

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



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Introduction

Hello, my name is Mehtaab Gill and I am the Business Faculty Representative for the 2020-21 Board term. This semester report will provide an overview of the various projects completed in the Summer semester and a brief summary of upcoming projects. It will include duties from the board and involvement in faculty student union and clubs. I will also discuss my committee work which includes my role as the Surrey Campus Committee Chair, a member of the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and a member of the Nominating Committee.

This semester has been a unique experience as previous board members were not working remotely full-time therefore some of the recommendations from them were not applicable. Coming into this role, I did not expect to be hosting virtual events and meeting via Zoom. This brought many challenges and required everyone to familiarize themselves with the new procedures. However, our Board has adapted well to the new way of doing things virtually.

Completed Projects

Nominating committee: Hiring

As a member of the nominating committee, I was involved in reviewing student applications and presenting recommendations for each committee. One of the goals coming into this year was to ensure that committee hiring is fair and follow a structured process. During our initial meeting, I expressed my concerns regarding a lack of structure and process to follow every year. The process should be open and transparent to allow an equal opportunity for all the students applying and the guidelines should be maintained by the following year's committee.

Most of the Board committees went through the Nominating Committee process to appoint at-large members. The process was kept simple and straightforward to avoid confusion. Students applied through the SFSS website and applications were received by the committee members. Upon closing of the application period, each committee member, including myself, was responsible to review each application and bring forward a list of recommended candidates. This involved reading through the applications and performing reference checks where necessary. The lists were brought to the meetings to discuss and provide reasoning for each candidate. The final list of recommended candidates was passed as a motion and then forwarded to each chair for approval. The nominating committee met several times throughout the entire process.

As the chair of the Surrey Campus Committee, I opted to go through the nominating committee process to review applications. The structure was similar to as discussed with other committees though we faced some challenges initially. There seemed to be a low turnout in the number of applications and technical difficulties with the web form delayed the process. Eventually, I was able to read and review all the applications and receive approval from the committee to pass the motion at the board meeting.

Surrey Campus Committee

Coming into this term, I looked forward to working with the Surrey Campus Committee and I was excited to be appointed the Chair of the committee. However, this year was much different than previous years in which the committee has had several events in person to interact with students. It is challenging to focus on students attending the Surrey campus, as classes have shifted online. Therefore, the committee has met occasionally over the semester to discuss ways to continue to engage students. One of the options is to partner with Surrey-based student clubs and bring awareness about the committee to more students.

The at-large members were appointed near the end of the semester as we came across several challenges in the process. Prior to solving the application issue, the committee planned to approve funds for social media marketing and building awareness. However, that plan was changed as several students applied to join the committee.

I am looking forward to meeting with the at-large members and starting to work on projects with the committee. The Fall semester is going to be an exciting term for the Surrey Campus Committee.

Student Engagement Meetings

As the shift to online school has brought forth many challenges, it has also made it easier to connect with students over Zoom. Over the course of the Summer semester, I met with several prospective students who were keen to learn about opportunities to get involved. Social media proved to be an asset to reach out and welcome new students to our university. Meeting with students provided an opportunity for them to ask questions and learn about the various resources provided by the SFSS.

Along with prospective students, I had conversations with current SFU students majoring or minoring in business about ways to get involved with the student society. I introduced the different committees and suggested to join ones that aligned with their interests. From these discussions, increased tuition was one of the most popular topics brought forward. I plan to bring up some of the concerns presented to the faculty.

I plan to continue to have open conversations with students throughout the year. It is important to make student aware of the Simon Fraser Student Society and how it can support students. Many students also had a lot to share about their story and how they came to the decision to attend SFU.

On-going Projects

Stranger things murder mystery night

The events committee is hosting a murder mystery night in which I will be assisting as a moderator for one of the activities. The event will take place at the end of October as Halloween is right around the corner. It will bring together students who have watched Stranger Things and get them to solve a murder mystery on Zoom.

Beedie Club Engagement

As most of the clubs have shifted to virtual events, I want to communicate with the presidents to provide support and resources where necessary. Currently, I am reaching out to Beedie club presidents to meet with them and address concerns or work together on upcoming events. This is also a way for increased communication between the SFSS and Beedie Clubs and improve the relationship. This is a project that will continue throughout Fall semester.

Upcoming Projects

SCC event collaborations

As the chair of the SCC, my goal is to increase the number of collaborations with other clubs and student unions. These opportunities will be open to Surrey-based student organizations. This will provide an opportunity for SCC to spread awareness and engage more students. The committee will provide support to the clubs in terms of sponsoring prizes, promoting the event on social media, and much more.

Pain Points

One of the biggest challenges at the start of the semester was technology as we heavily relied on it. With things moving online, there were new guidelines and protocols to follow as well as having the necessary hardware to proceed with meetings. This caused some delays in response times and meetings. The work environment is much different as most of the board members worked from home. This can be challenging as the home environment can bring forth obstacles that others may not be able to relate to and everyone does not have the same access to technology. Many students benefited from having the technology grant in place however, some students that I spoke with had to pay additional costs for improved network speeds and hardware.

Secondly, there were many changes in the structure of the society therefore it made it difficult to follow along. As everything went online at once, it was more challenging to organize everything and keep up with the changes. Some procedures from previous years were either discontinued or changed therefore it was important to stay up to date.

Recommendations

Along with board meeting minutes, it is important to make personal notes and stay organized. There may be times where it can get confusing when balancing multiple committees. I found it helpful to refer back to committee minutes in order to refresh my memory. It also is helpful to have a list of tasks or responsibilities for each week that must be completed. It can be very easy to fall behind when you are involved in more than two committees.

Additionally, if there are challenges or obstacles that are limiting your ability, it is crucial to communicate them with the board. Increased communication will lead to better overall results and help you relieve some stress. It can be very easy to take on a lot while on the board including committees and projects but it is important to have a balanced schedule.