



SPRING 2020

EXIT REPORT

ANDREW WONG

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

simon fraser
student society

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hello!

My name is Andrew Wong and I am the outgoing Business Representative for the 2019-2020 SFSS Board of Directors. This upcoming summer semester marks the end of my fourth year at the Beedie School of Business. I am currently the chair of the Nominating Committee while sitting as a member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Projects I have collaborated on include but are not limited to include Beedie involvement, SFSS Month in Review, and the Beedie Dean Search Committee. The processes and outcomes of the projects completed and in progress will be presented below.

This past semester felt a lot smoother and I feel more comfortable as I have transitioned into this position. Taking three courses during my Board term has served well as I had enough time to put good effort in while balancing time for Board. As for the Board, I feel like although we will never be “best friends” we can collaborate in a professional manner.

Overall, my term has been full of ups and downs, but I am grateful for how much I have learned through the SFSS, projects, and its membership. As it is my final term on Board, I tend to reflect on if my tenure was what I had expected it to be. And the answer is no. There were projects I was looking forward to completing that were not possible such as Beedie president meetings. On the other hand, there were projects I never had imagined possible of being apart like the Dean Search Committee. You never know what opportunities will come your way and it is up to you to take advantage of them.

I recommend to future faculty reps to stay in touch with your DSU and SEO as opportunities will arise and expect to be flexible and willing to adapt to changes in your plans. Lastly, be prepared for continuous learning and do not be afraid to ask for help or clarification whenever you are unsure of something.

BEEDIE INVOLVEMENT

BEEDIE CLUB PRESIDENTS MEETING

At the beginning of the Spring semester, Beedie SEO contacted all the club presidents as well as myself to have one large meeting. The purpose was to meet the new SEO team led by Lisa and Kim and to update the new staff future plans for each club. Overall, the highlight of the meeting was getting to meet the other presidents and SEO staff but the updates were not too helpful. Therefore, the consensus was that these president meetings were not needed, and it was difficult to coordinate everyone's schedules. The main contact for club presidents and the Business Representative is Joseph Watson-Mckay. He oversees Beedie clubs and is very nice and helpful. He kindly invited me to the Beedie Protégé Luncheon which will be discussed next.

BEEDIE PROTEGE LUNCHEON

Beedie Protégé is a program intended for first year Beedie students to learn more about leadership opportunities and to expand their connections with peers and student leaders. I was invited by SEO to represent the SFSS. I got to meet numerous first years and tell them my path to how I got to where I am today, and I got to ask them questions and give them insight into the countless opportunities within Beedie and the SFSS. It can be hard trying to convince students to join SFSS committees when there are so many strong Beedie clubs that offer positions from coordinator to executive level. All in all, educating students about the SFSS, my role, and what we provide for students was my goal for every conversation I had with the first years.

BASS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This program is an opportunity for first years and senior students to get involved within Beedie. I was a mentor for two first year mentees. Within the program I met so many first years and senior students. This was a great opportunity to spread awareness about the SFSS and upcoming events to pitch to students. Increasing your network within Beedie as the Business rep is valuable to be an extra resource for students. This was a great program and I would recommend the next Business rep to take advantage of this program to increase your network and use this a medium to inform students of current and upcoming initiatives.

SFSS MONTH IN REVIEW

PROCESS

This is an initiative I have taken the lead on. I always remind Board members via Slack to take photos throughout the month. Next, I compile the photos into a graphic via Canva and generate the write up with Giovanni. Then, I send a work order and email to Sindhu to get this posted on SFSS social media and website. A challenge we experienced was during March given COVID-19, so Sindhu came up with the middle graphic below as there were no pictures for this month. We still provided a write up to inform our membership what the Board was up to.



OUTCOME

A graphic illustrating key events that occurred in the month is posted on Facebook and the SFSS website. This graphic is accompanied by a written statement explaining each key event and a timeline. We have a short write up for Facebook and a more detailed one on our website. When students are unaware of the work the Board has done, they assume we are doing nothing. I am passionate about this project as it provides an overarching perspective of the work our Board has achieved each month. This project communicates our monthly achievements to our membership in a fun, informal way.

BEEDIE DEAN SEARCH COMMITTEE

PROCESS

This committee is an example of opportunities coming your way that you never would have expected. The dean's term is five years and this committee meets every five years. I was lucky enough to be the only student representative along with SFU VP's, deans, faculty, and support staff. This committee was supposed to meet on a bi-weekly or monthly basis and every meeting was pre-scheduled. You had to be available for every meeting to participate. However, COVID-19 postponed a lot of meetings and we had to have Zoom meetings instead. We started off with an introductory meeting explaining our role on this committee and the purpose, which is to either search for a new dean, or evaluate and recommend the current dean if he wishes to continue with a second term. The current dean, Ali, wants to continue, therefore, we must evaluate and get feedback from the faculty regarding his current tenure.

OUTCOME

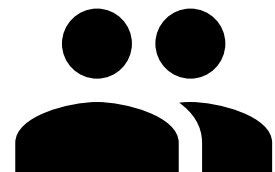
Up until now, Ali has presented to the faculty with an online presentation. Our committee has received feedback, comments, and questions from students and staff regarding his accomplishments, challenges, and plans moving forward. Our committee will then interview him with questions that target all stakeholders. Being the only student with adult faculty members is quite intimidating at times. I would recommend you do your homework prior to every meeting and be ready to take notes and try to contribute being the "student voice" on the committee. It has been challenging, but I have learned so much thus far like carrying myself in meetings with adults to business jargon and strong questions to ask. He will then be recommended or not to the faculty for re-appointment, depending on the committee's decision.



BOARD COMMITTEES

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

This committee did not require a whole lot of work as committees were self sufficient. This meant that whenever they needed hiring, they would inform myself to either help with the hiring process or let me know that they found and will appoint new students. I was proud of making the Get Involved tab on the SFSS website easier to access and streamlining the web page to include updated summaries of each committee as well as testimonials and pictures. A challenge was that some members sit on committees for multiple semesters which makes impossible for new students to join certain committees. However, it accommodates some students who want one semester or those that want to continue are allowed to. We found it hard to promote our committees as most of them were full during the year.



FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

This committee had multiple projects this semester. We partnered with Vancity as their community-like vision aligned with the SFSS as a non-profit organization. This was a great partnership, moving away from Scotiabank and provides investments that align with our vision, like going fossil-free. We also drafted an investment policy which updated current terms to better reflect our organization. Next, a challenge we experienced this semester was budgeting in uncertain times like COVID-19 where revenues and expenses are just educated guesses, but we always are more prudent and conservative. I have learned a lot from this committee and find it quite interested as I am concentrating in Finance. From a committee perspective, Board members do not do much operational work, as the Finance coordinators and Rowena take on the heavy lifting.



RECOMMENDATIONS

KEYS TO SUCCESS

I recommend future Business Representatives to be flexible and not have a strict outline of their term because in reality, not everything can be accomplished, and you will get to take on other projects not initially expected. The unknown can be stressful at times but that is just the nature of being on the Board. Unforeseeable issues will arise as well as periods of slow work. Committee work will likely be short bursts of work instead of constant work. For example, the Nomination Committee hires at the beginning of the semester and supports chairs when the need additional at-larges. There are also opportunities to join more committees and take on new working groups. Overall, you must find a balance between your Board work, school work, and other extracurricular projects. There are always ways to take on new projects or ideas, so do not be afraid to ask to start something new.

In addition, I recommend future Board members to not be afraid to stand up for what you believe even though you know there will be many others that disagree with your opinion. In the moment you may think of why you are still arguing but the decision will impact thousands of students for years to come. For the next Business rep, stay connected with the faculty in terms of engagement, going to events to meet new students and staff. You will be better informed of what is going on as well as sharing yourself as a resource for others. For example, many students email me regarding the granting process for students. Although this is not the Boards area, I try my best to give them advice and inform them that the Student Center is there to help. All in all, if you want to push yourself out of your comfort zone, join the Board and make the most of this opportunity. You will be exposed to so many new opportunities and ideas you never knew you could be apart of. Keep thinking of ways of improvement and always strive to be better.

I hope you enjoyed reading my semester and exit report!

Cheers,
Andrew
