

The background of the entire page is a dense, artistic collage. It features a blurred image of a person in a dark tank top on the left side. The rest of the background is filled with various overlapping elements: newspaper clippings, magazine covers, and student-related documents. Some visible text in the collage includes 'KEY YOU 33', 'HIVE', 'JOURNEY', 'FINDS for Day', and 'TUTOR'.

2019 - 2020

EXIT REPORT

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INTRO

This report was curated to capture a brief overview of my time as VP Student Life at the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). The goal of this report is to be used as a resource for any future board members and curious students.

This report contains:

- Summary of overall experience
- Highlights during my time
- Lessons that were learned
- Recommendations

It is important to note that every board member will have a unique experience due to the many internal and external variables that ultimately affect this position. Although the portfolio and the purpose of this role is the same every year, what I have endured and/or was a part of may be completely different to what previous VP Student Life has experienced.

I have had the honour of being on the Board of Directors for the SFSS twice: first as the Business Representative and then as the VP of Student Life. While the two positions are different roles, the entire experience has been completely unique and different in terms of workplace culture and general Board strategies and priorities.

SUMMARY

of my overall experience



I will not go into detail about my time as the Business Representative as I did write an EXIT report which can be found in the SFSS Archives, I just want to convey the message that every Board experience is extremely different due to the natural fluidity and make up of the Board. There are so many things that would either be catalysts for success or a huge barrier to overcome. For example, my year as Business Representative we

My experience as VP Student Life this past year is best to be described as an extreme rollercoaster. There were numerous ups and downs that I went through. I had some major accomplishments during my tenure but they definitely came attached with some of the lowest points in my life to this date. Would I go back and do it again? Truth be told - the answer is maybe.



One of my biggest accomplishments as VP Student Life was the fact that my Events Committee planned and executed 3-4 events per month until the COVID-19 pandemic struck. This is the record for the committee. In addition, we now have our own Instagram handle to promote our Events (@sfssevents).

The Events Committee hosted:

- 4 Freezie Fridays
- 1 Better Life X SFSS Collab
- 1 "Chill N Grill" Summer BBQ & Outdoor Movie Night
- 1 Mental Health Wellness Day
- 3 Care Package Events
- 2 SFSS Pancake Days
- 1 Halloween Pub Night
- 1 Fall Kickoff Concert
- 1 Fall Kickoff After-Party
- 1 Christmas Cookie Decorating
- 1 SFSS Meet and Greet
- 1 Winter Warm Up

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY TIME



- 3 Clubs Days Events
- 5 Munchie Mondays
- 1 Last Chance for Love Pub Night
- 1 SFSS X Cancer Fundraising Society Relay 4 Life
- 1 Valentines Card Decorating
- 1 Valentines Cookie Decorating
- 1 Redbull X SFSS Carnival
- SFSS X Peak Frequency: SFU's Got Talent

What we also planned but could not execute due to COVID-19:

- YWIB X SFSS: International Women's Day Gala
- SAAC X SFSS: March Madness Basketball Competition
- Bob Ross Paint Night
- 1 Pub Night



Moreover, I was able to network and meet many new people. As we hosted many events, I was at almost every single one meeting and engaging with our membership. This allowed me to hone my communication skills and get me out of my comfort zone. In addition, through my time on Board, I was able to build meaningful relationships and finish this Board year with lifelong mentors and friends who are passionate, hardworking, and genuine.

LESSONS LEARNED

The biggest (and most in the spotlight lesson) I learned was that It is almost impossible for any 21 year old to plan a major concert and make all the right decisions. Although this was a huge soft spot for me, I am proud that I was able to pull it off even if it was very expensive. This was due to the fact that there were several challenges and hurdles I had to overcome to even put on the concert itself. From SFU Administration giving me the complete run around for an official greenlight to having my appendix explode halfway through planning and then ultimately dealing with several constraints such as no physical tickets to be sold, the odds were clearly against me from the start. I was able to persevere through the whole process but it definitely did almost kill me.

My second biggest lesson learned is to always stand up for what I believe in and do not let the bullying, intimidation tactics, and workplace pressures to make me do things I do not believe in. This is incredibly important as it is your job and responsibility to do your own due diligence and understand that your vote matters at the Board table. Your decision impacts 26,000+ students so you cannot vote in a way that is not true to what you believe is the best for the membership. **Do not vote just because that is the way you are "supposed to do".**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Listen to your gut instincts.** Of course hearing other peoples' thoughts and opinions are always helpful but never be pressured into doing something you know is not something you feel is right or want to do. Ensure that you are voting in the way you want to vote when it comes to Board motions. It is important to be representing the entire membership and not just a small minority. It is even more important to recognize when you are voting in certain ways because you do not want to be called out or are pressured for going the opposite way.
- 2. You can't please everyone so do what you think is best.** This ties a lot with the first recommendation but was something I knew earlier. I was constantly bending over backwards and sacrificing myself to try to satisfy people's wants and needs. If you are constantly trying to satisfy people, you are ultimately making compromises which is known as a "lose-lose" situation.
- 3. Have a strong work life balance.** It is not okay to pull in 20 hour days of doing Board work. That is not healthy or fair for you. Chances are you are also a student and someone who has family and friends that time must be spent with. Some weeks will be busy with Board stuff and that's okay to work a little longer and a little more but do not spend several days in a row just grinding away at Board.
- 4. Have different type of events that hit different demographics of the membership.** For example, some events should just to boost morale on campus, other events should be for clubs and DSU execs, and then you can to very specific nich events that would target a small but important group of the membership.
- 5. Try to have waste-free events and not provide "trinkets and trash".** It is important to look at sustainability options and avenues when event planning. Ensure that you are not causing excess waste and are always providing items of value for the students. This would help build the relationship with SFU Administration as the goal is to become a waste-free school.

