

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



Anuki Karunajeewa
Environment Rep

May 2020 - Aug 2020

Executive Summary

Hello! My name is Anuki Karunajeewa and I am the current Faculty of Environment Representative for the 2020/2021 Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Board of Directors. Within the SFSS, I sit on the University and Academic Affairs (UAA) committee, Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) committee, External committee, Faculty and At-Large Representative Members (FARM) committee and the Admin Assistant Hiring committee. I am also unofficially part of the Events committee because of current projects I am helping with and leading. From UAA, BIPOC and External committee there are 2 initiatives I am part of; Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (MARE) working group and the Students Against TMX campaign.

This semester, I have collaborated on and lead the following initiatives, events and campaigns:

- SFSS Board Member Mondays Instagram posts
- SFSS TikTok video
- Panelist at FASS events: Coffee break with undecided majors
- Panelist at a Faculty of Environment social
- [Students Against TMX campaign](#)
- Mandatory Anti-Racism Education working group
- Open Educational Resources FARM letter campaign
- Helped facilitate SFSS event: Pad Thai workshop
- Volunteering at SFSS Food Hub program
- SFSS Food Justice events
- SFSS New Music Mondays and music events
- Admin assistant hiring

My goals for my 2020/2021 SFSS board term is to create meaningful positive change regarding climate justice and racial justice on campus, and advocate for marginalized students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this work term has been quite the experience, although at first it was challenging to adapt to working virtually, this experience has taught me a lot and I have brought these lessons into my other classes and organisations that I am part of as well. I have learned how to organize online which is something that I'm not normally used to because I have always done my activism in person, pre-COVID.

Completed Projects

Project one: SFSS TikTok video

In the beginning of my board term I received the privileged of taking on my first project, which I worked on with VP Student Life, Jennifer. We collected video clips from each SFSS board member and put it together to create a video introducing the new board in a fun way.

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=253726346003102>

It was fun to work on and fulfilling because we got to increase engagement, increase transparency with and introduce ourselves to students in a fun, and unusual way because a TikTok was never created before by the SFSS.

Project two: Board Member Mondays Instagram posts

Another initiative I took on which was handed to me by the previous VP University Relations Shina Kaur, was putting together the board member Mondays posts. With the help of FCAT rep Haider, we contacted each board member, collected information about them on an excel sheet with their photos and sent it to our staff to post on our Instagram. We do these posts to increase engagement with the student body and put a personalized face onto the SFSS board.

Our posts can be seen here: https://www.instagram.com/sfss_sfu/

On-going Projects

Project one: Students Against TMX campaign

Students Against TMX is our campaign made up of the SFSS, [DogwoodSFU](#), and [Justice, No Pipeline](#). It was initiated by Science rep WeiChun, Simran from DogwoodSFU, Iulia, Christina and Jane from Justice, No Pipeline and me. We wrote a letter with signatures from student unions, student groups, and allies calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to immediately stop the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion due to safety concerns, Indigenous sovereignty, environmental and economic concerns.

The letter: <https://tinyurl.com/yxquzhvm>

Sign onto the letter here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePH9AhmeF44Nz_Y7iZ__XejDWU9vbJg0pTbpz6HactVyRgoA/viewform

Student Counsellor Victor helped us create our video which was released alongside our letter:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=776410333211955>

We have gotten media releases from the National Observer

https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/09/18/news/post-secondary-students-call-trudeau-abandon-tmx?fbclid=IwAR12EVTzaDRmYJ_EyHgHR4dJRtTQzqHkbyd8AV-WCOyMCDT-gigyhZx7fzg

Project two: Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (MARE)

Health science rep, Nafoni, and I have started a working group under UAA and BIPOC committee called MARE which stands for Mandatory Anti-Racism Education. We were discussing how there needs to be mandatory anti-racism education implemented within each faculty at SFU and how there is a lack of race-based information and justice around campus. Then, Education rep Emerly connected with us and introduced us to an education PDP student named Jasmine and all of us together started meeting for this working group. This working group has now grown to include members of BIPOC committee. Nafoni and I have also reached out to Marie and Othniel from the SFU athletics name change campaign and others to get more insight and advice regarding this initiative. Our next steps include more research about this topic, creating an online social media campaign and continuing to build networks around this issue.

Project three: food justice events

I had an idea after taking sociology of food and social thought during the summer and learning more about food justice, of spreading the information I learned to students in the form of an interactive event. I brought this idea to VP student life Jennifer and the events committee and created a working group with student senator Abhishek. We will be hosting these events in September and October.

Project four: SFSS New Music Mondays and music events

This will be an ongoing project which will be released in September. I will be working with VP student life Jennifer and Ahad from the events committee on creating music related giveaways and a Rave event. We will be posting music students have been submitting to us for a chance to win a Spotify gift card, every week on our Instagram stories and giving students a shoutout while we post their song recommendations.

Our goals are to engage students and host fun events for them to participate in to destress from school and work stress.

Pain Points

An issue I faced was taking too much on at a time, I would multitask as well and then get overwhelmed and be close to burning out. I would start to not take care of myself and focus more on work and school, which now I learned to balance. I think one thing I need to do is not feel guilty saying no if I do not have the capacity to do something because I need to respect my boundaries first or I will suffer from burnout.

Recommendations

Meditation! If you are unable to meditate, try mindfulness which is a form of mediation. This can be being present when washing the dishes, listening to music, going for a walk, or even

writing a work report, be in the present moment when doing these tasks and try not to multitask and when thoughts come into your mind let them flow in and out of your mind but stay present.

I was unfamiliar with Roberts Rules when I first started my term as I have never used it before but with practice and chairing FARM committee, I understood it better. I would recommend practicing Roberts Rules with a partner or taking notes during other meetings for future SFSS board of directors.

Downloading the google app calendar really helped me because using my phone to stay organized is easier. I would also recommend downloading the Gmail app and setting an email signature on it so replying to emails are quick and easy; also, so that emails will not be missed, it is easy to let emails pile on so always staying on top of emails is necessary. Downloading the discord app was also a good idea as that is our main way of communicating with the other board members; communication is key.

I would also recommend setting a work schedule for yourself whether it is Monday-Friday 9-5pm or 8-4pm or whatever works best, because work should not take over school time, family time, selfcare...etc. Try to also take a day off if possible or leave weekends work free. If board members could get days off in the next term that would be very useful, a chance to rest and recharge would be beneficial for the society. Also setting time blocks to study in your schedule is also a good idea so you do not fall behind on school. Finally, try getting work reports done ahead of time by filling in meeting minutes during the meetings so that nothing gets left to the last minute or you do not forget anything that happened during the meeting.