



2016-2017

Annual General Report

09/29/17

["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:l, and Tsleil-Waututh people."]

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Message from the SFSS President

Dear Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Members,

Thank you for being a member of the SFSS. As an undergraduate student, you are at the core of the mandate of the SFSS, which is to improve the Academic, Financial, Social and Health and Well Being of all undergraduate students.

With your dedication and ongoing support for improving the student experience on campus, we have been able to make tremendous strides in transitioning our organization into a leader of student societies across Canada. Our Board made tough decisions that has helped move our organization forward. We were able to significantly restructure our organization and separate its governance from its operations leading to better decision making and more effective management.

In the past three years being a part of this organization, and as President, I have seen the changes in new policies, by-laws, staffing changes and Board culture that has all positively shifted the SFSS into governing organization where students are able to set the direction and govern rather than come into a role with one year and be expected to manage the day to day operations of a dynamic organization.

In the past, student board members were thrust into collective bargaining, union disputes and legal troubles with minimal knowledge or experience. The separation of governance and operations was a significant change, encouraging the Board to focus primarily on the long-term impacts of the Society's activities in regards to the needs and goals of the membership it serves.

The 2016-17 Board year oversaw the construction of the new 100,000 square feet Student Union Building slated to be completed in the Fall of 2018, the approval of a new stadium project near Terry Fox Field, the closure of the Food and Beverage Operations, continued advocacy efforts for the universal transit program and promoting the safety of students for the tank farm expansion and much more.

The upcoming year will still have its challenges but I am confident that we will be able to overcome them. The SFSS plays a unique role on campus where it is able to have a voice and influence senior university administration, government officials and other authoritative figures when making decisions that impact the student experience.

In closing, we are grateful to be given the opportunity to represent and serve you. As per our mandate, we want to help you make the most of your time here by working together and identifying ways we can enrich your campus experience. Thank you.

By order of the Board,



Hangué Kim

Introduction

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



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2016 - 2017 SFSS Board of Directors



VP Finance
Hangue Kim



VP Student Life
Curtis Pooghkay



VP University Relations
Arr Farah



At-Large Representative
Paul Hans



Applied Sciences Representative
Alan Lee



Arts & Social Sciences Representative
Blossom Malhan



Health Sciences Representative
Raajan Garcha



VP Student Services
Larissa Chen



VP External Relations
Christine Dyson



At-Large Representative
Mudi Bwakura



Communication, Art and Technology Faculty Representative
Prabjit Bassi



Business Representative
Pritesh Pachchigar



Education Representative
John Ragone



Science Representative
Jimmy Dhesa

2017 - 2018 SFSS Board of Directors



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2017 - 2018

SFSS Board of Directors



President
Hangué Kim
president@sfss.ca



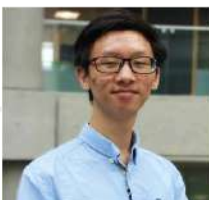
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Environment Representative
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Health Sciences Representative
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Science Representative
Parham Elmi
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2016-17 Service Highlights



SFSS Student Centre

The SFSS Student Centre, formerly referred to as the General Office, is where most students start their relationship with the SFSS. We offer a variety of services such as club support, room and equipment booking, and the Emergency Food Bank Program.

Key highlights of the 2016-17 fiscal year include:

- Growth in the total number of clubs approached 20% over last year, which brought a number of new event opportunities to SFU campuses
- Events require Grant Requests and we approved 775 grants in the year. In total, over \$200,000 went toward supporting club events
- The office also supported three successful Clubs Days and the annual Winter Craft Fair
- Legal Clinic was reviewed and upgraded and now features a more comprehensive intake form and is once again well attended
- Some challenges over the year included our Emergency Food Bank Program which saw unprecedented and unsustainable growth

Student Union Building & Stadium Project

Construction began in June 2016 on the long-awaited student union building (SUB). At over 100,000 square feet, the SUB will provide space for social gathering, studying, lounging, activities, celebrating, and enhancing the student experience at SFU.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Construction crews ensured that the foundations of nearby buildings were secure before pouring concrete for the SUB's foundation
- Progress was slowed through December and January due to snowy weather
- The stadium project also progressed and an 1,800-seat facility will be built at Terry Fox Field
 - The Board of Directors signed an agreement with SFU outlining a financial contribution of \$10 million toward the construction
 - Any project costs above \$10 million will be paid by SFU
 - The agreement requires SFU to begin construction within 18 months and complete the project within three years

Student Union Resource Office

With a new Student Union Organiser and Outreach Worker joining the department in the Fall, there were many events that occurred in the Student Union Resource Office.

Key highlights of the 2016-17 fiscal year include:

- More than 20 orientation workshops along with very successful Food Safe, First Aid, Financial Literacy, Self-Defense, and Mental Health First Aid workshops across three campuses
- Granting guidelines were reviewed and finalized, making the Granting process unified for clubs and Student Unions.
- Over 150 grant applications and over 225 Travel and Conference funding applications were processed
- A brand new SFSS Orientation Canvas course was developed as a resource for members and is set to launch in the 2017-18 year
- A new Accessibility Designated Assistant was hired in the Spring of 2017. Some of the results of their work include proposals for events for students with Disabilities, revised Accessible Event Planning Checklist and floor maps with Accessibility features

Surrey Office

The SFSS Surrey lounge welcomes students to relax, study, meet friends, and access handy resources such as print, copy, and fax services, essential office tools, games, entertainment, and microwave ovens.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Arranged over 1,100 event bookings for SFSS clubs, student unions, and other groups, including several large conferences, dance and theatre rehearsals, recreation activities, project space, and many other student activities at the Surrey campus
- Hosted three Surrey Clubs Days to showcase dozens of student groups to potential members, and we assisted with planning and logistics for a number of fall Frosh events.
- Kicked off Week of Welcome with a festive fall barbecue, and welcomed students back in January with a pub night attended by over 250 students
- Through its work with the Surrey Joint Operations Advisory Group, the committee also worked to advocate for more student space, longer library hours, and other issues of importance to our members at the Surrey campus



Copy Centre

The Copy Centre's goal is to help the SFSS membership and the SFU Community by producing high-quality products within the sometimes very short time frame that is given, and at reasonable costs.

Key highlights from the 2016-17 year include:

- An increase in requests for banners and large format posters from SFSS clubs, Student Unions, Faculties and students in general for presentations in the past year.
- A new universal work order form to streamline processes used by members, faculty, staff and off-campus parties
- Continued support to provide hands-on assistance for undergraduate students who require basis shortcut layout assistance with school assignments and co-op positions



Food and Beverage Services

The SFSS permanently closed its Food and Beverage Services, including the Highland Pub, the Higher Grounds Coffee Shop, the Ladle, and catering services, effective June 15, 2017. This decision came after years of the SFSS annually incurring significant deficits.

While it was a difficult decision to make, the Board of Directors ultimately decided that using student fees to continue to fund our Food and Beverage Services was not in the best interests of the students we support. Instead, the Board decided to focus energy on finding a new solution to ensure that students will still have access to a licensed campus facility that is capable of hosting the type of events that students have come to enjoy on our Burnaby campus.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members and managers who contributed to our food and beverage services for so many years.

Women's Centre

The centre's 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.

Key highlights of the 2016-17 fiscal year include:

- An estimate that our lounge was accessed nearly 15,000 times by women on campus
- The Coordinator was invited to participate in SFU's Advisory Committee for the development of a new campus-wide policy on sexual violence and provided input to ensure the needs of our members would be met
- Our Collective revitalized our perennial programs including: De-Stress Days, "Decolonizing Canada Day," and December 6th Memorial, and initiated the following new events: "Princess Power: Feminist Storytime," "DIY Dungeon Master", and an all-genders clothing swap and a kitchen swap
- Developed a new program, in collaboration with SFU Health & Counselling, "Hope & Safety," a free, counsellor-led support group for women who have survived sexual violence



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.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Provided support and resources for folks of all genders and sexualities through our specialized library, as well as through peer support and crisis referrals
- Hosted a sexuality and sexual orientation workshop, organized our annual Queer Awareness Week, hosted several Open Houses where we invited the SFU community to come and learn about OOC, and recruited volunteers
- Continued our goal of having a comprehensive education program centred around the Positive Space Network (PSN) by continuing to develop and refine content for the workshop
- Completed our Trans and Gender Diversity Guide, a guide to help trans and gender diverse students change their name and gender marker with SFU, find all of the gender-neutral washrooms on campus, and navigate the human rights code as it relates to trans individuals



Campaigns, Research, and Policy

The office of the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator (CRPC) has three roles: supporting Society campaigns, research, and policy initiatives. More generally, the office of the CRPC works to ensure that the Board of Directors has all the information it needs to make informed strategic decisions on behalf of the Society and its members.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year:

- Worked with the Board's Governance Committee to develop and support the implementation of new policies pertaining to: elections, personnel, and operations. Also developed a completely new set of bylaws for member review and endorsement
- Developed of a revised SFSS Student Society Fee structure
- Contributed to the development of a strategy to proportionately invest SFSS resources across all three University campuses
- Provided logistical and strategic support for various student-led campaigns (using a newly developed guidebook for the development and design of student-led campaigns) including:
 - A campaign against the expansion of the TransMountain tank farm on Burnaby mountain,
 - A push to revise the imbalanced terms of residence housing contracts
 - A "get out to vote" campaign



Communications Office

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

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Developed the communications, social media, and sign plans as well as the Student Unions and clubs printing guideline
- Worked with external developers to work with the organization and its stakeholders to prepare a website discovery report, laying out the key needs of the general membership, in order to design a streamlined website.
- Led two surveys:
 - Member Services Feedback survey, to ask the membership for their input on different SFSS services such as the Legal Clinic and the Emergency Food Bank Program
 - General Membership Survey to determine the emerging needs of the members. The SFSS received 2,647 completed responses, exceeding the target of 2,000



2016-17 Committee Highlights



Governance Committee

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to make and report on the development of recommendations to the Board of Directors aimed at strengthening its governance processes and capacity.

A few highlights from the 2016-17 year include:

- The committee's main focus for the year was to draft a new set of society bylaws. The society's bylaws are outdated and require change to be in line with provincial legislation, which changed in November 2016
- The Governance Committee proposed the change of bylaws in the spring referendum but was met with opposition from the student body and failed to pass
- During that time, the committee also worked on the student fee structure and approved new election policies

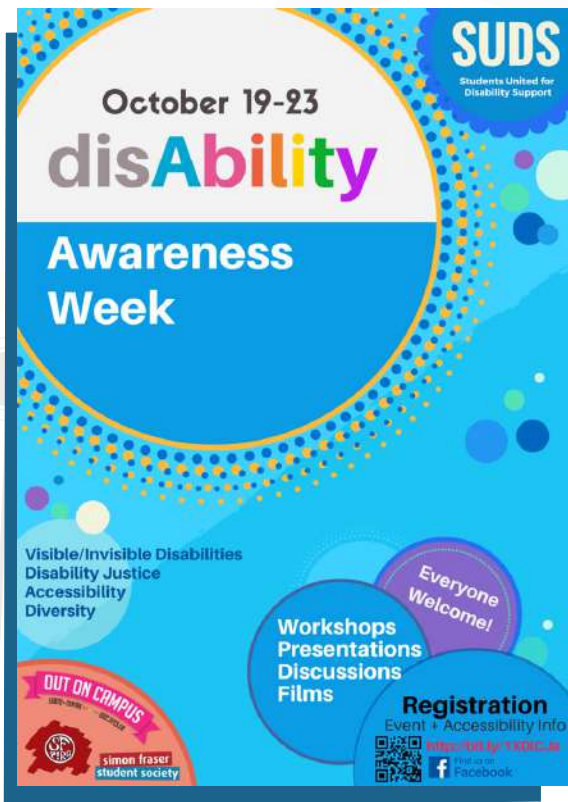
Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee focused on budget reallocations, budget consultations, overseeing the audit, maintaining financial controls and reviewed financial reports. For a full review of the 2016-17 fiscal year, please refer to the audited Financial Statements appended to this report.

A few highlights from the 2016-17 year include:

- A new cheque requisition process to improve the disbursement processes
- A Health Plan internal restriction to help cover the cost of administrative purposes
- A new Board stipend policy to penalize members who did not meet their Board duties
- The audit, working with Tompkins, Wozny, Miller and Co.
- A new contingency fund that would collect up to six months' worth of operating costs for the SFSS to cover the organization in case of a unforeseen financial risk
- Borrowed funds on the SUB loan to support construction activities





Accessibility Fund Committee

The Accessibility Fund Committee is responsible for approving accessibility-related capital expenses, recommending changes to policy sections relating to issues of accessibility, and is also responsible for the Accessibility Fund.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

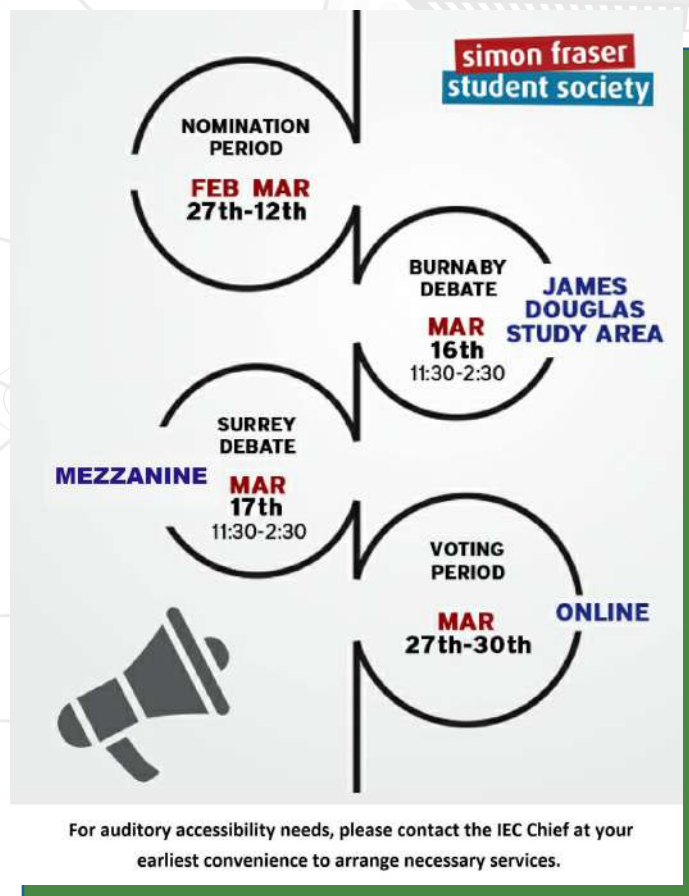
- Focused on identifying and addressing accessibility needs on campus
- Presented recommendations for cost-effective closed captioning services and approved funding for it based on the recommendation of the Accessibility Assistant
- Hosted an Accessibility Event in partnership with the Students United for Disability Support
- Learned more from the students facing issues of accessibility on campus

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee identifies, prioritizes and addresses issues that concern students. The committee plans initiatives based on member engagement, and recommends the endorsement of an annual advocacy plan to the Board of Directors.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Focused on a Tank Farm Expansion rally which involved a letter writing campaign where we received over 1,500 signatures which were then sent to the Prime Minister's office, and an awareness rally involving the Burnaby mountain community
- Hosted a study space campaign on three main campuses conducted by connecting with students and consulting them about the spaces they were utilizing
- Focused on promoting the SFSS elections through a promotional campaign
- Developed mental health resource cards, which included information on crisis and information lines, online chat services and mental health services and resources.



Events and Promotions Committee

The Events and Promotions Committee hosted multiple events throughout the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- The most notable event was the Fall Kickoff Concert with over 2,000 students in attendance.
- The committee continued to host successful pub nights throughout the year.
- A few other key highlights include:
 - Culture Fest, emphasizing the multiculturalism on campus with international food and music
 - An Art Expo, hosted to showcase student artists
 - Annual “Appreciation Week” for our members, with numerous events such as Wellness Wednesday, Karaoke and Wings, and a throwback Thursday pub night



Strategic Engagement Committee

As a result of the SFSS Strategic Plan objective to develop new and effective approaches to member engagement and concerns over continued low levels of membership involvement, the Strategic Engagement Committee was formed to advise the Board on the academic, financial, social, health and well-being aspects of the student experience.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Worked on outreaching with students including events like the Coffee Drop, where Board members went out and provided free coffee (150-200 cups) and received feedback on the Society
- Supported the SFSS initiative to raise awareness about the proposed Tank Farm
- Also helped to promote the annual General Membership survey
- The committee developed its first report

SURREY

CLUBS DAYS

JAN 24 & 25 | 10:00AM-4:00PM

• SURREY MEZZANINE •

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Surrey Campus Committee

The Surrey Campus Committee focused on many new events and advocacy issues important to students.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Hosted bowling nights, a Halloween maze, the first large scale pub night on the surrey campus, Clubs Days, welcome back BBQs, puppy therapy, Christmas events, and a de-stressing day filled with free sundaes, popcorn, FIFA, ping-pong, foosball, and yoga
- Focused on important advocacy initiatives including a confession board that students were able to express their concerns on the Surrey campus
- Advocated for more student centric space on the Surrey campus
- Looked into safety issues that Surrey students faced with security

Vancouver Campus Committee

Work was still done at the Vancouver Campus for students, although this committee did not meet due to the lack of at-large members after countless efforts of reaching out to students.

Key highlights for the 2016-17 fiscal year include:

- Committee members tabled over the summer and fall semester at Harbour Centre, SFU Woodward's, SFU Burnaby and SFU Surrey to gain nominations for open at-large positions for the committee
- The Vancouver liaison established a strong relationship with the administration and researched the needs of Vancouver students, focusing on why there is a lack of student engagement in Vancouver
- The SFSS also planned and hosted an event in the SFSS Student Lounge called Tea at Three. This was the first time in years that the SFSS hosted an event at the Vancouver campus and was also successful.
- The Chair of the committee gave a speech at the "We Are SFU" event regarding the importance of diversity and condemning anti-racist acts

TEA AT THREE

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MARCH 31 3:00PM-4:00PM
SFSS STUDENT LOUNGE
VANCOUVER CAMPUS
FREE FOOD, TEA, AND COFFEE!



Services

U-Pass



The U-Pass service is the most used SFSS service. The SFSS U-Pass BC Program is a student advocated program and provides unlimited, all zone access to public transit in Metro Vancouver (TranksLink Bus, SkyTrain and SeaBus services) and a discount on West Coast Express Train fares. SFSS is committed to ensuring that SFU students are satisfied with the program through extensive student consultations. SFSS collaborates with GSS, Translink and the SFU Administration 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. Services range 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.



