update meeting
[March 21] Day of event

Project Five: Learning Disability Assessment Pilot Project

Summary

Continuing the work of the previous SFSS Faculty of Education Representative, I will be collaborating with SFU, most notably, the Director of Centre for Accessible Learning, to develop an assessment service to identify students with disabilities. This project primarily focuses on individuals with learning disabilities (LD) and providing them with the necessary resources and services to accommodate their diverse needs so that they can achieve academic success.

Outcomes

Through this initiative, I hope to ensure that students with learning needs receive the assistance they require to learn at an optimal level. As the point of contact for this project, I will engage with other universities, such as UVIC and UBC, to learn about what worked and what didn't, and maintain communication with SFU staff. I will also enlist the help of the Accessibility Committee members for feedback.

Timeline

[August 20] Meeting with Director of Centre for Accessible Learning and previous SFSS Faculty of Education Representative to transition information and re-evaluate options
[January 21] Update Accessibility Committee

Pain Points

The Education Student Association organized four events this fall semester. I think the executives and I had high expectations for more engagement within the Faculty because of the influx in first-year Education students, which was an increase of three-fold compared to last year's intake. As such, we had projected for an increase in attendance at our events and in participation in the Education Student Association. We had had a good turn-out at EDventure Day, some students even expressed enthusiasm and interest in the fact that we hosted monthly event so we were hopeful in receiving new ESA members; however, we were disappointed when this appeared to be quite the opposite. No first years joined ESA and throughout the fall we observed less and less first years attending our events. It's unsure whether or not this was due to conflicts in schedule and priorities, but nonetheless, it was frustrating. Student engagement has plateaued and it's concerning to think about what student involvement within the Faculty will look like after I graduate.

Recommendations

Try not to get discouraged when project planning and/or outcomes don't play out the way you had envisioned them to. Instead, reflect on areas of improvement, take note of them for future endeavors, and think of new, alternative ways to engage students. Even if only one student joins ESA or attends an ESA event, or any event for that matter, you should recognize that their university experience has been enhanced in some aspect because of the passion and effort that was put into the event.