

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



Phum Luckkid
At-Large Rep

May 2020 - Aug 2020

Executive Summary

Hello my name is Phum Luckkid I am an At-Large Representative. I currently sit on the Events Committee, the Finance Audit and Services Committee, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee. I am the chair of the Member Services Advisory Committee.

As an At-Large Representative I am given tremendous freedom to start my own projects or to help out projects from different departments and faculties. I have decided to focus my work primarily on Members Services which encompass Clubs, Student Unions, and Constituency Groups.

As it was my goal in running for the Board of Directors to further the interests of Clubs and DSU's, the majority of my projects at the board relate to Clubs and Student Unions in some way whether it'd be through the financial side or through collaboration on events. Other than Members Services, I help out on events that need another hand on the Events Committee and participate on initiatives that interest me in FASC or AAC.

I am sharing this position with 2 other people. The first being At-Large Representative Balkees Jama, the second being the *real* At-Large Representative #2 "Raccoon" (pictured above).

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Completed Projects:

SFSS Cultural Video

Summary:

Originally a project started in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, it was the FASS Rep Sude's idea that we make a video with all the cultural groups to welcome first years to SFU as we are not having any in-person events.

Goals:

We reached out to different cultural, ethnic and religious groups on campus in order for them to say "Welcome to SFU" as well as to advertise their clubs social media and upcoming events for prospective members. Different clubs we reached out to include:

- SFU Taiwanese Association
- Society of African and Caribbean Ancestry
- Pakistan Students Association
- K.Storm
- Muslim's Students Association
- First Nations Students Association

The video was ready mid-summer, however, this was too late to post to welcome new summer students so the video would instead be posted in Fall 2020.

Results:

An eight minute video was created featuring all the clubs listed above and many more.

This video will be shared on the SFSS page as well as by the Faculty of Arts and Social

Sciences. This strengthened the relationship between the Board of Directors and the SFSS clubs featured in the video.

Member Services Advisory Committee

Summary:

Originally conceived as “club council” this would be a method for back and forth communication between the club executives and SFSS Members Services. I presented the idea to President Osob Mohamed and she was in support of the idea and created an item on the agenda to have a working group comprising of Club/DSU execs, board members, and myself to talk to SFSS Members Services in order to get the changes we would like to have implemented and to have a clear line of communication. We realized that this would be better as a year-long project so we turned it into a Board Committee.

While the idea that every club can participate is absent, we feel that it's more efficient to have committee members who are execs of clubs to represent the clubs as this is more efficient and reduces the meeting time. On big issue topics such as core funding we will consult clubs and DSU's through focus groups, however, for small decisions we are leaving it to the committee members.

Goals:

- To give Club/DSU execs a line of communication directly to the Member Services Coordinators
- For Member Services Coordinators to be able to consult with students before creating a change
- To give student groups as much freedom as possible when planning events through the recommendation of policies

Results:

The establishment of the committee was a success, we were able to fill all our positions with committee members who have a tremendous amount of experience dealing with SFSS Members Services through their clubs and DSU's and it has resulted in some fruitful discussion about policies that affect student groups.

SFSS x Peak Frequency Virtual Concert

Summary:

SFU Peak Frequency is a social and performance club on campus dedicated to musicians and music lovers. SFU Peak Frequency has a roster of talented musicians and an active community of members, previously they hosted SFU's Got Talent in collaboration with the SFSS. I presented the idea that we hold a "virtual concert" through the SFSS instagram to the execs of Peak Frequency to which they were agreeable. I later came to the Events Committee to push forward this idea into an event in which the execs of Peak Frequency collaborated with our communications Coordinator Sindhu in hosting this event on the SFSS instagram page.

Goals:

- Student Engagement
- Foster the ongoing relationship between the SFSS board and SFSS Clubs

Results:

The event had relatively low engagement (around 10-15 people showed up in total for the 3 hour duration). This could be due to last minute advertising which was the result of miscommunication between me and the execs on who would be doing the advertisement.

However, the event hosts and the performers were well prepared and it was a good experience for those who attended.

Gamefest (SFSS x SFU Esports x SFU Anime)

Summary:

During the initial move to virtual events, the first idea that came to my mind was to collaborate with SFU Esports since most of their events were already online as video games can be enjoyed regularly despite the pandemic. I reached out to the president of SFU Esports and they were interested in collaborating, SFU Esports then reached out to SFU Anime (who were also already doing virtual events at the time) in order to gather more attendees.

The event was to be a series of online tournaments for different video games such as League of Legends, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, and Valorant all for cash prizes which would be provided by the SFSS. On the days without tournaments, SFU Anime would be hosting non-competitive game nights for games such as Minecraft, Town of Salem, Skribllio and Jackbox. All of which would be hosted on the SFU Anime Discord.

In addition to the cash prizes provided by the SFSS, there would also be gift card raffles in which winners of tournaments would win extra raffle tickets, the raffle prizes would be as grand if not grander than the cash prizes for tournaments. One of the prizes was a Nintendo Switch.

Social media and art would be done through collaboration between artists of both clubs, there would also be a concentrated effort in getting as many sponsor as possible for the event as well as a push to get as much from SFSS grants as possible causing many of the execs involved to drop interest, luckily, the event went ahead.

Goals:

- To bring together the large membership of the two clubs to create the largest virtual event on SFU
- For the SFSS to foster relations with SFU Esports and SFU Anime

Results:

This event is the largest virtual event that has ever been planned on SFU. In total around 60 people attended counting the entire week in which the event was active. The record for the most amount of people at once was around 40 people.

Games were well run, everything went smoothly without delay or issue. A Twitch livestream for the event with commentators for each game also existed. Cash prizes were distributed successfully to the victors of each tournament.

SFU Student Clubs and Groups

Summary:

This was originally supposed to be the facebook group for “Club Council” which is like SFSS Council but for Clubs with the goal being for clubs to directly talk to board members. One of the (future) MSAC committee members created the facebook group and made the VP Student Life Jennifer and I admins. We then started to add all club execs that we knew to the group and the club execs would then add the execs that they know.

While Club Council has been scrapped in favour of MSAC, the committee finds that this group is still extremely useful for gathering feedback from club/dsu executives and continues to be maintained, moderated, and receives regular posts from the committee, the VP Student life, and I.

Goals:

- Transparency between Club/DSU execs and the board
- A direct line of communication between MSAC and (hopefully) all Club/DSU execs without needing to use the Members Services mailing list.

Result:

This group has been successful on projects such as Fall Clubs Day and the SFSS Funding Focus group.

There are 250 members most if not all of them are current or former club execs. There are posts on it regularly and the SFSS currently moderates the group.

Core Funding for Clubs

Summary:

Core funding is something that has been requested by clubs since I have been on SFU (2016-2020). Core funding is a pool of money that DSU's can use (around \$300-\$1200) on the approval of the executives, this does not require the prior approval of the Members Services Coordinators which makes it distinct from grant funding. Currently Clubs do not have Core Funding and are restricted to purely using grants.

The major problem with this is that clubs are not allowed to make emergency purchases. For example, if equipment breaks and the club needs the equipment for the event in the upcoming week, the grant will not be approved on time for the club to be allowed to make that purchase. If this situation happens clubs will need to pay out of pocket.

This came up at the Focus Group, with the feedback from clubs/dsu's we were able to come up with a funding model that most clubs would be agreeable to which is \$100 baseline + additional funding based on an application process. While consulting with the coordinators, they felt that clubs being able to make purchases between 200-400 dollars without the coordinators knowing about it would be too much and lead to exploitation therefore it should only be \$100. They recognize that club treasurers often make mistakes during grants, as such, they are willing to provide exceptions for mistakes while emergency purchases should be covered by the \$100 dollars.

Goals:

- Give clubs \$100 dollars of funding that they can use on however they wish

Result:

This recommendation will be forwarded to the governance committee and later the Board of Directors.

It is not called Core Funding as Core Funding is restricted to DSU's. It is called "petty cash" as this is what clubs already have (although relatively unused since it used to be \$20).

Core funding donations for DSU's

With the protests occurring in the United-States against police brutality targeting racialized groups. DSU's asked the SFSS if they could donate their Core Funding towards organizations and charities that provide aid to racialized minorities and support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Before, DSU's were not allowed to use their core funding for donations as core funding is reserved for purchases related to DSU support and events, however, VP Finance Corbett Gildersleve created a motion that would temporarily allow DSU's to donate their core funding towards charitable causes.

My role was to relay information and updates to the FASS DSU meetings (in which the majority of DSU's under FASS attend) regarding the progress that the board is making towards making this a policy. The FASS department was the primary advocate of core funding donations and with their help we passed a motion at the board table allowing DSU's to donate their core funding.

Goals:

- Allow DSU's to donate core funding towards charitable organizations

Results:

The SFSS in total donated \$8000 to the Black Lives Matter movement and associated charities with \$5000 coming from DSU's while the rest came from the Board of Directors.

Ongoing Projects:

FCAT President's Meeting

Summary:

This is a continuation of the work of the previous FCAT rep Fiona Li. Fiona conducted meetings in which she invited all presidents of FCAT DSU's to attend in order to give any relevant updates on the SFSS side as well as for her to hear the concerns of FCAT DSU's to forward to board. During campaigning, she invited current FCAT rep Haider Abbasi and I to one of these meetings and Haider & I expressed interest in continuing these meetings.

The first meeting begun in June and has been continuing into the Fall semester. Haider and I will continue to be reporting relevant changes to FCAT DSU's including the Bylaw changes as well as getting FCAT concerns on the board table.

An example of this is Fall Clubs Day where I provided details about the event such as the breakout rooms and the logistics during the FCAT president's meeting.

A struggle has been planning the meetings with Haider as during the summer semester he was residing in Pakistan which has a 12 hour time difference as well as an extremely long distance internet connection to Canada. As such, Haider had to hold the meetings early in the day in Canada time (i.e 9am) and was frequently laggy while hosting the meeting. However, Haider has since moved back to Canada and lives on SFU Residence, as such, the meetings should go smoothly from this point forward.

Goals:

- Transparency and communication between the SFSS and FCAT DSU's

Timeline:

July: Meetings begun

August: Meetings Continued

Fall & Spring: Meetings Continued

Greek Life Organizations

Previously, Greek Life Organizations were having their status as official SFSS clubs terminated effective April 2021. This was the result of SFU's push to get all fraternities and sororities off SFU. The primary reasoning they gave was that fraternities and sororities promote an unhealthy culture as seen in movies, TV shows, and American college campuses.

The board felt that the Greek life organizations of SFU do not fit the bill that SFU administration paints. The two that exist Phi Delta Epsilon and Alpha Kappa Psi are what's known as "Professional Greek Life Organizations" which are organizations without hazing or initiation rituals dedicated solely to professional development and function exclusively as clubs. These organizations have been around for a decade and has caused no problems for the SFSS up until SFU's push to get them out. As such the board voted for Greek Life Organizations to retain their status permanently (subject to the regulations that govern SFSS clubs).

However, since the vote, some concerns have emerged from SFSS Council which include:

- Phi Delta Epsilon having a gpa requirement in order to be a member
- Phi Delta Epsilon needing its members to pay a \$100 dollar fee before joining
- Professional fraternities having their own insurance
- SFU's firm stance on not accepting Greek Life on campus

As such meetings with GLO's continue to occur in order to solve as much as we can.

Goals:

- For Greek Life Organizations to retain club status
- For Greek Life Organizations to adjust their constitution to not conflict with SFSS mandates

Timeline:

July – August: Research about professional fraternities (meetings with GLOs, inquiring how long they've been around, inquiring why SFU wants them removed, asking for opinions in MSAC and with coordinators).

August: Motion passed allowing GLO's to retain club status

September: Continue conversations with professional fraternities about their constitutions.

SFSS Clubs/Student Union Focus Groups

This is a project written on my platform as “Town Halls” which only partially capture the goal of Focus Groups.

Focus Groups are meetings conducted by the SFSS and MSAC on directions for changes we would like to make that will be directly affecting Clubs and Student Unions. For example, the first of our focus groups are directed at Members Services Funding which was aimed at gathering feedback for what works and doesn't work for club/DSU Financials.

MSAC hopes that this will be a series in which we invite Club/DSU execs before we make a change. Prospective Focus group meeting topics that could be made include:

- Club Rooms
- SFSS Website & Logo
- Travel and Conference Funding
- Sexual Violence Training.

Goals:

- Transparency and Communication
- For the SFSS to create changes in accordance with the wishes of clubs and DSU's

Timeline:

July: MSAC Formed

August: First Focus Group conducted (Funding)

Fall 2020: Sexual Violence Training & Travel and Conference Funding

Spring 2021: Club Rooms

AAC Bursary

A project started by VP Student Life Jennifer. This bursary is “aimed at students who need funding to pay for various access needs” where the funding would come from the Accessibility Advisory Committee Fund.

This bursary would be administered and given out by the SFSS allowing students with disabilities to apply without needing to disclose their disabilities. A problem with SFU and the Centre for Accessible Learning is that in order to apply for funding they need to disclose their disability which needs to be verified by a medical doctor. This prevents students without access to competent healthcare or students wishing to not disclose their disability to receive funding.

This bursary would be paid directly to the student allowing the student to spend on supplies unrelated to tuition (which a scholarship or CAL does not cover) such as textbooks, transportation, technology etc.

Goals:

- To eliminate financial barriers for students with accessibility needs
- To spend the Accessibility Fund which has been traditionally underutilized by the SFSS.

Timeline:

August: Bursary mentioned and proposal reviewed by the AAC

September: Formation of Accessibility Bursary working group

Future: Implementation, promotion, and application

- Implementation: Comes after policies have been written within the working group and with the help of the Campaigns Research and Policy Coordinator Sarah
- Promotion: Done through the Board of Directors, Communications and the committee
- Application: Done through Communications, applications verified through AAC.

SFSS x Student Group Collaborations

Much like the Virtual Concert with SFU Peak Frequency and Gamefest with SFU Anime and SFU Esports, the events committee will continue to collaborate with clubs/dsu's interested in planning a project together with the SFSS.

There are many benefits to collaborating with the SFSS, the most major of which being financial benefits. Through the SFSS clubs are allowed to have more freedom with spending. For instance, Gamefest had over a thousand dollars in prizes where the limit for prizes is only \$50. Additionally, SFSS clubs have access to more manpower as the events committee are involved in the planning process the whole way through.

The two collaborations we have done so far this year has been successful with more to come. Some collaborations we have in mind for the fall semester include:

- Dance workshop with SOCA (Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry)
- Bubbletea making workshop with SFU Taiwanese Association
- Cultural Events week with cultural groups on campus
- Gamefest 2 with SFU Esports

Goals:

- Maintain relationships with SFSS Clubs
- Student Engagement

Timeline:

July: Gamefest & Virtual Concert

August: Creation of a standardized "Club Collaboration" form as well as worked out details on how to conduct one through Events Committee

September: Cultural Week and Dance Week

Every Month after September: Collaborations with clubs and DSU's continue

Travel and Conference Funding Overhaul

This is a project that begun as part of the SFSS Funding Reform focus groups. Engineering Clubs and the Engineering Science Students Society submitted a response to the survey in which they expressed that the SFSS are not giving them enough funding for them to travel.

These groups require travel as a part of their mandate, for example, Robot Soccer has to travel to compete in robot soccer and design teams such as Team Guardian and Team Phantoms must travel to conferences in order to compete.

Currently the ESSS is paying to have these clubs compete since the SFSS restricts Travel and Conference funding for clubs to 100 dollars per person with a limit of two people. On the DSU side DSU's also have an upper limit of only having around 400 dollars to spend. This results in many talented people from the engineering department being turned down as the SFSS does not allow for uses of travel and conference funding exceeding the amounts mentioned above.

The limits are designed so that clubs cannot exploit travel and conference funding to fund their own field trips or vacations, however, this has resulted in clubs like design teams not being able to use funding for legitimate purposes.

Goals:

- For qualified students to be able to represent SFU and compete internationally in design competitions
- To design a system that allows students to travel to conferences while not being exploitable

Timeline:

August: Submission received from ESSS during Focus Groups

September: Agenda item submitted at MSAC

October: A meeting set up with ESSS and other groups who have used travel and conference funding in the past

Mid-October: A new set of policies for travel and conference funding

Faculty of Applied Sciences Funding

This was an issue brought up by the Applied Science Representative Harry Preet Singh, in August all FAS DSU's and clubs previously sponsored directly by the department were emailed by the department that the funding will cease to occur effective Fall 2020.

Usually every Fall and Spring, DSU's are given \$5000-\$6000 dollars worth of funding while clubs are given \$500. Unlike grant funding these donations are given directly to club/DSU trust accounts to do as they wish. This is why DSU's during frosh can rent multiple buildings from SFU or buy alcohol. This funding has given FAS DSU's and clubs tremendous freedom for their events.

As of writing this, no clear reason has been given for why funding has ceased.

The SFSS has offered to step in to cover some of the fees if needed. Harry and I upon consulting with many FAS DSU's and Clubs such as the Computing Science Student's Society, the ESSS, the Software Systems Student Society, SFU Surge as well as some design teams have concluded that currently due to the pandemic this funding is not necessary as leftover funding from previous years as well as core funding can suffice for the Fall Semester. However, in the Spring the SFSS could explore options to cover the fees.

Goals

- Assess the financial needs of FAS clubs and DSU's

- Submit a motion for the SFSS to donate funding to clubs and DSU's affect if need be.

Timeline:

August: Discussion item submitted at board regarding FAS funding. FAS clubs and DSU's consulted

Fall Semester: No updates

Spring Semester: Reach out to FAS Clubs and DSU's again to see if any funding from SFSS is required for regular club operations.

Extended Health Plan Benefits for Mental Illness

AAC currently feel that the funding in the health plan has for covering therapy for mental illness is not sufficient to get therapy at a regular price. Currently the health plan only covers \$500 per policy year while clinical psychologists on average charge \$100 per session. This would only pay for 5 sessions which is not sufficient for any form of therapy.

Goals:

- Get mental illness coverage for the health plan from \$500 to \$1000 or more

Timeline:

July: Motion submitted at AAC about psychological care in the Health Plan

August: No updates

Fall Semester: AAC plans to change the health plan (psychoeducational assessment), discuss changing benefits to psychological care with this adjustment to the health plan.

Fall 2020 Virtual Clubs Days

Clubs Days has been conducted by the SFSS since the beginning of time, traditionally clubs and DSU's would be able to table on the third week of September in convocation mall, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic Summer Clubs day was canceled.

The Clubs day for Fall must be Virtual, I joined the SFSS Members Services in planning the format and all the logistics regarding Fall Clubs Day. My goal was to relay the current planning status of clubs day to club execs and students as previously there was a "black box" between execs and the SFSS about what's going to happen with clubs day. I would also give feedback from students to Members Services on how we could make clubs day better and more accessible.

I gave regular updates to the facebook group me, VP Student life Jennifer, and MSAC committee member Rolan created called SFU Student Clubs and Groups, this group is comprised of execs from clubs and student groups on SFU. Every week after the meeting I would debrief the group on what the current status of planning was and if they had any feedback.

Goals:

- To provide a platform for clubs to advertise during COVID-19
- To replicate as closely as possible the experience of clubs day pre-pandemic

Timeline:

Summer Semester: Planning of Virtual Clubs Day

Third week of September: Virtual Clubs Day

Projects to Start:

SFU Esports Lounge

SFU Esports has contacted VP Student Life Jennifer Chou about restarting the work that has been done with SFU Esports and Building Manager Marc Fontaine regarding the “Gaming Lounge”.

The SUB contains an area dedicated to it which includes computers to be put in place designed for gaming, this area will be run by SFU Esports in conjunction with SFU Ancillary Services. However, since the SFSS restructuring SFU Esports has not been in contact with the SFSS, we are hoping to restart the conversation and continue the work SFU Esports has already started.

Approximate Start time: October 2020

Approximate End time: Early Spring Semester

Club/DSU Exec Socials

In 2018 and 2019 the SFSS Board of Directors has organized socials for Club/DSU executives. In 2018 there was a cupcake baking night and networking event which club/dsu execs were invited to via email and in 2019 there was a Pizza party for club/dsu execs as well as a Bob Ross Paint night (planned by the previous At-Large Representative Rayhaan Khan and Education Representative Emerly Liu).

In short, if execs are interested in these events I plan to continue these events in the Fall 2020 semester (although virtually).

Goals:

- Student Engagement through networking opportunities for Club Execs
- Fostering ongoing relations between SFSS board and SFSS Clubs

Approximate start time: October 2020

Approximate end time: December 2020

Club/DSU Rooms in SUB

In the SUB exists space for student groups to inhabit. On the second floor of the building exists rooms specifically built for club/DSU housing and on the third floor exists many unused rooms (approximately 10-15 rooms). After the SUB space issue, it was discussed in Exec committee as well as MSAC that the remaining rooms should be given to clubs and DSU's as there are many unused spaces and this could be an opportunity to foster relations between the board and SFSS Clubs.

The process for allocating these rooms to which clubs/DSU's will still have to be determined. We are determined to contact student groups and consult with them in how to create a fair and effective process. This could be done via the MSAC focus groups.

Currently we are unable to start this project as the SUB is not open for students and with the COVID-19 pandemic we are unsure on when this building will open. Talks of occupation of the rooms can begin without the building being open, however, permanent allocation of the rooms will have to wait (we don't know what clubs or DSU's will be active when the building opens).

Approximate start time: Spring 2021

Approximate end time: ?????

Small DSU core funding sliding scale

This was another change proposed during the Funding Focus group. Currently there are three tiers of funding for DSU's (small/medium/large). Small DSU's have \$300 of core funding every semester while medium DSU's have \$600. This becomes an issue with core funding contributions.

Core funding contributions are a mandatory component of grants in which 10% of the requested funding amount must be deducted from the DSU's core funding. This is not a problem for medium to large DSU's as they have plenty of core funding but this severely limits the amount of grants that a small DSU can make.

For example, if Mechatronics Students Society requests a \$1000 grant for one of their projects, a third of their core funding is gone for the rest of the semester which they can't use for regular funding such as the purchase of needed emergency or non-grant expenditures. A proposed change from the meeting is to either remove the % contribution from core funding entirely or to make it so that it becomes a sliding scale where small DSU's only have to contribute say 5% of their core funding.

Goals:

- Implementation of a core funding policy that does not restrict small DSU's from receiving necessary funding from the SFSS

Approximate start time: October 2020

Approximate end time: November/December 2020

Interactive Room Booking

A major concern from clubs/DSU's during in-person events was the lack of transparency around the room booking process. In particular, with booking SFSS rooms, execs often feel like it is random chance whether or not their group gets the room.

This is because in order to book an SFSS room execs need to submit a room booking form, however, execs do not have access to who has currently booked the room or whether the room has already been booked. This causes execs to submit the room booking form, get the form denied, then have to submit another form asking for another time/room which may also get denied due to prior occupancy.

Clubs have requested that the room booking calendar be published much like the calendars for booking the SFU library study spaces. That way clubs can plan their event ahead of time and know exactly what date their events will be on during the event planning phase.

Sindhu the SFSS Communications Coordinator says a project is in the works for a room booking calendar for rooms in the SUB, however, she has stopped working on this calendar as the SUB has been delayed over and over. She and the members services coordinators states that they will continue working on when they receive more details about the exact opening date of the SUB. Feedback on this calendar will be provided by MSAC

Goals:

- Increased Student engagement due to more well-planned and attended event due to better event planning process

- More transparency with regards to the SFSS Members Services grant and room booking application process which has traditionally been “black box”
- Less work for employees of Student Centre and Members Services Coordinators

Approximate start time: Spring 2021

Approximate end time: Whenever the SUB opens

SFSS A/V Cart

Much to the dismay of former SFU IT employee Corbett Gildersleve, SFU A/V is not good when it comes to helping clubs and DSU's host in-person events. Sometimes when A/V is requested through the room booking form, A/V shows up late or does not show up at all. Sometimes when A/V does show up they are missing the requested equipment or set up their equipment at the wrong place.

There is not much the SFSS can do as the SFSS only acts as a middleman between A/V and the Clubs/DSU. A potential solution is for the SFSS to provide a miniature A/V service themselves where they provide clubs/DSU's with simple A/V equipment such as projectors, microphones, speakers, and backboards. These would be rentable through the Student Centre. This would eliminate the need for SFU A/V for simple events that need basic equipment.

This idea was proposed at MSAC to which the Members Services Coordinator agreed that this was something they would agree to. However, this idea has been put on hold as the SUB is not open due to the pandemic.

When the opening date is in site, MSAC will resume work on this project.

Goals:

- For Clubs/DSU's that require simple A/V equipment to be able to conduct events without needing SFU A/V

Approximate Start Date: Spring 2021

Approximate End Date: Spring 2021

Pain points

Cancelled Events & Projects

This semester, many ideas such as my projects and events had to be cancelled. The amount of projects I made that I had to cancel are almost as many as are in this semester report. Some of these include:

- SFU Anime Summer Festival
 - o Cancelled due to lack of interest from the team and the general public.
Brainstorming ideas for “Virtual” summerfest had ideas that were too scattered or unviable
- SFSS Locker Reimbursement – to reimburse clubs that have lost supplies due to thefts of the Rotunda lockers at SFU
 - o Cancelled due to SFSS Members Services statement that lost money and supplies will not be compensated by the SFSS. Prior warning existed to remove supplies from the locker by the SFSS. The majority of clubs adhered to the warning and removed their supplies from their locker.
- “Covid Stories” with the Peak – to advocate for fully synchronous learning and decreased tuition by telling stories of students first-hand accounts of how the quality of education on SFU has decreased
 - o Cancelled due to lack of interest from The Peak.

I have no recommendations on how to deal with project cancellations other than “that’s life”. Sometimes no matter how good your idea is due to bad luck it may never happen.

“The Glacier of Bureaucracy”

The SFSS is a terrifying glacier of bureaucracy. In order to make changes happen one must suffer through endless meetings, discussions, and policies before your change is realized. Take for example the petty cash increase to \$100 dollars. The idea was proposed in the Focus group, after which an MSAC meeting occurred, afterwards the coordinators were consulted in a meeting, then it went to FASC to find the relevant financial policy, now it will go to Governance Committee before going to the board. I fear this point is the reason why club execs feel the SFSS never changes because changes take so long to occur.

“The Curse/Blessing of Freedom”

As an At-Large representative your role has no responsibilities. Literally, if you click on my profile on sfss.ca I have no responsibilities. This means that I can do whatever I want but this also means that my work is determined by how productive I feel on any given week. If I am having a particularly bad week I will have zero work output. If I have a good week I can *almost* put out as much work as Jennifer! I am not required to attend any DSU meetings since I have no DSU's, I am not required to meet with my dean since I have no dean. My only requirements are my committees and board meetings.

Freedom is both a blessing and a curse, for someone who is able to pace themselves, this role was meant for them! But for me I tend to work sporadically which is conducive to both burnout and prolonged periods of laziness.

Recommendations

Listening

The most rewarding part about my experience of being a board member is hearing someone say "I'm happy that someone from the SFSS is listening to me". I attend as many DSU and club meetings as I can to see if I can help in any way; I always have my messenger open to answer questions from club execs about any concerns they have regarding the SFSS.

When people do have a concern, I try to respond and act immediately. If there is an email to be sent or a pressing question to be answered, I stop what I'm doing and act. As a board member your role is to listen and be the voice for students.

Seek out feedback, if there is negative feedback to be had then great, if everything is fine then that's even better.

Have an End Goal in Mind

As a board member, if you do not have an end goal in mind you will be claimed by the River Styx AKA the SFSS Glacier of Bureaucracy. It is easy to be bogged down by meetings and give up but if you have an end goal in mind it will motivate you to go through the process.

Stay humble and have a life outside the SFSS

There's more to student life than the SFSS, in fact, the majority of students will not have to deal with or know about the SFSS. As a board member you may think that this is the holy pinnacle of all activity on SFU but it is not.

Being grounded in reality is helpful for staying genuine and humble which will help you in your board position as you'll be more connected to the concerns of students. I still participate as a general member for many clubs and consider the majority of my close friends to be from outside the SFSS or any student activity. Students are more willing to talk to a fellow student as supposed to an SFSS board member and at the end of the day you're a student.