



2019-2020

# SFSS EXIT REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

Over the past two years, the SFSS has really grown. While there is always room for improvement, our members have a lot to be proud of when it comes to the services offered by the SFSS. There has also been an increase in student involvement which I hope continues once the new building opens.

While the Board has been often divided, this term has still produced many projects and initiatives to be proud of. If there is one piece of advice I would give future Board members, it would be to not overlook the importance of developing strong working relationships. While rather successful, this Board had the potential to achieve far more if it were not for weak and divisive leadership.

# COMMITTEES

For this Board term, I chaired two SFSS committees, Accessibility and Governance, and sat as a member on three other committees, FPMRL, SUB Committee, and the Executive committee. As VP Student Services, it is also standard for me to attend joint SFU/SFSS committee meetings such as the U-PASS appeals committee, the Ombudsperson committee, and the MySSP Advisory Committee.

# AFAC COMMITTEE

The SFSS still has a long way to go in terms of accessibility. However, the projects worked on this year will help put the SFSS on the right track for becoming a more accessible student society. Some of the major milestones overseen by the committee are outlined below.

## ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD POLICY

The committee and the Board approved this new policy. It will need to be reviewed on a continuous basis by the committee.

## ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT STAFF

A support staff was approved by the Board and will hopefully be hired within the next year.

## PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Certain policies and procedures need to be finalized, but this project has been worked out with Studentcare and can be put in place next term.

## ACCESSIBILITY GRANT FORM AND PROCESS

A new form has been created, and a new process has been discussed with staff. This new process still needs some work before being finalized.

# GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Several policies were reviewed and created this term. Committee TOR's and descriptions were amended to better reflect how they have been operating over the past few years. Board policies were also extensively reviewed and amended. Elections policies were amended with the IEC's recommendation in mind, in an attempt to make the elections fair. However, it appears that regardless of our attempts candidate misconduct was ever-present in this year's elections. The Governance Committee also changed the reporting on Board motions to include ratios for each motion. An "Issues Policies" was also created and will likely see additions in the near future. My recommendation is to ensure policy created is fair, does not unjustly infringe on the rights of students, and is not open to misinterpretation.

# STUDENTCARE

Working with Studentcare tends to be a positive experience. This year I hosted a Flu Shot clinic on campus, with Studentcare. Staff was available to assist with direct billing so that students could get the flu shot without having to pay any fees upfront. This was a great low barrier way to provide extended health services to our members, and I recommend continuing this event. This year we were also supposed to have Studentcare attend our "March Mayhem" event, and inform our members about Pharmacare, and other services available to them through the health and dental plan. Since the event did not take place due to COVID-19, I would suggest finding other opportunities to partner with Studentcare in this way.

Because of COVID-19, we discussed how this has affected access to the health services covered by the health and dental plan. Since students may be paying for coverage for services they no longer have access to (as a result of social-distancing regulations), the next VP Services may want to consider some small amendments to the health and dental plan to ensure students are still getting as much value as possible from their plan.

# OTHER PROJECTS

## SOME OTHER PROJECTS WORTH MENTIONING ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

### PROVINCIAL LOBBYING

I attended this trip with the VP External. This was a joint effort with AMS and the BCFS. Some of the major asks included needs based grants and tuition increase limits for international students. Later in the year, the BC announced that needs-based grants will now be available to students, which was a huge win for all post-secondary institutions involved.

### MYSSP COMMITTEE

The MySSP is a relatively successful resource for students. I would recommend continuing the program once the pilot ends. While BC will be opening their own online counselling platform for students, MySSP has the potential to better cater to the needs of our members. Moreover, face-to-face counselling is offered through this services as well

### PEER SUPPORT

HCS, the ED and I have discussed a joint effort to bring a peer support program. I recommend this be implemented once campus re-opens. This is a program that would provide longterm benefit for our members.

*I have learned a lot about myself, and the SFSS over these past two years, and am grateful for the experiences I had. I had the opportunity to work with some truly exceptional students and learnt that SFU is home to some of the most driven and creative people I have ever met. I am so grateful for the connections and lifelong friendships I have made. I hope every student finds something that makes their time at SFU special.*