

# 2019/2020

## SFSS PRESIDENT EXIT REPORT GIOVANNI HOSANG



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2019/2020

**simon fraser**  
**student society**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the last time, I am happy to share about my role as SFSS President over the last year. I am excited once again to be sharing what I have worked on and what my recommendations are for the next President as well as the Board members newly elected to the SFSS Board.

I hope that folks have been tracking my progress as President with the student society and that I have been wholly transparent about the work that I and my fellow Board members have been doing over the year. [My aim throughout this presidency](#) was to be able for the SFSS to be characterized as compassionate, impactful and open. I pushed to change the complacent culture of the SFSS to one of being more proactive, radical and welcoming to students.

The framework has been laid for student activism on campus. In Spring 2020, we had a transition to online classes and there was a huge spike in the amount of academic advocacy that occurred. It is a form of advocacy that the SFSS is usually lacking in and is one of the reasons we looked into hiring an academic advocate for the SFSS. It is important that the society gets comfortable with language around student rights and building student power. The Overton window has shifted significantly over the last year with regards to issues that the SFSS tackles. Folks that are passionate about activism were elected last year, who I term as the Progressive Caucus of the SFSS Board of Directors, and are students on the Board who were elected by students who want to see an effective and radical student society, fighting for the betterment of all students. We were elected to advocate on behalf of the student body to the government, the University and every decision-making body or person that may adversely impact the lives of students. This is what we have done at every step and I thank the caucus for their support of my vision for the Society over the past year, amidst a myriad of challenges. I also thank all the Board members for their work on their projects and initiatives over the last year as well.

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to serve you. I highly recommend that in conjunction with this report, that you may take a look at the Summer and Fall semester reports so you see the journey over the year at these checkpoints as well. These can be found at the [sfss.ca/reports](#) section of the website or you may message the current president at that time to look into the archives.

In this exit report, I will give an overview of my duties as President as well as tie it to the [commitments I made](#) during campaigning to get elected which guides the culture of how I govern. I believe in ensuring that our student advocacy, events, and the services we run should and must center the voices of the most disenfranchised students - economically and socially, and push for their voices to be maximized the most. Every decision that's made, we need to look through a lens of JEDI - Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

## Students Over Profits

'Students Over Profits' signifies my intent to lay the groundwork to ensure that we are fighting on behalf of students for students in everything that we do, while not centering profits as a motive. Power must come back to the students, and the massive shift and corporatization of our university campuses and student societies must be re-claimed by students. The budget consultation process saw conversations breaking down in the Fall. We raised to SFU that increasing tuition once again is unacceptable as we pushed back massively on the proposed options that were presented to the student body. Essentially, the options of increasing tuition 2% for domestic students, 4% for international students is **not** the outcome that we expected the University to land upon after so much hard fought advocacy that was done through the *Tuition Freeze Now* campaign, and the many calls for University Administration to centre [affordability](#) in their deliberations. This call was not heeded. Increases this year will be put back to international student bursary and we have asked for information to ensure that this happens.

I therefore made it my duty to continue to advocate through the development of a student affordability plan in collaboration with the GSS, and was supported by the great work of our [VP University Relations, Shina Kaur](#). Once again, I echo that students need a break from the continuous increases to tuition.

## Accountability, Communication, Transparency

The board has a lot to reform and change the perception of the SFSS over the year through increasing communication, and use of our social media channels, increased self-scrutiny and calls for accountability from within the Board itself that led to better governance as a whole.

For communication, we launched the [Board Month in Review](#) to highlight what we do as a Student Society. This involved showing what decisions were made over the month, where board members went for conferences, and/or what events were held. This is done in a consumable fashion and is one of the ways we are aiming to more effectively communicate with the membership. I used a President page to ensure a lot of communication for SFSS matters to students from my platform.

For [accountability](#), the Board passed a motion for ratio voting in the minutes which really gets people to see what motions are more divided in terms of the Board and what are peoples justification for such motions.

For transparency, meetings were recorded and published later in the year due to the transition to online meetings which made recording of meetings even easier. Another big piece of transparency and communication was the work put in to empower the SFSS Council and this resulted in two Council liaisons being appointed for Board meetings. Live Streaming of Board meetings is something I brought to the board table that the current board was not comfortable with but I am hopeful that the next Board will definitely take this into account and have live Board meetings and other means of live, accessible participation in Board meetings for students.

## Advocacy Works

We have achieved huge advocacy wins over the Fall, such as winning a meeting with the Leader of one of the Opposition parties of Canada - NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh - to discuss how the Parliament of Canada will ensure that the student priorities are balanced in all their deliberations. The Student Affordability Plan at the University Administration level is also a notable advocacy success. Another was standing for the protection of our Out on Campus community to [block](#) a hateful speaker from being given a platform on campus. The event ended up being cancelled.

As you know, a big pillar of my campaign is the Rotunda space issue. I [introduced a motion](#) with a brand new proposal that accommodates the previous board's desire to provide semesterly space for clubs and student unions while also housing the Rotunda Community groups. These groups support students in fighting for social and environmental justice, as well as giving a voice to and space for marginalized students on campus at home in our Student Union Building. This motion was voted on and was not passed. As a result, a student campaign called Save Our Spaces was created and the SFSS Council voted to put the matter to a referendum of the students. This then led the Board to reassess and offer options to the groups which led to the long running space issue to be [resolved](#).

## Events and Student Engagement

Over the fall, I worked in collaboration with the VP University Relations to put on a [Federal Elections Debate](#) where 300 students were in attendance and really had students involved in the Federal Elections. I also provided support for the [Fall Kickoff concert](#) by trying to recover some of the costs by selling the last minute tickets and trying to build hype for the event. Many other events were held over the fall such as Week of Welcome and Clubs Days. I attended many events hosted by student groups to engage with members and I was elated to lend my support!



## Board Accomplishments Since May

- Established List Voting Records of Board Members at Board Meetings through ratio voting
- Launched the Board Strategic Plan 2019-2021
- Made SFU Budget Consultation sessions better (multiple sessions for students, communicated widely) while disavowing the lack of Student input actually being instituted in the whole process as the University stood firm in the 2%/4% increases in tuition
- [Endorsed and advocated](#) for Tuition Freeze Now at SFU
- Lobbied for Affordable Education at Government level through campaigns such as Knockout Interest campaigns, needs based grants and elimination of MSP fees for international students
- Stood in Solidarity with Hong Kong Protestors freedom of expression and [instituted Lennon Wall](#) on Burnaby campus
- Supported the successful [Save The Shuttle](#) Campaign
- Helped in the creation of [Single Use Plastics](#) Initiative
- Hiring a First Nations Students Association Coordinator
- Getting the process started to hire a student advocate to fight on our behalf (Pro-student sfss ombuds)
- Hosted a Federal Elections Debate with 300 people
- Instituted a Federal Elections Get Out The Vote Campaign
- Passed motion calling for divestment of fossil fuels
- Launching a Gondola Working Group
- Collaborating with BC Campus for Open Education resources
- Passed motion to endorse the climate strike
- Launching an investment policy (no fossil fuels)
- Relaunched Kickoff w/ great student feedback (need to make the losses much less next year, report coming soon)
- Fought back against Hate Speech and Transphobic Speaker coming to campus, event cancelled
- Attending much more student, DSU and club events in support of students
- Working on long-term student affordability plan with GSS and SFU
- Launched mental health care packages
- Launched a Board Month In Review to keep students up to date
- Accessibility Standard Policy passed at the Board table
- Hosted more engaging events around campus
- Endorsed the RA effort to Unionize with TSSU
- Creation of a Reproductive Rights Policy
- Paperless Agendas and Inclusive Email Signatures (printed agendas on request)
- Public statement banning Conversion Therapy
- Signed on for another 5 years with the UPASS
- Rotunda groups allocated space in the SUB
- Due to significant pressure, all increases in international tuition this years goes to scholarships and bursaries
- Launching a SFU Student Affordability Plan with GSS and SFU
- Passed motion to stand in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and sign a joint letter with student unions across BC

- COVID Response: Shutting down operations swiftly for two weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and handling the return to work plan
- Launched an \$150,000 SFSS COVID-19 Emergency Bursary for SFSS members, \$60,000 for FIC students
- Lobby government for moratorium on evictions and rent payments due to COVID-19 pandemic, with many student renters and for international student relief
- Lobby federal government to #DontForgetStudents in their COVID-19 Emergency Response Bursary, relief has since been announced
- Successful academic advocacy to the University for students to be provided alternative grading such as pass/fail options and extended withdrawal deadlines in light of COVID-19 pandemic
- Lobbying the university to end the webcam invigilation and surveillance of students in light of COVID-19 pandemic
- Sending out survey on the current responses to COVID-19 and student well-being

It is shown that though the Board did not have a majority of folks who believed in a similar vision of the society re: progressive values pushing equity and activism - we were still able to pull together a lot of initiatives and projects for the betterment of the Board as a whole. I would like to wholly thank all Board members and also give special recognition to the folks who did support these progressive values to boost activism - the Progressive Caucus of the Board of Directors - members being Arts Rep Jennifer Chou, VP University Shina Kaur, Health Rep Osob Mohamed and FCAT Fiona Li alongside myself Giovanni Hosang. I would also like to shout out the Black Caucus of the Board of Directors (Tawanda-Nigel Chitapi, Osob Mohamed and myself Giovanni HoSang) who gave valuable voice to issues of the Black community at the Board table around the importance of spaces for the Black community and on Black History month and recognizing diverse voices in the community as well.

Thank you all and I hope folks reading this will have pleasure in reading what I have been able to work on or complete over the course of the semester.

## OVERVIEW

The SFSS represents over 26,000+ undergraduate students on campus. The Board of directors are elected every year to supervise and manage the internal affairs of the society such as advocacy, events and services delivered on behalf of membership; and the SFSS Council advises the board on matters as representatives of faculty and departmental student unions as well as constituency groups representing subsections of the student population.

The SFSS over the year did a lot of advocacy such as pushing for affordability on and off campus, planned events such as Fall Kickoff and Carnivals for students, and continuously provided services such as UPASS. Health and Dental, the Women's Center and Out on Campus departments, and new services to be now delivered such as a coordinator as an SFSS funded FNSA Coordinator to support Indigenous SFSS members.

## Breakdown of the Presidency

The SFSS President role is broken down into the Society's representative and acting as an ambassador for the Student Society on and off-campus, the Board liaison for HR matters and helps guide the organizational structure, and for the de facto leader of the Board of Directors and the Student Society, and also plays additional leadership as the Board Chair for the Board. As such, the president can help to set the direction of the Society, by having their vision for the Society executed through the available Board processes, and work with other directors to execute on their vision of the society.

The President is by default the chair of the Board unless otherwise decided by the Board. I will break down the duties of the presidency in two: **Portfolio-based** work and **Chair based** work. I will have an overview of the Portfolio based side here and later address as the role of the Chair of the Board as well.

## The Portfolio-Based Role

Broken down into **three** sections:

- I) Ambassador for the Society
- II) Board Liaison for Human Resource Matters and Operational Structure
- III) De Facto leader and helps set direction

### I) Ambassador for the Society

As the ambassador of the Society, the President will play a vital role in communicating motions passed by the Board and being the chief advocate on behalf of the Board as well as students as a whole. The president is the ambassador of the society to or on behalf of many stakeholders. Recommendations on how to deal with each stakeholder and tips from as being in the president's role will vary in relation to these stakeholders but here is a non-exhaustive list:

- **Students:** As the first point of contact, I had to communicate extensively with students via Facebook updates on the SFSS President Facebook page, via email and through the various social media challenges. As the person who is in most contact from the Board, it is important to keep your eyes on the ground.

- **Politicians:** As soon as a president elected, it is important to reach out to the various MLAs in the riding, Federal MP, City councillors for the riding and continue communication and to work with the VP external to execute and follow up on asks/demands of the society, as well as to have information on what's happening in the legislative assembly or parliament.
- **Off campus student societies:** Work with other student union Presidents and VP externals in BC and Canada. Here it is important to use the various Facebook groups available to liaise with other student union execs so you can hear what they are doing in their contexts as a point of information at your Board table. It is important to set up cross-BC coalitions of students and take part in them. This year I took part in a Metro-Vancouver post-secondary climate justice coalition with students across student unions in BC. Work also with the provincial student organizations such as ABCS and BCFS as well as the non-affiliated student societies.
- **On campus student societies:** There are 6 student societies on campus, 4 of which are independent from student governments. It is important to check in with the EDs and the elected Board reps on all of these student societies to share ideas and develop a cohesive relationship with all of them. The 4 independent student societies are The Peak, CJSF, SPRIG and Embark - all of which students as a whole voted to establish through referendum and disburse funding to, similar to the student societies GSS and SFSS. The GSS is the graduate body
- **Rotunda Community:** FNSA, SOCA, CJSF, Embark, The Peak, OOC Collective, WC Collective are groups all currently situated in the Rotunda and all have student empowerment and organizing students in their mandates for various issues on social justice and equity, and at the heart of student activism on campus. Out of these two groups are independent student media as well that help with these voices and given ability at important coverage of situations faced by these student unions. Each of these groups give voice to the marginalized communities on campus being if Black students, Indigenous students, LGBTQ2+IA students, students who self-identify as women and SFPIRG who give voices as a social justice center and incubator on campus. I have had a close relationship with these groups over the past year and the Society as a whole is in a much better relationship with them after years of fraught relationship. This Board recently voted to allocate space in the SUB for the remaining groups that were struggling to get space in the building. I have been in constant communication with these groups on all things SFSS and one of the groups - SFPIRG got the opportunity to conduct an Equity and inclusion workshop for the SFSS in the Board orientation.
- **Departmental Student Unions (DSUs):** Communication with DSU presidents and issues around student center are very important and as the President it is essential that the various inner workings on the grant process and the appropriate SFSS communication channels are known so that when DSU execs reach out, you are able to communicate and answer them accordingly.

- **Clubs**: Communication with Clubs and the clubs grant processes are also important and all processes related to clubs should be known by the President and the VP Student Life, and other Board members as well where necessary.
- **SFSS Council**: The SFSS Council is the advisory body of the SFSS Board of Directors and is a medium of discussion of issues related to their respective DSUs, FSUs and Constituency Groups. It is important that the Board President works to strengthen the relationship and works closely with the SFSS council
- **Staff**: The Staff of the SFSS deserves a President who will put their health, safety and wellbeing in the forefront of the Board's activities. The President should work closely with the designated senior leadership on the management staff to survey and ensure that staff is happy about the work environment we create. In times of crisis, communicate directly with staff and also make sure that you visit various staff. Set guidelines with Board members to ensure that proper channels of communication are followed so that the President is communicated with to work with staff and the ED for the various projects, or guide Board members on other protocols such as the use of work orders etc (tools that ensure that staff aren't overworked). Unionized staff deserve your assistance too, if unionized staff raise concerns (especially if the President becomes an SLO again) then you have to ensure you work with any management or Board member to hear the concern and resolve the situation as soon as possible. The management support staff also are there for support and it is your role as well as the ED's to make sure that they understand the Board's perspective on matters that they are providing support on. Ensure that there are regular operational reports being done at the Board table as well.
- **SFSS executive committee**: The executive team may discuss issues in meetings called by the President that are of importance to conduct in between Board meetings. The Executive may convene quicker to make a decision that it is difficult to call a Board meeting to discuss. For example, this past year the COVID-19 response regarding the shutdown was made at the Executive table. The executive also is an avenue to meet to see if there can be recommendations made to the Board as a whole on matters of significance to the society, for example controversial issues. As the president it is your avenue to enable dialogue at these meetings to enable executives to have an opportunity to discuss these types of matters.
- **SFSS Executive members**: The president must provide support to the other execs through their portfolios and ensure that where there is opportunity to provide a behind the scenes cheerleader, this is done. If there are emails routed to you that may be something that is under another executive portfolio, reach out to them for assistance and follow up with them. Then post and give them credit on the work they have done on behalf of the Society. This is very important to do to make the Board members on the executive team follow up on the initiatives in their portfolios. If there is an advocacy email, you can reach out to for example the VPUR and VPER to organize petition or letters to go to the University and Governments and provide support as best as you can and you do your best as President to communicate such.
- **SFSS Committee chairs**: Your role as president can provide support to committee chairs. You will get all agenda and minutes that are sent to committee mailing lists.

This is an opportunity to remind committee chairs to send minutes for approval of the Board, or to come and discuss a major initiative that the committee is handling to the Board. Another thing is to provide coordination support with committee chairs to ensure the work being done by the committees are in line with the strategic plan and are done in an efficient manner. Communicate with the chairs so that everyone can have the tools at their disposal to be effective chairs.

- **Other board members**: The President provides well needed support to other Board members. As president it is important that you read all the policies, bylaw and Acts that relate to the society so you can provide a point of reference for other board members on the governance side of things. However, it is also important that you reach out to provide input and support for Board projects being led by other Board members and amplify as much as possible as long as it is aligning with the strategic plan and board--endorsed. Make use of slack/discord or other tools to communicate and support each others projects, initiatives and campaigns
- **SFU President**: The SFU President is the most influential member of the SFU administration and a working relationship with the SFU President is important. In the last year this was Dr. Andrew Petter. We set up monthly meetings to have discussions with each other about issues of importance to the Student Society. These specific conversations also happen in conjunction with the Graduate Student Society at SFU as well
- **GSS**: The Graduate Student Society is the graduate student society counterpart of the SFU community. As president you will work with the GSS to align requests and demands, as well as share tactics and resources for advocacy with the GSS. The main point of contact would be the GSS Director of External Relations and sometimes the GSS Director of Academic relations. Also ensure that the EDs have a good working relationship for the two organizations. The GSS and the SFSS are also on committees together and you as the president alongside the VPUR and other execs where applicable may be representatives on these committees with the GSS such as the Student Residence coalition (GSS, SFSS, RHA), the Student Safety Group and the SFU/GSS/SFSS Joint Operations Group
- **SFU – Admin**: The President has to work closely in conjunction with the VP university relations to organize and advocate on behalf of students in relation to the SFU Admin. You are here to represent students, not to be friendly with administration. You are even more respected when you are firm on fighting for students and protecting their rights. Use the leverage of students being able to petition, cause media problems, organize strikes, and disrupt as leverage when having issues with an Administration that doesn't listen. If an administration does listen, then be firm in working with them to follow through on commitments and that they center student voices. SFU admin such as the VP Students and International (and all the persons under them) and the VP Academic will be very important to the role of the SFSS and is where a lot of work happens regarding academic advocacy and student advocacy. Another VP level admin will be the VP Finance

- **University Committees:** Sometimes the university will reach out in regards to representation to university committees. Work with the VP University to organize representation on the committees and working groups. This includes hiring committees. You as the president is the first point of contact for many of these committee requests. Reach out to Board members and don't overwhelm yourself with all these committees.
- **Board of Governors:** The SFU Board of Governors is the SFU governing body and tackles all non-academic related decision making at SFU. You may deliver [statements](#) on behalf of the SFSS at the Board of Governors table, or work with student advocacy groups to protest decisions made by BOG if they aren't in the interest of students. Educate, Research, Organize, and Mobilize is key to winning campaigns that involve BOG. Half of BOG are government appointed and will take a lot of resource sharing and working with the student representative on BOG to bring matters to the BOG table. Also establish relationships with other Board of Governors including the Board Chair of BOG.
- **Joint Operations Group (SFU+GSS+SFSS) :** The Joint Operations Group is a committee of various representatives from the GSS and SFU that includes SFU admin, GSS External, SFSS VPUR and President and the EDs of the GSS and SFSS. It is important that the work here is continued and built upon for example the work on the Student Affordability Plan, or continuous academic and university advocacy.
- **SFU Budget Consultation Committee:** This committee is led by the VP Finance at SFU with regards to how their budget consultation will be. This year we pushed that consultations happen on all three campuses and that there is an additional consultation specifically for students at the Burnaby campus. In addition to this, after the budget is sent to you as the President as well as the VP University, submit the [feedback](#) to the SFU budget as soon as it's released and continue calling for a Tuition Freeze and a call for SFU to work with the SFSS to lobby the government for increases in funding to post-secondary institutions
- **SFU Senate:** Work with student senators to do a lot more academic advocacy. Important that there is SFSS representation on senate as well, so organize to have folks run for senate, as well as to talk with the senate secretary frequently and for them to include you on mailing lists for communications regarding agenda and minutes as well as senate committee call outs for students.
- **SFU Student Services/SFSS Liaison:** Communicate with the person under the SFU VPSI position very frequently about the various student services and collaborate where necessary. Work with the university collaboratively on the good things that they do and fight them on the bad things that they do. Use this person as a resource, while recognizing that advocacy will be important even with this relationship. This year this person was Erin Biddlecombe.
- **SFU Student Safety Group:** This is a group with folks from SFU security, the GSS and the SFSS on matters that relate to decisions made by SFU security. This year

we discussed snow closures, we advocated against the controversial and hateful speaker being given a platform on campus, and discussed other matters such as school closures and the suspected school shooting prank that happened in the year.

- **Student Activist groups** (Tuition Freeze Now, SFU350, TSSU): I played an important role in ensuring the voices of student activist groups are heard at the Board table. Also good to support their causes at the various decision making tables at SFU. Work to facilitate their calls and magnify their voices by putting these things to membership in the form of surveys etc.
- **SFSS Executive Director**: Weekly meetings to discuss operations and updates on the results of what the Board votes for. The President is to make sure the concerns of Board members are raised and are communicated and that the motions that the Board votes for are executed and goes through the appropriate steps on the operational side as well. For example, if Board votes to establish a fund and disburse, the ED meeting is the avenue for this type of conversation. This year these sessions were mostly productive as there were updates on both sides each week and the matters raised were quickly addressed either at the Board table. One thing I'd like to see more is the formal reporting at the Board table itself. I took a while to get the ED assessment in place this year, important that the infrastructure is in place for this to be done earlier for future years. The President should set up a subcommittee of the Exec to create a survey for the Board to complete to assess the ED's performance. The Executive Director should receive a 3 month, 6 month, and 1 year review each Board year.
- **Crisis Management Stakeholders**: The president has to be visible, proactive and decisive in the midst of crisis and you will have to convene the executive and work with the senior management to mitigate any crises, for example this year we dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic spreading, SFSS had to ensure we first close offices and subsequently institute the return to work plan that the ED worked with management to sort out
- **New Students**: Work with SFU engagement team and the to ensure there is SFSS presence at Welcome Day events and activities to students and to make students know that the SFSS is fighting on their behalf and that they should get involved
- **Facebook and Social media following**: Build up a social media presence and communicate continuously with students. Work with SFSS Communications to set up recurring Board meeting event pages so you can share with your following the upcoming board meetings. As the chief Board communicator, ensure that you are sharing decisions that are made at the Board table on social media. In addition to this, ensure that the Board Month in Review continues and are shared with your Facebook following. Use the SFU groups such as SFU Undergrads and Must Knows at SFU as well. Build up a profile on Twitter and other social media as well and use it to communicate with politicians, organizations, boost SFSS social media presence and normalize talking about the SFSS



- **The Peak, CJSF and other Media:** Work hand in hand with campus media and other to ensure student issues are being covered. Work with the SFSS communications coordinator to send press releases for upcoming SFSS events and utilize the Web News Posts for events and any advocacy initiative or campaign being done or embarked upon. Communicate with CJSF and Peak after board meetings and ensure to provide a space for The Peak to ask direct questions of Board and Board members at the Board table. Develop a positive working relationship about the SFSS. Ensure that your VP External has these connections as well
- **Labour Unions** (BCGEU, CUPE, Unite Here etc): Work with labour unions and develop relationships and opportunities to align demands when lobbying government for equity and social justice issues on and off campus. The struggle for universal education is by its nature a struggle of liberation for the working class and it is important we build that leverage with other organizers
- **Fraser International College:** The SFSS gets a lot of revenue from FIC students and they aren't members. President should work as liaison for FIC students seeing that there is no formal relationship between FIC students and the SFSS governance just yet. In our bylaw review and the consultation process, FIC associate membership should be investigated similar to other student societies with private membership that are contingent on the continuation of a contract. FIC and SFSS have a signed a fee for service agreement to provide resources for FIC students in exchange for fees. Therefore SFSS should start doing advocacy on their behalf. This includes establishing a good relationship with the FIC Principal and other folks at FIC.. SFSS presence is needed on the FIC campus and the SFSS President can ensure that they are a part of the FIC orientation and other activities to boost presence.
- **RHA:** The residence hall association is the undergraduate student representative body for students who live in the SFU Residence. As president you will sit on a Student Residence Coalition group that's a joint group with SFSS GSS and RHA to ensure that the needs of students in residence are met. This ties into the advocacy and lobbying efforts at the provincial level for a rent increase cap for the Post-secondary residence and in conjunction for more affordable housing on and off campus.
- **SAAC:** The Students Athletic Advisory Committee is a group of student athletes who have representation that have a seat on the SFSS council. There is an opportunity for the SFSS to work with them to see what their needs are and ensure SFSS presence in this very important aspect of student life. The president can help establish this relationship. This year I helped with letting them be made aware of their council seat so they can start attending and discussing issues at Council. This is an area ripe for relationship development
- **Other persons/groups/bodies:** On a case by case basis it is important to establish new relationships and be open and establish new relationships with other folks. The list above is not exhaustive and subject to change.

### **Recommendations:**

- Continue to work with all these key stakeholders

- Make a track of all the contact information of each of these persons/groups and check in with them even when there is no business to attend to
- Formalize conversations and keep proper record of conversations had so that the successors have a better grasp of the current relationship with each stakeholder

## II) Board Liaison for HR matters and Operational Structure

Over the years there have been some issues here and there with the HR matters with the SFSS and it's unionized staff that has improved over the last year due to new leadership in the SFSS (attributed to Board leadership and a new ED hire). The previous concerns around arising HR matters in the SFSS in my opinion can be attributed to the shift to the Carver model under the previous ED. Where the Board moved away from operational matters completely. In my opinion, Board members should recognize they are still ultimately responsible and as such be in and know of the decision making around anything operational that may affect students. This year we moved away somewhat and have committees be more empowered as standing committees with staff support that the chairs of these committees lead the direction of the committee. This was done after the Board passed a strategic plan and with each committee having a year plan. This is a good balance on the Board project and initiative side of things.

However, with regards to operational matters, we still have situations of staff doing things that have not had Board input under "operational decisions", for example – the food sale prohibition policy that was communicated to students this year that caused a lot of backlash. Though this was sorted, it would not have caused the problems that it did for the Board if this conversation was communicated and approved by the Board beforehand.

We also had a situation where multiple management support staff were hired this year, but the Board wasn't involved in the striking of the hiring committees or were they included on the committees for the management support staff. Management support staff help set the tone of how the Society responds to matters and its important that people with student centric perspectives are hired in this role. This is to be centered over previous experience as the student society is a very specific sub sector of corporations/non-profits. I find that the will to have "experience" trumps and some management support staff may come in with the ideology of treating students as clients instead of the people that we serve as students. Each hiring committee of unionized staff or management support staff should include Board members, or if no board member wills to be on said committees when it is brought to the Board table, be delegated otherwise to other staff, SFSS committee members or even students.

This year there was a situation where no Board members were assigned as Staff Liaison officers to the unionized staff even though the Collective Agreement, I flagged this to the executive committee within the first month of my term as president and this was not heeded as the Executive Director really pushed that this not be done. The collective agreement explicitly states in **Article 3.3**: The term "Staff Liaison Officer" or "SLO" refers to the Board member responsible for liaising between the Board and its employees and any excluded manager the Board of Directors has appointed to act as Staff Liaison Officer.

### **Recommendations:**

- The Board should contract a student society that has previous student society experience regarding the structure of a student union to reflect a more collaborative

model where Board members are directly in the decision making of both the governance and operations of the Society

- Read and understand the union's collective agreement, labour related acts that are relevant to the student society, the Societies act of BC all other staff relations policies, contracts and agreement and be very informed on these matters
- Ensure that the President is appointed as a staff liaison officer for the Board of Directors as this role would be clear stipulated in the bylaws as the person that ensures compliance with the various collective agreements, employment contracts and staff relations policies
- Ensure that the Board is looped into operational decisions via including them in discussions related to General office, student services, possibly controversial changes or any other operational matters of the Society
- Ensure Board members are included on hiring committees, or if otherwise delegated (ie Board members don't want to be a part of it), that it comes to the Board table for approval of the Board
- Revisit and implement operating policies of the Society by ensuring there is provision that all terms of references, policies or big decisions come to the Board for approval or via the ED and the President and the VP assigned with the role of services/operations

### **III) De Facto Leader and Helps Set Direction**

The president is seen as de facto leader. Even when there are matters that the Board is not in full alliance on, it is important that the President work to establish working relationships with everyone on the Board to ensure that other Board members' projects are supported and that are passed on the Board. This happened this year where I supported other Board members on their projects for the benefit of the group, as long as it is aligned with the Strategic plan. In addition to that, the President should check in with committee chairs to ensure that the matters on each committee are running smoothly and in alliance with the Board's work, requesting reports of the committee chairs where necessary. Since the President is also ex-officio to all committees of the Board, this means the president must be well aware of the matters happening on all the committees and work hand in hand with the Committee chairs to make sure the appropriate steps are taken after decisions are made. Guidance and assistance is important in this case in pointing folks to the various members and staff folks.

It is important that the President also that the Board looks to make sure that the proper guidelines are followed after a motion is passed by the Board so that there aren't any legal implications later on in the future.

The President also ensures that there is an eye on the strategic plan and the goals that the board set at the start of the year. Out of the 58 items on our strategic plan (spreadsheet available on request), more than half of them have started and almost completed.

The president should also ensure that Board assessment is done on a regular basis. I have started to investigate Board assessment for the Board to complete before the end of the term.

### **Recommendations:**

- Read Roberts Rules and ensure that you study the structure of other student societies across Canada
- Do regular SFSS strategic plan check ins at the Board table to keep Board members focused on the goals set by the Board
- Ensure proper guidelines are being followed and ensure that each Board motion is followed upon and action items taken
- Be decisive and consultative in decision making in the midst of crises
- Ensure there is an action plan for each motion passed by the Board and point of accountability and whoever that point of accountability is, that they are up followed with.
- Make a strategic plan check-in timeline at the start of term so that you schedule when the Board assesses the alignment with the strategic plan, and align operational report requests for these dates as well from the Executive Director

## **The Board Chair Role**

### **I) Before the *first* meeting**

The President should send out a request using an online platform for folks to put available times. The Committee chairs should also use this to help plan out committee meeting times. Use this to publish Board meeting times and Committee meeting times on the website.

### **II) Before *each* meeting**

My recommendation is that The President should send out a call for agenda items 14 days in advance of the Board meeting with a deadline being at least 7 days before the Board meeting, for which the agenda should be sent out at least 5 days in advance of the meeting. This allows time for you to compile all the necessary items and send over to the admin assistants. Use your discretion and ask questions of folks if they have the requisite proposal docs to accompany a motion to make the business of the Board have credibility. Encourage board members to prepare briefing notes and information for motions and even discussion items where necessary. These documents will be compiled and put together in the minutes for the perusal of the membership.

### **III) During meeting**

At the start of the meeting, the Chair has no power over the decisions of the assembly (the Board), and the meeting is in the hands of the assembly as a whole. With this being said, the chair by default will make the call on questions of order, but the assembly as a whole may disagree with a ruling and overturn it. It is important that the assembly knows that this is the case. It is important that the Chair knows Roberts rules and reads the book from back to end to see typical situations. This will come in handy for more convoluted situations. It is important that the Chair shares

the knowledge for the more efficient running of meetings and not use the knowledge in an unfair manner. The Chair should ensure the proceedings of the meeting are fair, even if the chair themselves will speak in favour or against motions, in the end, the recorded vote of the assembly is what matters.

#### **IV) Post-meeting**

Collect the minutes of the Board meeting last had and review if the information accurately captures the happenings at the Board table. If you are not sure, then send the minutes to other Board members for their perusal and see if they have any input. If you are sure, give approval of the admin assistant to distribute the minutes to all the Board members.

#### **V) Following up on motions passed**

After motions are passed, the Chair is (if not the President, work with the president) to follow up on motions passed by the Board to ensure that the appropriate action items are taken by the points of accountability for that specific motion, and work with them to report back to the board on the results of the action taken.

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

There are many projects, events, campaigns and initiatives that were undertaken over the year and I will go through some of them below.

### Board Orientation

#### Summary:

Shortly after the Elections, I worked with the Executive Director to organize the Board Orientation. This was not very hectic and required me to set up one on one meetings with each and every board member to get acquainted with their intended goals and to incorporate it into programming for the Board Orientation. Additionally, we had presentations from our lawyers relating to labour law and the societies act. We also received a governance 101 workshop.

#### Outcomes and Results:

- Board members were made aware of the Societies Act, the SFSS Bylaws and the SFSS Board Policies which govern how the board operates. We also have a better understanding of each other through facilitated SDI assessment that mapped board members personalities and styles of leadership while in their comfort zone as well as when in conflict.

Completed May 1 and May 2, 2019

### Board Retreat

#### Summary:

The Board went to an Airbnb at North Vancouver. We had tough conversations regarding our time during elections, we talked about plans for the year ahead and we chose the various committees. We also played basketball, held many fun activities such as video games and socialized. Mixing fun with seriousness. This was a good start to have people who have never had conversations before now be able to come together and co-participate in various activities.

#### Outcomes and Results:

- I conducted a feedback survey that showed mixed results as expected due to the challenging election and the Board being composed of multiple people from multiple campaign groups.
- I recommend that more conversations happen to have board members start to trust each other and build camaraderie.

Completed May 3 to May 5

## Clubs Days

### Summary:

I collaborated with the Member Services Coordinator to organize Events Clubs Days participation for Fall 2019. I talked to each club and organized Board Member participation for Clubs Days.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Students felt very supported. We had many students come and interact with Board Members as we handed out popcorn. Many students expressed that they were happy that they felt so engaged.

Completed: September 2019

## SFU Free Shuttle Petition App

### Summary:

SFU added a free shuttle service from residence to Fraser International College to Cornerstone. Our advocacy helped get the shuttle extended for another year. However, I saw an avenue for improvement and worked with the University to make an app for the Shuttle so students can track the shuttle in real time.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Making campus safer for students
- The shuttle will be helping students make the journey from residence to cornerstone and FIC at multiple hours of the day
- Students are able to travel across campus without concerns
- Students are able to track the shuttle on campus
- Students are thrilled the service will be continuing on for another year!
- Parking services also added 2 additional stops to the route (Transportation Center Bay 2 and Gravel parking lot near SFU Residence townhouses)
- Students have good feedback for the fact that there is now tracking and have suggested improvements

Completed: September 2019

## SFU x SFSS Welcome Day and Outdoor Movie Night 2019

### Summary:

SFU held a Welcome Day which we collaborated in; I gave a speech introducing the Simon Fraser Student Society as well as giving out prizes courtesy of the SFSS. We had a booth where we gave away mini donuts and promoted Fall Kickoff.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Many students felt the Society's presence at the event and we enjoyed participating

## Fall Kickoff

### Summary:

A lot of good feedback came from Kickoff regarding the quality of the event. The Board did a lot to ensure the quality and safety of the event. Approximately 1500 students were in attendance and there were good reviews.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Many students had great reviews, the event was safe, artists were happy, and the after-party went well.
- The event lost 106k which was a huge loss that was an indictment on the Kickoff as a whole. This has been a multi-year problem, however the board did the best it could to recover costs when the board was in a sticky situation regarding ticket sales on top of the 60k expected deficit.
  - The question was called (meaning discussion shut down) in Summer when I was asking questions around the budget in the Board meeting and that was one of the pet peeves I had during the event planning and one of the reasons I believe we can set certain policies through an audit in place to ensure that future situations like these don't happen.
  - See a letter to the editor I wrote amidst concerns raised about my role in the concert: <https://the-peak.ca/2020/02/letter-to-the-editor-10/>
  - Important that we put policies in place for large scale events in the future

Completed: September 2019.

## Federal Elections Debate

### Summary:

I, along with the VP University Relations Shina Kaur of the SFSS and Matthew McDonald of the GSS, worked with the University and Academic Affairs committee to host a federal election debate on the Burnaby campus. The debate was held with candidates from the four major parties in the Burnaby North-Seymour riding. We coordinated with Elections Canada to host the event before they have early voting polling stations on campus. The purpose of the debate was to increase political engagement on campus and build excitement surrounding the elections. The event went in line with the Get Out the Vote Campaign, encouraging students and staff to be politically active. It was also an opportunity for students to directly ask candidates questions through slido.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Increase political engagement on campus
- Build/maintain a good working relationship with politicians in the Burnaby North-Seymour riding
- Provide space for students to directly ask questions to the candidates



- Work in collaboration with the Graduate Student Society and SFU as well as campus partners such as SFPIRG, CJSF, SFU Public Square, SFU Political Science Department, TSSU, SFU350, Embark

The Event was a grand success. Over 300 people came to the event and all the candidates had an opportunity to make their case to students on Oct 3.

Event Recording:

<https://www.sfu.ca/itservices/technical/webcasting-and-video-recording/webcast-archive/2019/10/2019-10-03-gradsociety/>

Event Outline: <http://sfss.ca/sfss-and-gss-to-host-federal-election-debate-for-sfu-community/>

The overall cost of the event was \$1,146.25. SFU contributed \$500 and GSS contributed \$300. Making our net payout \$346.25.

See briefing note of 25/09/2019 for the Event Plan breakdown.

Timeline:

- June 2019 → initial idea brought forward by president to VP External and VP University Relations
- July 2019 → groundwork being completed by the President, VP University Relations, and the GSS VP External
- August 2019 → Seeking approval for the event by the board since the event is outside the strategic plan
- September 2019 → Confirmed candidates, moderator, venue, and start marketing the event
- October 2019 → Hosted the event at the beginning of the month, before early voting stations on campus

## SFU Budget Consultation SFU/SFSS/GSS Joint Operations Group

### Summary:

We re-established the Joint Operations group to allow for GSS, SFSS, and the SFU to all be at the same table and bring matters of importance. This body consists of SFSS President, SFSS VP University Relations, SFSS Executive Director, GSS External Relations and GSS University Relations and the GSS Executive Director, in addition to the SFU Student Services, SFU VP Finance and other persons as the body agrees on from time to time. We are using JOG to bring our issues regarding consultations and other issues of importance to the Society that needs to be flagged to the University.

### Outcomes and Results:

- The Joint operations group continue to be an avenue for advocacy
  - The November 2, Meghan Murphy was a huge sticking point between the societies and the university

- We brought up budget consultations and the accessibility of the consultation sessions but have won 3 sessions as well as variable times for it to reach multiple students
- The consultation sessions were communicated well this year
- The Student Affordability plan was a big focus on the committee as we look at flexibility of the University budget in the medium to long term
- We got better insight into the Budget creation Process this year however, we still believe that the amount of input that actually changed issues have not led to the Administration changing their tune on the 2%/4% split increase that we strongly oppose
- SFU Presented two options for increases in tuition
  - 2% domestic & 4% international continuing & 8% international new students
  - 2% domestic & 4% international
  - These options were inadequate to address our concerns around affordability for students

## Tuition Freeze Now

### Summary:

The Tuition Freeze Now campaign is continually engaging students. Every month there is a General Assembly and I am continuing to collaborate and play a big part in organizing students to make their voices heard. Over the summer, Tuition Freeze Now presented in person at the BC Budget Consultation and the recommendations of increasing funding to post-secondary education and to regulate max increases to international students tuition have made the report.

### Outcomes and Results:

- The recommendations of increasing funding to post-secondary education and to regulate max increases to international students tuition have made the report.
- TFN will continue right up through the Board of Governors vote raising awareness about high tuition increases once again.
- TFN hosted a town hall on campus for students to strategize and speak about how to raise awareness regarding increasing tuition and what to do about it - <https://the-peak.ca/2019/11/tuition-freeze-now-holds-town-hall-to-discuss-affordability>

## Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project

### Summary:

The SFSS supports the BMGT and has done work through different board members to show support on the municipal, provincial, federal, and local level. The project has been approved in principle by the Burnaby City Council and the Mayor's Council on Regional Transportation for Metro-Vancouver. Translink will be doing consultations with the public starting in the

Spring and the UAA committee will be hosting a student information campaign. We will be educating students on the three route options, as well as obtaining feedback and questions from students to submit to Translink. Additionally I took part in an interview when I attended the Burnaby Council Meeting where the Gondola was supported in principle. We are also heavily supported by the Build the SFU Gondola campaign in promoting this to reach a diversified student population, including various student led Facebook groups such as the infamous 'Dank Meme Gang!'.

### Outcome and Results:

- Address transportation as a concern for students in our undergraduate survey
- Inform students about route options and collect feedback
- Work with SFU to create excitement among the student population
- Burnaby City Council supported in principle on May 27
- Mayors Council on Regional Transportation support the Gondola in principle
- VP University met with SFU External and SFU Communications office

### Timeline:

- September 2019 - Create Gondola working group
- October 2019 - Get the working group knowledgeable and informed about updates and create a script they can use to talk to students / staff
- January 2020 - host information campaign with SFU to showcase route options and collect student feedback and questions for Translink
- February 2020 - Attend Translink events to provide student support for Gondola
- Spring 2020 - Promote the Translink public consultations and online feedback survey

## Rotunda Groups in the SUB

### Summary:

The previous Board moved to adopt a space allocation model in the Student Union Building and since then there has been multiple back and forth conversations between groups that are disproportionately hurt by this decision, specifically the Rotunda Community.

There are several suites and rooms in the Student Union Building such as 22 Bookable open rooms, and 7 Organizational Suites with each housing 2-3 offices and one lounge.

The Rotunda Community groups were consulted in the creation of the Student Union Building architectural plan and have been consulted throughout the process leading to 7 organizational suites and there being 6 Rotunda Community groups.

The lease between SFU and SFSS for the SUB states under 'use' that 'offices for the Society and other non-profit organizations whose primary function is to serve students of the university' which is similar to the language in the lease for the current Rotunda space under 'Society's Covenants'.

The previous board had since decided to allocate 11 offices within these organizational suites for clubs and DSUs and would have 22 open bookable rooms for general students and groups that would not be as efficiently used as is the current case with the 100+ other bookable rooms around campus which are underutilized and already available for students and clubs to book.

Not allocating space in the SUB for the Rotunda Community would create a possible risk of displacement of these groups from campus. It is preferred to determine an alternative model of space allocation to ensure the best outcomes for all groups such as the independent student societies, clubs and DSUs, and student-serving groups on campus;

My motion allocating 8 of the Open Bookable rooms to Clubs and DSUs would still leave Open Bookable rooms that would be available and shall have minimal impact in terms of availability of bookable rooms for students and groups; I brought forward a motion that allocated the 4 organizational suites be allocated to SFPIRG, Embark, CJSF and SOCA, and 8 of the 22 Bookable Open Rooms be assigned to clubs and DSUs for a period of one semester with the possibility of extension by additional periods of one semester at a time. This motion was rejected

After this, the Council brought forward the question to house the Rotunda groups to referendum. Since then the Board mandated the VP Finance and the ED to present additional options to the groups, which was accepted after slight back and forth. The Board then passed a motion to go into agreements with the groups afterwards and the matter is not resolved. The Rotunda community will be in the heart of campus. Students, Council, the Board and the Rotunda community all are pleased with the outcome of this situation.

### Outcomes and Results:

- The motion I brought to the Board in November was defeated 7-5
- Council voted to endorse the space and condemned the Board decision
- The Council also voted to put the matter to referendum
- Just before the council vote, the Board gave a mandate for the VP Finance and the Executive Director to present additional options to the groups which the groups have now accepted
- I am pleased to recognize after years of work, the SFSS and the groups have come together on a proposal which works for everyone

### Timeline:

- March is when the matter will now be put to the Student Body.
- SUB opens sometime early 2020
- Council condemned the Board decision not to give space to the Rotunda groups  
<https://the-peak.ca/2020/01/sfss-council-condemns-sfss-board-of-directors-decision-to-not-house-rotunda-groups-in-sub/>
- Initial motion to present options to groups:  
<https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/rotunda-groups-will-be-offered-space-in-the-new-student-union-building/>

- Article on folks being happy that the Board has responded to students positively  
: <https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/the-rotunda-groups-have-won-their-space-and-thats-something-we-can-all-smile-about/>

## Rebuilding Independent Student Society Relationships

### Summary:

Relationships with the Independent Student Society were fractured. I pushed to have the Executive Director get a mandate to rebuild relationships with these groups by attending Student Society meet-ups on a monthly basis. I ensured that I try to share information and boost the services that the other student societies provide as well by attending interviews, sharing their events and resources and creating better communication between the groups.

### Outcomes and Results:

- SFPIRG conducted an Equity and Inclusion Workshop on behalf of Board
- Working with Embark to operate garden in the SUB and having more collaboration
- Held interviews with CJSF after the election, and working with them on collaborations
- Continue to invite the Peak to various board meetings and allow for questions to the Board
- SFPIRG and CJSF and Embark Worked with the SFSS to cosponsor the Elections Debate
- I do continuous interviews with the CJSF on various matters

## Free Menstrual Products

### Summary:

Following in the footsteps of the New Westminster School System, we created a working group to get free menstrual products in the campus washrooms. Working with the Graduate Student Society, Women's Center, and Out on Campus Center, we drafted a proposal to submit this as a pilot project for the Student Experience Initiative. We gained funding from the SEI and are hoping to eventually gain funding from the federal government for this project.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Provide access to free menstrual for self-identifying women on the Burnaby, Vancouver, and Surrey campuses
- Create a culture of normalizing menstruation and providing access to products for free

Timeline:

- May 2019 → Created the working group and figured out our goals
- June - July 2019 → Drafted and finalized the proposal for SEI

- August 2019 → Submitted proposal and waiting on response
- November 2019 → Approval of funding from the Student Experience Initiative
- January 2020 → Hiring of an RA for project continuation

## SFSS Board Transparency Motions

### Summary:

I believe past boards have not done enough to be transparent with the student body. As such I have brought motions to the board table that improves our transparency. For example, I put forward a motion to include the Elections Report on the Society Website, and also to resume a process of listing votes of board members at board meetings. This was however referred to the governance committee and the board is awaiting recommendations.

### Outcomes and Results:

- The committee will bring the motion recommendation at a future board meeting
- We also passed a motion to publish the semester reports on the Society website
- Passed ratio voting at the Board table

## SFSS Advocacy Office

### Summary:

I ran on this commitment during the election for us to investigate the possibility of an advocacy office. As a result, the VP University Relations and the Health Science representative have been sharing the mandate to work on this project alongside the Executive Director.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Preliminary research was done through meetings with the UBC AMS Advocacy office and the BCIT SA Student Advocates to learn more about the role and how to apply it to the SFSS
- The motion to endorse the SFSS Advocacy Office was passed at the Board table
- There will be an academic advocate

Timeline: Next board term for hire to be complete.

## Board Month In Review

### Summary:

Helped establish the Board [Month in Review](#) so the board communicates the events, projects and activities that need to be highlighted over that month. Andrew Wong, Business Rep has been the lead on the project and I have been helping him.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Released the Board Month in Review for September to December
- Students Appreciate that Board is making an effort to communicate what we are doing

Timeline: Ongoing until the end of the board term

## Sexual Assault / Violence Awareness Month

### Summary:

The Sexual Violence Support and Prevention Office has a campaign every January regarding this topic. I had a meeting with them in May about upcoming plans for the year and a big area of collaboration is the Sexual Assault Awareness Month in January. January is a time to raise awareness and understanding about sexual assault and what we can all do to prevent it, by creating a culture of consent.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Brought this to the SFSS University and Academic Affairs committee and a SAAM pancake breakfast was planned to raise awareness to sexual assault on campus as well as share the services available to students
- Executed the pancake breakfast which saw over 500 students coming and taking material distributed from the Women's Center flyers, Students for Consent Culture and the SVSPO resources that was given for us to distribute

## Student Residence Coalition Group

### Summary:

This is a standing coalition of the Graduate Student Society (GSS), the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS), and the SFU Residence Hall Association (RHA). The "Student Residence Coalition Group" is established to provide a regular forum in which members of the GSS, SFSS, and RHA may meet to discuss items and share information on concerns, issues and events of mutual interest and/or concern to the students living on SFU residence. This forum is meant as a student-centered venue for identifying collaborative and inclusive approaches to enhance and protect residents' students' rights.

### Outcomes and Results:

- November and March meetings
  - Residence Safety Group
    - Debrief the student safety group meeting and Raised the petition for the student nurse on residence
    - Discussed Safewalk program on the residence, collaboration with RHA, SFSS, and GSS to have a student-oriented Safewalk program
    - Feels police heavy at the moment, this can be a community-centered program to make people feel safe and that Being part of the discussion with the student volunteer program updates is necessary

- Residence Private Investor Concerns
  - RHA raised concerns around a private investor coming in to set rates and there are conversations needed to be had to ensure students on residence are protected
- Sexual Harassment follow up with construction workers at Residence
  - This was discussed to talk about construction ongoing on residence and how to ensure safety of students after hearing complaints from students
- Other issues such as better lighting on residence and rent rights were discussed and the application of rent caps similar to what happens with the Rental Tenancy Act
- Updates from the Student Safety group meetings and implications on Residence

## Climate Strike

### Summary:

Multiple board members attended the climate strike to support the work being done by environmental activists across the world. We created posters and walked in solidarity with over 100,000 people across the Cambie bridge, bridging activism and student politics. Before attending the strike, I helped pass a motion to support the strike and granting academic amnesty to the students and faculty that wanted to attend the strike. The board worked on an email campaign to the various deans and department heads, encouraging them to pardon any students that wanted to attend the strikes and stand in solidarity with millions around the world.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Stand in solidarity with millions around the world fighting for climate justice
- Support students willing to attend with academic commitments preventing from doing so by allowing academic amnesty on a course by course basis
- Encourage SFU to declare a climate emergency

Timeline:

September 2019:

- Promote the strike on social media and on campus
- Write letter of support and send to university officials
- Coordinate email writing campaign with Faculty Reps to deans for academic amnesty



## Lobby Meeting with Leader of Opposition Party - Jagmeet Singh

### Summary:

Jagmeet Singh in November, 2019 had a meeting with the SFSS to discuss lobby priorities - waiving interest on student loans, tank farm safety, tmx opposition, carbon targets, and federal framework for post secondary education funding. After our meeting, I gave him a personal tour of campus to highlight spaces such as the Fire Pits, the SUB building, The Peak offices, and the Graduate Student Society offices; ensuring to highlight centers of student advocacy. During the tour, SFU350 and Climate Convergence and BROKE reiterated the importance of affirming opposition against the TMX pipeline. It is important that students rise up and mobilize on issues relevant to us and that we hold the very same elected officials accountable to their commitments.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Got commitments of ensuring that his caucus votes to
  - Commit to waiving interest on student loans
  - TMX opposition
  - More adequate carbon emission targets, and
  - Federal framework for post secondary education funding.

## Research Assistants Unionizing and Rise of Activism on Campus

### Summary:

There is a rise in activism on campus and direct action and protests are becoming a part of campus culture again. This was evident in the Research Assistants' effort to unionize with the TSSU that was successful. I helped organize undergrads for the campaign and got SFSS endorsement on the campaign. The student movement does not exist in a vacuum. Other political movements have goals connected to universal public education, just as students are invested in the fight for other reforms. The struggle for universal education is by its nature a struggle of liberation for the working class folks and this includes research assistants and student workers

### Outcomes and Results:

- The SFSS Board of Directors Support for the Research is Work campaign to unionize RAs with the TSSU. SFSS Board of Directors stands alongside undergraduate and graduate student workers, voting on November 15, 2019, in favour of supporting and endorsing the Research is Work campaign to unionize RAs! At the November 15 meeting, The SFSS unanimously voted to endorse and support the Research is Work campaign to unionize research assistants (RAs) at SFU.

[Research is work! – Research Assistants at Simon Fraser University](#)

## Issues Policy Development and Reproductive Rights Policy

### Summary:

The issues policies that the SFSS has implemented clarifies the SFSS stances on social, economical, political stances as a society. The first issue that we tackled is the reproductive rights policy and this sets the framework for the Society to take stances on issues such as Racism, Women's Rights, LGBTQ2+ rights and other issues of intersecting concern to students. One of my recommendations is to revise the process of how these are enacted to make issues policies standing for 3 years to be reviewed by a future Board.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Committed to asserting the pro-choice stance of the Student Society, after the SFSS Council pushed that the Board take action
  - <https://the-peak.ca/2019/06/sfss-set-to-assert-its-pro-choice-stance-via-policy-making/>
- Passed the reproductive rights policy in December 2019
  - <https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SFSS-Issues-Policy-Final-1.pdf>

## Wet'suwet'en Solidarity

### Summary:

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Board voted to stand in resolute solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and the hereditary chiefs, whose representative role is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, as they have indicated a lack of consent for the Coastal GasLink pipeline development on unceded territories. We signed onto a letter against the BC Government's actions and implore them to withdraw the RCMP from Wet'suwet'en territories.

The motion passed:

Whereas, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, whose representative role is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, have indicated a lack of consent for the Coastal GasLink pipeline through their unceded territory;

Whereas, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the BC Human Rights Commissioner have called on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to respect Wet'suwet'en law, rights and title by suspending permits authorizing construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline until they grant their free, prior and informed consent, following the full and adequate discharge of the duty to consult;

Whereas, these entities have warned of the risk of state violence against Wet'suwet'en People opposing the pipeline through non-violent methods, including the risk of an RCMP response and use of lethal force;

Whereas, Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which includes a commitment to "consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them";

Whereas, Canada is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, which include commitments to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pursue efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the worst impacts of climate change;

Be it resolved that the SFSS Board of Directors call on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to suspend permits authorizing construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline and commence good-faith consultation with the Wet'suwet'en First Nations;

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Board of Directors call on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to end any attempt at forced removal of Wet'suwet'en First Nations from their traditional territories and refrain from any use of force against anyone seeking to prevent the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

Be it further resolved that the SFSS release a press statement in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en First Nations, and support the advocacy for Indigenous sovereignty on campus and support where necessary, including financially, as the need arises in collaboration with the indigenous community on campus

### Outcomes and Results:

- Signed student associations letter:  
<https://sfss.ca/student-organizations-across-bc-stand-in-solidarity-with-the-wetsuweten-and-their-hereditary-chiefs/>
- Statement in solidarity: <https://sfss.ca/the-sfss-stands-in-solidarity-with-wetsuweten/>
- Motion passed:  
<https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BOARD-2020-02-05-Motion.pdf>
- The SFSS will continue to lend support to Indigenous student organizing on campus on this and other matters.
- <https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/wetsuweten-student-walkout-draws-crowd-of-around-100-to-convocation-mall/>
- <https://the-peak.ca/2020/03/113640/>

## SFSS COVID-19 Response

### Summary:

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept the SFSS and made us re-evaluate and transition our operations, our services, our events and the advocacy that we do. As COVID-19 swept through the world, the SFSS Board of Directors has now transitioned to online advocacy, services, and resource delivery to better fight on behalf of students and to ensure students get the relief they need. We took various action such as closing the SFSS offices for two weeks, instituted a bursary, transitioned to virtual work after the closure, pushed for international student relief and renters relief as things become rough, and students and renters alike lose access to jobs, and do academic advocacy on campus to make sure students rights are not being abridged in the midst of the pandemic.

Worked with Board members to organize advocacy efforts around supporting students during the COVID-19 pandemic. We focused on issues like ensuring international students in

BC are included in provincial financial assistance programs, advocating for the inclusion of students living on residence in the BC Temporary Rental Supplement.

Here is a letter I wrote to students:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Et3cXs1t-KvcDGvvKWNwUKrlvwOdoJ8L/view?fbclid=IwAR2Jm0j7GFYmFUNwrbXJJq2A2lc4dwbnNuc1EeC9kAY6q\\_CGlbw7sK5X1w](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Et3cXs1t-KvcDGvvKWNwUKrlvwOdoJ8L/view?fbclid=IwAR2Jm0j7GFYmFUNwrbXJJq2A2lc4dwbnNuc1EeC9kAY6q_CGlbw7sK5X1w)

### Outcomes and Results:

- Closed the SFSS offices for 2 weeks:  
<https://sfss.ca/message-to-our-members-regarding-covid-19/>
- Returned to work plan instituted and events transition online:  
<https://sfss.ca/sfss-covid-19/>
- Shared info with membership on Govt resources available:  
<https://sfss.ca/govt-funding-support/>
- Established emergency fund:  
<https://sfss.ca/sfss-contrib/utes-150000-to-emergency-assistance-fund-related-to-covid-19/>
- Established a survey to guide our advocacy: <https://sfss.ca/covid-19-survey/>
- Campaign for relief for students:  
<https://sfss.ca/support-international-students-in-b%E2%80%8b-%E2%80%8bc-amid-covid-19>
- In response to pushing the government, they have released a COVID-19 Emergency Student Benefit to address the needs of students. This is a step in the right direction

## SFSS COVID-19 Emergency Bursary

### Summary:

At the April 1st, 2020 Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Board of Directors (BoD) meeting, the BoD passed a motion to contribute \$150,000 to establish the Simon Fraser Student Society Emergency Assistance Fund. This fund was established to provide support for SFU undergraduate students facing a sudden emergency situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The disbursement of these funds is split equally between domestic and international students, and the fund will be administered through SFU Financial Aid and Awards. In addition to this, Board of Directors passed \$60,000 for FIC relief fund for students in financial distress during the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Passed the funding to provide support for students amidst the crisis

## CERB and Don't Forget Students Campaign

### Summary:

The SFSS signed onto a campaign calling on the Federal government to expand the CERB eligibility to include students and recent graduates.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Sent CERB letter: <https://sfss.ca/student-organizations-open-letter-cerb-eligibility/>
- Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/government-of-canada-dontforgetstudents-give-students-and-grads-the-income-support-they-need-during-covid-19>
- <https://www.ubyssey.ca/news/CERB-expansion-dont-forget-students-campaign/>

## MSP and International Student Fee Advocacy

### Summary:

On January 1st, 2020, most people in British Columbia benefited from a change to the structure of the Medical Services Plan (MSP), which eliminated their financial contributions to provincial health care. This change was particularly meaningful to students, who often struggle with staying financially afloat while also balancing their academic commitments and personal lives. However, one subsection of the student population did not benefit from this change, and actually saw their financial burden go up. International students across the province are now paying \$75.00 per month, and this has not gone unnoticed by student associations and 1 advocacy groups. We are extremely concerned about the decision to increase health care coverage fees for international students, especially without meaningful consultation with student associations, advocacy groups, or international students

We signed onto a letter calling for the government of BC to

- revert the changes made to international student contributions to the Medical Services Plan, or eliminate international student contributions to the Medical Services Plan altogether

### Outcomes and Results:

- See letter: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a825096914e6b88f5457393/t/5e2b564b1315662d98938816/1579898444502/Open+Letter+on+International+Student+MSP.pdf>

## Board Town Hall

### Summary:

Potential board candidates learned about experiences from the current Board members and the work that was accomplished over the year

### Outcomes and Results:

- Event proposal [here](#)

- Event Presentation [here](#)

## Black History Month Awareness Campaign

### Summary:

Black History Month campaign to raise why Black History is important to the black students on our campus. The SFSS for the first time recognized Black History month in 2019. Here was the motion passed:

Motion: Whereas The Parliament of Canada has been officially recognizing Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian Woman elected to the Canadian Parliament - The Honourable Jean Augustine; Whereas the SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry has been recognizing and celebrating Black History Month since 1994 in its inception as Black Students Association, now requesting that the Simon Fraser Student Society recognizes Black History Month; Whereas Black History Month is relevant and very important to the Black Community and is a time for reflection, introspection and serves as a time to reconcile and address the specific needs of the Black Community; Whereas Black History Month in Canada is essential since it educates Canadians on the contributions and history of black Canadians, with few Canadians know that slavery once existed in Canada, or that many of the British Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution were Black; Whereas Black History Month is a reminder to all Canadians that racism is not a matter just of the past. Be it Resolved that the Simon Fraser Student Society, officially recognizes and celebrates the month of February as Black History Month at Simon Fraser University

Due to this motion passed, SFSS officially shares Black History month as a month it fully supports and supports the calls for Black Canadians to have equitable changes in Society that positively better the living conditions for Black folks in Canada and abroad.

### Outcomes and Results:

- Announced Black history month and worked with other Black groups on campus to promote the Black History month events
- Worked with other Board members to have stuff shared on Facebook on Black history month
- Used the President page to bolster Black Community organizations off campus such as the Hogans Alley Society etc
- Announced the Black caucus to work on raising awareness on the contribution of Black Canadians on campus

### Timeline:

Annual celebration of Black excellence, historical and present contributions for Black Canadians and folks of African descent across the world.

## **SUB Sneak Peek**

### **Summary:**

Worked with SFSS staff to promote the new Student Union Building through “sneak peak” tours that allowed members to take a look at the construction progress first-hand.

### **Timeline:**

SUB should be complete by the end of summer as a conservative deadline

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Executive Director Review**

The Executive Director should be reviewed on a 3month, 6month and 11month basis in the Board year. In the same breath, the ED should deliver bimonthly reports to the Board on the operations and services and set benchmarks for improvements of the operations.

### **Volunteer Database**

There have been ongoing discussions about establishing a volunteer database to help manage the many students who wish to volunteer for SFSS initiatives. This would be very easy to implement and would make our base or persons to help with organizing events and outreaches would be easier and more efficient

### **Mailing List**

The Board does not make efficient use of the student mailing list. It is important that the SFSS communicates more frequently with membership, like once a month for a newsletter and for advocacy initiatives using something like NationBuilder or Mailchimp

### **Discord Usage**

Use Discord to organize Board communications and committee meetings etc. Also allow volunteers access to their specific channels etc. Slack was difficult to use in the previous year.

### **AGMS and SGMS**

AGMs are an important part of the Society business. This is legally required for us to do and also an opportunity for membership to vote on issues and for the Board to showcase the work done by the Board in the past. We have to do a lot more to get students out to be willing to want to spend time to vote on these matters.

### **Improve Financial Transparency**

Most students don't understand how the SFSS spends money and there is an opportunity for more transparency financially. The board should host budget consultations as early as November in preparation for the next draft budget plan.

### **Facilitate Academic Advocacy**

There is a lot of academic advocacy that can be done by the SFSS in alliance with student senators and the like. Hiring an academic advocate is a far way to go and the Board should definitely follow through with this.



### Fix Board meeting times

Board meetings are typically the President's meeting to call. However, this becomes to navigate with 16 Board members. I recommend that Board meeting times be alternated biweekly between council meetings at Wednesdays 4:30pm.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Keep pushing forward to have students' voices heard and **normalize language around student rights and student power**
2. Understand that **you act on behalf of the students**, not just the Board.
3. Fight for what you believe in and make sure to **centre** the perspectives of **marginalized communities**.
4. Always **check in** on the **collective goals of the organization** as well as your **personal campaign platforms**. Put a poster of your campaign platform in your office.
5. The Board is a fun place to work, but remember to put **students rights** and **centre justice, equity and inclusion** in the work that you do
6. When you make decisions, think about those **who are not in the room** that may be negatively impacted by these decisions. Try to consult and empower them as much as you can. Use your advisory bodies like Council to the benefit of the Society!
7. Hold yourself **accountable**, have fun, stay passionate!
8. **Reduce your course load** so you can manage the balance of Board work
9. Do not be afraid to take a **step back** if needed and **ask for help**.
10. Do not be too cozy or get intimidated by SFU administration. A healthy back and forth relationship is key, but you fight for **students first** before anything or anyone else.

I am happy to discuss anything in my exit report (check in with it over the year)-, or anything that happened in my time in office. Shoot me an email at [giovanni.hosang@gmail.com](mailto:giovanni.hosang@gmail.com). See my [campaign platform](#) and my [work reports](#) over the year as well! It was a pleasure and I am happy to have served!

## THANK YOU AND SIGNING OFF!