

SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(2019-2020)

EXIT REPORT

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Science Representative

overview:

Being on the Board of Directors, as a faculty representative, allows you to interact with not all the student body as a whole but work with and focus on a particular faculty. Being a Science Representative allowed me to interact with Science DSU's and student unions as well as working with SFU Faculty of Science staff to overcome barriers students and student unions may be facing.

On the other hand, this role allows me to work with 16 other representatives to advocate for undergraduate students. Majority of decisions are made at the board table, where 16 representatives pass motions, discuss and bring their goals to fruition for the betterment of the student body. Having 16 representatives definitely brings forth many different perspectives, opinions and values which gives everyone an opportunity to understand the situation and make an informed decision. Furthermore, it is important to be accepting, approachable and willing to hear everyone's unique perspective.

WORK COMPLETED

Throughout my term as Science Representative, I worked closely with the Science Undergraduate Society, DSU's and Thomas (the Science Engagement Coordinator).

Science Undergraduate Society

Throughout my term, I have worked closely with the Science Undergraduate Society where I attended their weekly meetings, helped promote events as well as be present at some of these events. Some of these events included, tabling at clubs day (Surrey and Burnaby), FROSH, Winter Formal, study sessions and Ice Cream Giveaways. One thing I wish I had more time to work on was having more SUS presence on the SFU Surrey campus. This is a goal that was going to take time to bring into fruition, however I seemed to run out of time with all the other projects and events going on.

Science DSU's

Due to the fact that Science has many DSU's it is difficult to keep track of what everyone is doing in terms of events and any concerns/issues which arise. Therefore, throughout my term, Thomas and I have coordinated together on hosting monthly meetings open to all Science DSU executives. Typically, these meetings begin with roundtable introductions where members attending are welcome to bring forth any concerns they have or discuss new projects that they are working on. One major benefit I discovered at these meetings for the executives was room for collaboration and promotion on projects and events. All individuals are able to ask each other questions regarding how they are doing things in their DSU which could possibly lead to new ideas in other DSUs. Moreover, at these meetings I am able to update DSU executives on any changes to policy/procedures happening at the board table or answer any question related to SFSS. At the end of each meeting Thomas and I work on organizing some sort of interactive activity from the executives.

In this COVID-19 emergency, Thomas and I are making sure to keep in contact with DSU executives and support them in any way possible. Many DSU's are having their elections at this time but are having troubles figuring out how to promote it. Additionally, Thomas and I are working on holding weekly meetings for all DSU's executives online; these are casual meetings that consist of roundtable discussions and regarding how everyone is holding up during this crisis.

Science Engagement

Working with Thomas, we decided to review CCR requirements and ask executives at DSU meetings whether they are aware of CCR and what they needed to complete in order to be eligible, many of them were not sure. The CCR is the reference document for your Co-Curricular involvement at SFU, listing your activities outside of classes (e.g., leadership programs and volunteer roles). It is an university document easily accessible via myInvolvement. We gave this program a second-look now that it has existed for a bit to push for any changes we feel would make it better for science students.

Working with an Interdisciplinary DSU

I got a chance to work with cognitive science on a Singularity Event; unfortunately this event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. It was a great experience planning this event which was primarily a discussion about our augmented future set up in a round robin fashion. This event was open to all disciplines, as we welcomed all perspectives. The purpose of this event was to share your unique perspectives in an interdisciplinary environment and tackle the questions given together.

COMMITTEE WORK

Surrey Campus Committee:

During my term, I also had the opportunity to be a part of the Surrey Campus Committee (SCC). Due to conflicting class schedules, I was not able to make it to meetings. However, as a board representative and a student who commonly goes to the SFU Surrey campus, I wanted to make the campus more welcoming for all students. Throughout the year, we planned and organized many events such as pub nights, ice breakers, and occasion specific events. I was quite happy with the outcome of things as I noticed that many students were coming out to certain events and it makes me proud to say that SCC is on the right track towards increasing engagement at the Surrey campus.

Federal, Provincial, Municipal Lobbying Committee:

Being on this committee, I have had the honor to attend the 76th Semi-Annual General Meeting of the BCFS. The main BCFS campaigns discussed were Knockout Interest, Open Textbooks Now, Grants not Loans and Fairness of International Students along with workshops on online communities, women in trades, history of student organizing and much more. Being a part of the committee has taught me strong advocacy skills. Some other campaigns include, support for refugee students, 2019 Federal Election and COVID-19 awareness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Remember to take weekends off!

Being a part of the SFSS Board can get overwhelming at times. Therefore, taking the weekends off can bring some relaxation rather than getting too exhausted. Sometimes taking on a new project can be overwhelming therefore it is extremely helpful to create a timeline when starting a new project. It can also be helpful to develop a rough plan and strategies before starting

the project. Lastly, it is very important to pace yourself to ensure that you are not behind schedule.

2. Get to know your staff and resources

When starting up a new project, it is common to not have precise details on the project and how it will be executed. Therefore, the guidance of the SFSS staff is critical to succeed. The SFSS staff can guide you towards creating an excellent plan and along the way to ensure that your project is on the right track.

3. Stay connected with DSU's

While other aspects are also meaningful, it is important to stay connected with student unions and DSU's within your designated faculty. Staying connected and building a strong relationship with DSU's is important as it gives you further insight as to where the faculty currently stands and what is required or needed.

4. Start early

It is crucial to create a timeline at the beginning of your SFSS Board term. Some projects do take longer than others therefore you often don't see results right away. It may also be possible that these tasks may not be completed within one term. However, creating a timeline is significantly helpful as it lays out a structured and realistic plan of what needs to be completed and when it needs to be completed.

5. Come prepared to Board Meetings

It is extremely important to be prepared for board meetings so you know what motions are on the table and what discussion is going to be taking place. If you have any questions about motions you may ask staff or other board members for further

insight and information. Another serious part of your term is to come prepared for the board meetings. This will also help you make an informed decision as you will have your own perspective on matters brought up.

CLOSING REMARKS:

This past year I had the honour and privilege to serve on the SFSS Board of Directors. Initially, I was terrified and worried as this was a new environment for me. Although it was a tough learning curve in the start, I quickly got the hang of it and I was able to start on some of my desired projects. Throughout the term, I came across a variety of challenges and faced a few hardships. Serving as a board member put me in unique situations and helped me develop a lot of skills. There are many memories I will take away from this term and I am extremely thankful for having this opportunity presented to me. This role has taught me a lot about myself and barriers that I am capable of overcoming. Overall, the positives outweigh the negatives and this was a great term and I will forever remember it.

Hopefully I have been successful at improving the undergrad student life for the students in the Faculty of Science. I will continue to contribute as much as possible to ensure that undergrad students at SFU get the experience they deserve. It was truly an honour to serve as the 2019/2020 Faculty of Sciences Representative.