

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



Nafoni Modi
Health Sciences Rep

May 2020 - Aug 2020

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	Page. 2
Ongoing and Completed Projects	Page. 4
Pain Points	Page. 6
Recommendations	Page. 8

Executive Summary

Hello! My name is Nafoni Modi, and currently, I sit on the 2020-2021 term for the Board of Directors as the Faculty of Health Sciences Representative. As a board member, I am asked to sit on at least 2 committees within the organization. As a result, I am a part of the University and Academic Affairs Committee (UAA), Faculty and At-Large Representative Members Committee (FARM), Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Committee (BIPOC), Annual General Meeting Committee (AGM), and hiring committee. Within these committees, I have also had the pleasure to be on working groups.

Finishing up my first semester of my board term, I can confidently say that it is not at all like how I imagined it would be. With COVID-19 becoming a unfortunate part of our lives before our term began, myself and the rest of my team have had to essentially start our terms remotely, as well as continue to do work remotely. However, so far, we have not had many hiccups with this, and I believe that with only 4 months under our belts, we have done a lot of good work as a team. Not only have we publicly stood in solidarity with multiple different campaigns and events, we have worked to have our own meaningful campaigns. We have advocated strongly for our students, especially now during COVID-19, where we are seeing a lot of institutional inequities play out. Further, even though the entirety of the board does not agree in full for every decision, we have effectively debated over key topics and concerns, in a way that allows for our students to feel confident in our abilities and our efforts to be good representatives for them.

As the Board term progresses, I hope to expand the work that I contribute to the society. Although I am proud of the work that I have done thus far, and the work that I am currently

Nafoni Modi, Health Sciences Representative
Semester Report
Summer 2020

working on, I do believe there is more to be done. Now that I have had 4 months experience being on the board, I hope to do more impactful work. However, I am cognizant that I must also ensure that I am able to have a healthy work-school-life balance while doing all of this.

Ongoing and Completed Projects

Project One: Stranger Things Murder Mystery Night

I will be assisting Jennifer, VP Student life, by being a moderator during one of her events. So far, I have attended meetings and trial runs for the event, which will take place October 26th.

Project Two: Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (MARE)

Anuki, Environment Rep, and I have taken on this project. We are working towards implementing mandatory anti-racism education at SFU for all undergraduate students. We have created a working group under the University and Academic Affairs committee and have some volunteers who work with us. Our next steps for this project are creating an online social media campaign to get the word out regarding this topic.

Project Three: WTF SFSS Podcast

Working alongside Pariya from CJSF, as well as Jennifer, VP Student Life, and Balqees, At Large Representative, we have created a SFSS podcast titled WTF SFSS. We put out biweekly episodes in which we talk about different things happening around SFU, advocacy topics, interview guests, and share great music recommendations!

Project Four: Advocating for a Senate Committee on Decolonizing Academia

This project came about under the FARM committee. Other universities have dedicated committees in order to work towards decolonizing in academia, and therefore, we believe that SFU should follow suite.

Nafoni Modi, Health Sciences Representative
Semester Report
Summer 2020

As both Gabe, VP University Relations, and I sit on the senate committee, we have decided to go forward with working towards this. This project is ongoing, and hopefully I will have more to speak on during my next semester report.

Pain Points

An obvious pain point, I think, would be having to switch to online means in order to conduct society proceeding. With COVID-19 precautions beginning before our term began, we unfortunately have had to work our entire term thus far online. This includes all proceedings of the society, such as meetings, and events. Though it is nice to be able to do this all at home, I admit that it is sometimes hard to create a distinction between home and work. As well, on days in which multiple meetings are held, zoom fatigue is a real thing that effects not only myself, but I'm sure many of my fellow board members. It is important to take the time out to eat, stretch, go outside, etc, but sometimes it is hard to prioritize physical and mental health, and I think that this is even harder when things are conducted online from home. Moving forward into future semesters, I think that one thing I really need to take into account is the balancing of my society work, as well as everything else in my life, including school, and personal time.

Another pain work is balancing things with society work. I like to think that I am a pretty organized person, who is good at time management. This was very much tested during the summer 2020 semester. During this time, not only did I work on the board, but I also was on a co-op term, in which I worked a 40-hour work week. This, alongside my 15-hour board week was a lot. Many times, my society meetings and work fell during times in which I had to be at work. This was difficult to maneuver at times. However, I worked very hard to try and make both work, as both were a priority to me. Though this is not the case this semester, I am now back in classes, where I am enrolled in 4 courses. The amount of work that goes into these courses are quite extensive as well, as I am in my 4th year and taking upper division courses. In

Nafoni Modi, Health Sciences Representative
Semester Report
Summer 2020

order to ensure that I am doing well in both board work and school, I must find a suitable and efficient way in order to dedicate time to both and do well.

Recommendations

I recommend trainings before the start of the next board term, dedicated to teaching them how to properly and efficiently balance their duties to the board, as well as their duties as students. We are elected members, and students entrust us in these positions, which means that we must do our due diligence and work hard in this role. However, I think it is also important to be cognizant that we are all also students, and this is something that we must also prioritize in our lives as well.

If the next board term is conducted online, I think that it no more than 2 committee or other society meetings should be conducted in one day. Staying on zoom is exhausting. Staying on zoom for an extended amount of time leads to unproductiveness and an inability to get proper work done. This should not be normalized. Further, meeting times should have a cap, or breaks in between in order to encourage stretching, food, and quick walks.

Board members should be allowed time off every semester in order to just do nothing. We do a lot of work, and this is often ongoing. I think that every semester, members should have a couple days, or even a week off, and just have time to recharge. This would be beneficial to the mental health of board members and overall productivity of the society.