

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



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Executive Summary

Hello, my name is Harry Preet Singh and I am the Faculty of Applied Science Representative for the 2020-2021 work term of Simon Fraser Student Society Board of Directors. I currently sit on the External and Community Affairs Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Surrey Campus Committee.

The ongoing situation of COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the workings and expectations of SFSS BoDs, regardless I feel for the Board as group and for me personally, the Summer 2020 has been an efficient semester of work with amazing enthusiasm and professionalism among the board members as well as with groups that are part of SFSS. I feel as an individual member of the board, there have been significant projects which I have been part of and feel that their impact is praiseworthy. Regardless of that, I also possess areas in which I have lacked efforts and will improve in the upcoming semesters.

I intend to outline that this semester was indeed a challenge because the work from home environment was unexpected. I personally felt inexperienced initially in the job itself as I feel intend to learn better when in a physical environment. Despite the hardships in beginning, I was able to work around the task of managing the work-life balance. The learnings from this semester has made me more confident and motivated in the work that the position requires.

Projects Completed

1. SFU Summer Courses w/ Lab and Required Software Survey

This project was brought on by Weichun Kua, Faculty of Science Representative on SFSS. The idea behind the project was to gather data on students who require labs and software for their courses to understand the impact on their financial health and as well general well being. The next was to basically publicise and ultimately compile the results so that the SFSS can launch initiatives to transition students better into the term of online learning. Survey Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkr8vFETSXvCQKyLVPTTrXBMgXPPHw6b7LpA_GMqklWHcSgUw/viewform

2. Student IT Advisory Council

This council is basically a meet up of the members of IT department of SFU and student representatives of FAS to advocate for student IT needs across the campus. The meeting usually occurs twice or thrice a semester and as result we gain significant knowledge about the ongoing IT issues at SFU. I got involved in this project through the former Applied Science Representative, Jeffrey Leung and as a result I have been briefed about how I can advocate through my role in this council. This includes things like wifi upgrades, zoom accounts, free software and VPN etc.

3. FAS engagement

This project is basically an attempt to promote ease of access of FAS student groups to

the students in the faculty. Having attended some meetings of unions as well as events, I was able to input several ideas as to how student groups and unions might want to approach the issue.

Ongoing/Future Projects

1. SFSS Investment policy implementation

This project involves the securing of financial contingencies and preserving society's ongoing business operations. This responsibility was delegated through the board to FASC and I had expressed an interest to the committee to work on this project. Currently, the process is basically understanding the proposed policy by VICM and understand the implications. The next steps would be to decide the amounts and setting up the signing authority. Further, the VP Finance and I plan to have discussion on figuring out the exact amount which we intend to propose to FASC

2. FAS funding issue

FAS student groups recently received an email from SFU saying that their funding must be put on hold. This issue directly affected unions and student groups in FAS that might need the funding to function. I was able to gather most of the student representatives in FAS to have a discussion to map the severity of the impact this might have. Currently, I am in process of gathering numbers from FAS groups that might not have contingencies in place so to allow SFSS to step in and contribute funds or at the very least advocate for their funds to be released to SFU.

3. SFSS guidelines for formal student related grievances

This idea was brought on by SSSS in their union meeting in the summer semester. After discussing with many students, SSSS coined the idea of having a formal process for students to push their grievances to SFSS. These complaints will be closely related to the faults in academic proceedings at SFU. I intend to formalise and propose a structure to the board with the help of various groups so that this idea can be engraved in the very workings of SFSS.

Pain Points

1. Union Meetings attendance

Certain faculties like FAS and FASS have a number of unions hence I feel there has been some difficulty to me to reach out and establish certain relationships because along with board work and committee meetings, I find it a bit of an obstacle to overcome. I intend to establish communication effectively in the upcoming terms and to lay down certain expectations to many groups and unions.

2. Technological difficulties

The idea of virtual work has been interesting and yet at times caused issues. These issues stem from the fact that not all people have the same technological platform for communication. Hence, the motivation to engage sometimes dies out due to certain technical issues in these platforms. I feel we have adapted a lot over the semester and will continue to do so.

Recommendations

The board has efficient communication channels and it is important to utilise them fully for collaboration among different members. Further, it is also important to respect the ideas and opinions of such a diverse board. If somehow any kind of miscommunication happens, it is immensely important to communicate and resolve them quickly.

Also, conflicts should be welcomed as they allow refining of the board's decision making. Any sign of conflict/argument should not have demoralizing effect rather it should lead to a feeling of productiveness in the board's work.