



## **SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEMESTER REPORTS**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I am Haider Masood Abbasi, the Faculty Representative of Communications, Arts, and Technology (FCAT). From my personal experience, the Summer semester was of extreme challenge as the pandemic forced everyone to take online measures. However, we at SFSS Board did not let that be an excuse and continued our initiatives while working online. During the summer semester, I was working from back home (Pakistan) which was extremely taxing as the 12 hour time difference meant that I had to be up all night for the board meetings. However, I am hugely grateful for my team who acknowledged my situation, and therefore, arranged other meetings (Committee meetings) according to the time that was convenient for me.

Currently, I am working on projects such as SFSS Rebranding, “Stranger Things Murder Mystery Night” event, “Friends Trivia Night” event, and FIC-SFSS associate membership. I am also responsible for writing the Month in Reviews which are then posted on the SFSS Website and Social media channels. Apart from this, I hold monthly FCAT meetings which are attended by FCAT DSU presidents, SFSS At-large Representative Phum Luckkid, and myself.

I am also involved in the Vancouver Campus Committee (VCC), First-Year Engagement Committee (FYC), and Events Committee while being responsible for chairing VCC and FYC. However, the VCC has not met during the summer semester.

# ON-GOING PROJECTS

## 1. FIC-SFSS membership

Fraser International College(FIC) is a private college located on the Burnaby campus that provides a transition program or a pathway program for international students who are interested in attending SFU or were unable to get into SFU because of their grades or some other academic requirements. FIC students study the same courses, from the same professors, and avail the same services as SFU students. They can use the recreation services, residences and library services that are basically available to SFU students. But they are not members of the SFSS and therefore, do not have services such as U-pass or health and dental coverage or other services provided to the society available to them.

Currently, FIC and SFSS have a service agreement. However, the service agreement which cost \$119/semester did not do much for FIC students as they still cannot join DSUs or clubs except for very a few clubs that have fic rep positions, and they still don't have excess towards services provided by the society such as U-Pass , health & dental coverage. Moreover, FIC students still cannot vote in the SFSS elections. Therefore, this agreement did nothing special towards FIC students and making them members of the SFSS.

In order to make FIC students members of the SFSS, we need to do a bylaw change which will allow the FIC students to become full members of the society and avail all the essential services provided by the society. I researched about this issue and searched up past policies of the board as well and did not find any policy that stops us from doing so.

I would also like to address the importance of SFSS membership for FIC students. The membership will allow the FIC students to avail the essential services such as U-pass, health & coverage etc. But most importantly, being SFSS members will give them a voice which they really need. As an FIC alumni myself, I know how challenging it is being in FIC. Being

international students, travelling from a different country, FIC students face challenges of adaptability and homesickness, but these challenges are made worse by being in FIC and not having services that are provided by the society, which seriously affects the mental health of the international students. Therefore, the SFSS membership is really important for the FIC students to make sure that they avail the essential services provided by the SFSS.

## **2. SFSS Rebranding**

A working group has been assigned which is currently researching and working on the new SFSS logo. The working group has been further divided into two categories. One part is responsible for searching Peak Articles from the 1960s to the present time period. The purpose is to search up the main events that took place during this time period that were related to the society so that they can be represented on the new logo. Second part of the working group is responsible for the design aspect.

The working group also decided that the logo will represent “Student Power” as it’s main theme.

## **3. Stranger Things Murder Mystery Night**

To add the Halloween aspect, the event will take place in October. The members of the events committee are currently working on the event and we have also done the trial run to assess the quiz questions.

## **4. Month In Reviews**

Every month, I write monthly reviews of the SFSS Board which are posted to SFSS website and social media channels. I first start by compiling information of the two board meetings and writing down the important motions and discussion items. I then mention the important initiatives taken by the board during the particular month. I conclude the review by providing a summary of the board committees.

## MONTHLY FCAT MEETINGS

FCAT based DSUs are very independent and function very well on their own. However, it is also very important for the DSUs to stay connected amongst each other and the SFSS. However, the communication and connection between the DSUs can be challenging as all seven of FCAT DSUs are scattered throughout all three campuses of SFU. Therefore, I continued the initiative of previous FCAT Representatives of holding monthly FCAT meetings.

The meetings do not have a fixed schedule as every month I send a when2meet link and host the meeting according to the availability provided by the Presidents. I start the meetings by giving an overview of the important projects and initiatives that the Board is working on and then the respective Presidents give an overview of their DSUs initiatives for the respective month. Through the meetings, the participants are able to identify the important projects that the society and the DSUs are working on.

The meetings are also often attended by SFSS At-large representative Phum Luckkid.

# PAIN POINTS

## 1. Time Difference

As mentioned earlier, the time difference was a huge pain point as I was working from back home with a 12 hour time difference. I had to be up from 2:30am to 5:30am for the board meetings and development sessions. Furthermore, no Tim Hortons in Pakistan made the situation a little more challenging. I was able to stay awake for the meetings but my productivity and concentration levels would fall soon after. This also affected my productivity for the next day as I was not getting enough sleep which also affected my sleeping pattern in the long run. Furthermore, I would often miss out on important notifications as they would appear during the time I would be sleeping.

## 2. Roberts Rule

As I am responsible for hosting VCC and FYC meetings, I need to have a strong grip on Roberts Rule. However, I get nervous during meetings especially when I am hosting one. I had the chance to host a FARM meeting in summer and was extremely nervous about it. VP University Relations Gabe Liosis helped me by explaining the Roberts Rule and other queries. I felt very confident once I was done with the meeting but I am still nervous about hosting meetings involving Roberts Rule.

## 3. Time Management

Being involved with the SFSS requires some level of commitment. And managing that commitment can often be challenging if one is taking heavy courses and/or has another job or some other commitment. I was able to manage my time effectively in Pakistan but after coming back to Canada it has now become another challenge. I often find myself unable to practice the

control of time which often affects my productivity whether it is related to the society work or my studies.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The only effective way of overcoming my fear of Robert's Rule is to practice. The more I practice, the better I will get at Roberts Rule and hosting meetings. Furthermore, I feel relieved to have VP UR Gabe Liosis as a good source as I can always refer to him if I have any questions.

2. I have contacted VP Student Life Jennifer Chou regarding some effective strategies to manage time. She suggested some good strategies including studying tips for online classes. Furthermore, I try to note down everything (including meetings, appointments, lectures) in my Calendar with a reminder. This provides me an agenda for the day and the week and helps me identify the time I need to allocate to my tasks.





