



2015-2016
Annual Report

09/30/16

[“We acknowledge that this meeting will be presented on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples; which, to the current knowledge of the Society, include the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lō, and Tsleil-Waututh people.”]

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Joint message from the SFSS President and CEO

The 2015/16 year will be remembered as a key turning point for your Simon Fraser Student Society.

The Board of Directors were determined to implement structural reform to strengthen how the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) can better support our members, SFU undergraduate students. We began the year by recommitting to our mission statement and focusing our efforts on priorities that have continued to significantly improve the SFSS membership experience. We are appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the SFSS Board of Directors, Council, staff members, student groups and volunteers. Our success is shared and attributed to our collective efforts.

Here are some highlights from the 2015/16 year:

- The Student Union Building (SUB) project was approved by the membership and the necessary agreements, construction plans and project financing were successfully secured. Construction is currently underway and the new 100,000 square foot SUB is scheduled to open in Fall 2018. We hope students will enjoy their new “home away from home”.
- The Board developed and implemented new governance policies that emphasized the Board’s role in engaging with its members. The new policies also provide more clarity to respective Board and staff leadership roles within the SFSS.
- We conducted a significant student consultation for our members to inform us how the SFSS can serve our membership’s interests better.
- In response to the feedback received from the student consultation, we developed our first strategic plan, which identifies key priorities that the SFSS will be pursuing for the next three years. This long-term organizational plan aims to enhance our services, communications, governance, and membership engagement with SFU undergraduates and will guide us to create a meaningful university experience for our members.

While we are pleased with the progress that we have made this year, we also clearly understand that there are many new opportunities and challenges in front of us as we continue to strengthen the SFSS and our members.

In the midst of the development and progress that we have witnessed, we remain consistently clear on who we serve. We are proud to be a student-led organization with priorities to improve the experience for all SFU undergraduate students. We are your Simon Fraser Student Society and we hope that you will continue to share your knowledge, skills and thoughts with us. Your involvement makes us stronger, and reminds us that we are better, together.



Larissa Chen
Interim President



Martin Wyant
Chief Executive Officer

Intro

About the Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society exists to improve the health and well-being, social, academic, and financial conditions of our undergraduate students. We provide assistance for campus events, advocate for issues that are important to our members, provide study and social spaces, support clubs and student groups, oversee the undergraduate health and dental plan and more. The SFSS is governed by a student-elected Board of Directors. The SFSS: for students, by students. The SFSS encourages you to make your time here at SFU a memorable experience.



2016-2017 SFSS Board of Directors

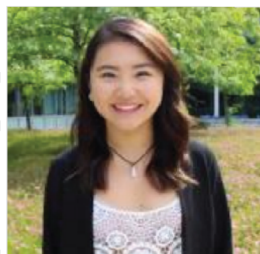


simon fraser
student society

2016-2017 SFSS Board of Directors



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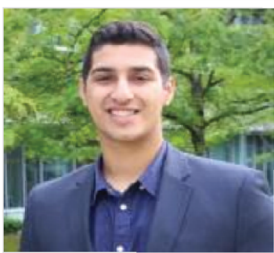
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SFSS Departments



General Office

The General Office (GO) exists to serve all your club/Departmental Student Union resource needs. Whether you are booking a room, ordering AV equipment, or applying for a grant, we have you covered! The GO is where most students start their relationship with the SFSS. We offer a variety of services and programs to help you through your undergraduate career.

Some of the services that we provide to members include club registration, the Emergency Food Bank Assistance program, Legal Aid program, granting program, vending program and room bookings at three campuses (Burnaby, Harbour Centre & Surrey).

The GO also hosts some of our biggest events such as Club Days each semester (the most popular SFSS event), pancake breakfasts, and Annual Winter Craft Fair.

Build SFU

This was an exciting year for the Build SFU project, and we are grateful to students and SFU for their support. Following a multi-year student engagement and design effort for the student union building (SUB), the Board of Directors successfully achieved financing with Scotiabank in December 2015. This was a monumental effort, which paved the way for the SUB to move forward.

The next step was to find a company who would be responsible for building the SUB. A request for proposals was issued in February 2016 and resulted in the selection of Pro-Can Construction Group as general contractor. Construction is expected to begin in early summer 2016 and take approximately two years.

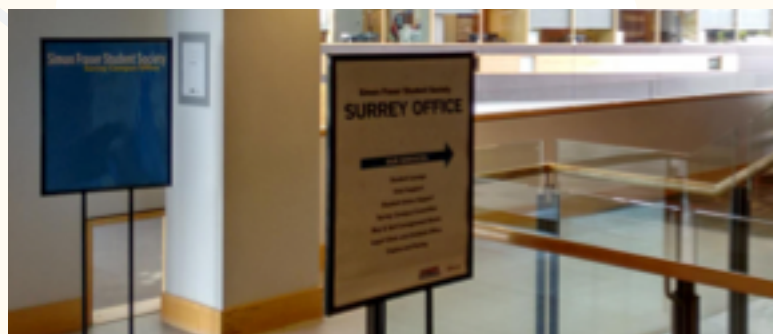
Student Union Organising Office

The Student Union Resource Office (SURO) is a source of information, assistance, and support for Faculty Student Unions (FSUs), Departmental Student Unions (DSUs), and Constituency Groups (CGs). Our services include helping coordinate projects, programs and other events that will benefit the membership. In the past year, the SURO has trained over 200 student leaders through the Nuts and Bolts training program, facilitated Mental Health First Aid workshops, Standard First Aid workshops, Food Safe workshops, Financial Literacy and Student Governance workshops.

Student Unions are eligible to receive funds to support events and conference participation. The SURO supported over 174 different events and projects in the past year and dispersed up to \$133,000 in grant, core and travel and conference funding back to student groups.

Surrey Campus

The SFSS had a very active year at the Surrey campus. We booked nearly 800 events for SFSS clubs, student unions, and other groups; assisting with planning for FROSH events, socials, conferences, career fairs, recreation, dancing, worship, project space, rehearsals, outreach, student meetings, and much more. The SFSS also coordinates Surrey Clubs Days each semester, and we participate in SFU Surrey Open House festivities every March. Many students enjoy the SFSS lounge as a great place to relax, study, meet friends, and access handy resources such as print and fax services, games, entertainment, and microwave ovens. The lounge also features a selection of resources from the SFSS Women's Centre and Out on Campus, and students in need can arrange food vouchers for the local Safeway store.



Copy Centre

During the past year the Copy Centre staff has assisted many students and the SFU community with the set-up or printing of their assignments, projects or events. The Copy Centre's staff goal is to help the SFSS membership and the SFU Community by producing a high quality product that they are proud of within the sometimes very short time frame that is given, and at a reasonable cost.

Some of the Copy Centre services that were required during the past year included event poster printing, bookmarks, tickets, journals, large format printing posters, banners, report binding and thesis printing and hardcover binding.

Food and Beverage Services

The SFSS Food and Beverage Services team operates the Highland Pub, catering services, and Highergrounds Coffee Shop/Ladle food bar. It offers the unique experience of students serving students in a student owned environment. As one of the first coffee shops on Campus to offer gluten free options we were also the first on Campus to adopt the use of 100% Fair Trade Coffee Beans. Support for the Fair trade program was so universal that the University adopted it as policy for all coffee outlets on campus

The SFSS operates the Highland Pub, which is a longstanding hot spot for nightly socials, study breaks and affordable food and drinks. We offer weekly Pub nights, monthly trivia events, open mics and provide a venue to Clubs and Student Unions for fundraising and socializing.



Women's Centre

The Women's Centre provides essential services to women and students of all genders on campus. Our most popular service – the 24/7 lounge for self-identified women – continued to provide access to food, rest, safety, and dignity to students in need. The demand for our kitchen and women-only nap space, as well as tampons, pads, and safer sex supplies, affirmed that our work keeps women and their loved ones healthy and safe both on and off campus. We were thrilled to partner with Out On Campus and Health & Counselling to redesign the consent toolbox program to include more information on consent and sexual assault support.

In 2015-2016, the majority of our crisis referrals addressed sexual violence, emergency contraception, and mental health support. The Coordinator launched a new program of Active Bystander training for FROSH team captains, Community Advisors, and concert volunteers. In addition, the Women's Centre continued to offer presentations on sexual health and consent to the Residence community. Additionally, our library circulation increased from 146 checkouts in 2015 to 243 checkouts just between January and August 2016.

Our Collective revitalized our perennial programs including our Pancake Breakfast, "Knit & Bitch" series, and Cookies for Choice, and initiated many new events with partnering groups such as "Women In Law" panel, "The Hunting Ground" film at Harbour Centre, "Letters to Khadijah," event by and for young Muslim feminists and "Be Strong, Be Safe" self-defence program for women.



Out On Campus

Out on Campus (OOC) advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Asexual, Aromantic, Agender, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+) students, while educating the broader campus community about LGBTQ+ issues and identities. We welcomed many new volunteers through ten New Volunteer Orientations and two All Volunteer Training Days. We hosted two Open Houses where we invited the SFU community to come and learn about OOC. In addition, we have resourced folks of all genders and sexualities through our specialized library, as well as through peer support and crisis referrals.

In the 2015-2016 year we participated in Disability Awareness Week, did a memorial display for the Transgender Day of Remembrance in Convocation Mall, provided a transmisogyny workshop for the Women's Centre, organized our annual Queer Awareness Week, a queer crafting event, and a discussion group on coming out.

We have continued towards our goal of having a comprehensive education program centred around the Positive Space Network (PSN) by continuing to develop and refine content for the workshops. The PSN aims to reduce homophobia and transphobia on campus and beyond by offering education and opportunities for growth.

We have also resumed progress on the Trans and Gender Diversity Project, a project centered around the completion of a guide for trans and gender diverse students which will help them change their name and gender marker with the university, find all of the gender neutral washrooms on campus, find information on the human rights code as it relates to trans folks at SFU, and much more.





Campaigns, Research, and Policy

The office of the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator (CRPC) has three explicit roles: supporting Society campaigns, research, and policy initiatives. More broadly, the office of the CRPC endeavours to ensure that the Board of Directors has all the information it requires to make informed strategic decisions on behalf of the Society, with a strong emphasis on the legal and structural environment in which it operates.

A significant achievement this fiscal year was the development and implementation of a new set of Board governance policies, as well as a new Board committee structure. With the arrival of a new Chief Executive Officer mandated to help the SFSS transition towards an adapted Policy Governance model, and do so in a manner consistent with current best practices in the not-for-profit sector and two independent reports tailored to the student society context, the office of the CRPC contributed extensively to the development of the SFSS governance documents formally separating operations from governance, and making the SFSS a leader among student societies in Canada.

Communications

Our Communications team develops and implements engaging strategies that enhance our members' understanding of the SFSS and the services and support we offer to undergraduate students.

Our services to the Board of Directors and SFSS Departments include communications planning, event planning, developing news releases, media monitoring, advertising, graphic design, website content management, multimedia services, social media management, video production, photography, and editorial services.

The SFSS developed its first-ever strategic plan. The consultation process with undergraduate students, staff members and the Board of Directors, played a major role in developing the plan. The undergraduate survey was completed over a three-week period in the fall of 2015. We received 1,775 responses and generated important feedback in a number of key areas.

This year, SFSS will be consolidating its web design, development, and support needs with one client-centered vendor who can help us respond to the current needs and expectations of the SFSS membership, and scale any development as those needs evolve.



Committees

Governance Committee

The Society has taken significant strides to change the way the it functions, in ways such as adopting the Carver model of governance and establishing the governance committee to lead the transition. After identifying the troubled areas, the governance committee presented recommendations to board in the form of new board policies, serving two key functions; separating the job of the board from the job of staff. Under these new policies the job of the board becomes solely governance, which includes but is not limited to; high-level direction setting, membership engagement, and oversight, while the job of the Chief Executive Officer is to be responsible for the operations of the society.

The committee also reviewed the existing committee structure and shrunk the number of committees from over twenty to under ten. In the coming year, the governance committee will be working on making more revisions to its policies and committee structure as well as make the necessary changes to the SFSS by-laws. With the new BC Society Act coming into effect November 2016, the SFSS needs to change its by-laws in order to adhere to the new Society Act.

Finance and Administrative Services Committee

The Finance and Administrative Committee primarily focused on budgeting and budget reallocations throughout the year, as well as leading the audit of the Society. The committee met a few times in the year, and performed reviews of the budget, as well as recommended line item changes for the annual budget. Near the end of the year, the SFSS underwent a governance reform and the committee composition changed for the next year and was renamed as the Finance and Audit Committee. The committee focuses on the auditing, budgeting and implementing financial procedures to reduce the risk within the organization.

GOVERNANCE: THE WHAT

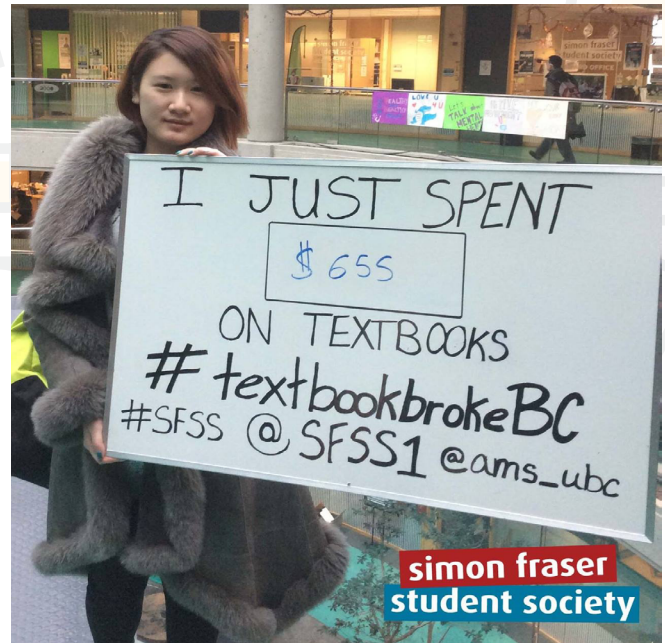


OPERATIONS: THE HOW



Advocacy Committee

The advocacy committee was able to run a number of different campaigns over the past year. Major campaigns in the fall semester included the federal elections, #TextbookBrokeBC, and TransLink consultation campaigns. The federal elections campaign was focused on getting students to vote in the upcoming elections. The #TextbookBrokeBC campaign focused on raising student awareness, which included a photo competition of students holding a sign with how much they spent on textbooks. The TransLink consultation campaign consisted of committee members encouraging students to participate in the online consultations. In the spring semester the committee continued their efforts on the #TextbookBrokeBC campaign, running the photo contest a second time. The committee also participated in a zero waste campaign, where students took part in a taste test challenge. The objective of this campaign was to raise awareness about the amount of plastic water bottles thrown out on campus, and encourage students to use reusable water bottles instead. The committee also participated in a Fraser Library Hours campaign which ran alongside SFU's Fraser Library pilot project. The committee handed out free coffee to students studying at the Surrey library during the Sunday pilot project days. The end of the spring semester also involved the committee sending delegates to Lobby Days in Victoria, where they participated in provincial lobbying alongside other student societies.



Accessibility Fund Advisory Committee

For the 2015-16 term, the Accessibility Fund Advisory Committee (AFAC) focused on restructuring and brainstorming innovative and consistent methods to support accessibility accommodations on campus using the recommendations in our Accessibility Audit Report, which was done by an Accessibility Project Worker. AFAC approved the financial support of a Hi-FIVE project coordinator and supported student group initiatives that address the need for awareness and accommodations for accessibility through projects such as Students United for Disability Support (SUDS) Disabilities Week and as Hi-FIVE's Wellness week. Furthermore, we identified ways to increase accessibility during Society meetings and supported the Anti-Violence project, which included efforts from SFSS Women's Centre and the Advocacy committee. AFAC also identified ways to make the Build SFU Student Union Building more structurally accessible. Lastly, the SFSS hosted their first mental health first aid workshop that was well received by members and we hope to offer it in the upcoming year as well.



Events and Promotions Committee

Events Committee in 2015-2016 played a major role in a number of projects. The pub night series was one of the most successful during recent years. The committee also worked with sponsoring SFU events such as the blood drive, TedxSFU, Health and Counselling and other SFU events. One of the biggest task the committee took on was Appreciation Week where we hosted a week worth of events, including a dunk tank, BBQ and other free events. We also hosted the International Festival, to showcase our different ethnic flavors of SFU, with over 1000 attendees. The committee also supported the Fall Kickoff Concert, which is the Society's biggest annual event. The committee did most of the work on the Fall Kickoff after party. This included all the logistics as well as supporting the main event with Board members.



Surrey Campus Committee

During the 2015-2016 year, the Surrey Campus Committee had a very successful year in terms of Surrey specific student engagement, outreach, and advocacy. We hosted multiple large scale events such as the Welcome Back Barbecue in the Fall, Pancake Breakfast in Spring, Pub nights, De-stressing week during exams and many other small scale events such as games night. In terms of Advocacy, the Surrey Affairs Subcommittee held consultations for the Surrey Space Improvement Project, student consultations for the proposed TransLink changes, promoted the SFSS Election and we also advocated for the Surrey Fraser Library to be opened on Sundays. We worked alongside the University to promote Health and Wellness by hosting free mediation sessions, free yoga sessions and Puppy therapy. The Surrey Campus Committee mimics the events and services provided at the Burnaby Campus to Surrey based students.



Services

U-pass



The SFSS U-Pass BC Program is a student advocated program and provides unlimited, all zone access to public transit in Metro Vancouver (TransLink Bus, SkyTrain and SeaBus services) and a discount on West Coast Express Train fares. The U-Pass service is also the most used SFSS service.

The SFSS is committed to ensuring that SFU students are satisfied with the program through extensive student consultations. During the SFSS General Elections, undergraduate SFU students voted in favor of approving a new U-Pass BC Agreement extending to April 2018. Over the many years of providing the student U-Pass program, SFSS, GSS, Translink and SFU Administration collaborate to ensure the most value for students.



Health and Dental

The SFSS Health and Dental Plan is designed to fill the gaps left by the provincial health care, and provide much needed health and wellness services to students, ranging from prescription drugs, vaccinations, physiotherapy, massage therapy, orthotics, and ambulatory services to vision care, travel insurance, dental care, and more. The service impacts more than 19,000 undergraduate students: 75% of students are covered each year! Over 19,650 students are participating in the SFSS Health and Dental Plan since Fall 2015.

SFSS Health & Dental Plan: Student Coverage Choices

